Basic explanation of spot colour, process and gradient print

Spot Colours

Colours created without screens or dots, such as those found in the PANTONE MATCHING SYSTEM®, are referred to in the industry as spot or solid colours. From a palette of 14 basic colours, each of the spot colours in the PANTONE MATCHING System is mixed according to its own unique ink mixing formula developed by Pantone. You probably mixed yellow and blue paint to get green in your youth. Creating a PANTONE Spot colour is similar in concept, but with the added need for precision.

Solid spot colour are preferable for a clean print on plastic carrier bags.

Colour - Gradients

Halftoning breaks down the continuous tone into regularly spaced but variably sized spots (examples below)

Halftones are normally printed around 45 dpi on Plastic carrier bags

CMYK

This method of achieving colour in printing is referred to as CMYK, four-colour process, 4/c process or even just process. To reproduce a colour image, a file is separated into four different colours: Cyan (C), Magenta (M), Yellow (Y) and Black (K).

For more information,
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