

reviews

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PrintFIXPRO 2

Review by
Steve Baczewski

Create custom print profiles



PRICE:	\$549
FOR:	Mac and Windows
FROM:	ColorVision
PHONE:	800-554-8688
WEB:	www.colorvision.com
RATING:	◆◆◆◆◆

Most of us rely on the varied quality of the canned paper profiles that are packaged with our printer. In addition, most manufacturers only supply profiles for their papers. If you're using third-party papers, you need to purchase custom profiles, use a RIP, or purchase the equipment to make your own profiles, which until now was expensive. Enter ColorVision's PrintFIX-PRO 2 print-profiling software bundled with their USB 1005 Data Spectrocolorimeter patch reader. This combination lets you make quality custom color or grayscale ICC paper profiles at a bargain price of \$549.

A well-thought-out wizard

interface with a comprehensive help section guides you through each step for selecting the best settings for your printer, including utilities to check that your printer is working properly. PrintFIXPRO prints three sizes of target files with either 150, 225, or 729 color patches. It also includes an extended gray target for black-and-white profiles.

I compared this software with the excellent canned profiles of Epson's Stylus Pro 3800, and built both color and black-and-white profiles for Enhanced Matte, Velvet Fine Art, and Premium Luster using the 225-color patch target and the

extended gray target. Reading 225 patches takes approximately 7 minutes. Sadly, ColorVision doesn't include a device to guide the spectroradiometer over the patches, which must be done freehand. Take time to read the patches carefully. But if you err, the software allows you to go back and reread them. The software also includes a section for tweaking your profiles.

PrintFIXPRO is an affordable precision tool: The results were impressive. Prints made with PrintFIXPRO profiles either matched or improved upon the Epson profiles—revealing more highlight and shadow detail. ■