

Printing the targets

The Principle

To make a custom printer profile we need to measure exactly what colours a printer actually prints without any interference from any software in your work flow.

In order to measure this you need to print the supplied target file(s) without ANY colour management being applied AT ALL at any stage. All the target(s) need to be printed with exactly the same settings. The same principle applies with all printers, all printing software and every operating system.

Each target will fit onto a single A4, or US letter, landscape format sheet of paper. **Do NOT resize them to fit.** If you are printing on roll paper, please do not cut the targets exactly round the dotted limits, but leave an extra margin of about 2cms at the top of the box for handling purposes.

Once the targets have been printed leave them to dry fully. **Check them to ensure that the dotted box is the correct size on all sheets and that the blue and green reference squares in columns A,B & T don't vary in colour between different sheets.**

Please carefully package the targets with a sheet of plain paper between each sheet to prevent any damage, preferably with a sheet of card to prevent damage in transit, fill in the order form, print it out and send it all to us. To ensure prompt delivery check that the package is correctly stamped with the correct amount.

Much of the detail below duplicates the instructions on our web site on how to set up and use colour management. Please make sure you double check what's written below for your particular products before printing out the targets.

Printing software settings

Printing software must be set to NOT to impose or change the colourspace of the file and NOT to apply any sort of profile to the image sent to the printer. Please read the instructions for each manufacturer and follow them exactly. You may be surprised having read the above that the first instruction in most sections will be to turn colour management ON, not off. The reason for this is take control of the colour management system away from the operating system defaults to ensure that no profile is unknowingly applied.

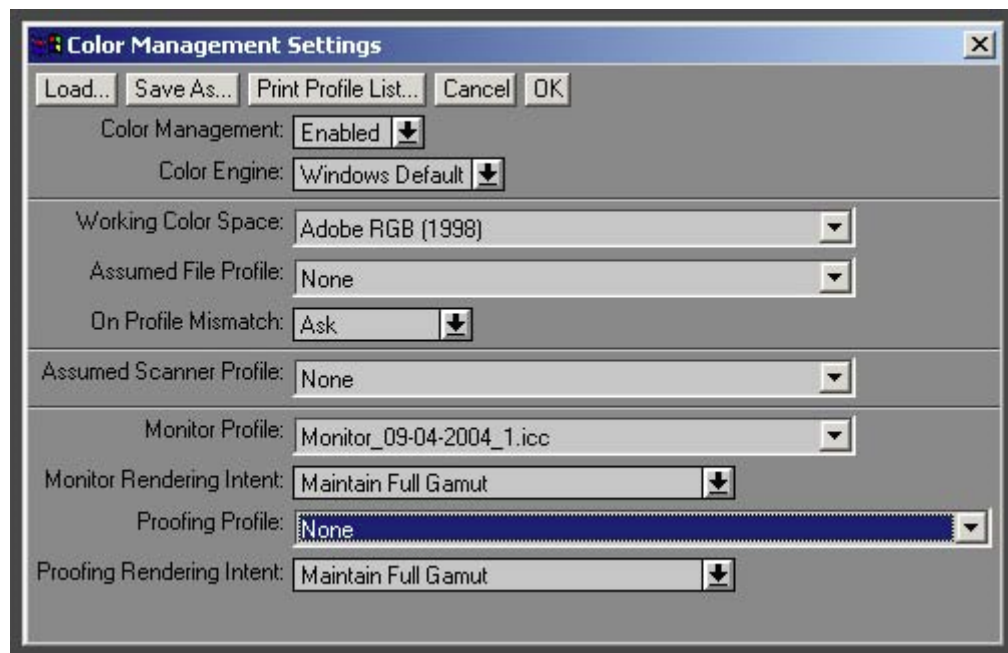
Non Adobe Products

Picture Window Pro

PWP is a lesser known shareware image editing program of surprising power and capability. It has full colour management built into the program that is easy to find and set up.

From the file menu; choose Color Management;

In the color management dialogue box the entire colour management system can be easily configured.



Color management: Enabled

Color engine: Windows default

Working color space: Adobe RGB(1998)

Assumed file profile : None

On profile mismatch: Ask

Assumed scanner profile: None

Monitor profile: (as appropriate)

Monitor rendering intent: maintain Full Gamut

Proofing profile: None

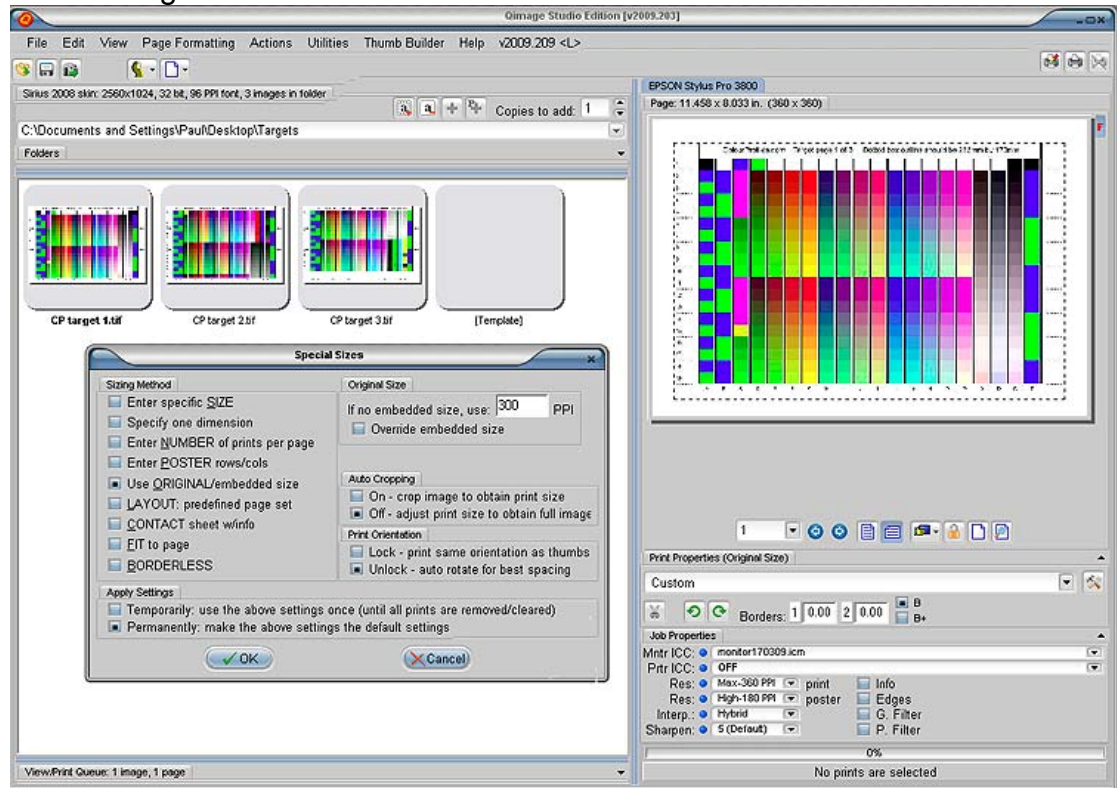
Proofing rendering intent: maintain Full Gamut

Qimage

Qimage is another lesser known shareware program that provides full colour management when printing. The interface is quite complex and difficult for novices to easily understand, however it does keep many of the important features, like colour profiles selected, obviously in view on the main program interface.

So all that needs to be done is to set Ptr ICC: to OFF and no profile will be imposed on the targets.

To set the print size, just choose "original size" in print properties, but ensure that "override embedded size" is NOT checked in the special sizes dialogue box.



It's worth noting that Qimage is the only program that allows a complete set up of program AND driver printing settings to be saved and recalled. Whilst incredibly useful, this means that you will have to recheck the printer properties to ensure that colour management is switched off in the printer driver in addition to the imaging program.

Paint Shop Pro

Whilst paint Shop Pro claims to be a fully colour managed program, its implementation leaves very much to be desired. There is also room for confusion as it uses different terms for functions to other programs.

To enable Colour management

File > Preferences > Color management > Enable color management;

Choose: Basic color management

Monitor profile: (as appropriate)

Printer profile: There should be nothing in this box, but see note below*

Rendering intent: Pictures

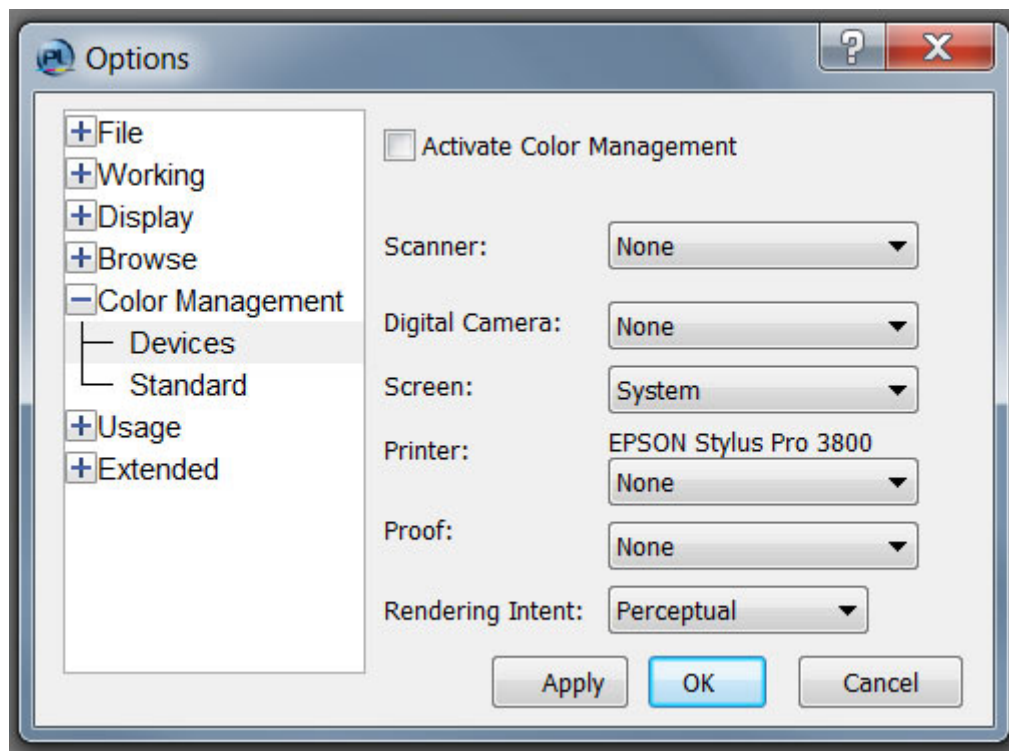


Paint Shop Pro will only offer the option of using the default printer's profiles as selected in the main Windows printer properties, unlike most other imaging programs. So you need to ensure that the printer you wish to profile is set as the system default, then access the color management option on the system printer properties.

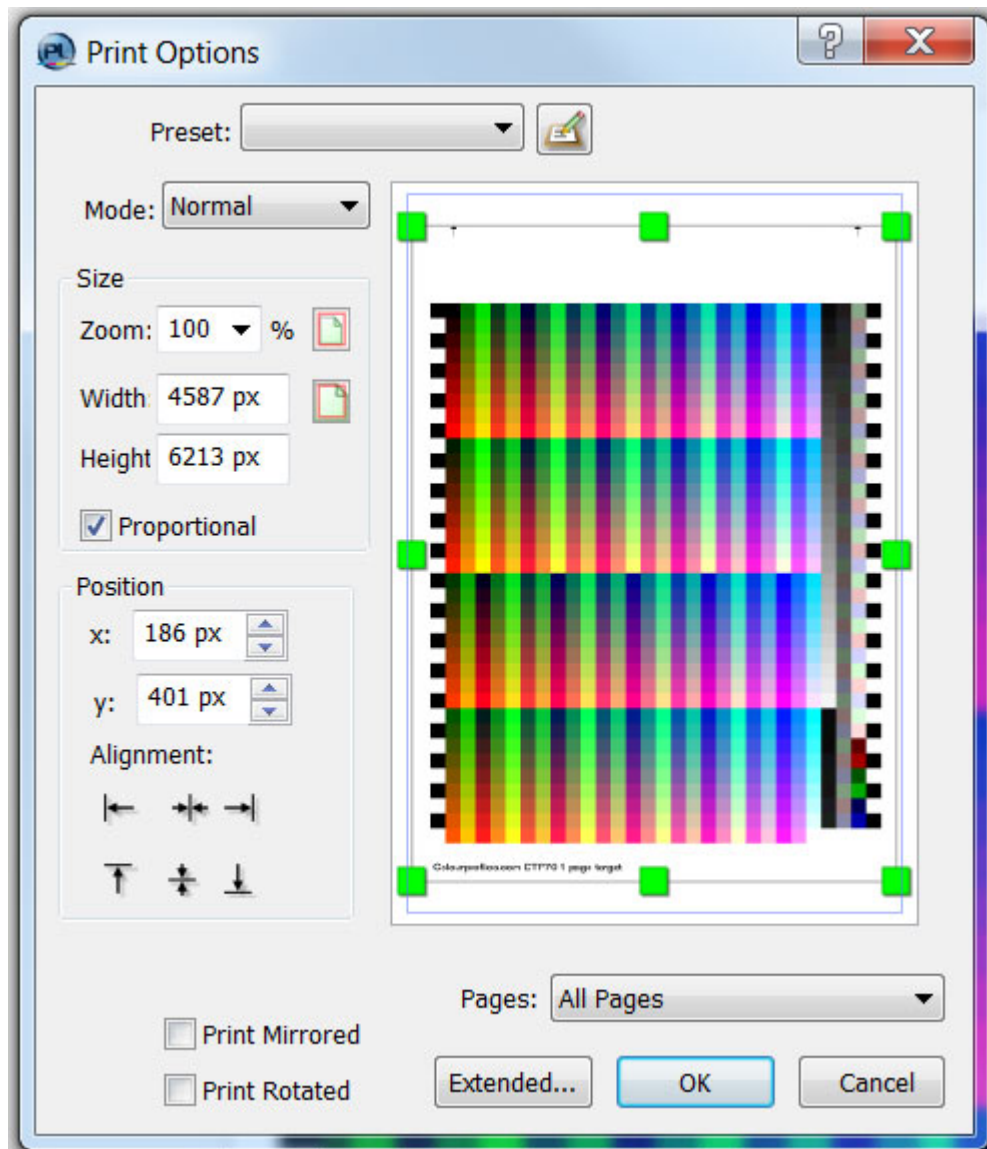
Start button > Setting > Printers and Faxes > right click on the printer you wish to print from > on the color management tab: remove any profiles associated with the printer and select the manual profile configuration option on the driver.

Photoline

The options for colour management can be found in the overall options dialogue in the edit menu.



Before opening the target image file, just deactivate colour management.

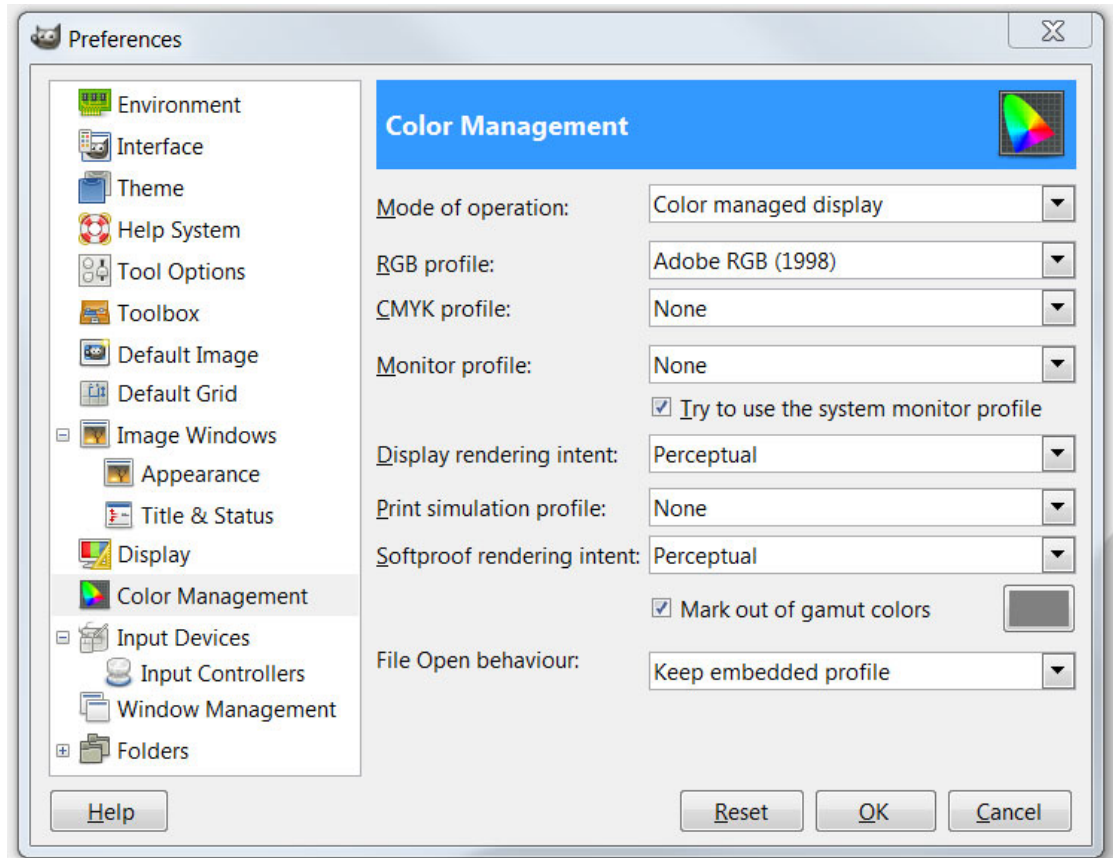


When printing the target please ensure that 'size: zoom' is set to 100%.

The Gimp

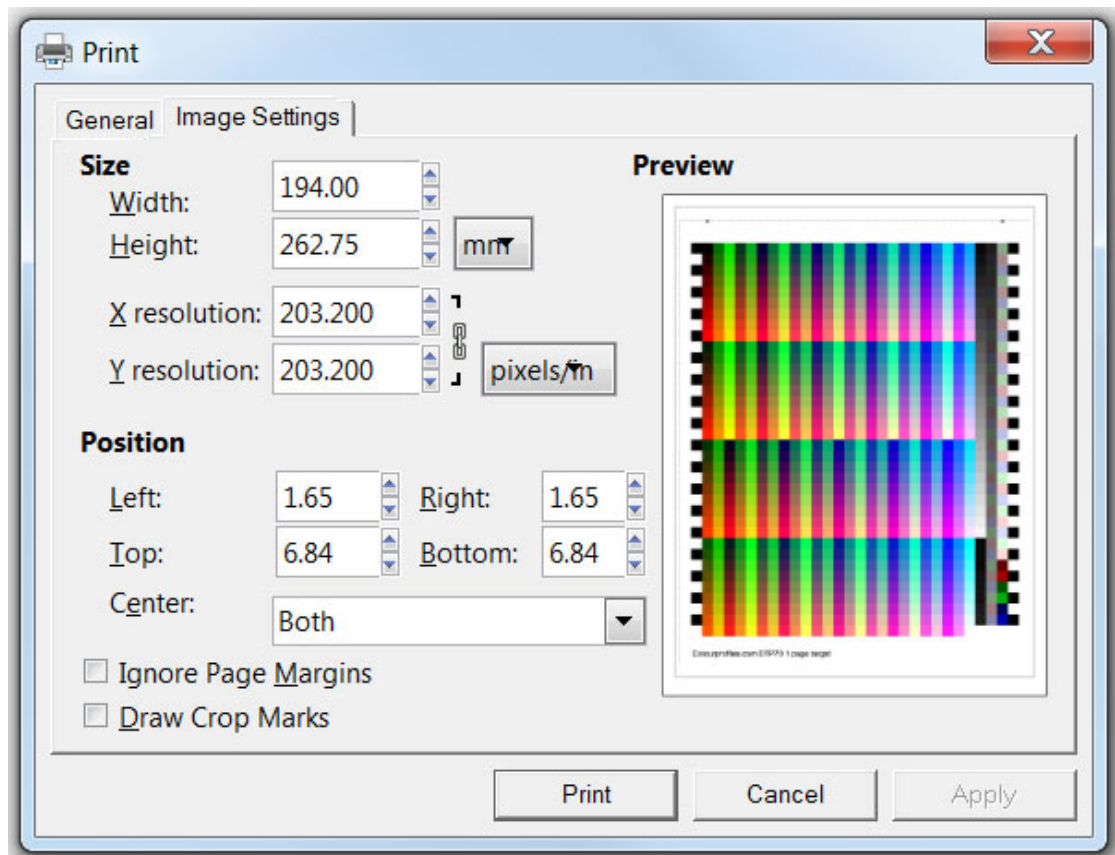
The Gimp has only had colour management added fairly recently and although the basic controls are present, it's options for printing aren't ideal yet.

To turn off colour management for target printing you need to go to the color management options in the preferences dialogue found on the edit menu;



The important option to set here is 'File open behaviour' which should be set to 'keep embedded profile'. That should leave the profiling target untagged with no profile applied.

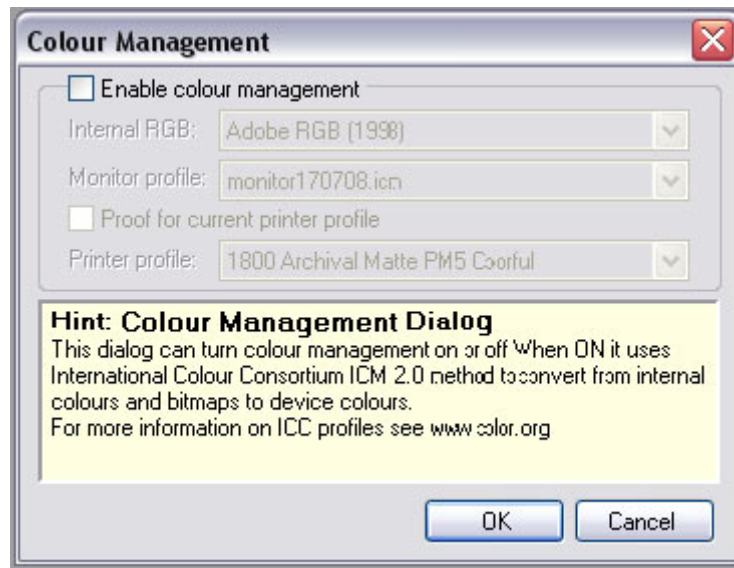
When it comes to printing the only important issue to check is that there is no resizing being inadvertently applied. The settings in the screenshot below are correct, but we've found that even though the margins are equal The Gimp will sometimes print off centre with some printer drivers. This is acceptable as long as the printed target size is correct.



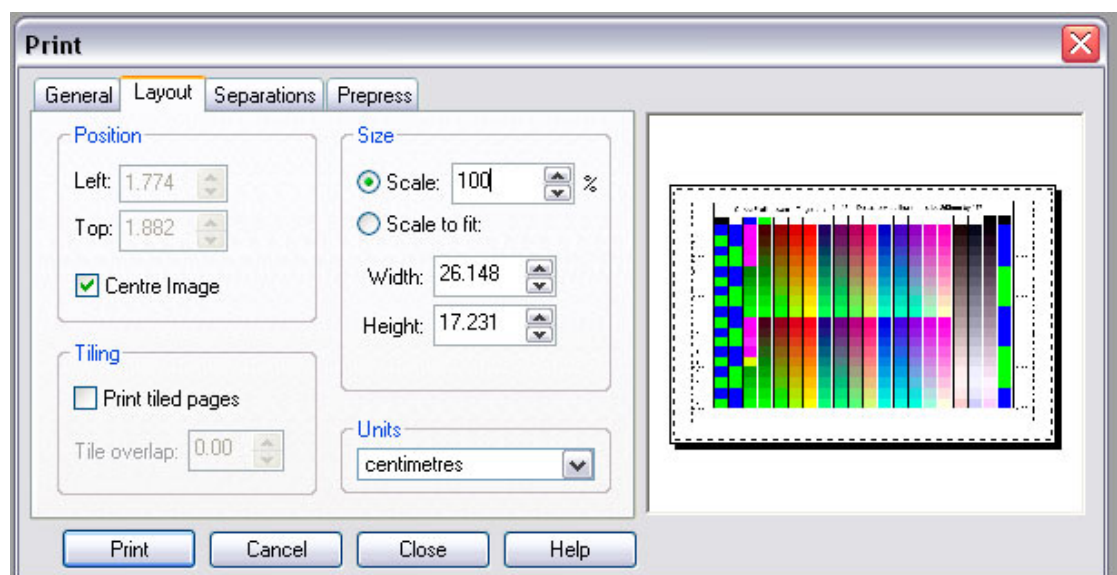
There's no options for applying a printer profile in The Gimp, so your printer driver needs to be set to apply no colour management.

Serif Photo Plus

You can switch off colour management in the color management dialogue found in the edit menu.



When you print the target you need to ensure that scale is set to 100% to prevent any resizing



Other programs

It's not possible to give help for all image editing programs here, and not every program has full colour management options anyway.

However we're happy to offer any help we can if you contact us and we'll try to advise how to print profiling targets.