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Getting Started

The Design Workspace
Design Workspace Setup
Scan from Image Forms
Response Grid
Manual Timing Marks
"Fat" Response Shape
Blind and Other Colors

Blind and Other Colors

PDF version
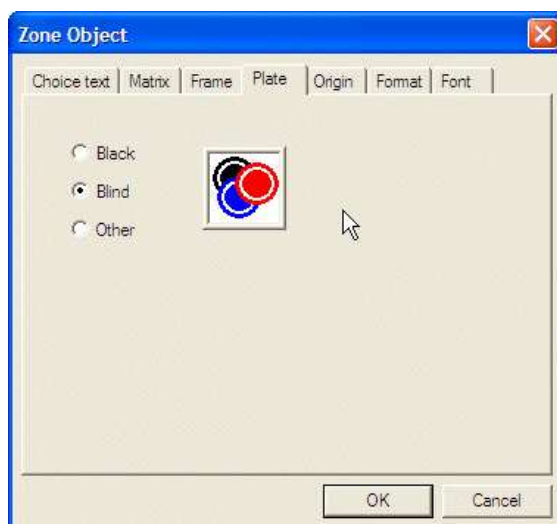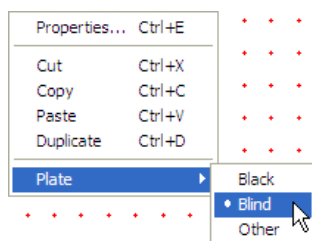
FoD-OMR recognizes only three "colors": Black, Blind (shown as Red) and Other (shown as Blue). Color is controlled by the "Plate" setting and both Blind and Other print as black on a B&W laser printer, although they still appear in the original color on screen.

Plate

Plate tabs are available for Graphic and Zone objects. For Zone objects, plate applies only to the text associated with response, not the shapes, nor the framing elements.

A **Plate** choice is also available when any objects is selected and Mouse Right is clicked, as below:
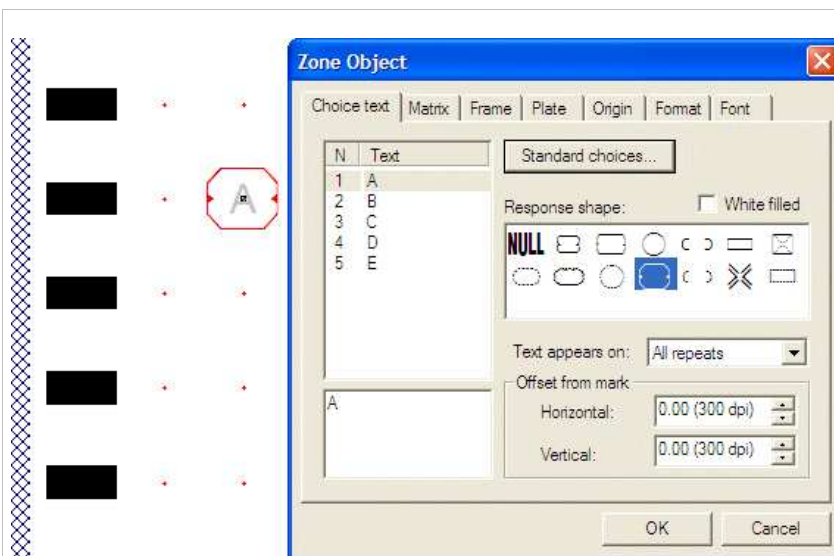

Top

Color Printing

The response shapes in the top row are used, these are solid shapes or various sizes and dimensions (the large shape, fourth in the second row can be used as well). We particularly like the shapes that hint at a line between the side "bumps" which work very well for a user. The third and fifth shapes are great for responses that are not adjacent along a row. Text may be placed with impunity within the response shape at full color.
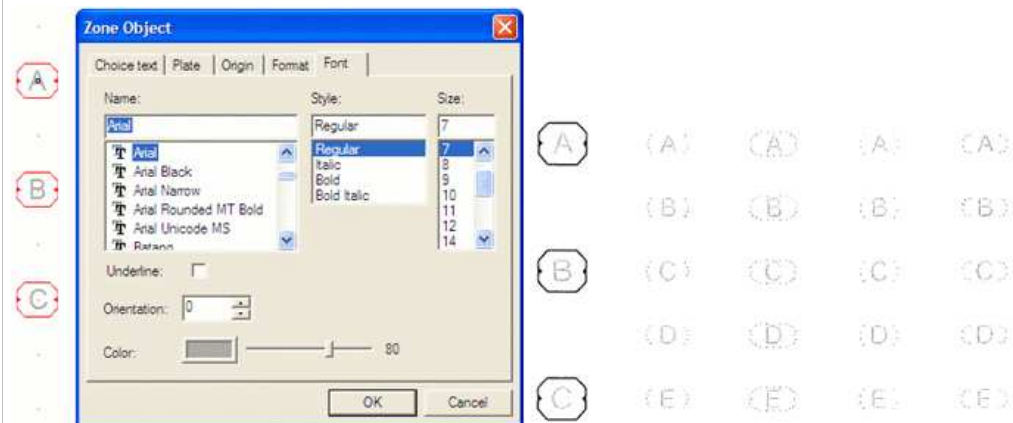
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Black and White Printing

When printing to a black and white laser printer, both Blind and Other colors print as black. To avoid the response shape being recognized by the OMR, make it one of the "sparse" or outline shapes on the bottom row (the shape shown below is too wide and high to be seen with a normal timing line, hence has been included in the "sparse" shapes).

The text for response shapes must either be light grey (to fall below the scanner's threshold – see above) or be outside the response shape and between timing lines. The first image below shows the font setting for a B&W laser printer, with the following image showing the result (this is an actual scan from printed material, so is relatively poor quality).

Your other control over "blackness" is the toner setting on the printer. For HP color laser printers, this is menu item Configure Device > Print Quality > Adjust Color > Black Density which has a range of from -5 to +5. You need to set this up for B&W documents, on older equipment you may need to set this down. A sheet is provided that has all of the "B&W" responses at various grey settings for the response text. Please use a value that is not seen by your OMR scanner, but is as dark as possible to the humans filling in the form. For most work, we prefer a large response that is outside the timing lines, with response text outside the response.

See Tuning your Printer and Scanner.

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