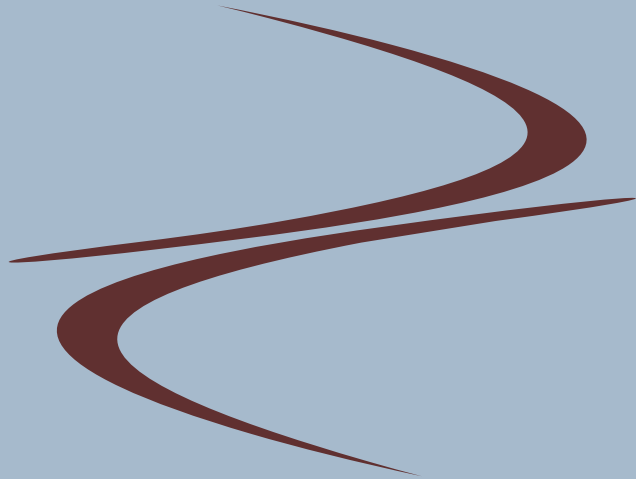




File Format Reference Guide

*The source for design and publishing file
format information.*



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Files exist in many different formats which are designed for specific needs. Knowing details about the various formats is important when working in graphic and print production. This guide will detail some of the most prominent formats that are found in today's digital production industry.



Program Formats

PSD This is the native file format for Adobe *Photoshop*, a professional digital image editing program. It can be saved with numerous editable layers intact, and it can be read by many other programs.

AI This is the main working file format for Adobe *Illustrator*, a professional vector graphics program. It stands for Adobe Illustrator. Work saved in this format remains fully accessible and editable in Illustrator.

INDD This is the main working file format for Adobe's *InDesign*, a professional layout and design program. It stands for Adobe InDesign Document. Projects saved in this format remain fully accessible and editable in *InDesign*. Completed projects from *InDesign* are often distributed by exporting out as a **PDF**, not as an **INDD** file.



Graphic Formats

EPS This stands for Encapsulated PostScript. This file format stores high resolution pixel data and object (vector) data, and a low resolution **PICT** image. As a PostScript language file it stores all the information that is needed to produce an image. EPS files are readable by any hardware or software that is capable of understanding the PostScript language. It is often used in *Illustrator* and *Photoshop*.

DCS This stands for Desktop Color Separation. This file format is like an EPS file, but it has 5 parts instead of 2, a low-resolution **PICT** file and then 4 high-resolution images, one for each printing color of **CMYK**. It can produce a high quality image, but the user runs the risk of losing some of the additional color files.

TIFF This stands for Tagged Image File Format. This is a pixel based format and is readable by many programs. It retains a higher level of quality than the often-used **JPEG**, but is also a larger file size. **TIFF** files can utilize LZW (Lempel, Ziv, and Welsh) compression, which is a lossless form of compression.



Graphic Formats

CT/LW This stands for Scitex CT (Continuous Tone) and Scitex LW (Line Work). These are lesser-used file formats that are run directly by Scitex hardware. *Photoshop* is capable of using these formats as well.

PICT This is a format that is solely associated with Macintosh and stands for Picture Format. These files are always low resolution and are used as system icons/graphics for Macintosh systems. **EPS** and **DCS** files contain a low resolution **PICT** image of the internal file.

GIF This stands for Graphic Interchange Format and was developed by CompuServe. These files can handle only 256 colors. They are often used on the Internet and can be compressed to a small file size. **GIF's** can be saved with a transparent background.



Graphic Formats

JPEG A common file format that was developed and named by the Joint Photographics Experts Group. It is a pixel graphic file that has been compressed from its original state through lossy image compression. This allows for a small and portable file size that is recognized on all computer platforms, but it eliminates some data, and therefore reduces the quality of the image.

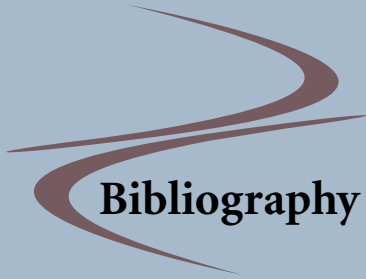
PDF This stands for Portable Document Format. This is a commonly-used file format for presenting documents in a digital form. It can utilize both pixel and object (vector) graphics, much like an **EPS**. It can be specifically rendered at lower quality for web usage or at high quality for print usage. PDF files can be read by all computer platforms.

ASCII This stands for American Standard Code for Information Exchange. This is a type of file that contains encoded alphanumeric data in a binary form.



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Erik Z. Utterback