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Creating custom output profiles for the Fiery print controller using Fiery Color Profiler Suite: System 10 and later

This document describes the process of creating a custom output profile for a Fiery print controller with Fiery Color Profiler Suite. The process also includes creating a custom calibration setting and other tasks performed in Command WorkStation.

The information in this document is valid for Fiery Color Profiler Suite v4.0 and later.

The Fiery print controller has one or more factory-supplied output profiles. You may obtain acceptable color quality with the factory-supplied output profiles and their associated calibration settings when you print with the recommended papers and print settings. However, to print with different type of paper or to get the best results for your particular printer, it is the best practice to create a custom calibration setting and output profile. This document describes how to create a custom calibration set (if your Fiery print controller supports this feature) and a custom output profile.

Calibration on the Fiery print controller requires that each output profile is associated with a calibration target (goal) and calibration setting. The Fiery print controller uses the calibration target with the measurements from the calibration setting to determine the adjustments needed for printing consistent color. For more information about calibration on the Fiery print controller, see *Color Printing*, which is part of the documentation that accompanies the Fiery print controller.

Fiery print controller system software

The method for creating a custom calibration setting and output profile depends on the system software version of the Fiery print controller. For versions earlier than System 10, the calibration target is included in the output profile, and thus you must ensure that the custom output profile has an appropriate calibration target. For Fiery print controllers with System 10 software and later, you create the calibration target separately from the output profile, in Command WorkStation.

Use the procedures in this document for a Fiery print controller with software version System 10 or later.

Before you start

Make sure that the printer has been properly serviced.

Calibrate the printer, if printer calibration is supported. For information about performing printer calibration, see the documentation that accompanies the printer.

Perform any other recommended procedures for preparing the printer, such as shading correction and gradation adjustment.

On your computer, make sure that Command WorkStation and Color Profiler Suite are installed and are up-to-date.

Have an adequate amount of the paper that you will profile, at least 100 sheets. For best results, use a paper size that is A3, Tabloid, or larger.

Load the paper in the printer. If your normal printing workflow includes selecting the paper through Paper Catalog, configure a Paper Catalog entry for the paper.

Create a custom calibration setting and profile

For a Fiery print controller with System 10 software or later, you create a custom calibration setting first in Command WorkStation Calibrator. In Calibrator, you can then start Printer Profiler (part of Color Profiler Suite) to create a custom output profile.

NOTE: You must have Administrator privileges in Command WorkStation to create a custom calibration setting.

TO CREATE A CUSTOM CALIBRATION SETTING AND OUTPUT PROFILE

1 Warm up the printer using the paper that you will profile.

A good way to warm up the printer is to print at least 20 copies of a job that requires substantial amounts of all toners.

2 In Command WorkStation, go to Device Center > General > Tools and click Preferences under Calibrate.

3 For Calibration measurement method, select ES-1000.

With this selection, you can use an ES-1000 or an ES-2000 spectrophotometer.

4 For Calibration patch layout, select 21 sorted patches for Letter or A4 paper or 34 sorted patches for Tabloid or A3 paper.

5 Under Fiery Color Profiler Suite - Printer Profiler, select the profiling measurement method and patch layout to use when creating a new profile.

Select a patch layout of at least 928 patches.

6 Click Settings to view or change the instrument settings for the selected measurement method and click OK.

For information about ES-2000 and ES-1000 settings, see *EFI ES-2000 Spectrophotometer Setup Guide*.

7 Click Save.

8 In Device Center > General > Tools, click Manage under Calibrate.

A list of the calibration settings that reside on the Fiery print controller appears.

9 Click Create New, select a calibration setting, and click OK.

Select the calibration setting that best matches your paper. If no existing calibration setting matches your paper, select Server default.

10 Type a new name for the calibration setting.

Use a name that describes the paper name, weight, and type plus any other specific printing conditions (for example, halftone or gloss settings).

11 For Recommended paper, type the name of your paper. For Paper reorder number, type the product ID number for your paper.

This information can usually be found on the paper packaging.

12 Optionally, type information in the Comment field.

This can be additional descriptive information. This information appears in the list of calibration settings available on the Fiery print controller.

13 Check the list of properties (print settings) related to calibration.

To change one or more print settings, click Properties, make the changes, and then click OK.

The screen and other print settings are specific to this calibration setting. For best results, use a different calibration setting for each combination of print settings that you will use.

NOTE: Settings in the Color tab of the Job Properties window are ignored when printing the calibration page. Many print settings do not have any effect on calibration. However, print settings that affect image quality (such as the halftone screen or resolution) do affect calibration.

Do not select any settings (such as finishing options) that will make your calibration page unmeasurable.

14 Click Continue.

15 Select the Paper Source for printing the calibration page.

Be sure the correct paper is loaded.

If available, set the number of copies to 15. Measure only the next-to-last page printed. The extra copies will warm up the printer further.

16 Click Continue to print the calibration page and proceed to the next step.

17 Follow the on-screen instructions to measure the calibration page.

After you complete the measurements, the new calibration setting is created. The calibration setting must be associated with an output profile in order to be used to print a job.

18 To check the calibration measurements, click View Measurements and compare the Measured vs. Target D-Max for each color.

If the measured D-Max is less than 90% of the target D-Max, the printer may require servicing.

19 Click OK and select the output profile that best matches your paper.

The profile settings from the selected profile will be used for the new custom profile.

20 Click Create New Profile to create a new, custom output profile using Fiery Color Profiler Suite.

A profiling measurement page is printed using the settings specified in Preferences (profiling method and patch layout). You measure the page using Printer Profiler in Fiery Color Profiler Suite, and the resulting profile is imported to the Fiery print controller and associated with your new calibration setting.

NOTE: Not all Printer Profiler features are available in this streamlined workflow. If you want to use advanced profiling features such as measurement averaging, do not click Create New Profile. Instead, click OK to finish this procedure (a copy of the profile that you selected in step 19 is created) and then use Fiery Color Profiler Suite to create the new profile.

21 Follow the on-screen instructions to measure the measurement pages and click Next.

22 In the Summary screen, check the Average Measured Variations and the Maximum Measured Variations.

The average should be no more than 5 dE. The maximum should be no more than 8 dE.

23 Click Done.

The profile is installed on the Fiery controller. The new calibration setting is added to the list of calibration settings and associated with the new output profile.