



ColorSync Workflow



At the heart of the ColorSync technology are special files called device profiles, which describe the capabilities of each component in a color workflow. Once displays and devices have been profiled, ColorSync makes working with color transparent and automatic to all users—no matter where they are in the color publishing process.

From Input to Output

Image Input

Scanners and cameras, even those of the same make and model, have different ranges of color sensitivity. The range is described in a ColorSync profile, which resides in the System Folder. Profiles are created by special software that measures color values of known color patches that have been scanned or photographed.

Image Files

ColorSync is a system-level way of communicating the physical color capabilities of a specific device—whether it is a display, a scanner, a camera, or a printer. This is accomplished with files called profiles—there's one per device. They reside in a ColorSync Profiles folder inside the System Folder on your Macintosh.

ColorSync-savvy applications embed profiles in image files when they are saved. They use profiles to understand the source of images and properly display them depending on where you will print. All of the communication takes place behind the scenes on the Macintosh. The instructions for displays and printing devices are automatically adjusted, based on information in profiles, so that users get color they expect from display to print—or from display to display.

Image Output

CMYK: CMYK output types—such as process proofs and printed pieces—have individual ranges of color reproduction based on the paper, pigments, method of printing, and even environmental factors. A ColorSync profile captures this range and communicates it to supporting applications so that what you get in print is what you expect.

RGB: In the case of the Web, browsers that support ColorSync read profiles within image files and adjust the viewer's RGB display on the fly, making color communication a reality across platforms and around the world.

