TECHNICAL GUIDE

APPLIED COLOUR MANAGEMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
M0, 1, 2 AND 3 MEASUREMENT OPTIONS

Second Edition

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Which Mode Is Best for Measuring Wet Prints?

M3, which uses a polarising filter, is designed to provide accurate measurements for wet prints.

2. What Are Optical Brightening Agents (OBA)?

These additives absorb UV light and re-emit it as fluorescence. OBAs are added to textiles and paper to make them appear more white.

3. How Do I Know if My Spectrophotometer is Accurate?

Check its performance on a regular basis by measuring reference colours, for instance on a standard test chart. If the measurements deviate from check to check by more than an acceptable amount, it's time to get the device recalibrated or replaced.

4. Which Measurement Mode Should I Use Most Often?

This depends on the type of substrates you are printing. If they contain high amounts of OBA you will need M1, but if not M0 will do. If you are commonly printing work for museums or similar low light environments where the lighting emits no UV light, use M2. If you want to measure wet prints on a regular basis use M3.

5. How Many Measurements Should I Take?

As many as is reasonably possible, so that you can average the results and come up with a representative number. Do not rely only on single measurement values.

6. Can I Use M0 For Papers That Have OBA?

M0 is designed for conventional papers and does not work well with stocks that contain OBA. For these substrates you need a modern spectrophotometer and to use M1 mode.

7. Why Do My Digital Proofs Look Yellow Compared To The Final Print?

This is a common problem when measuring stock that has OBA, but measurements were taken in M0 mode.

8. How Can I Exclude UV Wavelengths From The Viewing Light?

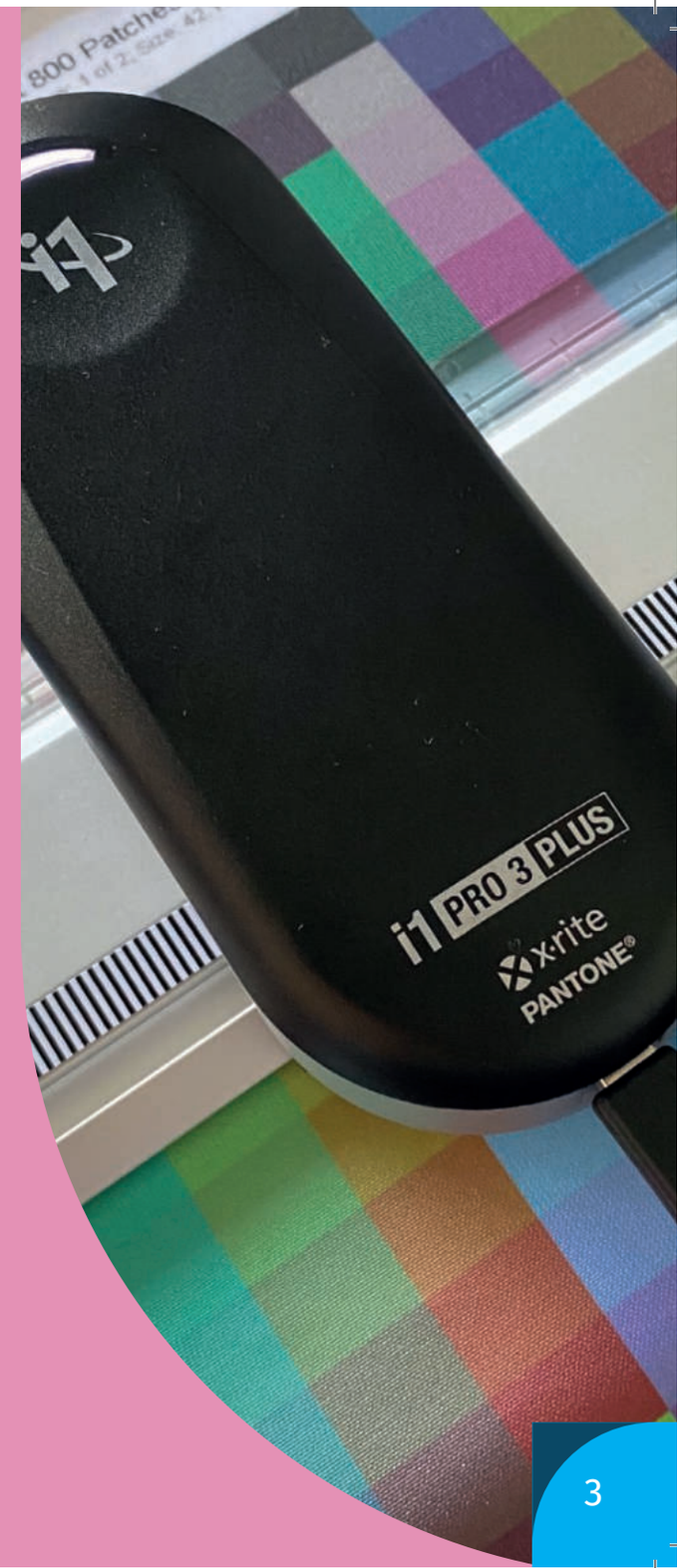
You need a spectrophotomer that has a UV filter to cut out the UV wavelengths or a function in the device's control software that will omit the UV measurement data. UV filters are also available for the lamps in the viewing booth.

9. Why Can I Not Trust Software To Manage Measurements?

Software can only go so far in managing data and it depends on accurate readings from a spectrophotometer. You need to capture all the metadata relevant for the measurement, excluding the settings used, in order to judge if the data captured can be correctly applied in another context.

10. Is There an ISO Standard to Help Me Understand Spectral Measurement Modes?

Published in 2009 and reviewed in 2013 ISO 13655, Spectral measurements and colorimetric computation for graphic arts images outlines everything you need when it comes to measuring printed colours.



Published by FESPA Limited
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