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BTW, after my initial post I found another clear explanation of the ColorMunki workflow by Vincent Versace, who also tells why it's important for B&W work:

http://www.xritephoto.com/custom_page.aspx?PageID=146

And no, I'm not a shill for X-Rite/ColorMunki. Just seems like it's a decent solution within reach of serious amateurs who are tired of the aggravation and expense involved with crappy prints. Something I'm really familiar with.

Posted by: Terence | Friday, 09 December 2011 at 01:46 PM

Dear Will,

The only solid piece of advice I'd give you is that you're better off setting your monitor to D50 (5000 kelvins) rather than the commonly used D65 (6500 kelvins) color temperature setting. Overall this does a much better job of matching the colors you'll see in the print. They, of course, depend upon your final viewing illumination, but 6500 Kelvins is too cold for everything except non-sunny daylight.

(I would remind folks that these columns are about doing your own printing. They're not about recommendations for dealing with a third-party service bureau, a client, an online printing service, or Web design.)

Other than that, try different comparisons and see which one gives you the best visual match. At least you know how your prints are going to be viewed. I go crazy over that, having to deal with clients who will probably be displaying their prints under conditions I can't even imagine.

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Dear Martin,

As I wrote to Terence, people operating at the introductory level are not going to be in a position to be doing their own profiling. They should ignore the rest of this response. That said...

It's a good question and I don't know the answer. I do my own profiling and I'm happy with the results, but I've not done the experiments to find out if it's better, worse, or merely different from paying for professional profiles. At a casual glance (well, my idea of “casual”), I don't see any losses from rolling my own, but that doesn't mean a more critical examination wouldn't show some. One of TOP's readers has volunteered to run some experiments with me setting his own professional profiling set-up against what I can do with ColorMunki. I haven't gotten around to taking him up on that yet, but I will one of these days. It should make for an interesting article.

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Dear Ted,

I've written on this subject, directly and indirectly, in the past. Here's a reading list of previous columns:

Do 'Real' Photographers Print?

Custom Printing and Artistic Ownership

The Importance (or Not) of the Print(ing)

A Perfunctory Guide to Converting Photographic Film to Digital Prints, Part I

A Perfunctory Guide to Converting Photographic Film to Digital Prints, Part III

Color Management- The Musical (Analogy)

pax \ Ctein
[Please excuse any word-salad. MacSpeech in training!]
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-- Ctein's Online Gallery http://ctein.com
-- Digital Restorations http://photo-repair.com
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Posted by: ctein | Friday, 09 December 2011 at 05:07 PM

CLtest is an awesome free tool for software monitor calibration.

Download, manual & discussion is here:
http://forum.ixbt.com/topic.cgi?id=28:21910

(Only gotcha this is Russian forum, but program itself is translated to English.
Also, Google Translate could be very helpful)

Posted by: Doroga | Tuesday, 13 December 2011 at 02:39 AM

The comments to this entry are closed.