

DCS TechTips



Why do my ADA prints look grainy?

The printhead gap, also known as the nozzle-to-media distance, refers to the distance between the printhead nozzles and the surface of the print material. This gap directly influences the trajectory and placement of the ink droplets as they are ejected from the nozzles to the substrate.

The ADA/Braille print application is designed to build up height during the printing process. This is accomplished in a single print by printing a Base Coat, comprised of large quantities of clear and white ink, to a height of approximately 0.8128 mm



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(0.032 in). Immediately following the Base Coat, the CMYK Top Coat will then print directly on top of the Base Coat. This means that the CMYK Top Coat will be printing at a reduced printhead gap.

The reduced printhead gap may result in a shift of location when ink droplets are deposited on the substrate as the printer carriage travels back in the opposite direction. This results in a lack of color uniformity and consistency, which becomes most noticeable when printing lighter shades, causing them to appear grainy in the output.

How to overcome grainy ADA/Braille color output?

Printing in uni-directional will significantly help avoid grainy output when printing ADA/Braille.

There are two methods for printing in uni-directional. The first method is to create a custom print mode which is set to print in uni-directional. Instructions for creating a custom print mode can be found in the **UV-84DTS Gen 2 & UV-44DTS Custom Print Mode Creation** document, which is in the knowledge base on Zendesk. The second method for printing in uni-directional is to manually change the print direction for a given job during the printing process. This is done via the **Operation Menu** in the Print Control Software. See steps shown below:



2. From the Direction Drop-Down Menu, select the option, Single-Right.



3. Next, select the **Continue** icon. The print will continue and will print in uni-directional.

