

## Basic Color Management

Have you ever scanned a slide into your computer, then looked at it on the monitor and printed it and noticed that the color of all three images is different? That is exactly what happens without Color Management and Color Profiling systems.

Color Management and the use of Color Profiles is built into Adobe PhotoShop Version 6.0. The generation of Color Profiles for your input and output devices requires third party software. I have found Monaco Systems EZcolor Release 2.0 to be a very good third party profiling software package.

You need to use EZcolor to generate profiles for your monitor, scanner, and printer. For the printer you need to generate a profile for each paper type that you use.

If you have a slide scanner you need to purchase an additional target slide, obtainable from Monaco Systems, that will allow you to calibrate your slide scanner for true color. The targets needed to calibrate a flat bed scanner and printer are included in the basic EZcolor package.

Your monitor can be calibrated by a visual method not requiring any additional equipment. There is also an option for monitor calibration that involves the purchase of a Colorimeter, available from Monaco Systems. That device reads the colors displayed on the monitor for a more precise Color Profile.

When you are finished with generating the profiles using them in PhotoShop is a snap with the excellent work that Adobe did in rewriting the Color Management System in Release 6.0. You either Assign a profile to an image or Convert to a Color Profile and PhotoShop does the rest.

If you are serious about the color in your images and want to end the frustration of getting bad and inconsistent color it is highly recommended that you migrate to the use of Color Management and Color Profiling. You will not be sorry that you spent the extra money.

If you desire more technical explanation of the Color Management System see the Advanced Color Management article.