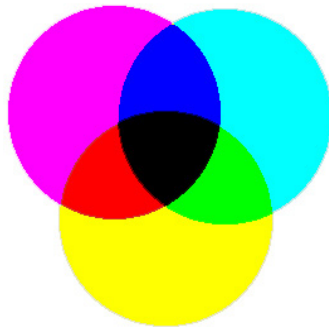


# Colour space

## CMYK

Definition: To reproduce full-colour photographic images, typical printing presses use 4 colours of ink. The four inks are placed on the paper in layers of dots that combine to create the illusion of many more colours. CMYK refers to the 4 ink colours used by the printing press. C is cyan (blue), M is magenta (red), Y is yellow, and K is black.

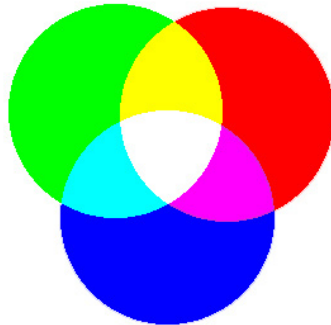
A mistake often made when submitting artwork for 4-colour printing is not converting the images to the CMYK colour space. This is needed so that the file can be separated into the four colours, so that a separate printing plate can be made for each of the colours.



## RGB

Definition: A common colour mode, RGB stands for the colours of Red, Green, Blue. Add red, green, and blue light to create white light. Because you ADD the colours together to get White, we call these RGB colours the *additive primaries*. Colours on screen are displayed by mixing varying amounts of red, green, and blue light.

RGB is the most common colour mode used when creating graphics, even though graphics to be commercially printed are eventually converted to CMYK mode, the colours used in printing inks.



## Spot colour

Definition: A spot colour is specially mixed ink using in printing. Spot colour inks come in a rainbow of colours, including some specialty inks such as metallic and fluorescent. Unlike CMYK or process colour, which creates colours by laying down layers of just 4 specific inks, spot colours are pre-mixed and you use one ink for each colour in the publication.

There are different brands of spot colour inks. The dominant spot colour printing system is PANTONE. The Pantone Matching System or PMS consists of over 1,000 colours of ink. The Pantone system allows users to mix percentages of base inks (such as CMYK) to create new colours, either physically (these are called spot colours) or on the printed page using screens to allow certain amounts of ink through and then overlaying the base colours. The Pantone system also allows for many 'special' colours to be specified such as metallics and fluorescents.

**Please specify the spot colours clearly and in accordance with Pantone Matching system.**