

What is CMYK 4-Colour process printing?

CMYK printing, also known as 'Process Colour Printing,' is an industry standard method of printing in full colour. CMYK actually stands for the four colours used as part of this printing standard. C is Cyan, M is Magenta, Y is Yellow, and K is for 'Key,' which is the description that printers use for Black ink.



CMYK printing can reproduce most colour photographs very well. A full colour photograph is scanned and then run through software to create 'colour separations.' Once the separations are processed, and 'plates' are made for each of the CMYK colours, the printer runs the ink through the plates on press, and the result is your full colour image printed on paper.

Original Photograph



CMYK Separated Colour Plates



Cyan Plate

Magenta Plate

Yellow Plate

Black Plate

Each separate colour plate is then individually printed one layer on top of the other to achieve the final four colour process print.