1. Design Requirements

The image for the design must be full size and at least 300 dpi to deliver a good end-result. Scan, load or design the image into Photoshop while it is set in RGB mode. If you should receive art from an outside source that is already converted to CMYK, ask if you could get the original design in RGB. If that is not possible, open the image in PhotoShop and then change the mode to RGB. You should not see any change in the appearance of the file.

2. Establish the White and Black Points in the Entire Design

This action can be done quickly by converting to Lab mode, select the lightness channel, select Levels (command L). Move the levels to arrows in the preview box until you have a full black area and a full white area. This step is also dependent on the artist's eye. For example, if the design is a very pastel water color replication, the design may not need the full tint/shade values.

3. Use the Correct Color Data!

Ask the Aquarius rep or distributor for the PhotoShop custom set or "color values" for the 4 color process set. To load the CMYK color settings, go to the Photoshop menu; select "EDIT" > "Color Settings". In the Color Settings pop-up window, choose "LOAD". This will enable the artist to select the .csf file that will load the correct values. The set will load into the previous window showing the custom name, black limit and dot gain ratios. Once this file is loaded, it will remain as the Process color default until it is changed or a new CMYK setting is loaded. The set should be saved in a folder which is easily identifiable so that it can be located it at any time. This allows the program to separate with the exact colors you will be printing with and you should see very little change in the image when converted to CMYK.

4. Convert the File to CMYK

Once the data is loaded, it is time to convert to CMYK. The result will be the CMYK channels and any other channel that was created previous to this conversion.

5. Adjust Black Levels

One important step is to scale back the black plate; select the Black channel, select Curves (command M), and then drag the left arrow to the right to the 25% mark. This knocks the black out of the 25% and lower Gray areas. The Cyan, Magenta and Yellow information will cover the gray areas without the black. The design may appear light on the monitor, but trust that it will print darker on press. This is important to keep the gray area from being invaded by the black plate.

6. Output

Though there are many schools of thought on this, we recommend using staggered angles on the halftone to help thwart odd patterns in the interaction between colors. Start the angles slightly skewed of 0, then spaced between colors of 15 degrees.

Yellow: 7 degree angle
Magenta: 22 degree angle
Cyan: 37 degree angle
Black/white: 52 degree angle

Use 55-65 line count on the resolution.

LOOKOUT POINT

Navigating the seas can be treacherous without a guiding light. Lookout Point utilizes the Aquarius™ Soft Base CMYK color profile to bring color to life, even in the darkest of places.

PRINT PARAMETERS

1. **AQUARIUS™ SOFT BASE - YELLOW**
300 MESH

2. **AQUARIUS™ SOFT BASE - MAGENTA**
300 MESH

3. **AQUARIUS™ SOFT BASE - CYAN**
300 MESH

4. **AQUARIUS™ SOFT BASE - BLACK**
300 MESH

5. **AQUARIUS™ SOFT BASE - WHITE**
300 MESH

EARTHLY INTERPRETATIONS

The zodiac is interpreted through the elements of fire, water, earth and air; however, it is only from their proximity to each other that we begin to see the larger picture. Earthly Interpretations showcases the Aquarius™ Soft Base CMYK color profile and its ability to capture a spectrum of color through the use of just a few.