UNDERSTANDING GRAPHICS

Have you ever wondered why some graphics look smooth while others appear jagged?

Bitmapped graphics—are composed of dots or dot structures. Therefore, the quality and detail in these images is resolution dependent on the output device and specified as dpi or dots per inch. Scanned images are always bitmapped images. Extensive resizing of bitmapped images can result in a moiré pattern.

Graphics that contain a number of hard-edged lines will appear stair stepped or rough when saved in a bitmapped format.

Examples: TIFF, GIF, BMP

Vector graphics—are composed of individual objects and each object remains a separate entity that can be individually manipulated. This type of graphic can be resized over and over without loss of resolution. Typically EPS files are created in drawing programs.

To prevent jagged edges and to get your graphics to translate well from your monitor to print, save your file as an EPS (Encapsulated PostScript), the most versatile and preferred file format for composite film separations