

PROFILING WITH WASATCH SOFTRIP®

Getting Started

This document will outline the steps to follow to create ICC profiles using a combination of Wasatch SoftRIP and a third party color profiling software package. Further, it will provide instructions for importing the ICC output profile into SoftRIP and printing a final test of the newly created Imaging Configuration. The document will also cover processes for Hi-Fi profiling.

In addition to this document, you will also need to refer to the ICC profiling software manual for intermediate steps where noted. It is recommended that a minimum of 30 linear feet of media be allocated to produce each Imaging Configuration.

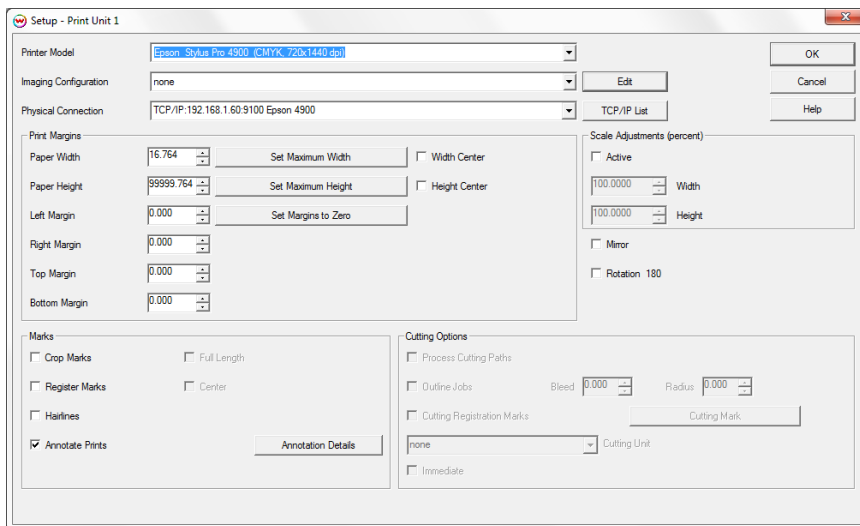


Illustration 1a: Print Setup window

NOTE: Always adjust the printer before profiling. Follow the steps outlined in the printer's user manual for printer adjustment. Adjustment refers to the setup processes performed on the printer and are specific to that printer model. Adjustment processes include media feed adjustment, bidirectional alignment, head height, media thickness, head speed, and any other adjustments prescribed by the printer manufacturer. **These settings should remain constant during profiling. All adjustments should be redone after loading any new material. The printer should be in its optimal operating condition before following the steps outlined below.**

Step 1: Setup Configuration

Launch Wasatch SoftRIP and select **Setup** from the Print menu.

Select the Printer Model and set the Imaging Configuration to **none** in the Print Setup window (Illustration 1a). Check **Annotate Prints** and the Annotation Details window will open (Illustration 1b). We recommend enabling **Printer, Imaging Configuration, Date/Time, and Comment** so each image will be printed with the settings and additional comments.

On the Print Setup window, click the **Edit** button. This will launch the Imaging Configuration window (Illustration 1c).

On the Imaging Configuration window, click the **Properties** button. This will launch a window that provides additional settings for the printer, such as print modes, resolutions, inks, etc. Every printer has a different set of printer properties. Determine the intended output configuration and select from features included with the printer. When the selections are complete, click OK.

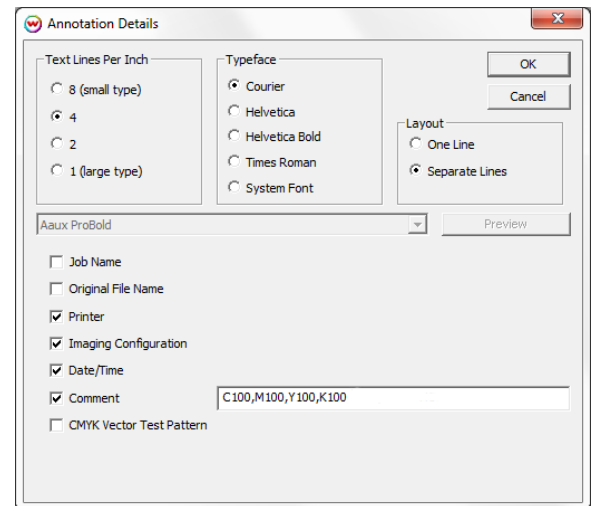


Illustration 1b: Annotation Details window

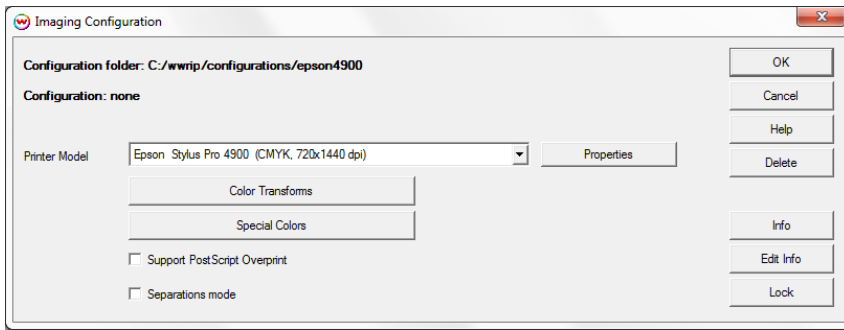


Illustration 1c: Imaging Configuration window

will be distributed and is a good place to keep track of changes as the Imaging Configuration is built. When **Edit Info** is clicked, the default text editor will open for entering notes. When done, select **Save** from the File menu and the **info.txt** file will be saved within the Imaging Configuration. This information will be available to anyone who clicks the **Info** button later. This file can be edited at any time.

Step 2: Color Transforms Configuration

Click on the **Color Transforms** button to launch the Color Transforms window (Illustration 2a). This is the master color flowchart window. Notice that all color data is cleared and set to none or default (as a result of setting the Imaging Configuration to none). In the lower right hand corner of the window, note that **Precision Stochastic Screens** is displayed as the default halftone method. For most applications, Precision Stochastic Screens is the preferred halftone method and Wasatch Imaging Configurations are created using it.

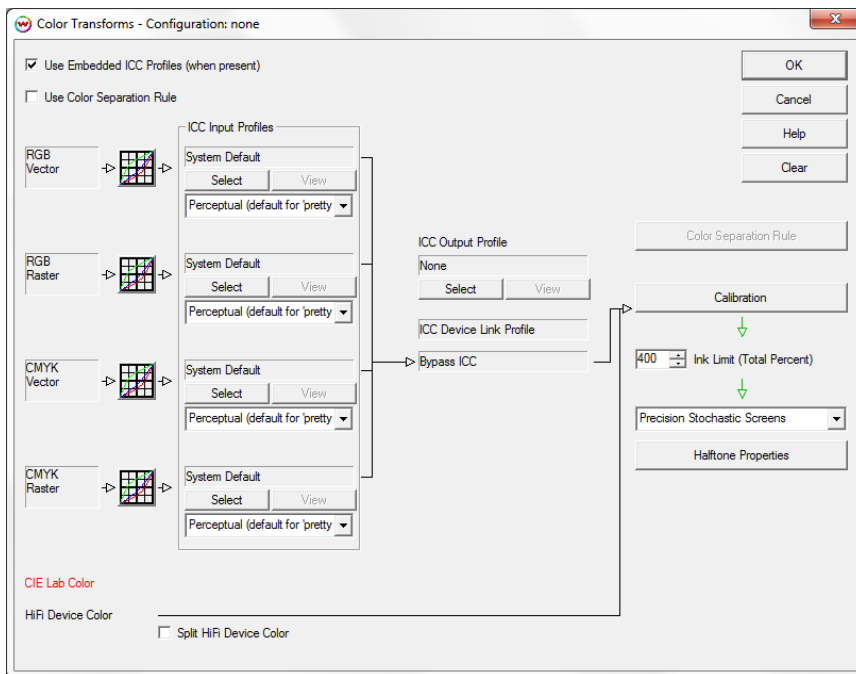


Illustration 2a: Color Transforms window

“in-progress” Imaging Configuration with a name like **Unlinearized_None**. If making Imaging Configurations for use in a production capacity, it may be best to avoid having too many ambiguously named Imaging Configurations by using a more detailed naming system such as: **Unlinearized_None_resolution_inktype_media**.

Step 3: Test Print

On the Print Setup window, make any other non-color related selections required for printing. These settings include Physical Connection, Paper Width, etc. Click OK. SoftRIP is now ready to print the test prints.

From the File menu, select **Open** and browse to **C:\psfiles** and select the appropriate target file for the densitometry device, such as **generalTest018eyeone.ps** or **generalTest018dtp20.ps**. Open one of these files and select **RIP and Print**

NOTE: It is extremely important that all printer settings, halftone settings, inks, media, print modes, and other factors that affect the print condition be set prior to ink limiting. If these settings are changed, return to the beginning of Step 1 to restart the process.

Back on the Imaging Configuration window, click the **Edit Info** button and create a text file to record the properties selected as part of the configuration. This is especially helpful if the final Imaging Configuration

However, it is possible to choose from a few halftone methods from this window on which to build an Imaging Configuration. Whatever halftone method is chosen will be incorporated into the Imaging Configuration. Changing it later will invalidate the Imaging Configuration. **This technical document only covers processes for profiling with Precision Stochastic Screens. Profiling steps will vary for other halftone methods.**

In the **ICC Input Profile** column on the left side of the Color Transforms window, all four input color spaces should be set to **System Default**. Also, the default rendering intent of **Perceptual** has been set. If the design workflow includes using embedded ICC profiles, check the **Use Embedded ICC Profiles** box.

Click OK to exit the Color Transforms window and click OK again to exit the Imaging Configuration window. A **Save As** window will open to name the new Imaging Configuration. We recommend naming the

to print the file. The resulting print will be evaluated in the next section.

NOTE: The exact location of the **psfiles** folder may vary depending on the drive to which it was assigned when SoftRIP was installed.

Step 4: Determine Ink Limiting

After evaluating the print from the steps above, determine if an Individual Ink Channel Reduction to one or more of the channels is required. An Individual Ink Channel Reduction is intended to correct individual ink channel problems.

Ink reduction is performed for each channel, so look at the patches for each color individually. Examine each color channel contained in the linearization target in the top left of the **generalTest** target (Illustration 4c). If any visible overinking artifacts are present, such as undried ink, bleeding, substrate warping, etc., an ink reduction should be applied to that specific channel.

To make adjustments to the Individual Ink Channel Reduction, click on **Calibration** from the Color Transforms menu (Illustration 4a). Use the slider controls to set the ink reductions. These controls may be used for any channel individually or for all channels together if the **Lock** box is checked. Steps differ if using fixed dot with dilute inks. See note below.

After setting the ink reductions, re-save the Imaging Configuration (named **Unlinearized_None** or similar) and add notes on what changes were made by using **Edit Info** as described in Step 1.

Note on Fixed Dot with Dilute Ink Sets: There are two places where Individual Ink Channel Reductions can be performed: in Calibration or Halftone Properties. One or the other will be used depending on the inkset and the dot mode being used. **NEVER USE BOTH SETS OF INDIVIDUAL INK CHANNEL REDUCTION CONTROLS AT THE SAME TIME.**

If printing with dilute inks (light cyan, light magenta, light black, gray, light gray, etc.) and the printer is in a fixed dot mode, check the **Fixed Dot Ink Reduction** control in Halftone Properties and perform all Individual Ink Channel Reductions in the Halftone Properties window (Illustration 4b).

Total Ink Limit: Review the print of the **generalTest** file to determine if a Total Ink Limit is needed in addition to the Individual Ink Channel Reductions. The upper right area of the test print consists of three parts. The first part is a step pattern from 0% to 400% total ink (Illustration 4d). For the Total Ink Limit, select the highest percentage square that is dry and does not have print artifacts.

Wasatch noticed improved results when the Total Ink Limit was applied within the profiling software rather than within SoftRIP. The Total Ink Limit will be set before generating patches in the profiling software. This could be done at this step or at Step 8.

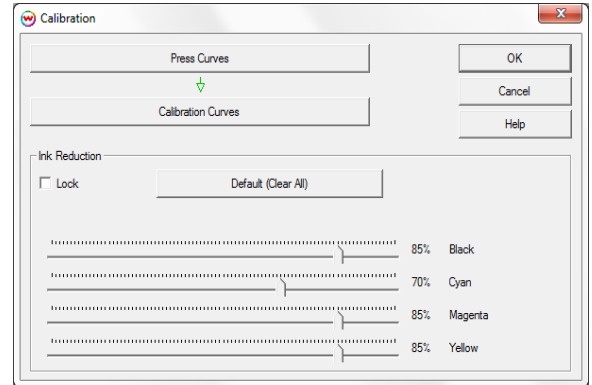


Illustration 4a: Calibration window

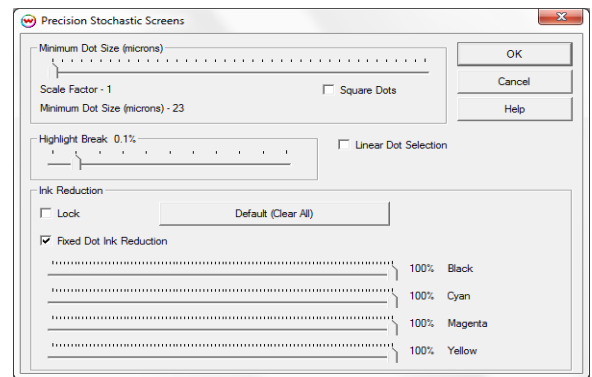


Illustration 4b: Halftone Properties window

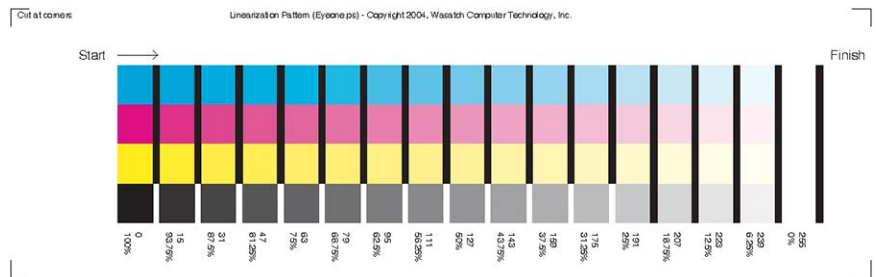


Illustration 4c: Color patches from generalTest

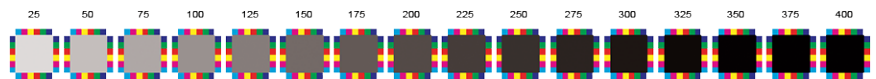


Illustration 4d: Total Ink step pattern



Illustration 4e: Composite Blacks step pattern

The second part is a series of open boxes consisting of composite blacks (Illustration 4e). Check this area for media bleed, over spray, and resolution issues.

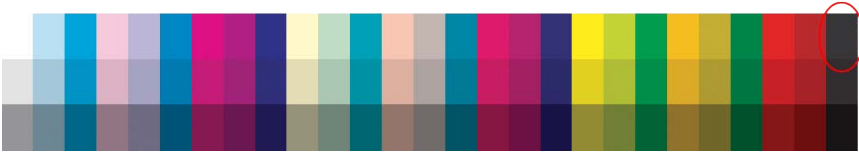


Illustration 4f: Primary inks and CMY black swatches

The third part is a series of three rows of swatches located below the boxes of black lines (Illustration 4f). These swatches consist of primary inks and one CMY black in the upper right corner (circled in red). The CMY black may show excessive bleeding or artifacts due to the “inks mixing” where the

first two tests above do not. This is why it’s very important to review this patch. Check this area for individual ink channel retention issues.

NOTE: Be aware of the amount of drying time needed before the patches can be handled in this step because this may indicate that further ink limiting is required. This is an individual preference and is determined by what drying time would be acceptable in a production environment.

If there are issues with any of these test patterns, set a Total Ink Limit or return to the Individual Ink Channel Reduction step to apply stronger reductions. If setting a Total Ink Limit in Wasatch, return to the Color Transforms window. Above the Halftone Properties on the right side of the Color Transforms windows is the **Ink Limit (Total Percent)** control. Enter the percent for Total Ink Limit, click OK to exit the Color Transforms window, click OK to exit the Imaging Configuration window, and save the “unlinearized” Imaging Configuration.

Step 5: Test Print

RIP and print the **generalTest018eyeone.ps (C:\psfiles)** target to check for any additional Individual Ink Channel Reductions or Total Ink Limits that may be required. All squares should have good retention, show no print artifacts, and have no bleeding problems. If there are still ink retention issues, depending on the printer model, there are other options that can be used for limiting ink. For example, lower the resolution, or change to a dry mode (if available). If changes to these settings are required to create a quality Imaging Configuration, restart the profiling process from Step 1.

Step 6: Linearize (Calibrate) the Printer

Open the appropriate linearization file that matches the spectrophotometer and printing scenario, such as **c:\psfiles\DTP41.ps** or **c:\psfiles\DTP32.ps**. Find more information on which file to use for the spectrophotometer in the Densitometers section of SoftRIP’s online help.

NOTE: If the spectrophotometer is the DTP20 or the Eye-One, the test file already contains the linearization pattern and does not need to be printed again.

RIP and print the selected linearization test pattern.

Return to the Calibration window and click the **Calibration Curves** button to launch the Calibration Curves window (Illustration 6a).

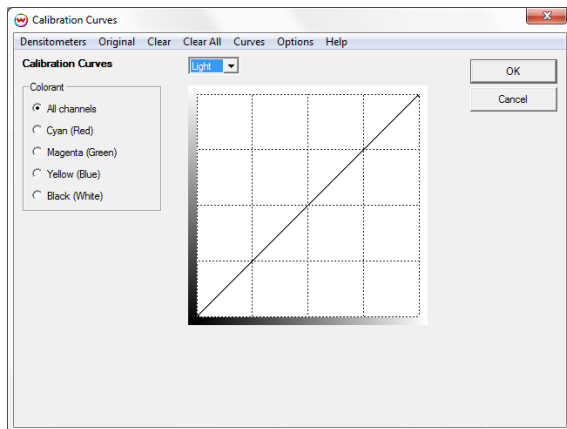


Illustration 6a: Calibration Curves window

Use the **Options** menu on this window to choose between performing a density linearization (default) and a dot linearization (Illustration 6b). The choice should be driven by the output type and, more importantly, by the expectations of the ICC profiling software. Test each setting to determine which provides the best results with the profiling package.

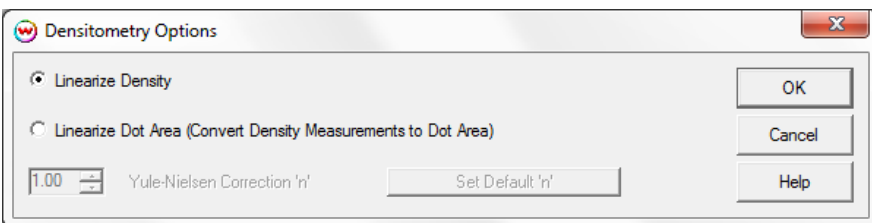


Illustration 6b: Densitometry Options window

Select the densitometry hardware from the Densitometers menu. Device-specific

instructions for reading the linearization patches will be displayed. After following the on-screen instructions and reading the test patterns/strips, click OK to exit.

The resulting data will be displayed in the Calibration Curves window and will look similar to the curves in **Illustration 6c**. If measuring a smooth substrate without any surface texture, the appearance of the curves will usually be smooth without any abrupt shifts in the direction of the curve. If such discontinuities exist, this may indicate the presence of an inaccurate measurement. See steps below to help verify the resulting linearization curves.

Clicking **Original** will display the density measurements for each patch on the linearization target. By reviewing these values, overinking issues that may not be visible to the naked eye on the print can be found. For each color, the highest measured density should be displayed at the top of the column with each value below showing a lower measured density. If a higher measured density is displayed below a lower measured density, as shown for the Cyan channel in **Illustration 6d**, this indicates that too much ink is being printed for that color channel, even if the scanned print had no visual overinking artifacts.

As ink increases, the measured density will also increase, but only to a certain point. As the printed ink amount increases and the maximum achievable density measurement is approached, the increase in density diminishes and eventually drops off completely. Once this point is reached, printing more ink will often result in the measured density being lower. This is the cause of the overinking issue mentioned above.

To address this issue, cancel out of the Calibration Curves window without saving the linearization curve, perform an Individual Ink Channel Reduction to the channel(s) with this overinking issue, save the Imaging Configuration, RIP and print the test target, and re-measure. Repeat these steps as necessary until the maximum measured density is displayed at the top of the column in Original Data for each color, with all values below descending.

When complete, click OK until the **Save As** window is displayed. Name the Imaging Configuration so that it is identified as the original linearization data.

NOTE: Exit all windows by clicking OK, instead of Cancel, or the data will be lost.

Step 7: Confirm Linearization (Optional)

NOTE: This step is optional and not necessary to create an Imaging Configuration. However, as this step will help confirm the accuracy of the linearization curve scanned into SoftRIP in Step 6, and an accurate linearization curve is an important part of a quality Imaging Configuration, it is highly recommended to follow the instructions below closely to confirm the linearization process was successful.

As this step is only to confirm that the linearization curve is accurate, DO NOT use the OK button when exiting

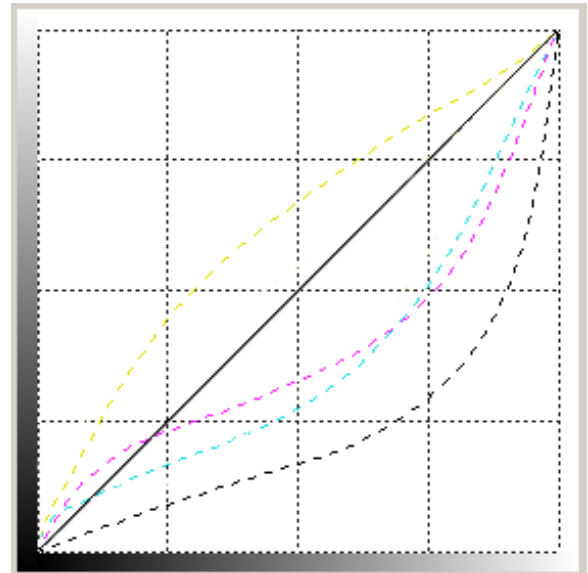


Illustration 6c: Calibration Curves display

Target		Measurements			
		Cyan	Magenta	Yellow	Black
D Max (Darker)	0	1.58403	1.21044	1.10095	2.80121
	15	1.59018	1.03681	1.00462	1.28885
	31	1.06846	0.787402	0.890078	0.946307
	47	0.753554	0.561727	0.695015	0.651296
	63	0.588356	0.431943	0.569455	0.446168
	79	0.468681	0.347066	0.476515	0.337061
	95	0.367929	0.270196	0.385966	0.25527
	111	0.302512	0.218149	0.331862	0.201288
	127	0.25137	0.17966	0.276088	0.167897
	143	0.219278	0.154832	0.231366	0.143763
	159	0.193239	0.135191	0.196964	0.124397
	175	0.171423	0.120216	0.167224	0.11015
	191	0.151505	0.107163	0.141307	0.102585
	207	0.135125	0.097378	0.115734	0.093104
	223	0.118129	0.087279	0.074418	0.089017
	239	0.100605	0.081713	0.072746	0.083266
(Lighter) White	255	0.081925	0.080456	0.070053	0.078443

Illustration 6d: Density measurements for each patch on the linearization target

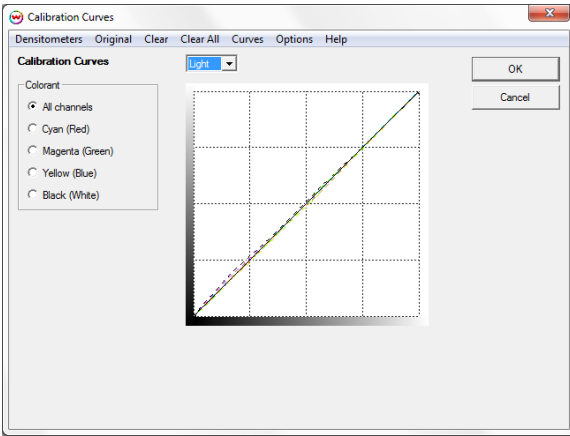


Illustration 7a: Confirm linearization

nearly linear (Illustration 7a). If the curves look linear, use the **Cancel** button to back out of all windows and return to the main window.

If the curves do not look linear, have large bumps, or fall sharply away from the center line, perform a new linearization. To do this, first clear out the linearization curves by using **Clear All** from the top menu. Click **OK** to exit out of the Calibration, Color Transforms, and Imaging Configuration windows. Re-save the Imaging Configuration with a new name (such as Linearization_Second_Attempt).

Return to Step 6 to perform a new linearization and repeat the steps to confirm linearization. If the curves still have bumps or fall away from the center line after the second confirmation, reconsider the Individual Ink Channel Reduction settings.

Step 8: Print Profile Target

Open the profiling software being used and generate a standard set of patches. The Total Ink Limit may need to be set at this step before generating the patches (refer to Step 4).

Now, with the newly created linearized Imaging Configuration applied, RIP and print the file created in the profiling software. Allow the patches to dry (if necessary) and scan the patches into the profiling software. Save the generated ICC or ICM file to a location easily browsed to for importing into SoftRIP, such as the Windows Desktop.

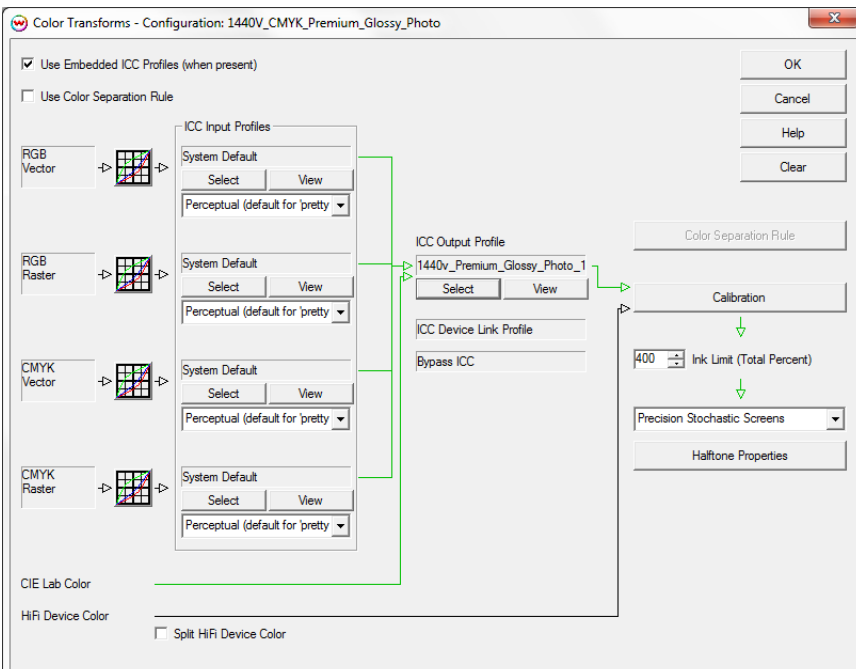


Illustration 9a: Color Transforms window

from these windows during this step unless explicitly instructed to do so. It is very important to use the **CANCEL** button to exit all windows. Clicking **OK** will write over the linearization data with the confirmation data and invalidate the linearization process.

RIP and print the same linearization test pattern from Step 6 using the linearized Imaging Configuration. If one of the **generalTest** files was used, RIP and print it again.

Open the Calibration Curves window. Use the **Options** menu to select the same linearization type used in the original linearization. Select the hardware from the **Densitometers** menu again and follow the steps to read the linearization patches from this newly printed target.

When asked to overwrite or add the new curves to the linearization, choose **Yes**.

Now the curves shown in the Calibration Curves display should look

NOTE: When working with a Hi-Fi print mode, additional steps may need to be taken in the profiling software for best results.

1) If the profiling software applies a curve to Spot Colors, we recommend modifying the default curve so that it is linear for each Spot Color.

2) When profiling a 5 color inkset (such as CMYKR or CMYKOr) with i1Profiler, ensure the software is configured to save the ICC or ICM file as a version 2 profile rather than a version 4.2 profile (shown as version 4), which is the default in i1Profiler.

Step 9: Import Profile

Once the ICC profile has been generated from the profiling software, import it into SoftRIP and match it to the linearization in the Color Transforms window (Illustration 9a).

To do this, open the Color Transform menu. In the middle section of this window is the **ICC Output Profile** section. It should

still show **None** as the profile. Browse for the correct **ICM** or **ICC** file in the directory where it was saved from the profiling software. Once the output ICC profile is selected, the arrows on the Color Transforms window should turn green, indicating that the color workflow is working correctly with an output ICC profile in place.

Click OK until the **Save As** window is displayed. Save the Imaging Configuration with the desired final name. We recommend using the **Resolution_Inkset_Media** naming convention to make it easier to find the Imaging Configuration later. Clicking **OK** will save the Imaging Configuration. The Imaging Configuration can now be accessed from the Imaging Configuration pull-down menu on the Print Setup window.

Step 10: Print Profile Test

With the new Imaging Configuration complete, we recommend printing a reference file to help determine the quality. Wasatch does not supply a file for this use, but we suggest creating one internally as a final standardized testing procedure. This test file should be one in which the original color is standardized. We recommend **NOT** using a customer file or a random color file as it will be difficult to locate color issues in these types of files. Rather, Wasatch recommends printing a standard, familiar image. It should have primary colors, secondary colors, and an image with details like faces, shadows, etc. It should also have both CMYK and RGB components.

Be sure that all color and printer settings are consistent with the settings used when the ICC profile was generated. RIP and print the test image.

Analyze the print for quality assurance in order to determine whether the new Imaging Configuration should pass or fail. Things to check include: posterization, lizarding effects, turtling effects, bleeding, banding, patterns introduced by process, and any other abnormalities. Also, check the final print for saturation and overall color. Keeping in mind that different substrates (media) will look different, it is reasonable to ask: "Is this the expected behavior for the media and resolution?"



Illustration 10a: Profile test

NOTE on Hi-Fi Profiling

Hi-Fi profiling refers to creating Imaging Configurations in SoftRIP using a printer that has an inkset with colors beyond CMYK, such as RGB, OrGr, RdBl, etc. For these inksets, please refer to the instructions below for important differences in the steps above when creating Imaging Configurations.

As in Step 3, it is important to select the appropriate target file for the densitometry device. For Hi-Fi profiling, due to the increased number of colors, it is important to select a target file that will address the total number of colors present on the printer being profiled. To do so, determine the total number of non-dilute colors in the printer's inkset. Here are a few examples:

- CMYKLcLmOrGr and CMYKRdBl use six each
- CMYKLcLmLkLlRGB uses seven

If the inkset includes dilute colors, such as Lc, Lm, Lk, Ll, etc., SoftRIP treats these as supplemental to the color channel they are a dilute of and should not be included in the total count of color channels. For example, the inkset CMYKLcLmLkLlRGB has eleven different inks but only has seven primary color channels. In this example, the target file **generalTest018eyeone_7color.ps** would be the correct choice.

Once the total number of non-dilute colors has been determined, use the version of the **generalTest018eyeone_Ncolor.ps** or **generalTest018dtp20_Ncolor.ps** where 'N' is the number of non-dilute colors in the inkset. Use this target for steps 3 through 7 above in the same manner as when creating a CMYK Imaging Configuration. Once Step 7 is complete, and linearization is confirmed, proceed with the steps below.

After printing the **generalTest** target for the linearization check that is done during the validation in Step 7, scan the linearization target to verify that it is linear and examine the row of composite black patches (running from 25% to 400%) located in the top right corner for any overinking artifacts.

Use the value of the patch with the most ink that doesn't bleed to set the Total Ink Limit when generating the first target from the ICC profiling software. After the ICC profiling target file has been generated with the Total Ink Limit used from the step above, print this file and examine it for any overinking issues. If none exist, proceed to scan this target, generate an output ICC profile, and import into SoftRIP as outlined in Step 8.

If the printed ICC profiling target does have overinking issues, go back to the ICC profiling software and generate a new target with a larger reduction. If there are only a few places with minor bleeding, it may be best to let the target dry for an hour or so, scan, and see if the ICC profile generated from the data creates a quality result.

NOTE on Setting the Total Ink Limit Below 200%

When setting the Total Ink Limit, it is best to set the maximum value without introducing overinking artifacts. For many profiles, this value is often in the range of 250% to 350%. In special cases, it may be necessary to set the Total Ink Limit below 200%. While this is more common with Hi-Fi profiles, it may be necessary for some CMYK profiles as well. This section gives additional tips when setting the Total Ink Limit below 200% for most situations.

When setting the Total Ink Limit below 200%, there is the possibility of artificially restricting the overall color gamut of the resulting profile. To maximize the resulting color gamut, try to keep the Individual Ink Channel Reductions set to their maximum values without introducing overinking artifacts.

When possible, use the controls available in the ICC profiling software to set the Total Ink Limit.

The first step to setting the Total Ink Limit in the ICC profiling software is generating the ICC profiling target file. Use the controls available in this software to generate a target with the appropriate Total Ink Limit as determined in Step 4 above.

Some ICC profiling packages do not allow an ICC profiling target to be generated with a Total Ink Limit below 200%. If an ICC profiling target with a 200% Total Ink Limit prints with some minor bleeding, but an acceptable amount of dry time still allows the target to be scanned with a profiling device, it is recommended to proceed. Once the target has been scanned, set the Total Ink Limit to an appropriate level below 200% when generating the ICC profile.

If the 200% target print has overinking issues that makes scanning impossible, even after an extended dry time, do the following:

- Set an appropriate Total Ink Limit in SoftRIP prior to printing the 200% target.
- Print and scan the target.
- When generating the ICC output profile, set the Total Ink Limit **LOWER** than the value set in SoftRIP.