



Apple ColorSync 2.5

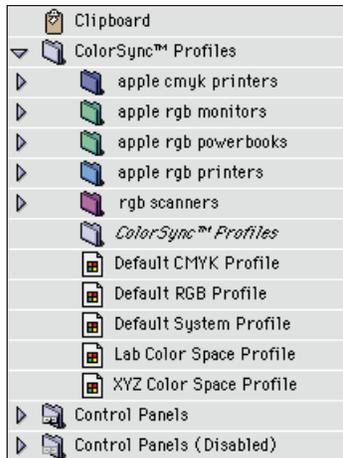
The standard for color management.

What's New

- Monitor Calibration Assistant
- AppleScript support for automating color management tasks
- New Adobe Photoshop plug-ins
- Support for 16-bit-per-channel images
- Kodak color management module
- Profile cache
- iMac display support

Features

- Use ColorSync software with more than 100 different products
- Work in an open architecture where you can drag and drop hardware and software modules to create an easy-to-use color management system
- Add new profiles simply by dropping them into the System Folder
- Calibrate your monitor with on-screen software that creates ColorSync profiles
- Take advantage of a robust, feature-rich implementation of the International Color Consortium's cross-platform color management standard



ColorSync software consists of profiles, a control panel, a monitor calibration assistant, and extensions allowing color preparation and preview at the desktop.

ColorSync is an industry-standard architecture for managing color across input, display, and output devices. This system-level Mac OS software developed by Apple works with scanners, digital cameras, monitors, printers, copiers, and presses. It is supported in leading image-editing and page-layout applications.

Anyone who's responsible for creating print or electronic materials knows how important color can be in conveying information and creating desired responses—and how difficult it is to manage them. For example, a shift in color can seriously damage the effectiveness of a product photo or design. Incorrect colors can cause lost sales; mail-order customers often return items because they don't match the colors seen in the catalog or on the web site.

ColorSync saves time and money by enabling you to simplify color preparation and previewing in house. It gives you powerful control over color matching at every step of your workflow process by using unique color targets to determine the difference in color performance between what an input or output device does and what we know it should do. The information about those differences is saved as a color table called a "profile." Apple's powerful ColorSync engine uses profiles to modify an image as it moves through your workflow, compensating for any deviations in the image-capturing systems of scanners and the color imaging components of printers. ColorSync also includes an easy-to-use monitor calibration system to correct any irregularities in the monitor's age, phosphor set, ambient light, or monitor type.

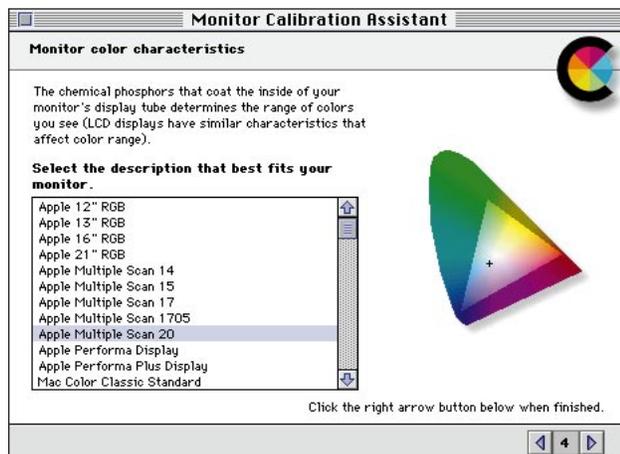
For example, ColorSync lets you calibrate your computer monitor so that an image's colors correspond with the original photograph or digital image. You can even view an image as it would appear on different paper stock or output devices. And when you use ColorSync to simulate a specific printing press or film recorder, the proof prints you make on a color desktop printer can be amazingly close in color to the final output.

With ColorSync software, anyone who works with color content can maintain quality throughout the workflow process for newspaper photographs; magazines, catalogs, and books; World Wide Web pages; videos and QuickTime movies and videos; and photo transparencies.

Because ColorSync works directly with the Mac OS and has an open architecture, hardware and software vendors have been able to add ColorSync support to their products easily. In fact, more than 100 products ranging from inexpensive scanners to top-of-the-line printing presses now take advantage of the powerful ColorSync color management capabilities. Any ColorSync-aware application or device driver can communicate with any other. With so many products for Mac OS systems now supporting ColorSync, you're almost sure to find the exact combination you need to

create consistent color at every step between input and output.

ColorSync 2.5 software has already taken color management further than ever before. The future of ColorSync technology promises cross-platform compatibility and support for even more media types—creating the potential for seamless color matching across all your print, web, and video projects.





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Availability

ColorSync 2.5 software—including sample profiles, Photoshop plug-ins, and sample AppleScript scripts—is available for free on Apple's ColorSync web site at www.apple.com/colorsync.

Input (source) color modes

- Monochrome
- RGB
- sRGB
- CMYK
- LAB

Output (destination) color modes

- Monochrome
- RGB
- sRGB
- CMYK
- Hexachrome
- Hi-Fi

File formats supported

- PICT
- TIFF
- JPEG

System requirements

- Mac OS-based computer with a 68020 or later processor (including PowerPC processors)
- 5MB of RAM
- Mac OS 7.6.1 or later
- Hard disk drive
- Color display with 8-bit or higher color support
- ColorSync (or other ICC-compatible) profiles for desired input, display, and output devices (several are included with ColorSync)

Why color management software?

Color management software is needed to maintain consistency because of the inherent variations in color reproduction among different input, display, and output devices. These differences are compounded by other factors that can undermine color accuracy, such as ambient lighting conditions and changes in display components over time.

Recognizing that people who work with color needed a reliable way to reproduce colors, Apple developed ColorSync technology to address the problem of inconsistencies among different devices. ColorSync uses device profiles to provide detailed information about each device's color reproduction capabilities so that it can accurately transform colors between two devices.

Apple supplies ColorSync profiles for our own monitors and printers. Many hardware and software vendors also provide ready-to-use ColorSync profiles for their products. You can make new devices accessible for ColorSync matching simply by dropping their profiles into the System Folder.

New features in ColorSync 2.5

Apple's ColorSync 2.5 software makes color management even faster, easier, and more versatile.

- **Monitor Calibration Assistant.** The new Monitor Calibration Assistant (accessed from the Monitors & Sound control panel) helps you create a ColorSync profile of your monitor quickly and easily by walking you through a series of screens. The screens include helpful text describing the purpose of each step in the process. After you've created a profile, it shows up in the list of available ColorSync profiles (which are also now displayed in the Monitors & Sound control panel).

The assistant is part of a new monitor calibration framework in ColorSync 2.5 that allows third-party monitor calibration software to be displayed in the Monitors & Sound control panel. This plug-in architecture will make it easier for ColorSync users to work with both Apple and third-party products.

- **AppleScript support.** In ColorSync 2.5, you can automate color management tasks with AppleScript scripts. Use scripts for repetitive tasks such as color matching, proofing, and embedding. Several sample scripts are included with ColorSync 2.5.

- **New Photoshop plug-ins.** ColorSync 2.5 comes with new plug-in modules for Adobe Photoshop version 2.5.1 or later and any other software that supports Photoshop version 4 plug-in modules. The plug-ins—Import, Export, and Filter—allow you to easily reproduce Photoshop images in high quality on any ColorSync-aware device. The Filter plug-in, for example, allows you to preview what an image will look like on different output devices. Photoshop 5.0 now supports ColorSync directly.

- **Support for 16-bit-per-channel images.** Users who need to match colors on exceptionally high-resolution photographs and computer-generated images will appreciate the abilities of ColorSync 2.5 to work with 16-bit-per-channel images.

- **Color management modules.** ColorSync already contained a default color management module (CMM) that was developed by Apple with the help of Lino/Heidelberg. Now ColorSync 2.5 ships with the support of Kodak.

- **Profile cache.** ColorSync now caches currently installed profiles. ColorSync quickly determines whether any profiles have been added or removed and can speed up profile management routines such as building a list of profiles and displaying a pop-up menu of the available profiles.