

HP SmartStream Direct-to-Finish



Minimise manual steps for automated production



Key benefits

- Reduce turnaround time
- Eliminate costly errors and waste
- Save on labour costs
- Reduce dependency on skilled operators
- Efficiently produce multiple high-value short-run jobs
- Differentiate your business

Boost your competitiveness and grow your business by eliminating the finishing bottleneck on high-value short-run jobs. With HP SmartStream Direct-to-Finish, an optional feature of the HP SmartStream Production Pro Print Server, you can replace the time-consuming manual setup and makeready of many finishing devices with a fast and assured automated workflow.

No more gap between prepress and finishing

HP SmartStream Direct-to-Finish leverages the imposed data already created on the HP Indigo digital front end (DFE) or upstream software to automatically deliver setup and operational instructions from the Production Pro to the bindery, via JDF. This simplifies the connection between prepress and finishing, enabling a faster and more streamlined flow from printed sheets to finished products.

Save finishing setup time

With HP SmartStream Direct-to-Finish, there is no need to manually input finishing parameters into the finishing device. Instead, a barcode printed on the top sheet is scanned at the finishing station. This calls up the correct JDF file containing all the required parameters, saving significant time and enabling the finishing device to start working almost immediately.

Eliminate error and waste

By providing a fully automated process, Direct-to-Finish removes the risk of human error that can commonly occur with a traditional manual process, eliminating the resulting delays, waste, overs, and other costs. Job compatibility with the target finishing device is automatically confirmed before printing, preventing the cost and waste of printing a job that will not be able to be finished correctly.



Reduced labour costs

With automated finishing device setup, the operator no longer needs advanced skills or experience, and each operator can process more jobs. You can reduce your labour costs and/or leverage skilled operators for other tasks.

Shorten your turnaround time

Increase your profitability by taking on more higher-value short-run jobs, even as you reduce your costs to produce them. You can produce numerous non-standard short-run jobs without wasting the great deal of time usually required to set up the finishing device, and you can finish more jobs in-house without outsourcing. Offer customers shorter turnaround times as a differentiation or as a revenue booster by charging a premium for fast delivery.

The Direct-to-Finish flow



When processing the job, Production Pro prepares a JDF file for the finishing devices, describing the job layout.

When the operator hits “Print”, the JDF file is simultaneously sent to the finishing devices (over the network).

When the job completes printing, a banner page with a barcode is printed.

When the barcode is scanned by the finishing device, it automatically pulls the relevant JDF file and translates it into setup and operational instructions.

Connect with a wide range of finishing devices

Direct-to-Finish supports a wide range of JDF-compatible finishing devices from leading HP Smartstream partners around the world. Supported devices include:

- Guillotine cutters
- Cut/slit/crease/stack systems
- Perfect binders
- Three-knife trimmers
- Booklet makers and saddle stitchers

Upgrade your manual cutter to support an automated flow

Virtually any manual cutter can be upgraded to support Direct-to-Finish, using a convenient retrofit solution developed by an HP SmartStream Partner specifically for Direct-to-Finish.¹ With the retrofit solution, you can continue using your existing manual cutting equipment and still gain the advantages of automation. This solution gives you all the benefits of Direct-to-Finish and saves the time, cost, and hassle of getting an upgrade from the original manufacturer.

“At 200+ jobs a day, saving 3-5 minutes per job on the cutting setup adds up to a significant 2-3 hours saved a day of cutting time. We now have one operator, working one shift, whereas before we needed two cutters, working all day, two shifts and overtime.”

– Peter Zierten, Director of Systems and Information Technology, Benson Integrated Marketing Solutions

¹ The retrofit kit supports any manual cutter that has a lead screw.

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