

G7® Color Settings for Adobe® Creative Suite®

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Introduction

IDEAlliance provides several pre-set Adobe® Color Settings (.csf) Files for use when viewing or preparing images for G7® printing. These .csf files will automatically set Adobe Creative Suite® applications (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator and Acrobat) to the ideal settings for a G7 workflow.

Downloading and Saving

- Go to www.idealliance.org and follow the links for “G7® Color Settings”.
- Once downloaded, drag all the G7 .csf files into the Adobe Custom Color Settings folder, as follows;

Default Mac OSX location

Users/ [Username]/ Library/ Application Support/ Adobe/ Color/ Settings.

Default Windows location

Documents and Settings/ [Username]/ Application Data/ Adobe/ Color/ Settings.

Custom location

On some workstations custom .csf files may be in a custom location. If so, you can either move all your custom .csf files back to the default locations shown above, or you can save the G7 .csf files in the existing custom location.

To find your workstation’s existing custom location, click the **Load** button in Photoshop’s **Edit – Color Settings...** window, note the path to the custom folder, then click **Cancel**.

Selection in Creative Suite

Once placed in the correct location, select the appropriate Color Settings file in your Creative Suite application(s) as follows;

Photoshop, InDesign or Illustrator

- Go to **Edit – Color Settings...**
- In the drop-down menu select the appropriate color settings file according to the type of printing by which your work is most often printed.
- If your work is mostly for commercial printing on high-quality Grade 1 or 2 paper, select **GRACoL_Coated1_AdobeRGB**.
- If your work is mostly for publication (magazine) printing on good quality Grade 3 paper, select **SWOP_Coated3_AdobeRGB**.
- If your work is mostly for publication (magazine) printing on lower-quality Grade 5 paper, select **SWOP_Coated5_AdobeRGB**.
- If your work often varies between publication and commercial printing, either change the color settings for each job, or keep the settings you most frequently use, but change the CMYK output profile as needed when converting images into CMYK.

Synchronizing Via Bridge

If you have installed the whole Creative Suite, you can use Bridge to quickly “Synchronize” all Adobe applications to use the same Color Settings, as follows;

- Launch Bridge from the File menu of any Creative Suite application.
- Go to **Edit – Creative Suite Color Settings...**
- Select whichever G7 Color Settings file is appropriate (see above).



Using G7 Color Settings

Selecting the most appropriate .csf file for your type of work will automatically ensure that;

- A CMYK file displayed on your monitor looks as close as possible to a proof or final printed piece produced to the same specification.
 - An RGB image displayed as CMYK looks as close as possible to a proof or final printed piece produced to the same specification.
- Note: Accurate color display requires an accurate custom monitor profile. Even then, a profiled display will only simulate an actual proof or print under carefully-controlled lighting conditions.*
- When you convert an image from any color space (RGB, CMYK, Lab, grayscale, etc.) into CMYK, the resulting file will be optimized for the specified type of G7 printing in terms of GCR, TAC, gamut mapping, etc.
 - When you convert an image into Grayscale mode, the resulting file will be optimized for printing with the black ink alone of the specified printing specification in terms of tonality (darkness/ lightness and contrast).

Changing the RGB Working Space

If your preferred RGB working space is *not* **Adobe RGB (1998)** you can change the RGB working space and save a modified Color Settings File as follows;

- Select the G7 Color Settings file in the **Edit – Color Settings...** window.
- Enable the **More Options** button.
- In **Working Spaces – RGB**: select your preferred RGB space.
- Click **Save...**
- Save your custom Color Settings with a new name, such as “**SWOP_Coated3_[RGB Space]**”
- Distribute this new Color Settings File amongst all your peers who use the same RGB space.