



Soft proofing using ICC profiles is a way to provide a preview on your monitor of the document's colours as they will be reproduced on your printer or by the printing company producing the final output.

soft proofing with Photoshop

limitations

While following the instructions below be aware that the validity of the soft proof depends upon the condition of your monitor, the profiles of your monitor and output devices, and the ambient lighting conditions of the room.

This document assumes that you know how to print from Photoshop using ICC profiles, if you do not please read 'Printing with Photoshop and Elements' available from our downloads page.

how to create a custom proof setup

Before using soft proofing it will need to be set up for your final output profiles, to do this you will need to follow the instructions below.

1. Open Photoshop, do not open any images.
2. Select 'View' from the menu bar at the top of your screen, then 'Proof Setup' and 'Custom' this will open the 'Proof Setup' dialogue window.
3. Under 'Profile' select the profile created for your printer/paper/ink combination as this will create the most accurate soft proof.
4. Leave the 'Preserve Colour Numbers' checkbox, unchecked.
5. Under 'Intent' select 'Perceptual' from the drop down list.
6. It is best to leave the 'Use Black Point Compensation' checkbox selected.
7. Select the 'Simulate: Paper White' checkbox. Selecting this option automatically selects the 'Ink Black' option.
8. Finally, click the 'Save' button to name and save this proof setup for future use. Your saved settings will now be available under 'View' then 'Proof Setup' for future use.
9. Click 'OK' to leave the 'Proof Setup' dialogue window and return to Photoshop.

If you have more than one output profile you may wish to repeat steps 2-9 for each one that you have so that they are all in place for future use.

Should you wish to remove your saved settings, they can be found within the 'Proofing' folder in the following locations.

Windows: Program Files/Common Files/Adobe/Color/Proofing

Mac OSX: User/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Color/Proofing

one way to use soft proofing

1. Opening your image in Photoshop.
2. Select 'Image' then 'Duplicate' this will open a dialogue, click 'OK', a copy of your image will open.
3. Arrange the two images so that both are visible on screen and select the copy not the original, the original will be our reference file.
4. Select 'View' from the menu bar at the top of your screen, then 'Proof Setup' and choose the saved settings that you created previously for the profile you will be using.
5. There may be no discernible differences between your original and your soft proof in which case you can close your 'copy' image and continue to print from your original.
If there are noticeable differences you can make adjustments using Photoshop's tools until the copy matches the original as closely as possible.
6. Save your copy if you wish and print using 'Print with Preview' to take advantage of Photoshop's colour management capabilities.

Your original image remains unaffected using this method, there are various other ways of course as there always is with Photoshop. One such way would be to create layer sets on your original image using the copy as a reference file. Each layer set would house the adjustments required for different paper/printer profile allowing one image to basically have different looks for different output devices.

For more information on soft proofing take a look at the help files that are installed with Photoshop.

Links to other sites with soft proofing articles can be found at: www.PicWorks.co.uk/links.php