
How it works

Normal images for printing are specified in the CMYK color space. However, it is also possible to reproduce images by only using two or three non-CMYK colors. Such special colors are commonly called “spot colors.” Each spot color requires a separate printing plate and color separation. Color Library provides special color profiles that produce color separations from a normal RGB (or CMYK) image for spot colors such as PANTONE colors and even metallic, neon or pastel colors. With Color Library, you can convert and print images using two, three, four, or five spot colors of your choice.

First, purchase, download, and install the Color Library profiles on your computer. Then, in Adobe Photoshop, you can open an image in RGB, CMYK, Lab, or Grayscale color modes and convert it to spot colors. The profiles will automatically generate the best separation from your input image to match the gamut of the selected colors. By using complementary colors, the Color Library profiles can create gray tones in the image.

Color Library uses the PANTONE Matching System, but can be manually adapted for other types of ink. Once your images are converted, you can export them to PDF using Adobe InDesign. The files are then ready to be printed using offset, silkscreen, Risograph, or any other printing technology.

Installation

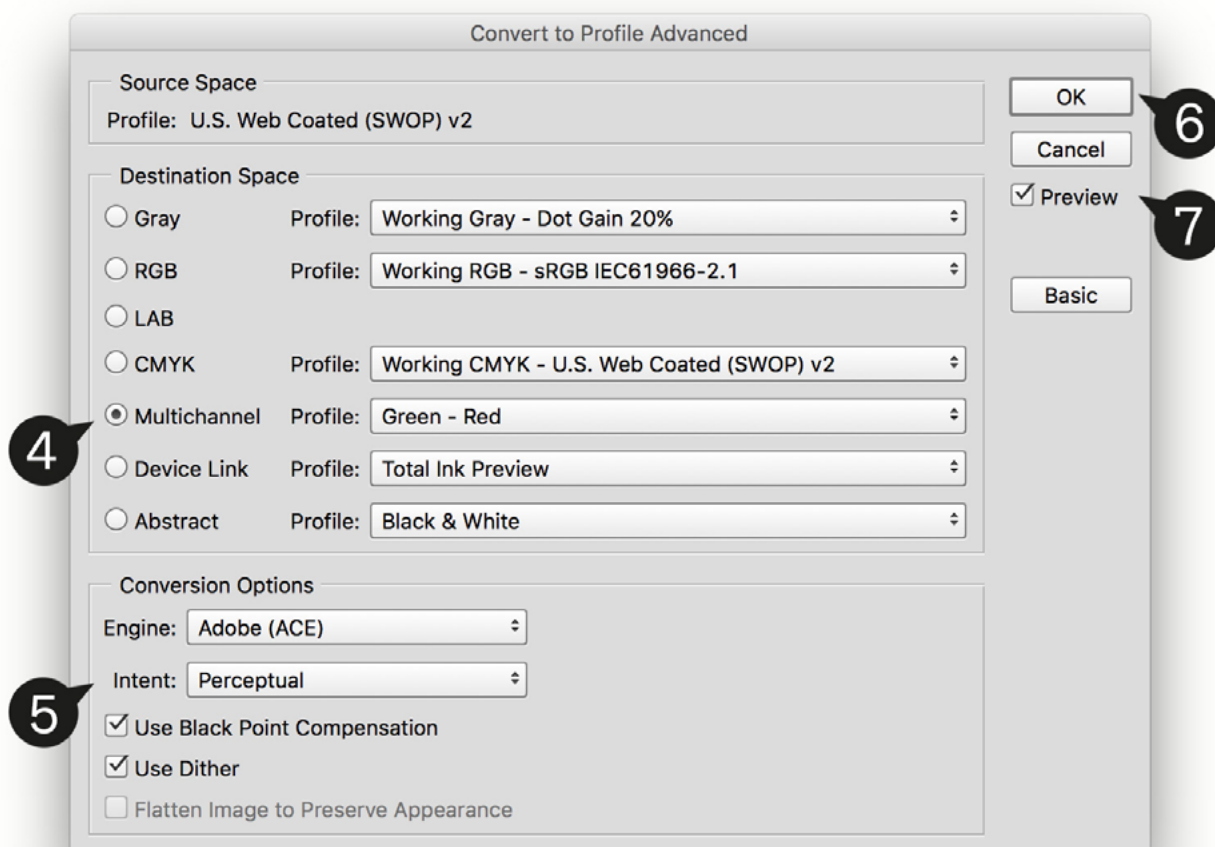
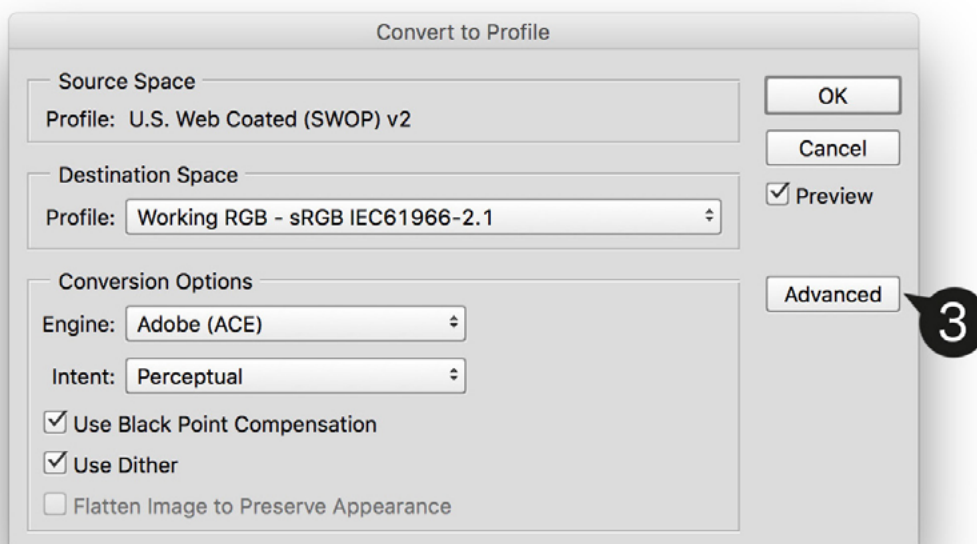
Color Library profiles can be run on Mac (10.5 or higher) and Windows (2000 or higher) and image conversion is operated by Adobe Photoshop. The images can be then easily imported in Adobe Indesign and exported in PDF format.

After making your purchase, you will receive an email with a downloadable link. Download the file and unzip the downloaded archive. The folder will include two files – the profile and instructions.

- In Mac OS: copy profiles into the “/Library/ColorSync/Profiles” folder or the “/Users/[username]/Library/ColorSync/Profiles” folder.
- In Windows: right-click a profile and select Install Profile. Alternatively, copy the profiles into the “WINDOWS\System32\Spool\Drivers\Color” folder.

Converting an image

- Converting in Adobe Photoshop
 1. Open an image with Adobe Photoshop.
Your image must be in RGB, CMYK, Lab, or Grayscale mode, and 8 Bits/Channel.
 2. On the Edit menu, click Convert to Profile.
 3. Click Advanced.
 4. Select Multichannel mode. Select a color profile from the Profile list.
 5. Select your Conversion Options.



6. Select Preview to preview the effects of the conversion on the image.
7. Click OK. Your image has now been converted to multichannel.
8. On the File menu, click Save As. In the Format list, select Photoshop DCS 2.0. Click OK.

— Preview

The CMYK colors of the inks for printing are very standardized, and essentially the same for Offset printing. Because the CMYK color space is so well defined, Adobe Photoshop or InDesign can display a CMYK image very well, and a monitor can be calibrated to make it look like a print (soft proofing). Spot colors, on the other hand, are not standardized. There are more than 1,000 PANTONE colors, and programs like Adobe Photoshop cannot predict the color that results when any two of the PANTONE colors are overprinted. Particularly when the spot colors are not fully transparent, it could also make a significant difference which color is printed first and last. Spot colors cannot be processed by the normal ICC profiles, and need to be defined in Adobe Photoshop as Multichannel. Each combination of spot colors needs a special color profile.

Color Library profiles are optimized for printing and they offer the best color separation possible for your printing devices. Due to the difficulties of having an accurate preview of the printed output on your screen, here are a few tips for obtaining a more precise idea of how your image will be printed: in Adobe Photoshop, just after selecting your Profile in the Convert to Profile window and before clicking OK, the preview of the image is the closest to its final printed appearance. Adobe InDesign, with Display Performance set to High Quality, often provides a better preview than Adobe Photoshop. In any case, rather than relying on an on-screen rendition, you should always print a proof with the correct paper, halftoning, and ink density in order to obtain an accurate preview of the final results.

— Editing your images

The JPEG compression of input files can significantly degrade the quality of converted images; high-quality input files will provide the best results. We recommend retouching your images before the profile conversion, not after. Note that images with good contrast and saturation will generate more vivid colors.

However, after the conversion, you can still edit your images, as follows:

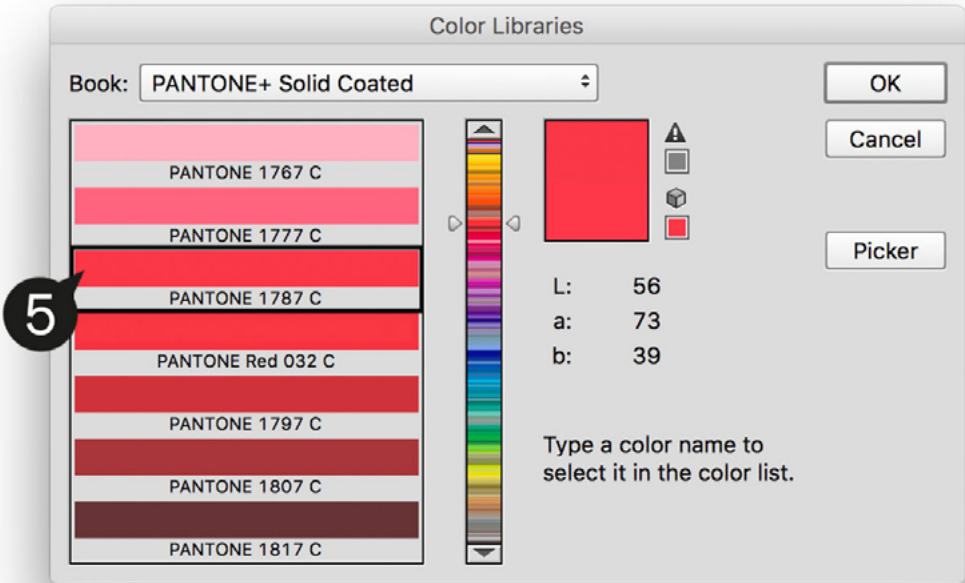
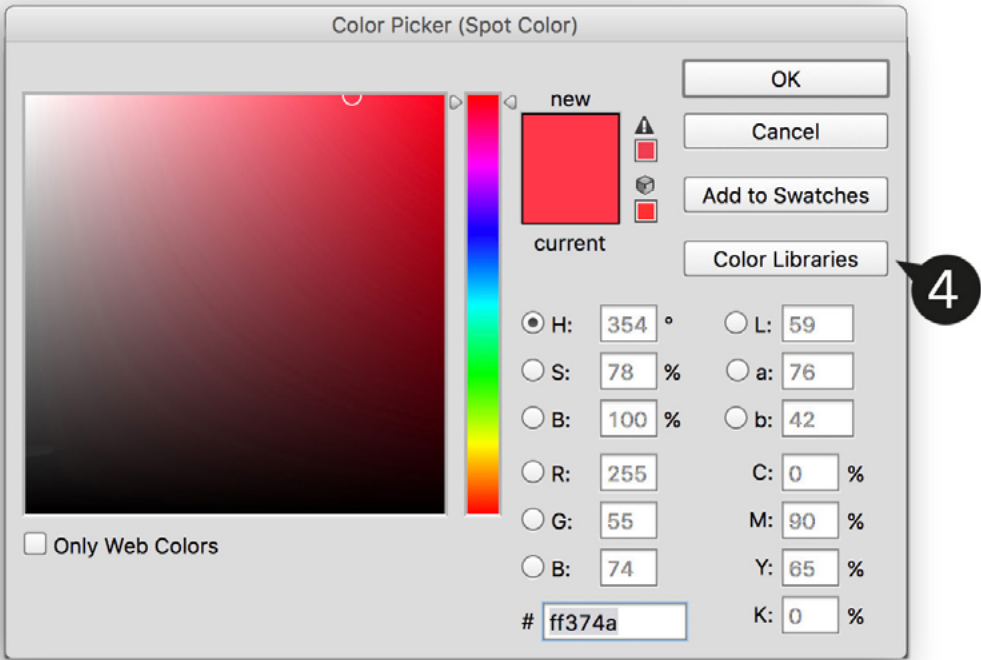
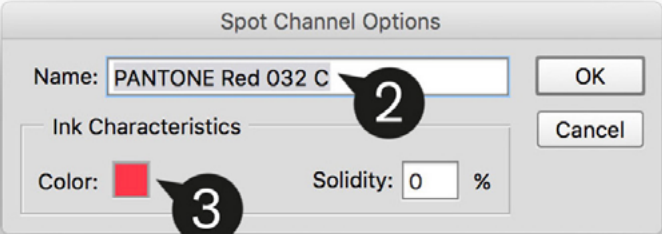
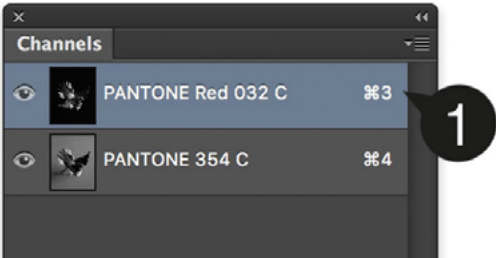
1. In the Layers panel, click the Channels tab and select the channel you want to edit.
2. On the Edit menu, point to Setting, and then click Curves or Levels.
Now you can edit your image in a single channels.

— Changing color names

The Color Library profiles are designed to work with the PANTONE matching system, but you can rename colors or choose another ink as follows:

1. In the Layers panel, click the Channels tab and double-click on the channel for which you want to change the color.
2. Click the Name text box. At this point you can change the name of the color manually.
3. Click the Color box to access the Color Picker.
4. Click Color Libraries.
5. Select a color from the Adobe Photoshop Color Libraries.

6. Click OK



Saving, Exporting, and Previewing.

— Saving in Adobe Photoshop

After your image has been converted to multichannel mode, you have to save it in Photoshop DCS 2.0 format. Photoshop DCS 2.0 (Desktop Color Separation) format is a version of the standard EPS format that lets you save images containing spot channels. We recommend using the following parameters when saving: TIFF (8bits/pixels) / Single File DCS, No Composite / ASCII85.

— Previewing in Adobe Indesign

In Adobe Indesign, you can preview the color separation of your image:

1. On the View menu, point to Ouput, and then click Separations Preview
2. In the Separations Preview window, under separations, you can activate or deactivate the preview of each channel.

— Previewing in Adobe Acrobat Pro

In Adobe Acrobat Pro, you can also preview the color separation of your PDF:

1. On the View menu, point to Tools, and then click on Print Production.
2. In the Print Production menu click on Output Preview. In the Output Preview, under Separations, you can activate or deactivate the preview of each channel.

At this point, it is important to make sure that your color names are correct. If the spelling of a color name is not correct, the color will appear several times. Always use the exact same name for the ink from the color library in Adobe Photoshop and InDesign (e.g. "PANTONE Red 032 C" or "PANTONE 354 C").

For digital printing devices that only can print with CMYK colors, it is possible to convert a spot color to a CMYK equivalent color. This is sometimes an economical shortcut, but spot colors tend to be highly saturated colors, and will look less colorful when simulated by CMYK.