

Overview sheet on printing to the Epson 9800

- Some basic rules for prepress set up:

1) Scanned images to be used for prints are best at starting resolutions of no less than 300 dpi (I often work with 600-1200 dpi, size back down to 300, when I am finished with my piece in order to get the most out of the resolution)

I scan all materials in for color pieces with an **embedded profile of CMYK**, Color profile is ultimately up to you.

2) My suggestion of what works best for a color print on this machine, would be **U.S. Web Coated SWOP (v2) CMYK** or **Photoshop 4 CMYK** either of these two profiles give great color, they both have advantages,

*If I were inexperienced with print I would start out working with SWOP
Rather than Photoshop 4 setup.*

Make sure to setup an embedded profile in *Photoshop, Illustrator, and Indesign*
Or whatever program you work in.

3) If you are working on a laptop hook your machine to an **external monitor**.

You really wont be able to see with any accuracy the color of your print on a LCD laptop screen.

4) Imagine that the luminescence of your color is at least about *10 percent less* at all times when working, as a general compensation for the screen let this desaturation sink into your perception of the screen values.

5) Use the laser printer to tile out your print and get a look at it to see it off screen as you are working through versions, things always look different in virtual / real space.

6) OK, so now you have finished a picture you would like to print.

Let's say it is ready, you check it,
It's in CMYK SWOP setup, good.

7) Now you must save it!

Photoshop:

Flattened layers

Save as **Tiff, PSD** or

PDF Print Setting, with **no Compression** selected, Image Quality set to

Maximum, Color settings **No color conversion**, Profile inclusion policy- **Include tagged profile**, **DO NOT USE THE PRINT PRESET AS IS, MAKE THESE CHANGES**

Illustrator: Save as **Illustrator**, **EPS** or **PDF** same settings as above.

Indesign: Best thing to do with a multipage doc is to **Package**

So all Fonts and Images are included as supplemental and print crisply.

Setting up and Exporting a **PDF** with above settings, again works swimmingly and is fool proof.

When you are done with this I would ask you to make me something called a **Test strip**.

A Test strip is just what it sounds like, it is a smaller piece of the larger print.

With the test we can see any potential problems such as resolution, color or other image deficits, before we begin your job.

8) How do you set up the test strip?

Size 42 in x 10 in

I would take pieces ranging from different parts of the print look for anything that may be a issue, put that in the strip, make sure to get a good sampling of the overall image in the sample to use the test fully. (Add color bars as reference when saving)

Make sure of course it is setup in the same color space as the original image or you will not be getting a good color reference.

*(This setup applies to all programs with exception to Indesign,
I will setup the test for that with you.)*

So a checklist to bring for your happy print appointment-

You have the Epson 9800 PDF Request form, bring that with you.

Have your final print file on a disc or drive.

Bring a test strip.

A check or Money for the office people downstairs as stated in the Epson 9800 PDF Request form. *(Please read)*

Your great attitude and print-o-mania!

Any questions can be answered

by Seana at Bionds@rpi.edu

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