



## **theprintspace Colour Management Process**

- Digital darkroom – The optimum environment for your computer and monitor
- Get the best from your monitor – calibrate it!
- Make Sure Your Photoshop Settings Are Right!
- Installing the print profiles
- View an onscreen preview (soft-proof) of your image file
- Send theprintspace a file with the correct print profile embedded

### Digital darkroom – The optimum environment for your computer and monitor

#### Viewing angle and environment:

- Maintain consistent ambient lighting in the room, shading any windows if possible
- Avoid placing your monitor in front of the window or other strong light sources
- Avoid bright objects in the field of view of the monitor or reflections on screen
- Remove colourful background patterns from your computer desktop and set it to a neutral grey
- Position your eyes perpendicular to the viewing screen (your eye-level should be just below the top of the screen)
- It is recommend that you buy and fitting monitor hood to improve shading of the screen

#### Your Monitor Matters!

- Assuming over 20 hours per week usage, you should replace monitor approximately every 4 years as colour accuracy diminishes with the hours used
- We recommend CRT or LCD monitor types
- We recommend professional imaging makes such as NEC, Eizo, Apple MAC or Lacie

## Get the best from your monitor – calibrate it!

When should you perform a monitor calibration?

- With a new monitor
- When you have moved the location of your monitor or changed the viewing environment
- In cases where unintended manual adjustments to brightness or contrast have been made
- In any case, calibrations should be made every three to four weeks

What you need to calibrate your monitor?

- Hardware (Colorimeter) and calibration software that are always supplied together.
- theprintspace recommended products are, X-Rite i1Display

How to calibrate your monitor:

- Ensure your screen is clean and free of dust and fingerprints
- Ensure your screen has been active for at least 30 minutes prior to starting the calibration process and remember to turn off any active screen or energy savers
- Load and install the calibration software and position colorimeter in centre of the screen using the weighted device to secure it in place
- Run software to automatically create and select your profile for the monitor.
- Do not operate your mouse during the calibration process unless asked
- Located monitor profiles the following folder:

**Mac OSX**

**Hard Drive/User/Library/ColorSync/Profiles**

**Windows XP**

**C:\Windows\System32\Spool\Drivers\Color**

## Make Sure Your Photoshop Settings Are Right!

Photoshop colour settings can be easily accessed and adjusted by the procedure:

- Go to **Photoshop/ Color Settings / working spaces / RGB**
- Click **Advanced settings** box
- Choose preferred RGB colour space Adobe RGB 1998
- In the Color management policies box, Choose **Preserve Embedded profiles** for RGB, CMYK and Gray settings.

- In the Conversion Options box, Choose **Adobe (ACE)** and **Relative Colorimetric** rendering intent
- Click Use **Black Point Compensation** box
- Click the **Use Dither (8bit/channel images)** box.
- Click **Save** the custom settings
- Click **Ok**

**Please read the [Profiles Guide](#) to learn how to soft-proof and Proof your files before sending them to print to complete theprintspace's colour management process**

For more information on Soft-Proofing and preparing your file for print please see our videos ***Preview your print*** and ***File Preparation Guide***

<https://vimeo.com/187806089>

<https://vimeo.com/170022296>

<https://vimeo.com/162863135>

