

What's New in EFI Metrix

Version 21.1

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EFI Metrix 2020.2 | *What's New in EFI Metrix*

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Introduction

EFI Metrix is an industry-leading job planning engine that transforms big data into actionable data in the most proven end-to-end integrated solution with a holistic view into manufacturing. With over 1,200 Metrix users in 25 countries and 12 years of continuous, aggressive development, Metrix is recognized as the de facto industry standard for dynamic, intelligent production planning and automated imposition.

The Complete Planning and Imposition Solution

The EFI Metrix solution stores your presses, finishing equipment, stock, folds, users' logins and permissions, along with your manufacturing standards. Centralizing this information ensures uniformity, efficiency, and ultimately error-free planning and imposition across your entire organization. The EFI Metrix solution automatically and dynamically determines how many press sheets you need, the optimum layout for each press sheet, and even figures out for you the most cost-effective printing method, press, and sheet size.

Contact Information

EFI Support

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Web Site: | communities.efi.com |
| US Phone: | 1.855.EFI.4HLP (1.855.334.4457) |
| UK Phone: | +44 (0) 800.783.2737 |
| EU Phone: | +49.2102.745.4500 |
| E-Mail: | metrix.support@efi.com |

Metrix Support hours are 8AM CET to 5pm ET Monday – Friday. You may contact support at the above numbers or via our customer portal at communities.efi.com.

Note For problems involving infrastructure (e.g., computers, networks, operating systems, backup software, printers, third-party software, etc.), contact the appropriate vendor. EFI cannot support these types of issues.

EFI Professional Services

| | |
|------------------|--|
| US Phone: | (651) 365-5321 |
| US Fax: | (651) 365-5334 |
| E-Mail: | ProfessionalServicesOperations@efi.com |

EFI Professional Services can help you perform EFI software installations, upgrades, and updates. This group can also help you implement, customize, and optimize your EFI software plus offer a range of training options.

What's New in EFI Metrix 21.1

This guide introduces you to the new features and enhancements added to Metrix since the release of version 2020.2.

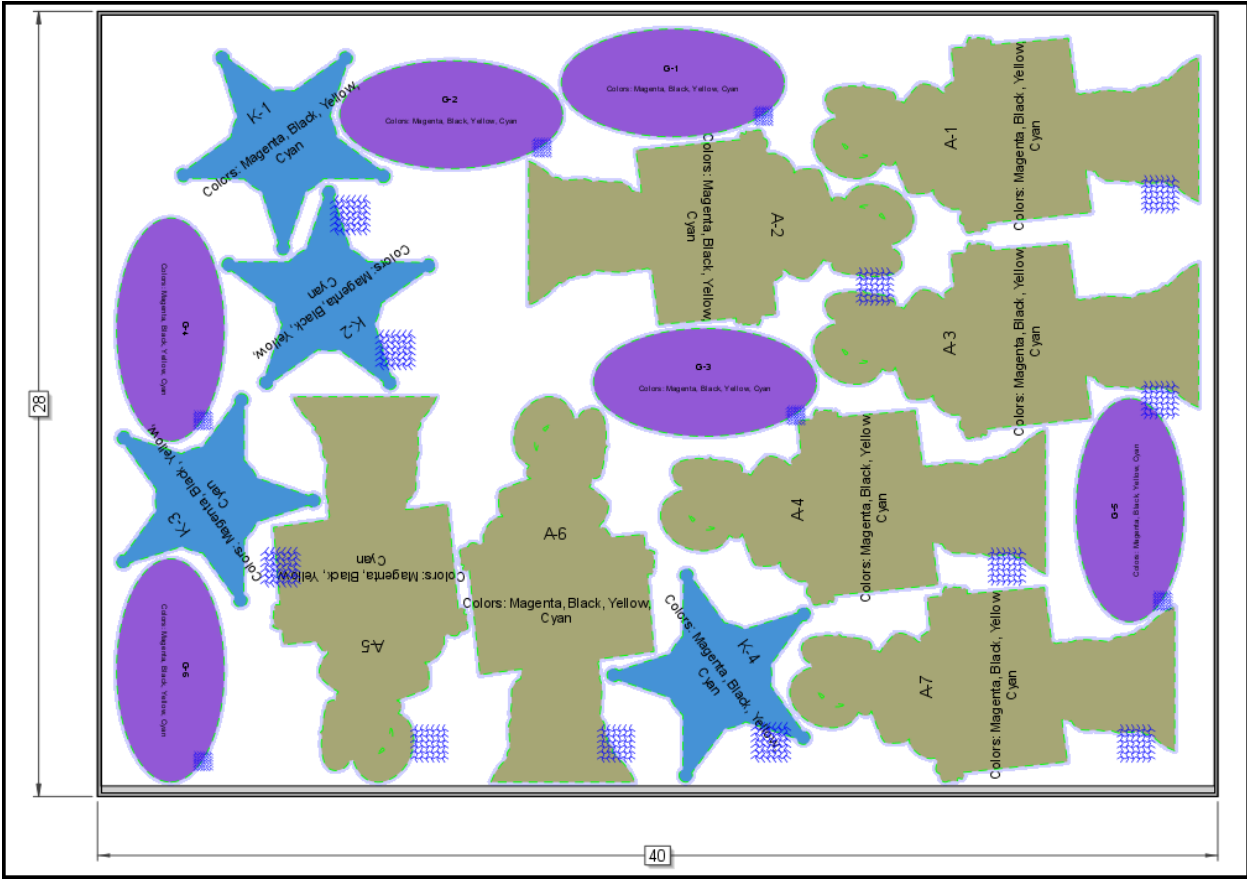
New Algorithms: Media Optimization and Display Graphics

Metrix 21.1 introduces two new algorithms, **Media Optimization** and **Display Graphics**, for calculating Metrix layouts. Both algorithms are available with the base Metrix license.

The **Media Optimization** algorithm is designed to address customer concerns about inefficient use of expensive substrate media. This algorithm works well with offset or digital presses, and it is best suited for projects that contain 8 or fewer different products. **Media Optimization** places each component on only one layout, but unlike the **Same Size** or **Classic** algorithms **Media Optimization** provides better results by using more complex product combinations to find the best optimization.

The **Display Graphics** algorithm is designed specifically for digital presses with expensive substrate media. This complex algorithm produces a dense imposition layout which helps to minimize media waste. **Display Graphics** may impose a component on multiple layouts, which can result in a greater number of layouts, but reduces calculation time by employing all CPU cores.

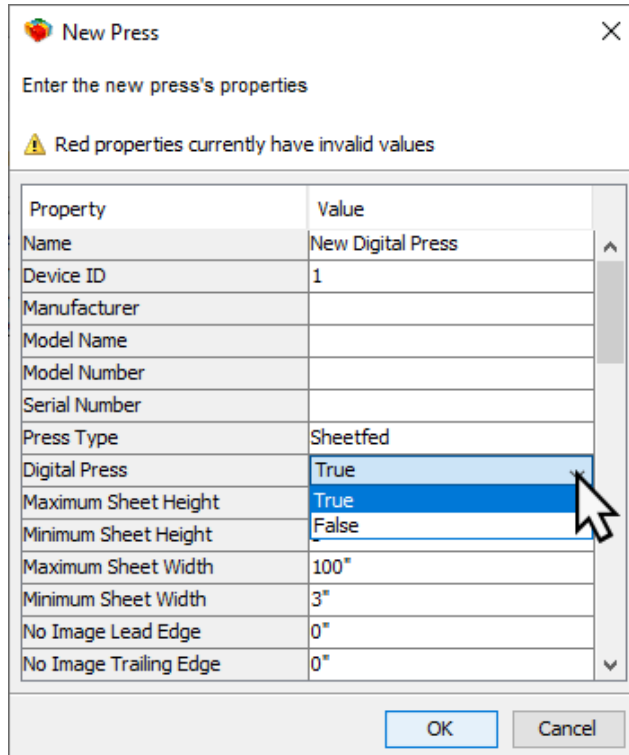
For more information regarding these algorithms, see [EFI Metrix Tech Note: Media Optimization and Display Graphics](#) and [EFI Metrix 21.1 User Guide](#).



Digital Presses

Metrix now supports digital presses for **Sheetwise**, **Perfected**, and **One-sided** printing methods. To set up a digital press, select **True** from the **Digital Press** drop-down menu in the New Press window.

For more information, see [EFI Metrix 21.1 User Guide](#).



The screenshot shows a 'New Press' dialog box with a table of properties. The 'Digital Press' property is highlighted with a blue background and a mouse cursor pointing to it. The 'Digital Press' dropdown menu is open, showing 'True' and 'False' options. The 'True' option is selected.

| Property | Value |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Name | New Digital Press |
| Device ID | 1 |
| Manufacturer | |
| Model Name | |
| Model Number | |
| Serial Number | |
| Press Type | Sheetfed |
| Digital Press | True |
| Maximum Sheet Height | True |
| Minimum Sheet Height | False |
| Maximum Sheet Width | 100" |
| Minimum Sheet Width | 3" |
| No Image Lead Edge | 0" |
| No Image Trailing Edge | 0" |

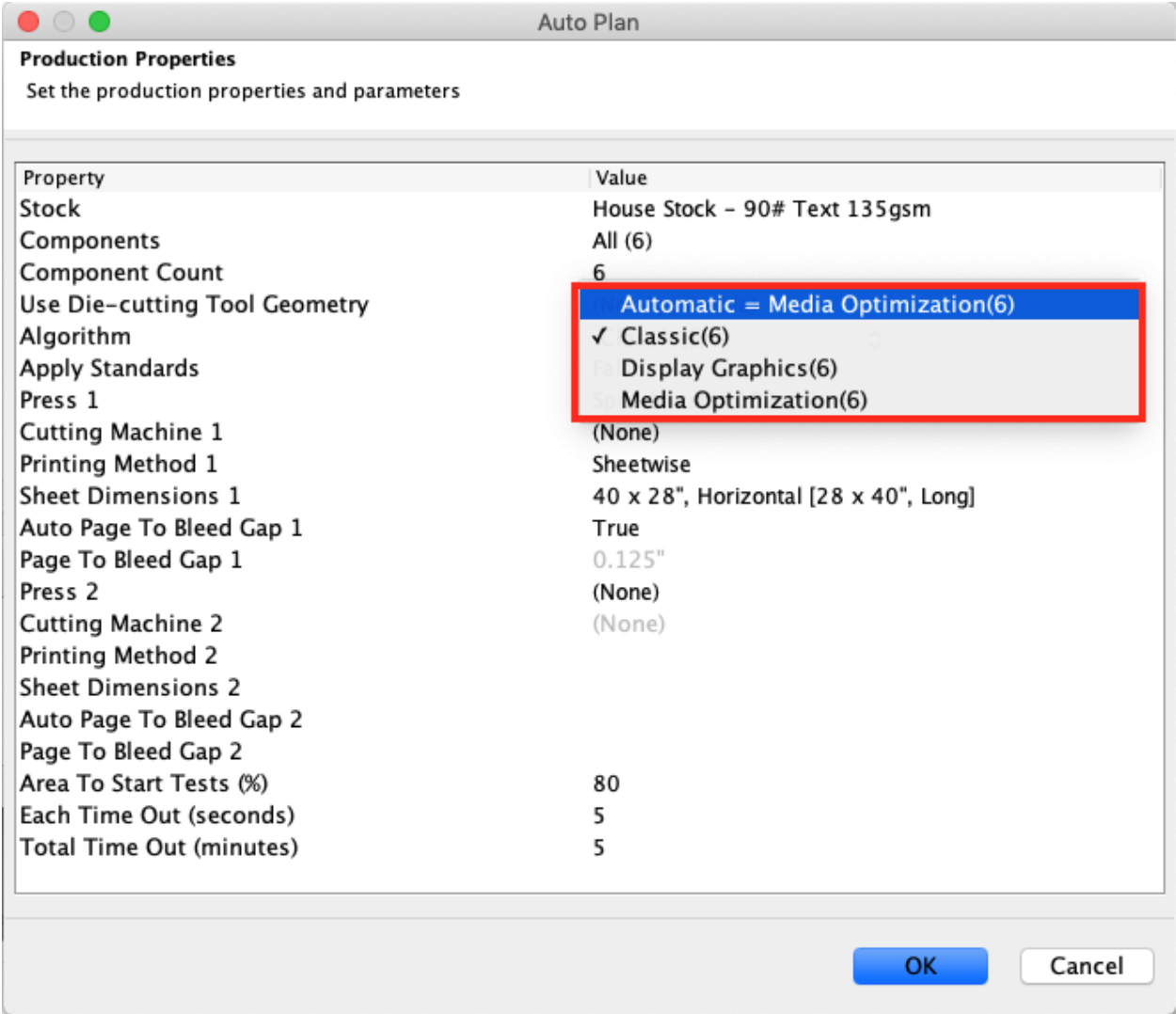
Buttons: OK, Cancel

Changes to Auto Plan Dialog and “Automatic” Algorithm

The layout of the Auto Plan dialog and the behavior of Metrix when the selected algorithm is **Automatic** have changed due to the new **Media Optimization** and **Display Graphics** algorithms.

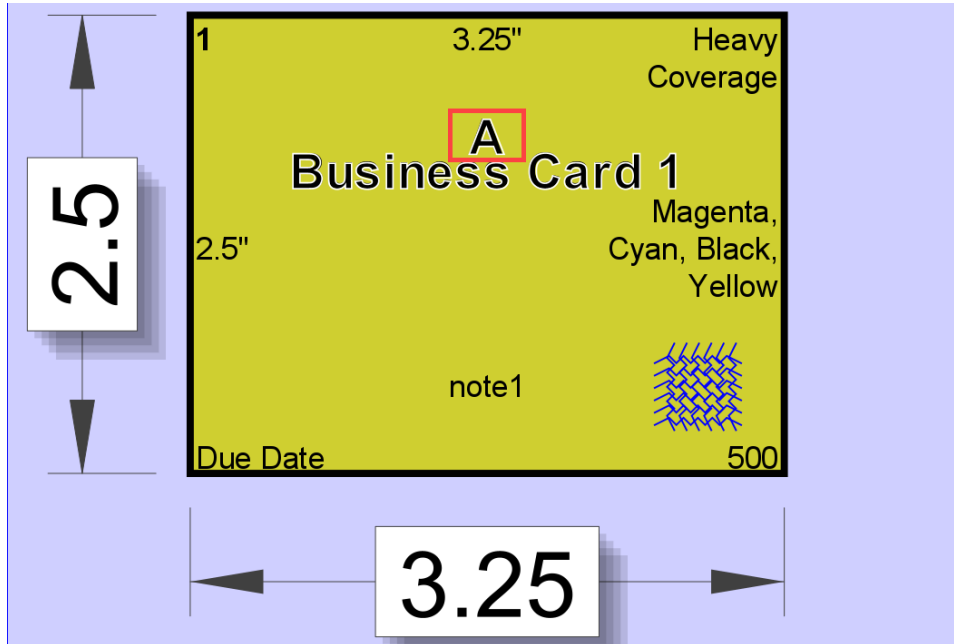
When you select the **Automatic** algorithm, Metrix considers the type of product and the selected press(es) to determine which algorithm will provide the best results. Metrix may make several passes during the **Auto Plan** process, using one algorithm to plan some of the components and a different algorithm to process others. The name(s) of the algorithm(s) that will be used are displayed, along with the number of components that will be planned with each algorithm.

For more information, see [EFI Tech Note: Auto Plan Dialog and “Automatic” Algorithm Selections](#) and [EFI Metrix 21.1 User Guide](#).



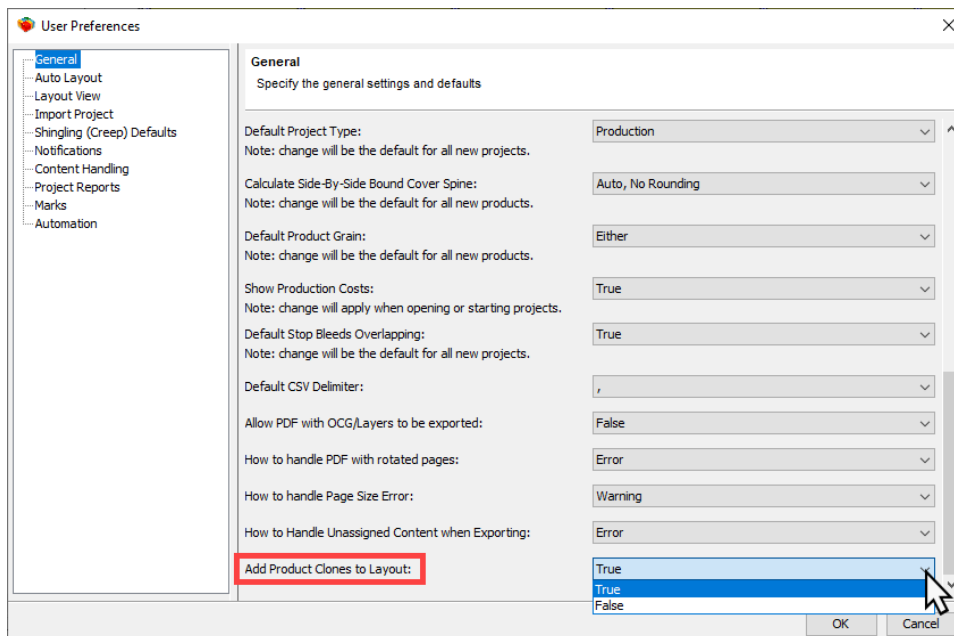
Ganging Style Layout and Component View Change

When the User Preference for **Layout View > Flat and Folded Product Pages** is set to **Ganging Style**, the Product ID now appears on the component.



Copying Components from One Layout to Another

You can now copy a component from one layout to another when the User Preference **Auto Layout > Allow a Component to be on multiple Layouts** is set to **True**. Hold down the **Alt** (Windows) or **Option** (Mac) key and drag a component from one layout to another in the Project Explorer to create a copy of the component. You can drop the component anywhere in the list of components on the destination layout.



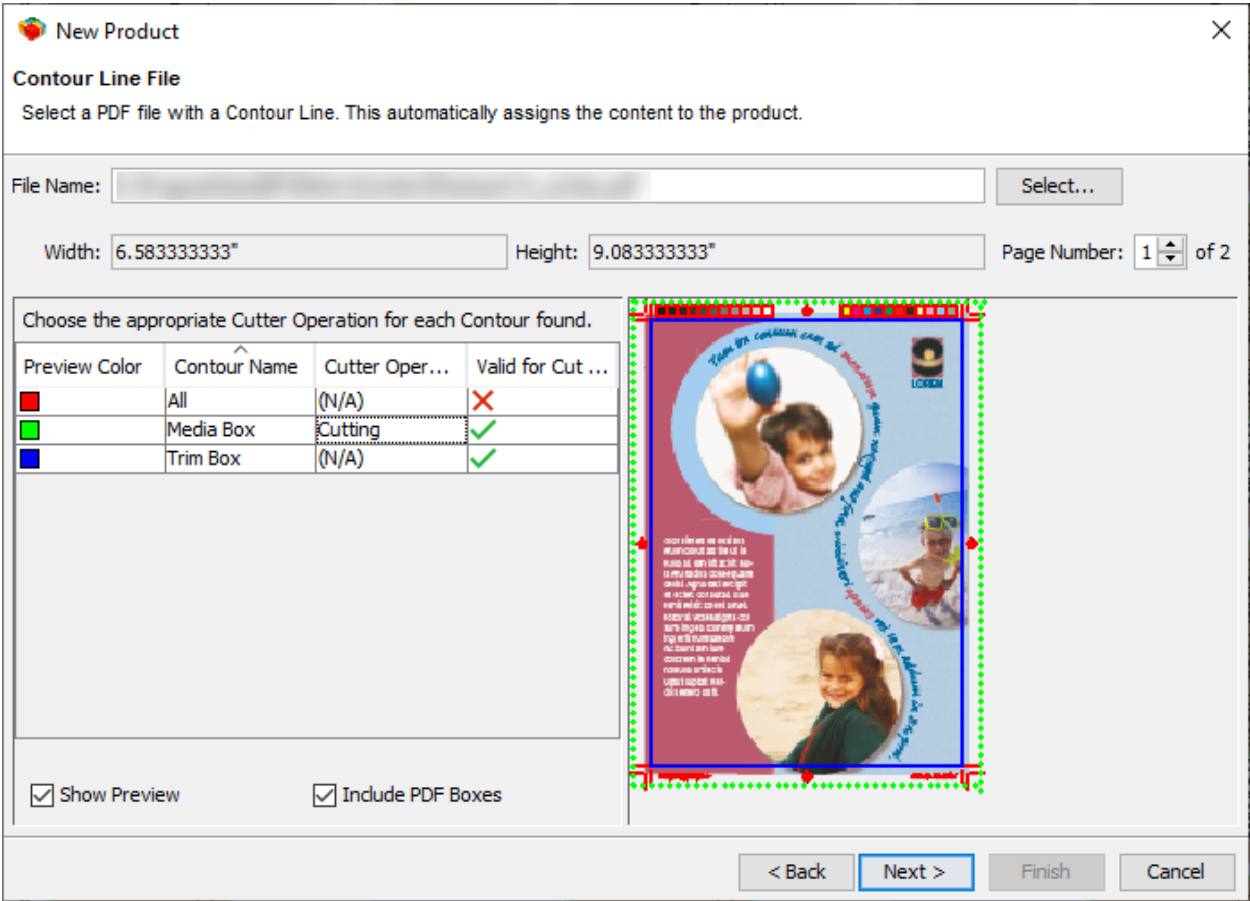
Creating Irregular Shape Products Using Media Box or Trim Box

Metrix 21.1 supports creating Irregular Shape products that use the **Media Box** or **Trim Box** as the **Cutting contour line**. This can be used for content files that do not contain a spot-color contour line, or to plan rectangular products on the same layout as irregular shapes.

To create an Irregular Shape product using a PDF file that does not contain a contour line:

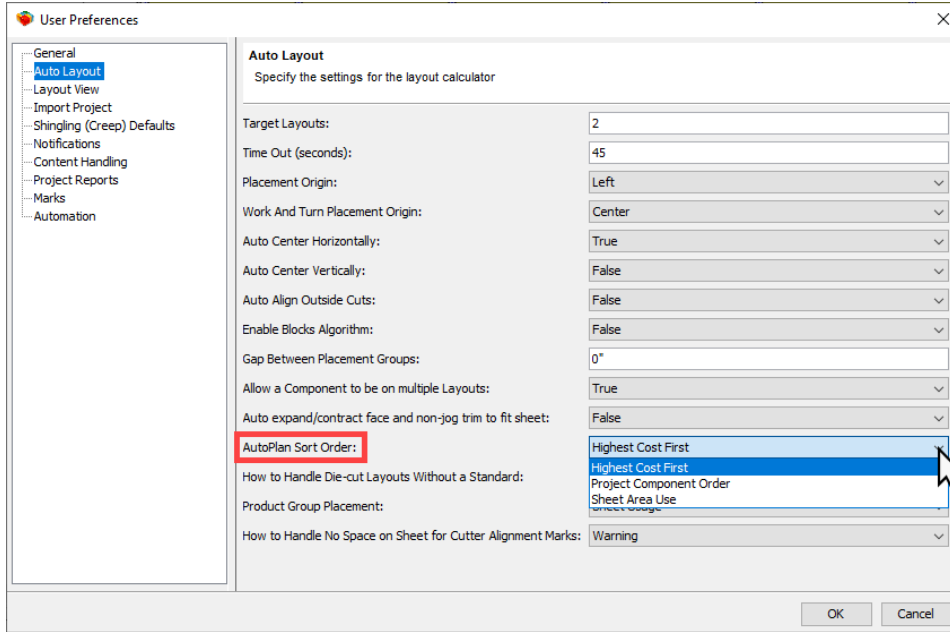
1. Select **True** from the **Irregular Shapes Using PDF Boxes** drop-down menu in **User Preferences > Content Handling**.
2. Create a **New Product** and select **Irregular Shape** as the product type.
3. Browse to and select the PDF file on the Contour Line screen.
4. Select the **Include PDF Boxes** check box.
5. Select either **TrimBox** or **MediaBox** and assign the **Cutting** Cutter Operation in the list of contours.
6. Finish creating the product.

The product will be rectangular in shape as it uses **Media Box** or **Trim Box** to define the cutting path. When you plan the project, the product will be treated as any other **Irregular Shape** product and may be planned on the same layout as other **Irregular Shape** products that use the same stock. The rectangular **Irregular Shape** product may be rotated on the layout if that will result in the best layout when planned with other **Irregular Shape** products.



Auto Plan Sort Order

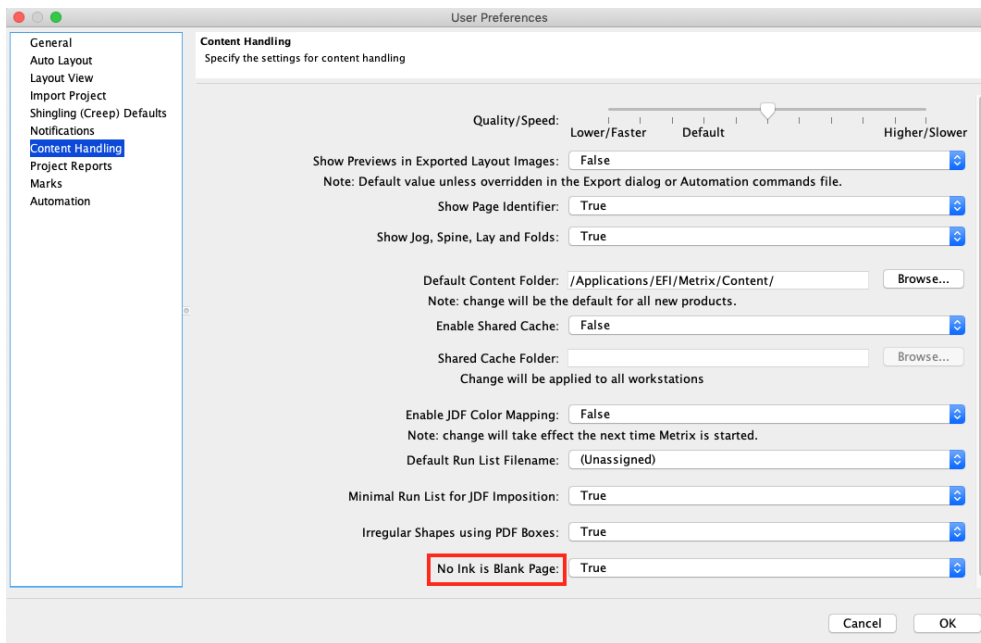
There is a new option, **Sheet Area Use**, in **User Preferences > Auto Layout > Auto Plan Sort Order**. When selected, layouts will be sorted by the **Sheet Area Use** percentage value from highest to lowest.



No Ink is Blank Page

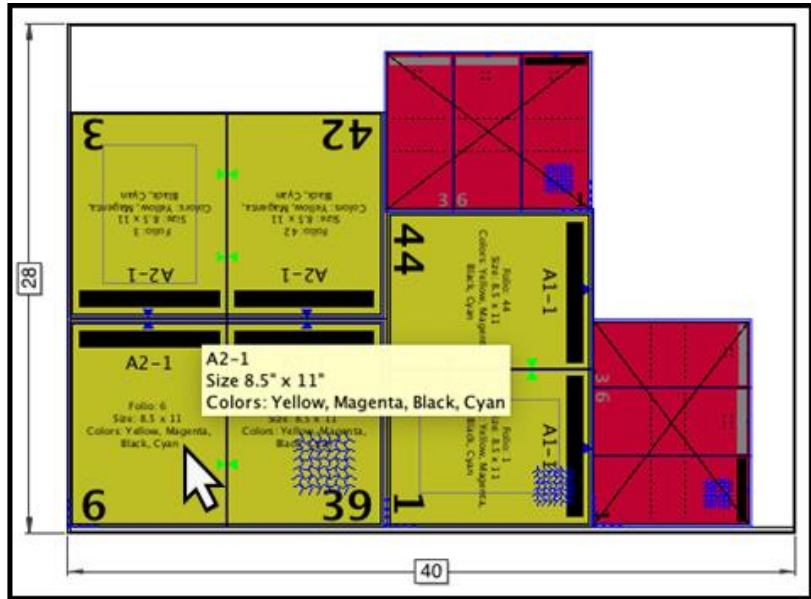
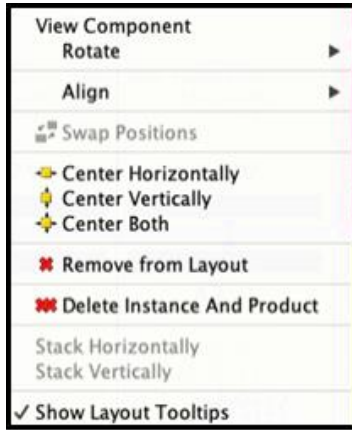
There is a new option of **No Ink is Blank Page** in **User Preferences > Content Handling**. When this preference is set to **True**, Auto Plan and Auto Layout will consider Unassigned pages with no Planned Colors to be Blank, so one-sided layouts will be considered valid. When it is set to **False**, Auto Plan and Auto Layout will not consider one-sided layouts. The rules are:

1. If a page side's **Filename** is set to **(Blank)** in the Run List, it is considered to be blank even if there are Planned Colors for that page side.
2. If a page side has content assigned, it is never considered to be blank even if there are no Planned Colors for that page side.
3. If the **No Ink is Blank Page** setting is **False**, a page side that is **(Unassigned)** and has no Planned Colors is not considered to be blank. If the setting is **True**, which is the default, then the page side is considered to be blank.



Layout Tooltips

The product component information can be difficult to see when viewing a layout at certain magnification scales. To display the component ID, size, and planned colors, right-click on a component instance and select **Show Layout Tooltips** from the popup menu. To hide the tooltips, de-select this option.

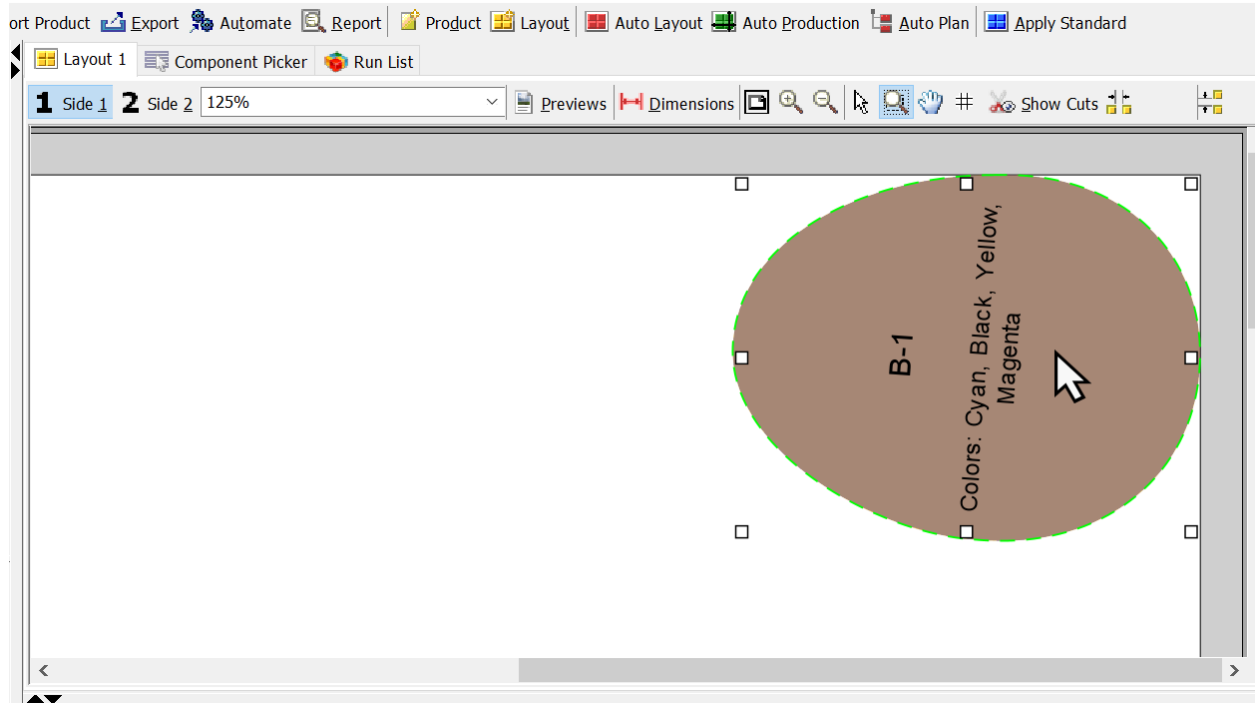


UV Inks

Support for UV inks and coatings was added in a Metrix 2020.2 hot fix. In Metrix 21.1, if the project cannot be planned because the selected press(es) and Planned Colors are not compatible (for example, press requires UV inks but Planned Colors are not UV), the **Algorithm** menu in the Auto Plan dialog may display, "(None) with current settings." If some of the components can be planned and some cannot, a red warning message appears in the Auto Plan dialog that says, "Not all components will be planned."

Snap to Sheet for Irregular Shape Products

Irregular shape and die-cut products planned without die-tool geometry now snap to the edges of the sheet. Bleeds may extend into no-page areas but they will not extend into no-image areas. The familiar blue rectangle that appears when snapping rectangular shapes will not be visible.



Mac OS 11 (Big Sur)

While Metrix 21.1 runs on **Mac OS 11**, we are aware of an issue with a component provided by one of our software technology partners. This problem causes significant performance issues when previewing. Our technology partner is aware of the issue and as soon as a fix is available we will release a hot fix. We recommend postponing upgrading to **Mac OS 11** at this time, but if you decide to run Metrix on this platform, we recommend disabling previews.

To disable previews:

1. Using a text editor, open **metrix.properties** (C:\ProgramData\EFI\Metrix on Windows or /Applications/EFI/Metrix on Mac).
2. Add the line:
showPreviews=false