

Color Management

To ensure proper color in your prints:

Set color space on all devices to "Adobe RGB 1998".

Calibrate your monitor using an external calibration device.

Set "color management" to Photoshop Manages Color

Set "color management" on your printer to "source" or "none".

Have printer profiles for each paper type you use.

Evaluate your prints under a light balanced to 5000 Degrees Kelvin.

1. RGB/CMYK Red Green Blue / Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

- RGB is faster to work in than CMYK
- More filters are available in RGB
- Better fadeouts
- Better results from Blending Modes
- Work in RGB and flatten and change to CMYK before saving to bring into a layout program for printing
- To preview in CMYK, use View > Proof Colors (slows down screen a little)
- For Gamut Warning use View > Gamut Warning
- To convert to CMYK Image > Mode > CMYK Color

2. Color correction tools - color values can give more information than visual evaluation

- a. Use eyedropper and Info palette
- b. To save "samplings," use Color Sampler (Shift with eyedropper) and click to set sampling area; samplings will show before and after

3. Color correction the professional way

- a. Using gray to fix colors
 - The brightest area of image (highlights) - RGB = 240 (3% of ink)
 - The darkest area of image (shadows) - RGB = 0
 - A gray object - RGB are equal
- b. Color correcting by number
 1. Select the Eye Dropper Tool (I)
 2. Use Threshold to determine "blobs"
 - Image > Adjustments > Threshold
 - find darkest shadow and add color sampler with Shift/Click
 - set a 2nd color sampler with Shift/Click "blob" of highlight that still retains detail (not metallic); if you leave the caps lock key down it will be more precise.
 3. Cancel out of threshold
 4. If possible find a "gray" section (however light or dark) and add 3rd color sampling
 5. Add adjustment layer for Curves;
 - (1) Double click on Set White Point to change RGB to 240
 - (2) Select Set Black Point and click on Sampler 1
 - (3) Select Set White Point and click on Sampler 2
 - (4) Select Set Gray Point and click on Sampler 3

2. Shortcuts but not always best!

- a. Image > Auto Tone
- b. Image > Auto Contrast
- c. Image > Auto Color