The Peridot Pig®

Peculiar Wares for Particular People

RGB Target Image Printing

Windows & Mac OS

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Introduction

Congratulations! You've taken the next step in perfecting your desktop printing process! Creating a custom ICC profile is the best way to ensure that your printer is creating a print with a quality image. We recommend that you print out the checklist from our Downloads page, to make it easier to complete these steps.

You'll need to carefully follow the steps outlined in this document to print out our "Target Images" so that the "Target Prints" can be pressed onto your specified blank. This Target Print is used to create a custom ICC profile which will capture the baseline of your printer's characteristics along with the ink and paper, giving you a custom profile.

You **MUST** follow the steps in this document to avoid problems with the profiling. If you have -any- questions, please contact us at Support@thePeridotPig.com . We recommend that you print out this document and/or the checklist to ensure you've completed all the steps for proper profiling.

The most difficult part of this process will be to print the Target Image(s) without any color management from your software or printer driver. These distort the results of the printer profiling process. You will also want to have your printer in good working state with the proper drivers before printing.

Before we get started:

- **DO NOT** open the Target Images in Photoshop, Elements, Lightroom, Aperture, Preview, Gimp, etc. You run the risk of changing the color profiles.
- Each of the following sections will have a checklist for you to complete. We recommend that you print this document and use it to ensure you complete all the necessary steps.
- Make sure you have completed the ICC Guide steps from the checklist on our download page.

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Download and Install the Printing Utility

The hardest part of creating a good baseline Target Image, is getting the Color Management software disabled. This is especially hard on a Mac computer. You **CANNOT** use any software like Photoshop, Gimp or even the Mac Image Viewer to do this reliably.

The easiest solution is to use the free Adobe Color Printer Utility (APCU) from Adobe's website or our download page. It does not require that you use Photoshop or any other Adobe products.

Mac Users - Note the Adobe site says that ACPU is no longer supported on MacOS Catalina 10.15 or later but it DOES still work.

You can also use one of the following applications, which are the ONLY other applications that will work:

- QTR Print-tool (Mac only)
- Qimage One

Windows Users - Instructions to download and install ACPU:

1. To install ACPU, download the ACPU.zip file
2. Double click on the .zip file
3. Choose to extract all the files.
4. After the extraction is complete, drag the Adobe Color Printer Utility to the "Programs" folder or your preferred folder.

Mac Users - Instructions to download and install ACPU:

1. To install ACPU, download the appropriate ACPU installation file
2. Double click on the file to unzip it.
3. Double click the resulting .dmg file.
4. If you get a security warning since the file was not downloaded from the App Store, go to your "System Preferences" and select "Security & Privacy". Under the "General" tab, you should be able to allow the ACPU file to be opened.
5. Drag the "Adobe Color Printer Utility.app" file to your "Applications" folder

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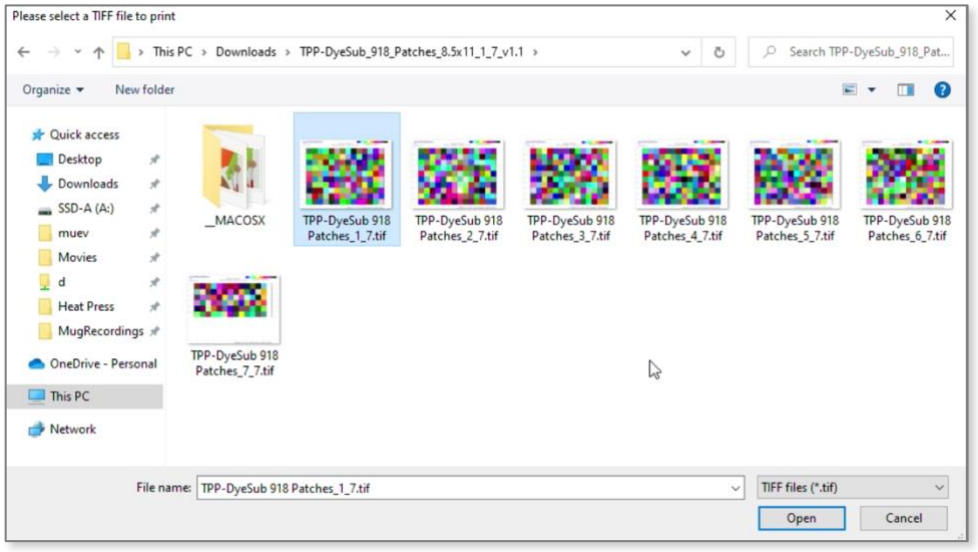
Printing Setup

Before you purchase an ICC profiling package, please download the Target Images, and ensure that you're able to print them correctly. The Target Images are available for free on our downloads page. Note that we have different profiling services available. For RGB desktop printers, select the "RGB Basic ICC profile images" for matte paper and matte vinyl. Use the "RGB Advanced ICC profile images" for glossy papers and vinyls. Please contact us if you have questions on which images to use.

Windows Users - Instructions for setting up a test print:

1. Download the Target Images and unzip the file
2. Download the Color Printer Test Page (color-printer-test-page.jpg) file and print it using your normal software and settings. This will be your "before" image.
3. Download the Adobe Color Printer Utility (ACPU) and unzip the file
4. Read the readme file and when ready, double click the .exe file
5. Select "File" -> "Open..." and choose one of the Target Image .tif files



6. Click "Open"

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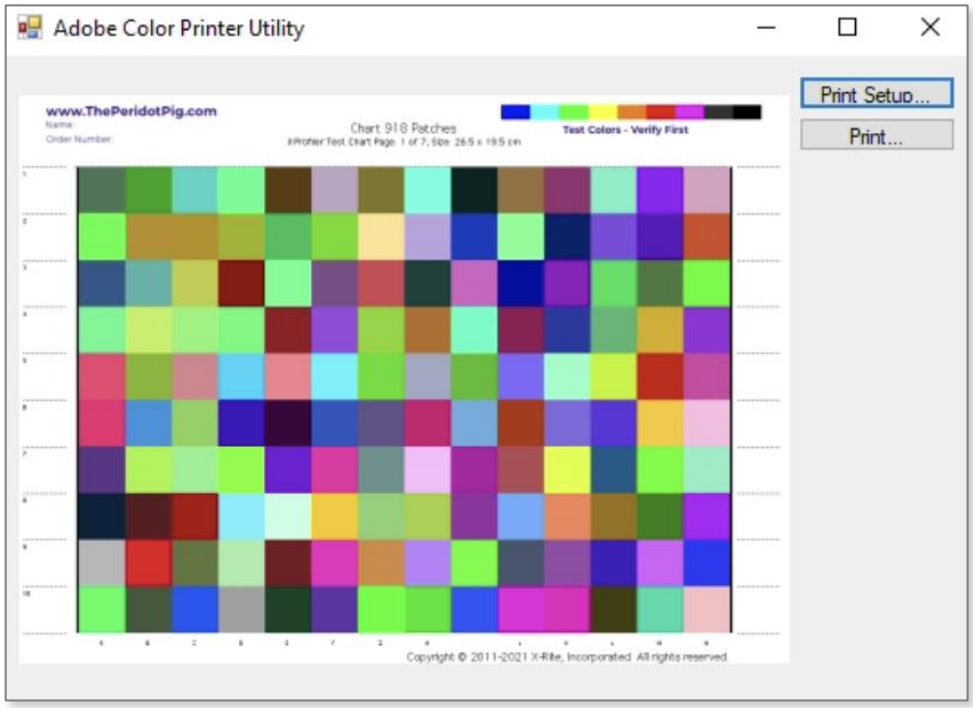
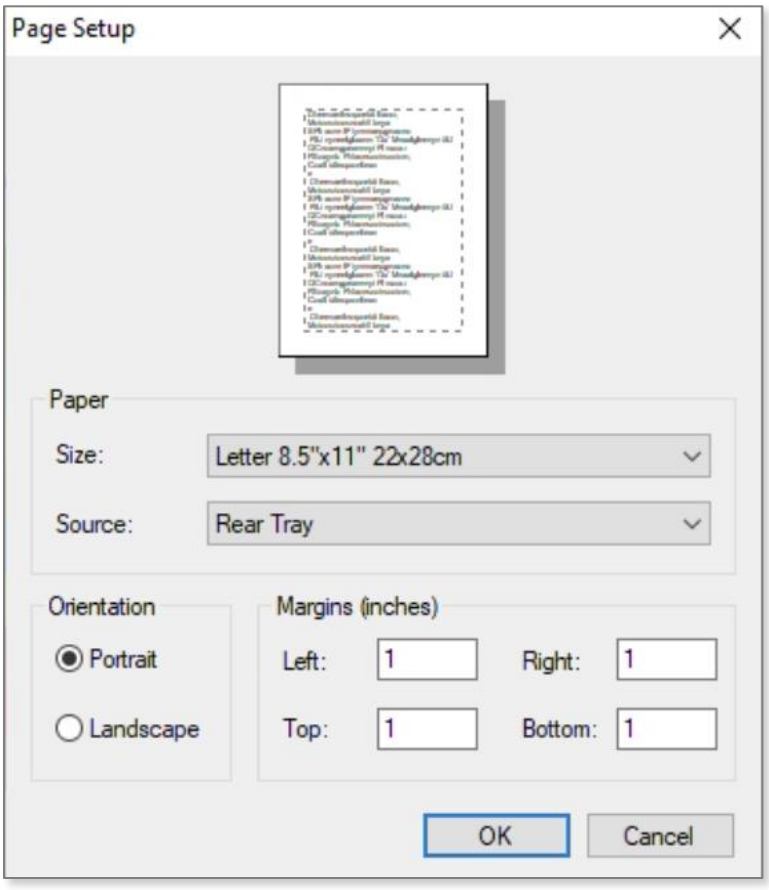


7. The image preview will appear. Select “Print Setup…”
8. Select the correct orientation (should be “Landscape”). Make sure to select “Letter 8.5” x 11” 22x28cm”. You may need to adjust the margins if the page does not fit.



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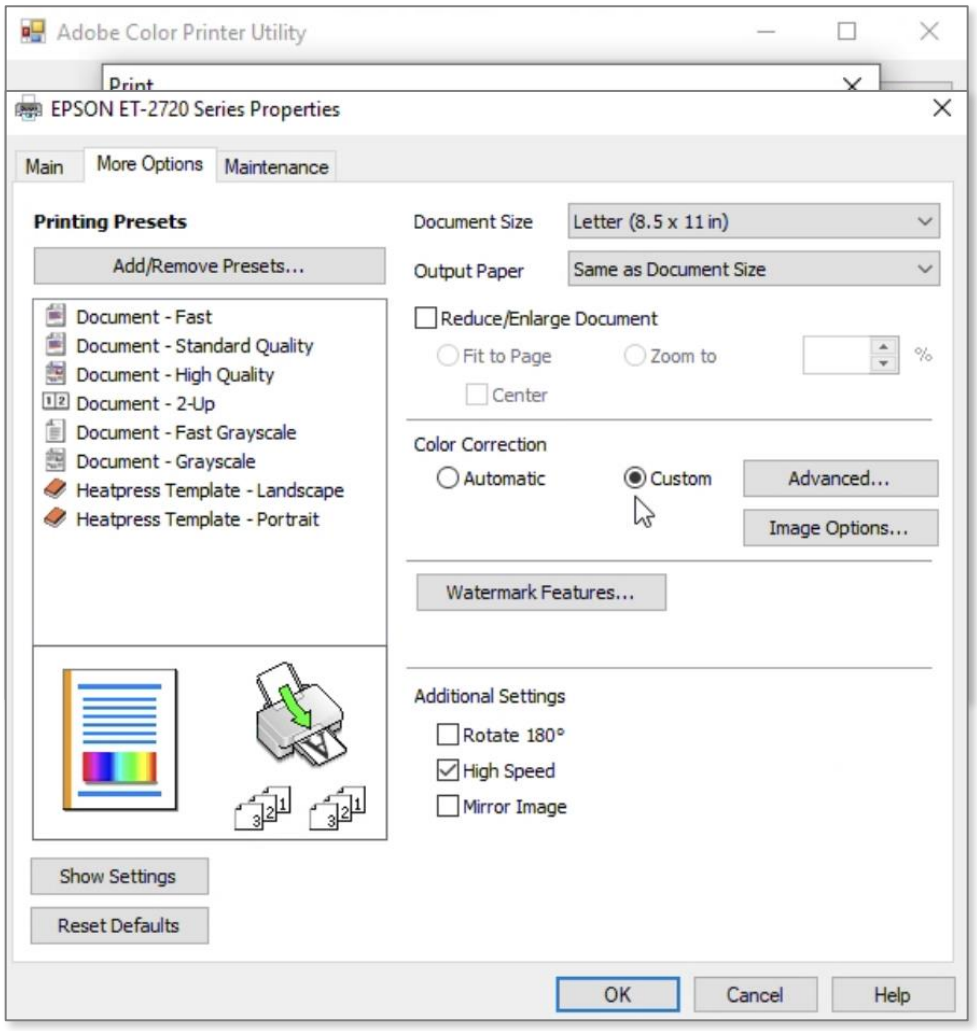
9. Select OK to return to the image preview menu
10. Then select the “Print…” button and select “Properties…”
11. Click the “More Options” tab



12. Under “Color Correction”, select the “Custom” radio button to enable the Advanced options
13. Select “Advanced…”

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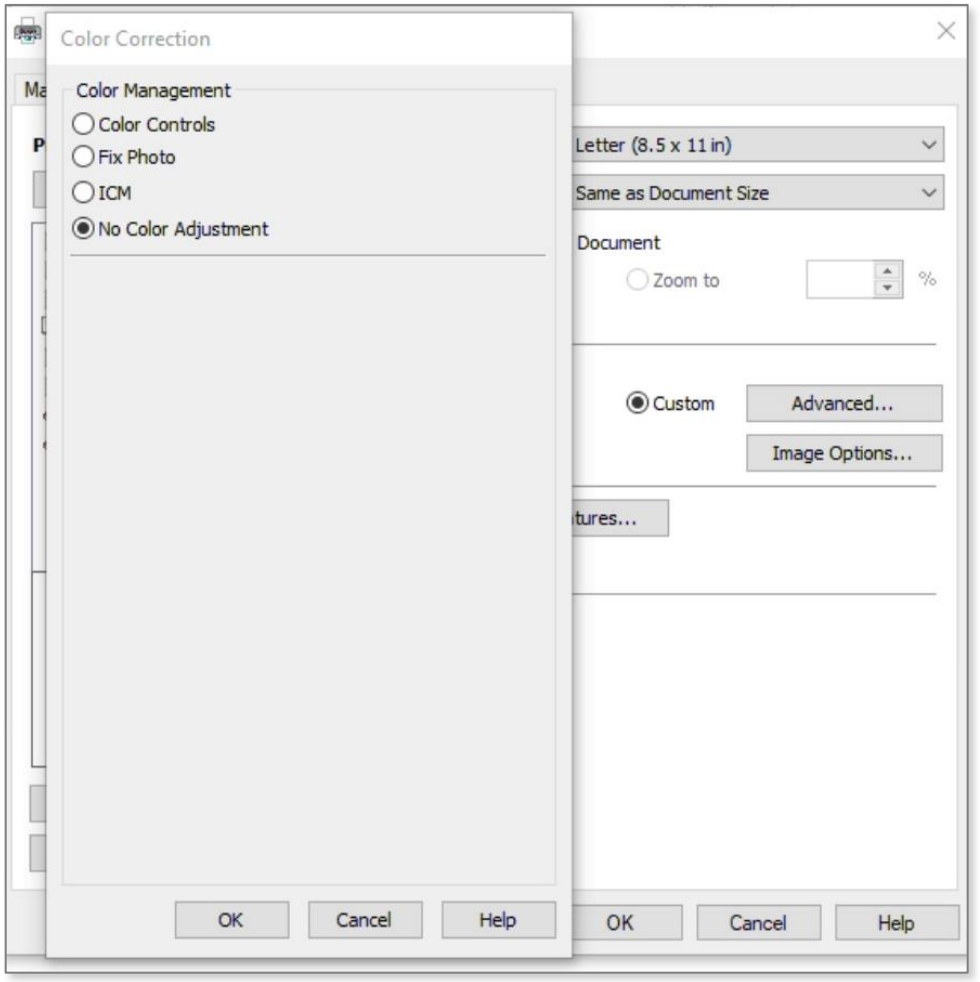
14. On the “Color Correction” menu, select “No Color Adjustment”



15. Select “OK”

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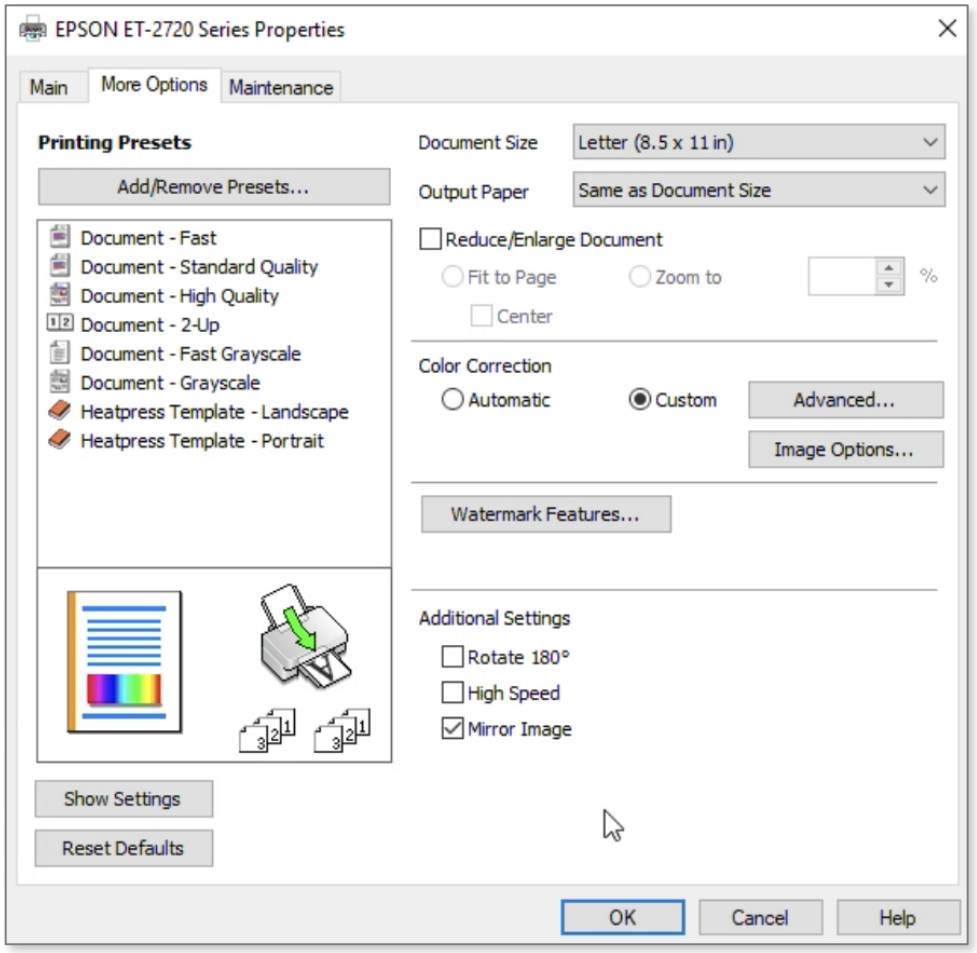
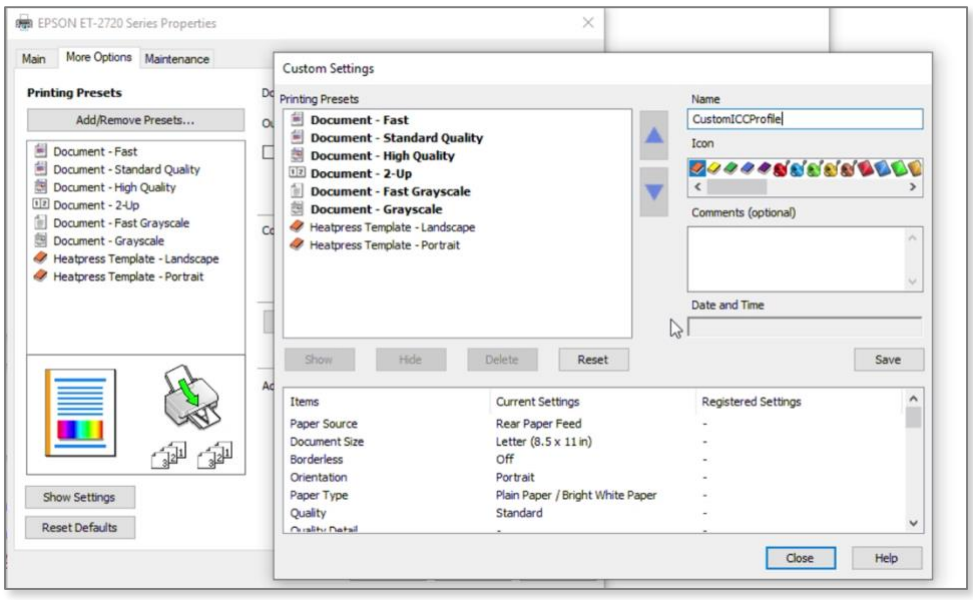
16. Back on the “More Options” tab, turn off “High Speed”. Do not use “Mirror Image”



unless you are doing sublimation printing.

17. Save this configuration as a preset, select “Add/Remove Presets...”
18. Give the preset a name (we used “CustomICCProfile”) and click “Save”



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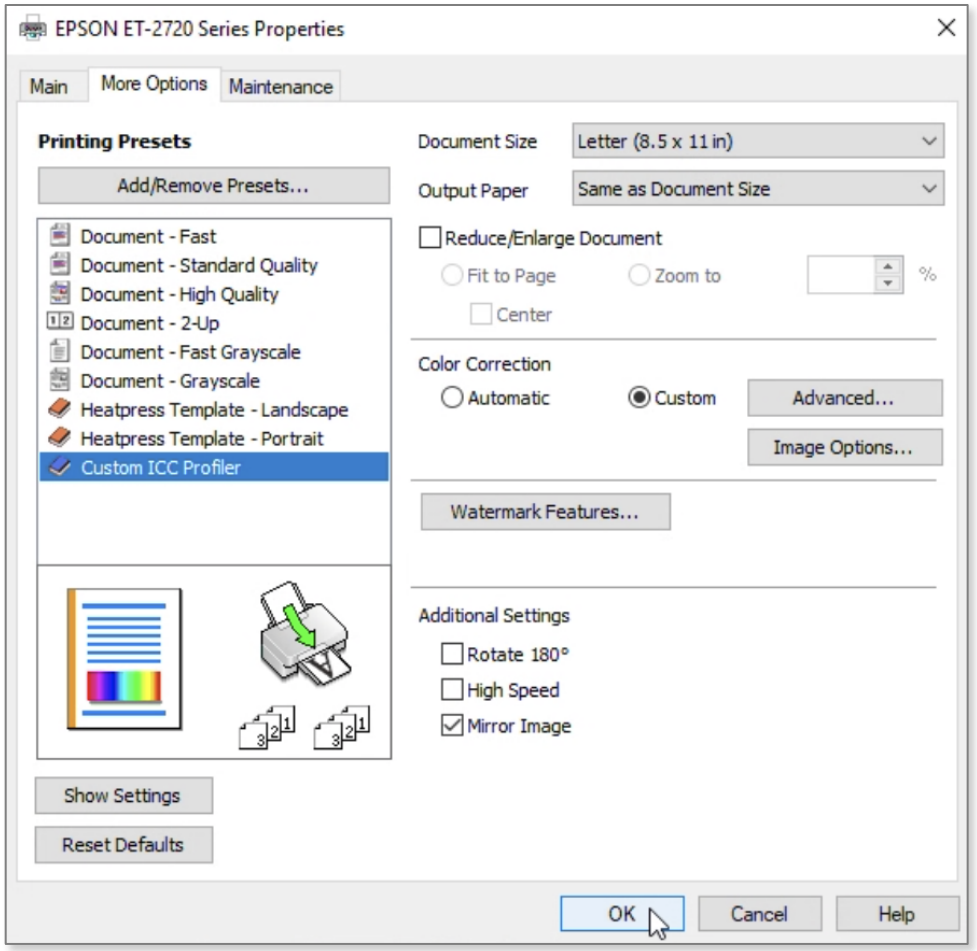
19. Close the preset menu
20. You're now ready to create a test print. Select "OK"



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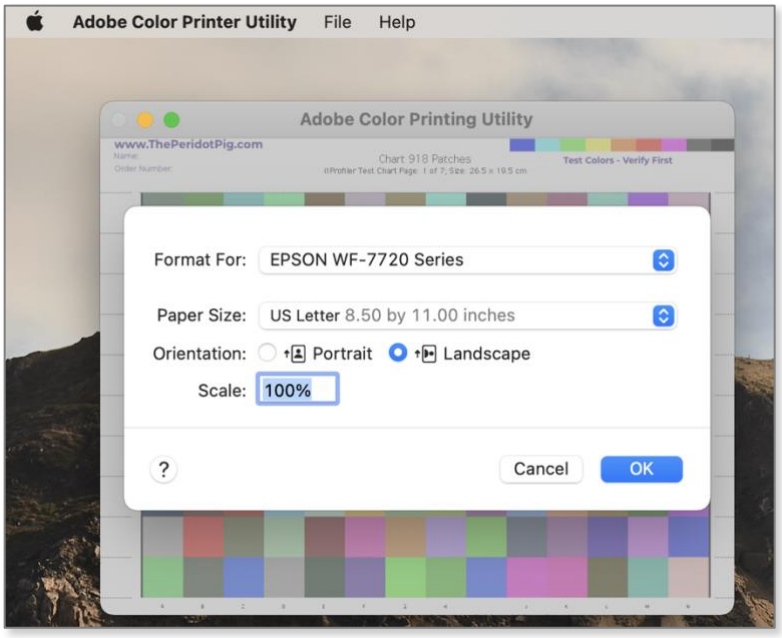
Mac Users - Instructions for setting up a test print:

1. Download the Target Images and unzip the file
2. Download the Color Printer Test Page (color-printer-test-page.jpg) file and print it using your normal software and settings. This will be your "before" image.
3. Open the Adobe Color Printer Utility (ACPU)
4. Select "File" -> "Open…" and the first Target Image .tif file
5. Select "File" -> "Page Setup…" and select the correct orientation (Landscape or Portrait). It should say "Scale" is at 100%. Click "OK"



6. Select "File" -> "Print…" but don't press "Print" yet!
7. Open the "Advance Setting" by clicking the "Show Details" button.
8. Confirm that you have the correct Printer model selected.
9. Select each of the center dropdown menus and check the following settings. The names will vary by model, but you should see menus similar to "Layout", "Print Settings", "Quality & Media", "Color Matching", "Paper Handling", etc.
    a. **SCALE:** make sure that the image is printed at 100%. **DO NOT** select "Expand to Fit" nor "Scale to fit paper size".
    b. **Paper or Media Type:** Select the items that you'll be using with this profile and matches your chosen paper. You must select the appropriate "Media Type" and "Print Quality"

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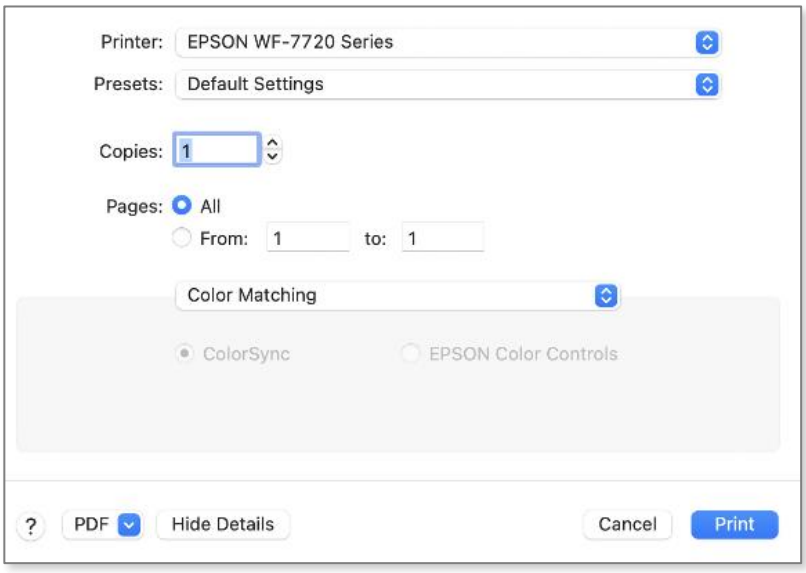
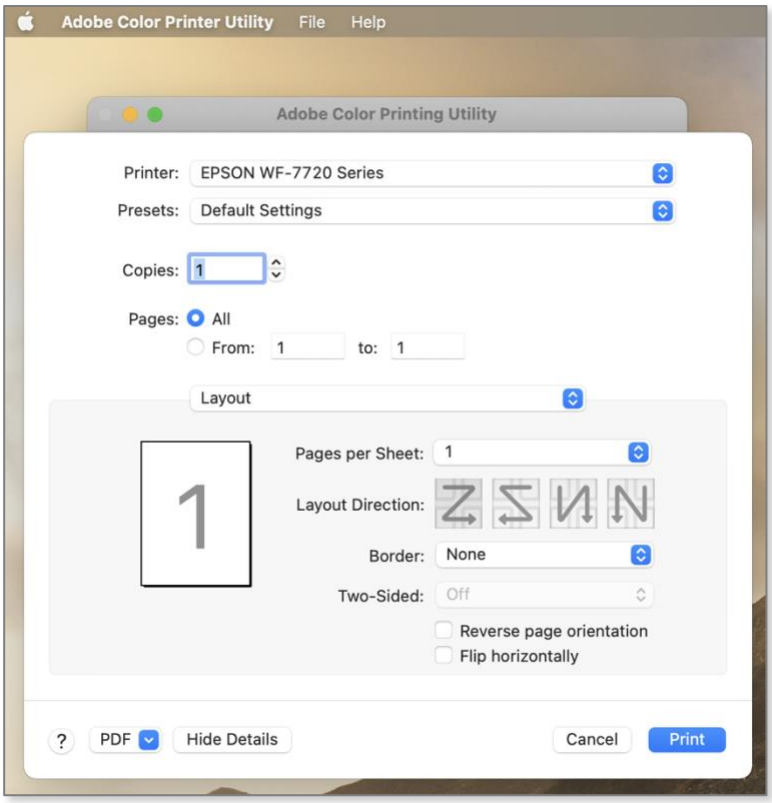
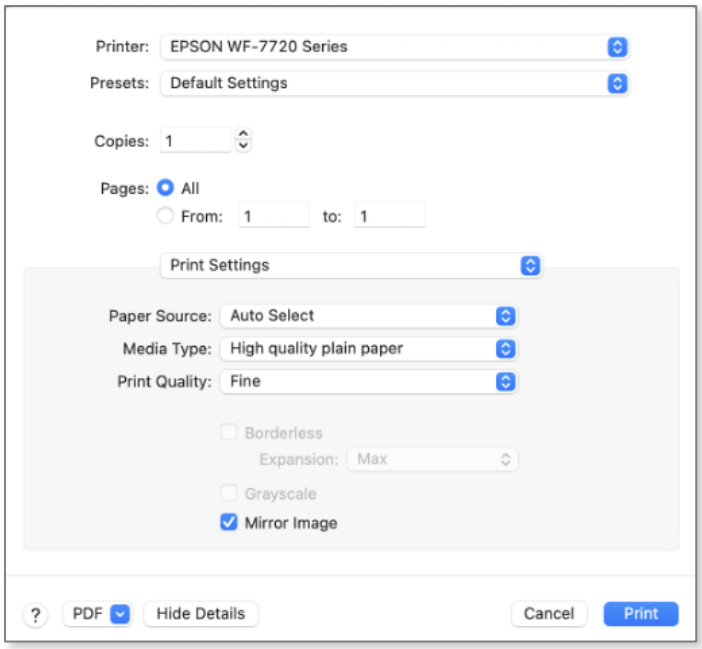
c. **Color Matching:** All the options should be grayed out. If your printer model has “Advanced Color Settings”, the “Color Settings” should be grayed out and say “Off (No Color Management)”.



d. **Print Settings:** Deselect “Mirror Image” for regular printing.



10. Save these settings as a preset and/or write them down. You’ll want to use the same configuration with your new custom ICC profile. These same settings should be used with each of the Target Images.



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Print a Test Target Image

You're now ready to print your first Target Image file. We recommend doing this step before making the purchase. If you have problems with the verification, please contact us before you buy a profiling package.

1. Print one of the Target Image .tiff files.
2. Inspect the Pre-Profile Colors using the criteria below:
    a. At the top of each Target Image file, you'll find the following graphic with color swatches. Inspect each Target Print and Target Image to make sure they are clear and crisp.

    b. The colors should be solid and clean with no bars or "pizza wheel" marks
    c. Patch 1 Blue – should be a solid dark blue
    d. Patch 2 Cyan – should be solid cyan with no magenta or yellow dots
    e. Patch 3 Green – should be somewhat dark and not a light green
    f. Patch 4 Yellow – should be solid yellow with no cyan or magenta dots
    g. Patch 5 Orange – should have no cyan dots
    h. Patch 6 Red – should have no cyan dots
    i. Patch 7 Magenta – should be solid magenta with no cyan or yellow dots
    j. Patch 8 Dark Gray – will be slightly lighter than the black
    k. Patch 9 Black – should be solid black

3. If the colors look correct, then move onto the next section
4. If the colors do not look correct:
    a. **Windows Users –** The problem is usually due to Color Management (ICM) being left ON somewhere in the printer driver settings. ACPU (or any other application) cannot turn off Color Management in the print driver, so you must always verify the driver settings to confirm it is **OFF**
    b. **Mac Users –** The problem is normally because the AirPrint driver is still being used. If you have an older printer, it might be that color management is still turned on in the print driver. It could also be that the Target Images were opened in Photoshop, Gimp, etc and were converted to a color profile.

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Purchase the Appropriate Custom Profile Package

There are two selections for RGB desktop printers. If you have a large format or specialty printer, contact us first. For regular desktop printers, you have two choices:

Option #1: Matte Papers – Basic Profile
For matte paper, cardstock, sticker paper or printable vinyl, we recommend getting a basic profile completed.

Option #2: Gloss Papers – Advanced Profile
For gloss photo paper, sticker paper or printable vinyl, we recommend getting an advanced profile completed. The glossy surfaces require a slightly larger sample size and polarized measurements to reduce glare.

NOTE: Make sure you test print a Target Image *before* making your purchase!
NOTE: Make sure you include your email address in your order so that we can send you final instructions and your Custom ICC Profile!

Visit our website to review the different Custom ICC Profile Packages we offer. Not finding the combination you need? Contact us at support@ThePeridotPig.com .

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Print the Target Image

After you have purchased your Custom ICC Profile package, you'll receive an email with instructions regarding the number of images that will be required to create your ICC profile. Fifteen (15) Target Image Pages are required for the Basic Profile. Nineteen (19) Target Images are required for the Advanced Profile.

You'll want to use the same printer settings that were saved out of the "Setup and Test Print the Target Image" exercise.

Instructions to print the Target Image:

1. Download the .zip file specified in your Custom ICC Profile purchase email
2. Unzip the file and save the image .tif files to a folder that you can locate
3. Open the Adobe Color Printing Utility (ACPU)
4. Click "File" -> "Open..." and select the first downloaded file
5. Verify that the page setup and print setting are still as specified in "Setup and Test Print the Target Image" section
6. Print the first image
7. Inspect the pre-profile colors at the top of the page. If they look good, continue with the remaining files in the Target Image package. If the colors do not look correct, revisit the "Setup and Test Print the Target Image" section and confirm all your settings are correct. If all your settings are correct and you are still having issues, read through our Trouble Shooting guide.
8. Inspect the print to ensure all the color patches are on the page and the image has not been resized
9. Allow all the Target Images to dry overnight.

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Instructions to Send the Target Image or the Target Prints

1. Complete the order form that was included in the download package. Make sure to include your name, email address and order number on the form.
2. Package your Target Prints along with your order form and send to The Peridot Pig at the following address:

   The Peridot Pig
   Attn: ICC Profiling Department
   11395 Normandy Lane
   Chagrin Falls, OH USA 44023
3. Make sure you do not write on the colored areas of the Target Print or put any stickers or labels on the back.
4. Label the envelope/package with “DO NOT BEND” on the front.
5. Make sure to use a stiff mailer or include cardboard to prevent damage during shipping.

We’ll notify you as soon as we receive your shipment.

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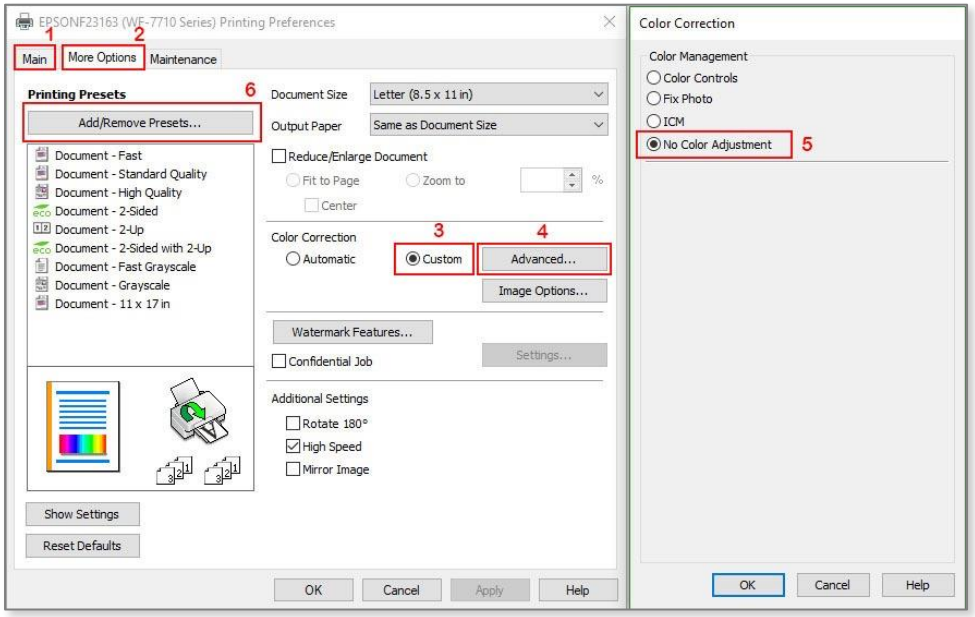
Appendix – Epson Print Driver Menus

Applying the print settings will vary depending on the printer model. Below are some common Epson Driver layouts:

Windows - Type 1



1. On the “Main” tab, select the appropriate media type and quality setting for your print.
   (Avoid using *Plain Paper* and select *High Quality Plain Paper* or *Matte* paper instead. Set the “Quality” to one of the two highest settings).
2. Select the tab labeled “More Options”
3. Set “Color Correction” to “Custom” to enable the “Advanced…” button
4. Click on “Advanced…” to open the “Color Correction” menu
5. Select “No Color Adjustment” and press “OK”
6. To avoid having to do all this each time you print, we recommend saving a Preset. Press
   the “Add/Remove Presets…” button, give the preset a name, choose an icon and then click Save.
7. Turn off “High Speed” if you’re having issues with ink not drying quickly enough and causing “pizza wheel marks”.

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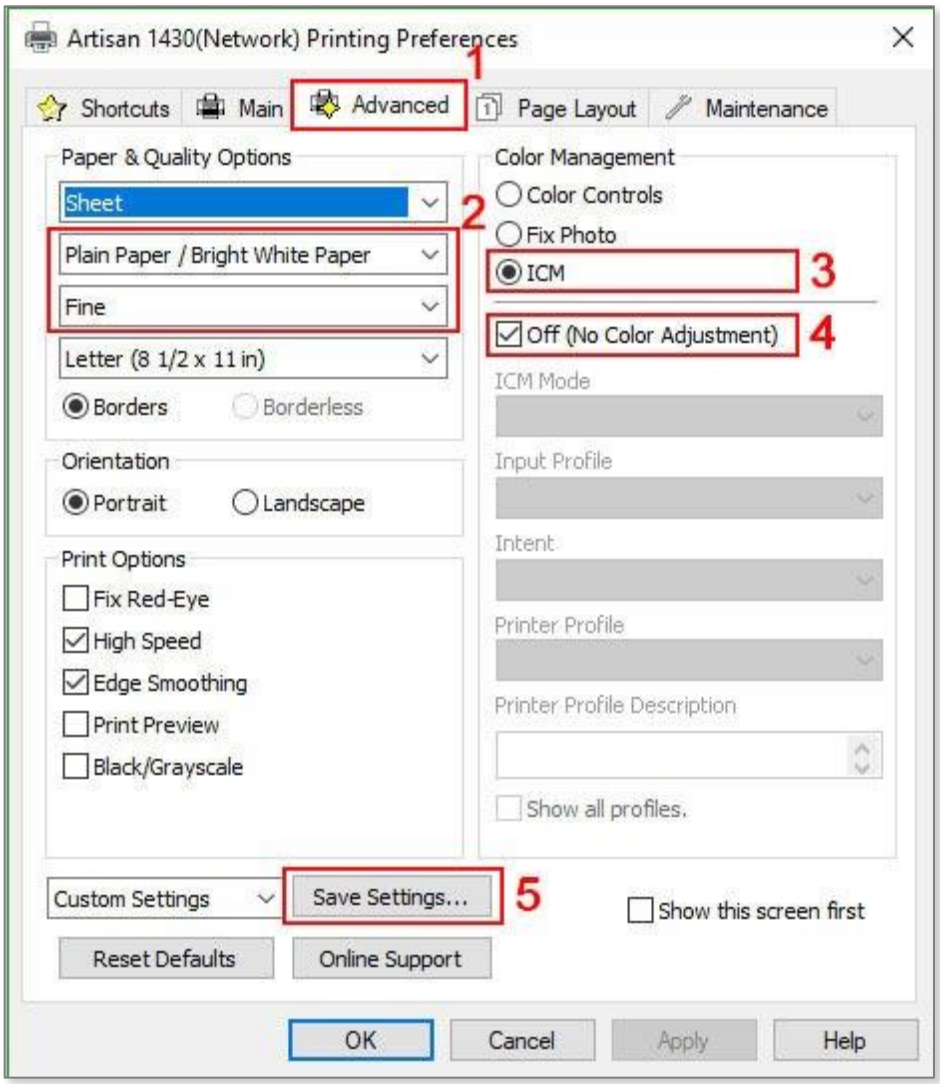
Windows - Type 2



1. Select the “Advanced” tab.
2. Select the appropriate media type.
   (Avoid using *Plain Paper* and select *High Quality Plain Paper* or *Matte* paper instead. Set the “Quality” to one of the two highest settings).
3. Under “Color Management”, select “ICM”.
4. Once ICM is selected you will have the option to check the box labeled “Off (No Color Adjustment)”. Check the box.
5. To avoid having to do all this on each print, we recommend saving a Preset. Press “Save Settings...“ to configure a new preset.
6. Turn off “High Speed” if you’re having issues with ink not drying quickly enough and causing “pizza wheel marks”.

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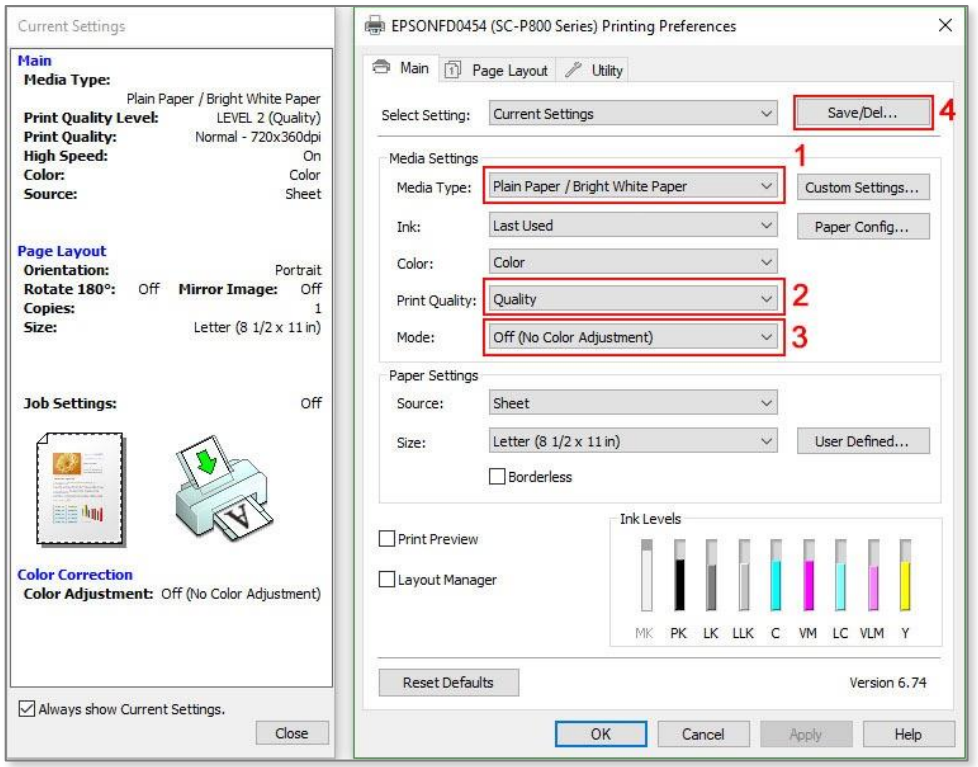
Windows - Type 3



1. Select the appropriate media type.
   (Avoid using Plain Paper and select High Quality Plain Paper or Matte paper instead).
2. Set “Print Quality” to “Fine” or “Quality”.
3. “Mode” should be set to “Off (No Color Adjustment)”.
4. We recommend saving a Preset. Press the “Save/Del...” button to configure a new preset.

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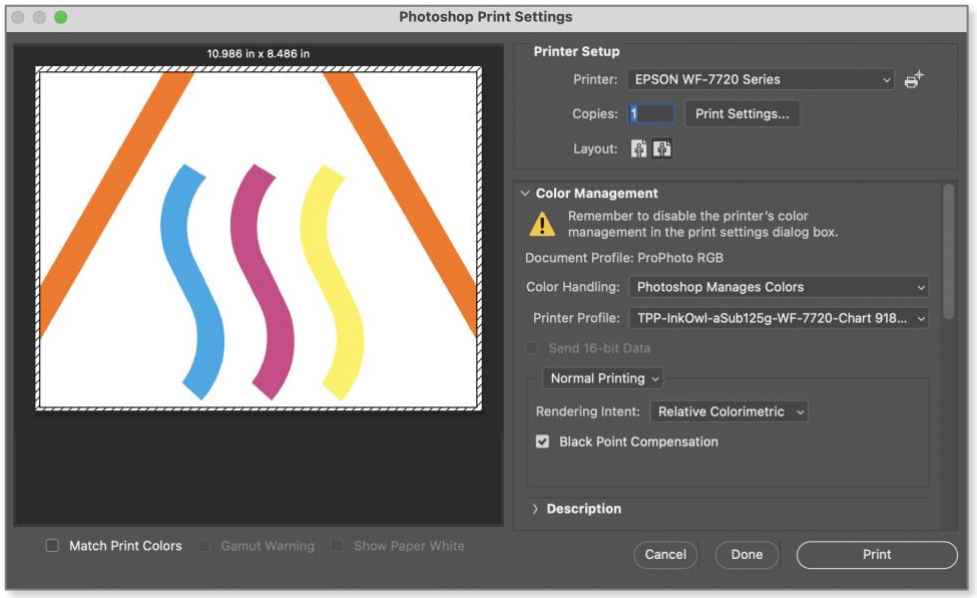
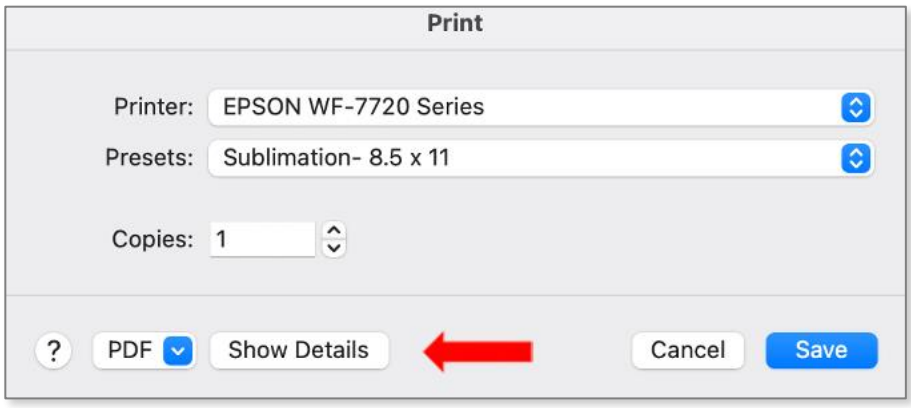
Mac - Type 4

1. Select “File”-> ”Print…” from your graphics application. In this example, we’re using PhotoShop.
2. Select the “Print Settings…” button under the “Printer Setup”



3. The Print menu will appear and click the “Show Details” button if it has not been selected.



4. You will see a dialog like below, but it may vary depending on your specific printer model.
    a. Check that the correct “Printer:” is set
    b. Select the preset that you made before, if applicable

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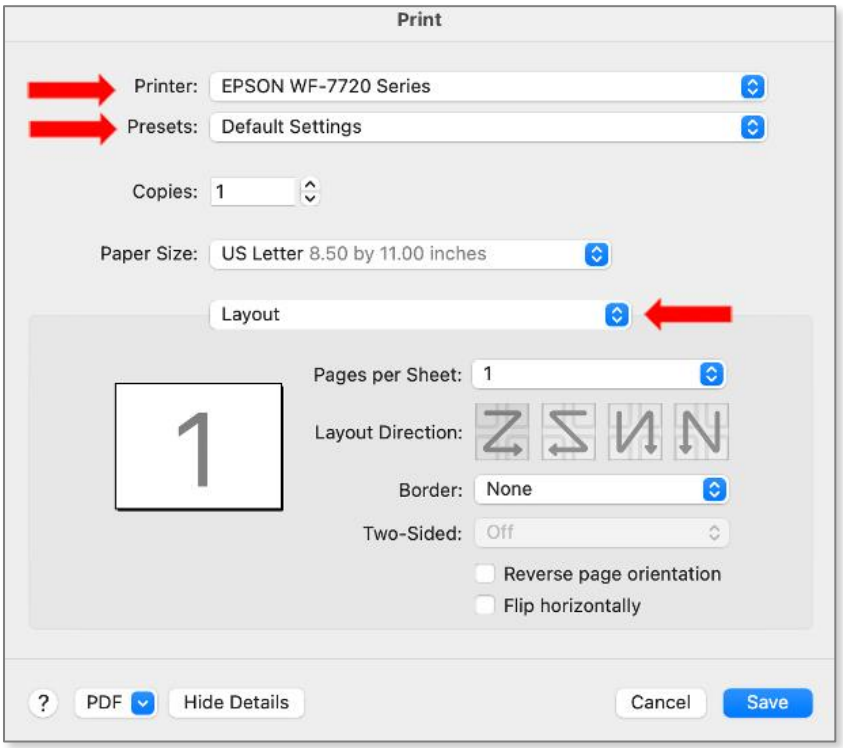
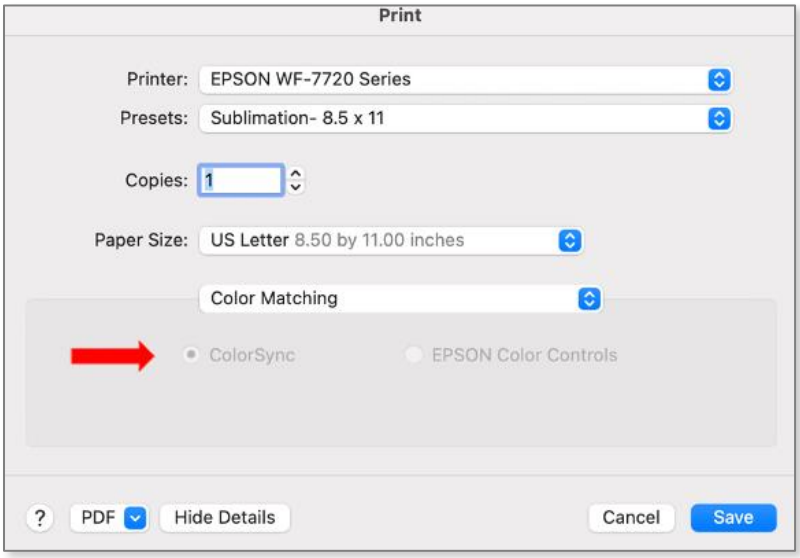
c. The first menu normally shows “Layout”. Click the side arrows to get to the following menus and settings (may vary by printer model):



d. **Color Matching:** Should be grayed out if you’ve told Photoshop to manage the color



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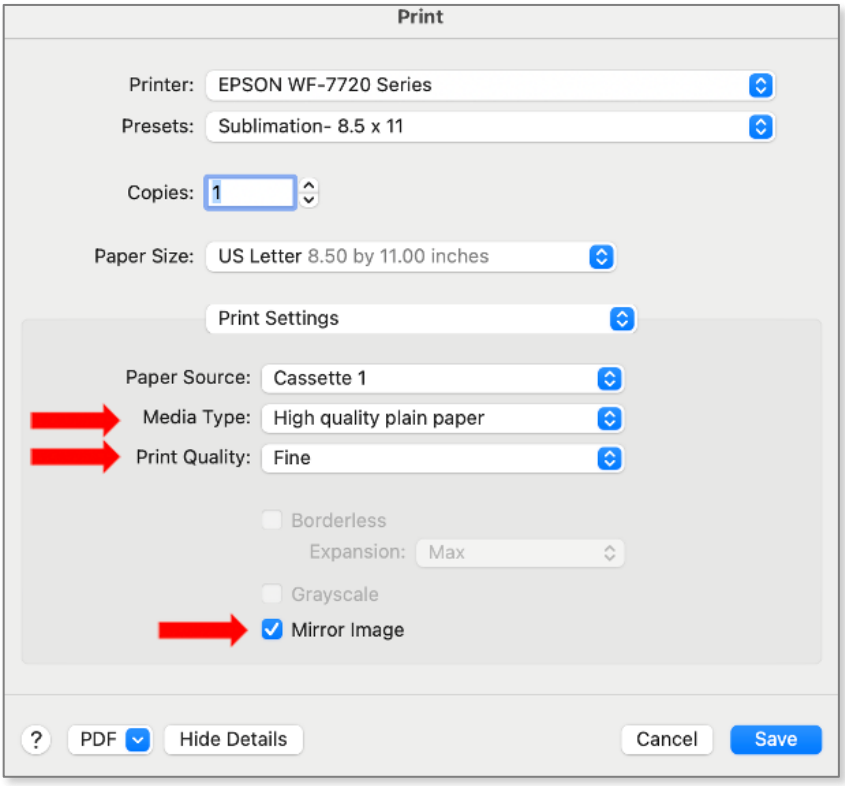
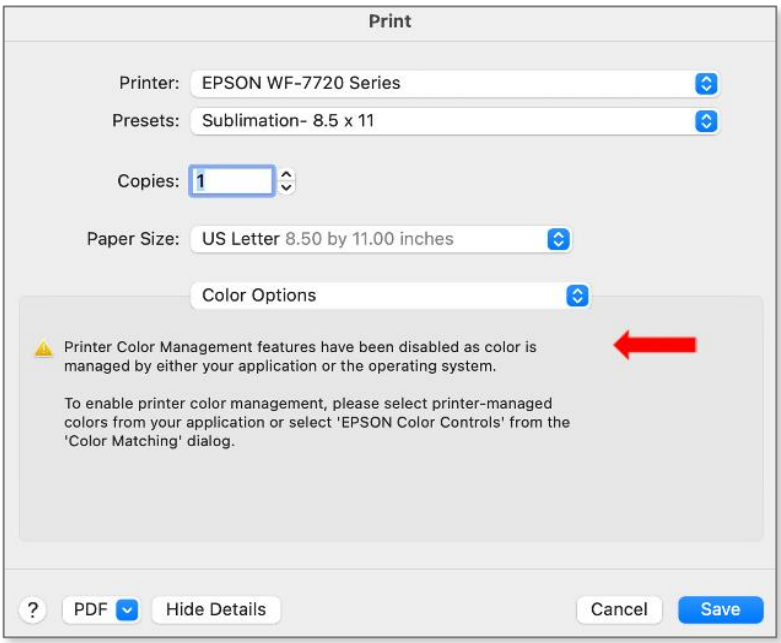
e. **Print Settings:** Select the preferred paper type for your brand of paper and ink. It should be either “Epson Matte”, “Premium Presentation Matte” or “High quality plain paper”. Avoid using the “Plain paper” setting.



f. **Color Options:** Should show that the printer color management has been disabled.



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