

GATF recently completed a study of products for measuring the dot area on CTP printing plates. The report is entitled *RTR 27: Plate Reading Technologies and Their Performance on CTP Plates* and is available from GATF Press ([www.gain.org](http://www.gain.org)).

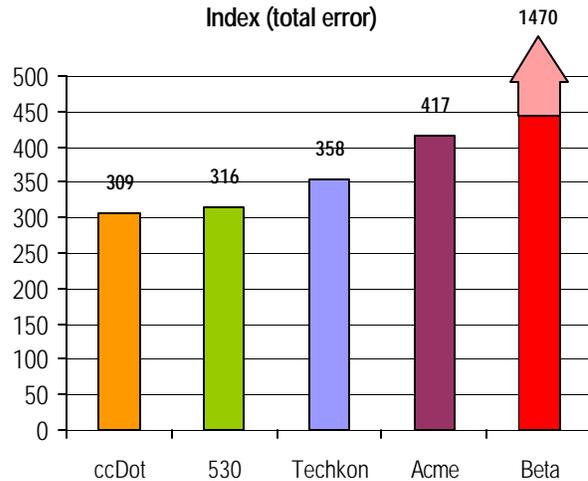
Based directly on the data in the study, X-Rite has made a series of observations that are presented in this brief summary. Customers are free to make their own analysis in order to decide which product and technology will best meet their needs.

## Which device is best?

Users and providers of CTP equipment and supplies often ask the question: “Which measurement device is best for measuring CTP plates?” The answer, as you might guess, is “it depends”. In terms of overall agreement to the GATF **Jandel Planimeter** (a sophisticated area analysis instrument considered to be a reference for this study), X-Rite has prepared a simple summary of each measurement device used in the study. The results are shown to the right as a graph and a table.

The “index” is simply a sum of the differences for each measurement as compared to the Jandel Planimeter. An index of zero would indicate the measurement device gave identical results on the 13 steps of the tone scale (5%, 10%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 90%, 95%) for all 14 CTP plate types (Agfa LithoStar, Anocoil 830T, Anocoil 830TD, Fuji LHNI, Fuji LHPI, Fuji LPN3, IBF, KPG Sword, KPG Thermal Gold, Lastra SPA, Mitsubishi Polyester, PDI, Presstek Anthem, Western Lithotech).

Based on this review, the Centurfax ccDot and X-Rite 530 give the best overall performance as compared to the Jandel Planimeter across all tone values on all tested CTP plate brands.



Measurement Device	Index (error)
Centurfax ccDot 4	309
X-Rite 530	316
Techkon 910 DMS	358
Acme Plate Reader	417
Beta Ultra Dottie	1470

## What plate brand do you use?

As you might suspect, depending on the CTP plate brand, different solutions gave different results according to the Jandel Planimeter. Measurement devices that agree to the Planimeter on one brand of plate may not correlate on other brands. In order to help make some sense of this, X-Rite offers a list of plate brands that are measured best by specific measurement devices.\*

## Summary

In summary, the X-Rite model 530, the only spectrodensitometer in the GATF study, gives very similar overall result compared to the best CCD-based solution for plates. It is a top performer on 5 plate brands, and the X-Rite can also be used to evaluate printing and proofs. This makes the X-Rite 530 and the balance of the 500-Series Spectrodensitometer line a group of versatile products for color measurement in digital prepress.

Measurement Device	Best Score	Gave best results on Plate Brands:
Centurfax ccDot 4	6 Plate Brands	Lastra SPA, KPG Thermal Gold, Fuji LHPI, IBF, KPG Sword, Western Lithotech
X-Rite Model 530	5 Plate Brands	IBF, KPG Sword, Western Lithotech, Fuji LHPI, Presstek Anthem
Techkon 910 DMS	3 Plate Brands	Anocoil 830T, Fuji LHNI, PDI
Acme Plate Reader	2 Plate Brands	Presstek Anthem, Agfa LithoStar
Beta Ultra Dottie	1 Plate Brand	Mitsubishi Polyester

\* Two of the devices gave the same score on some plate types, so the plate type is repeated in these cases.