

Colorific Color Matching Software User's Guide

Get the color right the first time
with Colorific

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
System Requirements	2
Printing the Read Me File	2
Before Running Colorific	3
Installing Colorific	3
On-screen Help	4
Running Colorific	4
Colorific Control Panel	9
Printer Profiles	12
Troubleshooting	13
Uninstalling Colorific	16
A Little Bit About Color	17
Technical Support	Back cover

Colorific Color Matching Software

One of the problems with today's computers and printers is that the colors you see on your monitor often don't match the colors you see on the printed output. Now there's a solution. It's called Colorific.

Colorific software gives you accurate, predictable color matching between your screen and printer by calibrating the colors on your monitor. Colorific constructs a precise description of how your monitor displays color, taking into account variable viewing conditions, monitor control settings and video card adjustments.

Colorific is designed for those who create or retouch their work on screen or who download color images from commercial services or CD-ROMs. It can be used with most color printers, and doesn't require a scanner or hardware calibration devices.

Colorific also works hand-in-hand with Acrobat 3.0 from Adobe and Cosmo™ Color from Silicon Graphics, Inc. to provide your display with True Internet Color™.

System Requirements

Windows	386 or better, Windows 3.1, 3.11 or Windows 95, 2 MB free space on hard disk, 4 MB RAM.
Macintosh	System 7.1 or above, 1 MB free space on hard disk. Printer must be Macintosh compatible (i.e., must support ColorSync).

Printing the Read Me File

Before installing Colorific, take a minute to print a copy of the Read Me file found on the installation disk. (Use a word processing application to open and print the file README.TXT.) The Read Me file contains last-minute information about your particular version of Colorific, which is not included in this manual or in the on-screen Help.

Before Running Colorific

Important: Using Colorific in conjunction with another color management system or monitor calibrator already installed on your computer might result in poor color matching. Consult Colorific's on-screen Help or Sonnetech's fax-on-demand system for information about using Colorific with different color applications to produce optimal calibration.

To obtain the best color matching results, do the following *before* you run Colorific:

- u Let your monitor warm up for at least 30 minutes to stabilize the colors.
- u Make sure the glass faceplate on your monitor is clean and free of dust.
- u If your monitor has a degauss button, press it.
- u If your monitor has manual RGB color controls or a color temperature control, adjust them to your liking. Rerun Colorific if you ever change these controls.
- u If your monitor has a color temperature control, you'll get the best results if you adjust it to 5000K or 6500K. Rerun Colorific if you ever change this control.

Installing Colorific

Insert the Colorific installation disk or CD-ROM into the appropriate drive and follow the instructions for your operating system:

- Windows 95 Click on the Windows 95 Start button, then choose Run. Type a:\setup and press Enter (if applicable, substitute the appropriate drive letter for a:).
- Windows 3.1x Choose Run from Program Manager's File menu. Then type a:\setup and press Enter (if applicable, substitute the appropriate drive letter for a:).
- Macintosh Double-click on the Colorific Installer icon, then drag the Full Installation icon to the drive on which you want to install Colorific.

On-screen Help

Colorific's on-screen Help offers troubleshooting tips and detailed calibration instructions. When running Colorific, choose Help (in the upper-right corner of your screen) or press the F1 key (Windows only) to view the Help screen that relates to what you're doing. After calibrating, use the Help table of contents or Search command (Windows only) to find information about using Colorific with specific applications.

Running Colorific

You should calibrate with Colorific before doing critical color work and whenever you change the color settings of your monitor. To run Colorific:

Windows 95 Click on the Colorific icon in the taskbar to bring up the Colorific Control Panel. Within the Colorific Control Panel, click on the Recalibrate button.

Windows 3.1/3.11 Double-click on the Colorific icon in the Colorific program group.

Macintosh Double-click on the Colorific icon in the Colorific folder.

Colorific then leads you through a series of choices about what you see on your screen. On-screen instructions make running Colorific a simple task. However, if you'd like to know more about a particular step, choose Help (in the upper-right corner of your screen) to access the Help screen that relates to what you're doing, or read the step-by-step instructions below.

1. Monitor/Printer Setup Screen

Windows 95 Choose your monitor model. (If it isn't listed, contact the monitor manufacturer to obtain the appropriate version of Colorific.)

Windows 3.1/3.11 Choose your monitor model, printer profile and preferred monitor color balance. (If your monitor isn't listed, contact the monitor manufacturer to obtain the appropriate version of Colorific.) If you can't find the correct printer profile, contact Sonnetech. In the interim, select a profile for a similar printer from the same manufacturer, if available. Or, select Generic CMYK. Use the Other Printer... choice only if you have a printer profile on disk that you'd like to install.

If you intend to use a printer other than the one on your system, for instance one at a service bureau, see the topic "Print to Disk" in on-screen Help.

If you prefer the white displayed on the screen to approximate the color of paper, choose Warm (Paper White) in the Monitor Color Balance list box. If you prefer the bluish tint of a typical monitor, or if your monitor hardware settings specify a preferred white point or color tint, choose Current White Point. If your video card doesn't support this option within Colorific, Current White Point is your only choice.

Macintosh Choose your monitor model. (If it isn't listed, contact the monitor manufacturer to obtain the appropriate version of Colorific.)

2. Brightness Adjustment Screen

Adjust the brightness control on your monitor so that both black and white boxes are crisp and don't stray into gray. (There is no wrong adjustment.) Once set, don't change the setting.

3. Monitor Gamma Measurement

Pick the square that appears to blend into the background. You can choose a spot halfway between two squares if you feel that would be more precise. For best results, try to blur your vision by squinting or removing your glasses, if you wear them, to sense an overall tone and *not notice the colored stripes*. The 12 squares are organized in increasing brightness along an "S" shaped path.

You will perform variants of this task twice for each color—red, green and blue. Colorific uses the information from these screens to determine the monitor's gamma for each primary color.

Gamma is a measure of the relationship between the brightness of the color you see on your screen and the signal that your computer is sending to the monitor.

4. Black Point Measurement

You can choose any spot on this path. Pick the place where you feel there is just a hint of color. You must choose a specific spot, for, unlike the gamma screen, there is no in-between. The 12 spots are organized in increasing brightness along an “S” shaped path.

You will perform this task once for each color—red, green, and blue.

Colorific uses the information from these screens to determine the monitor’s black point cut-off value for each primary color.

5. Colorific Color Reference Card

You will now be prompted to select a type of lighting from the menu displayed by the Colorific program. Using your chosen light source, make your work area as bright as possible. (It is OK if you don’t normally work under such bright lights. You can restore your normal lighting after running Colorific.) Remove the Colorific Color Reference Card from its white cardboard backing and apply it to the monitor in the space indicated on the screen. (If it doesn’t stick, clean the back of the card with alcohol and the glass of your monitor with an appropriate glass cleaner.)

Turn the contrast control all the way down, then up slowly. Squint, looking at both edges of the card simultaneously. Find a setting where the brightness of both card and screen seems about the same. (Remember, you’re matching *brightness*, not color.) If the card is too dark, bring additional lights of the proper type closer to the monitor for this step. It doesn’t matter if you normally work under different lighting conditions; the measurement will still be accurate.

Leave the Colorific Color Reference Card on your monitor for the next step.

6. White Point Measurement

Choose the square where the color on the screen best matches the color of the Colorific Color Reference Card. (Remember, now you’re matching *color*, not brightness.) Choose a specific square; there is no in-between option available. Don’t worry if your choice isn’t an exact match. If the pointer is hard to see behind the card, use the arrow along the side as a guide.

7. Creating Your Profile (Windows only)

Colorific is now creating a color correction profile for your monitor and printer. Remove the card from the screen and adjust the contrast control to a comfortable level. Do *not* change the brightness control.

The calibration process may take a while, but the gauge will track its progress. Once the bar reaches 100 percent, you will see a final screen from which you can restart Windows. (If the final screen doesn’t appear, Colorific was unable to create the profile due to insufficient memory. Read the “Troubleshooting” section in this manual or in Colorific Help to correct the problem.)

8. Final Screen

Windows 95 You must restart Windows for the color correction profile to take effect. (If you decide not to restart now, your corrections will go into effect the next time you start Windows.)

Windows 3.1/3.11 For the color correction profile to take effect, turn Colorific on with the ON/OFF switch and then click on Restart Windows. Don’t be alarmed if Windows reboots twice—this is necessary to ensure proper adjustment of your monitor’s color temperature when using the Warm (Paper White) option.

Macintosh Simply click on OK.

Colorific Control Panel

In most cases, Colorific color correction is automatically enabled as soon as you complete calibration and reboot Windows (for Macintosh, no system restart is required). For advanced users, or just for the curious, the following sections provide more information on how Colorific works within each operating system:

Windows 95 only

Colorific creates a custom profile for your monitor for use with the ICM (Image Color Matching) module built into Windows 95. This profile automatically replaces Windows' default profile and is used at print-time whenever ICM is enabled. (If you don't see an ICM option in your color printer's driver, contact your printer vendor to obtain the latest Windows 95-compatible printer driver, or load the appropriate driver from Microsoft's Windows 95 installation disks.) For more information about ICM, see on-screen Help or request document #7004 from Sonnetech's fax-on-demand system.

Colorific v95 can also work with the Kodak CMS, if it is installed on your system. See the section "Kodak Color Management System" later in this manual.

The Colorific Control Panel displays information that Colorific gathered about your monitor, which can be used to customize settings within your applications.

Click on the Colorific icon (a monitor with a blue, red, and green design) in the Windows 95 taskbar to display the Control Panel. Then click on the More Info... button to view gamma, white point, and chromaticity data. Users of Photoshop and other high-end graphics programs will find this information useful in configuring the Monitor Setup sections of their applications. See Colorific's on-screen Help for details.

On some systems, the Colorific for Windows 95 Control Panel allows you to optimize the look of your monitor for video, desktop publishing, or other tasks by adjusting the white point and gamma of your display. If these options are not available on your system, try changing to 16-bit or higher color mode. If they are still not available, contact your video card maker for updated Windows 95 drivers. See the on-screen Help topic called "How to Contact your Video Card Maker" for more information.

Windows 3.1/3.11 only

Colorific creates a Kodak Precision™ monitor-to-printer transform, which is used automatically every time you print, regardless of what program you're using. Simply choose "Yes" at the Colorific print-time prompt, and Colorific will adjust your printer's output to ensure great color matching.

If you close or shrink all the windows on-screen, you'll see the Colorific/Kodak icon in the lower right-hand corner of the screen. If the icon is in color, Colorific is on, but if it's gray, Colorific is off. Double-click on the icon and the Colorific Control Panel will appear, allowing you to turn Colorific monitor and printer correction on and off.

On the left side of the Control Panel are the Monitor and Printer checkboxes. These checkboxes are inactive unless Colorific is On. When you check the Monitor box, color balance is adjusted to the Warm (Paper White) setting. If the Monitor checkbox is gray, this feature is incompatible with your system's video card and is therefore not available. When the Monitor box is unchecked or gray, Colorific doesn't adjust your display, but monitor-to-printer color correction still works fine. Check the Printer box to signal the printer to match the colors on the monitor. (Normally, this box is always checked.)

Kodak Color Management System (all Windows versions)

All Windows versions of Colorific create a Kodak Precision™ format monitor profile that can be used by any program that incorporates Kodak's Precision Color Management System, such as PhotoStyler, Picture Publisher, or PageMaker 6.0. Go to the Kodak CMS module within your application and select the Colorific monitor profile.

To avoid double-correction of color output from applications that have their own color management systems, do the following:

Windows 95	Contact your software vendor for instructions on avoiding double-correction by both Windows 95 (ICM) and your application.
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Windows 3.1/3.11 Choose “No” at the Colorific print-time prompt, or disable the application’s print-time color correction. For detailed instructions on using Colorific with specific applications, see Colorific Help or call Sonnetech’s fax-on-demand system at (415) 957-9941.

Macintosh

Colorific creates a ColorSync 2.0 monitor profile, which is used automatically each time you print with ColorSync. (If you don’t see a ColorSync option in your printer driver, see the section “Printer Profiles” in this manual, or contact your printer manufacturer.) For desktop publishing and high-end graphics applications (such as Adobe Photoshop), select the Colorific profile in the monitor setup section of your graphics applications. Consult your application’s documentation for help.

Printer Profiles

Colorific works best if you have the correct profile for your particular printer installed. For Windows 95 and Macintosh, the profile is usually installed automatically as part of the printer driver. Colorific for Windows 3.1/3.11 uses Kodak printer profiles, a selection of which are included on the Colorific installation disk. Others can be purchased from Sonnetech or from Kodak. Call Kodak at (800) CD-KODAK or (716) 726-7260 for pricing and ordering information.

Windows 95 users should contact their printer manufacturer to obtain the latest driver and ask if the driver fully supports the ICM module, including all three types of color matching offered by Windows 95: saturation (best for charts and diagrams), contrast/photographic (best for photographs or complex images), and colorimetric (best for matching particular colors, for example in logos). The Microsoft drivers included with Windows 95 all support ICM, but they only offer contrast/photographic color matching.

Macintosh users must work with a printer that supports ColorSync and comes with a ColorSync profile as part of its printer driver. Examples include all Apple color printers, HP DeskWriter printers, Fargo Primera, and others. Contact your printer vendor to obtain a ColorSync profile if you do not already have one. Be sure to enable ColorSync in your printer driver to achieve good color matching.

Macintosh users can also use any PostScript level 2 color printer (not level 1 color PostScript). All PostScript level 2 printers using the PostScript v8.1 or higher printer driver support ColorSync. Examples of PostScript level 2 printers include the Kodak ColorEase, some Seiko ColorPoint printers, EFI Fiery, HP 1200C/PS, and some Tektronics and QMS printers. When using PostScript, select "Calibrated Color" in the printer driver to ensure the use of ColorSync.

Troubleshooting

This section deals with problems that might occur while installing or uninstalling Colorific. It also offers general tips for improving color-matching. For help with other Colorific for Windows problems, see "Troubleshooting" in on-screen Help. Or, use the Search command to find information about using Colorific with particular applications. For help with other Macintosh problems, see "Troubleshooting" in the Colorific manual on your installation disk. Before troubleshooting, we strongly recommend that you read the Read Me file located on the installation disk.

What to do if...

Printed colors don't match those on my monitor.

1. Make sure you're using the correct paper for your printer. Inkjet printers require special coated paper. (See the Read Me file for recommended papers.)
2. Make sure the ink cartridges are working properly and that the ink isn't running low. Use a new cartridge if necessary.
3. Try recalibrating by running Colorific again. At the White Point Measurement screen, be sure to adjust your lighting as described in this manual or on-screen Help.
4. Windows 3.1/3.11 users, verify that the printer profile matches your printer. If your printer isn't listed in the Colorific Monitor/Printer Setup screen, try Generic CMYK. If the color match is still poor, see the Printer Profiles section in this manual.
5. For more detailed suggestions, request document #6503 (Windows) or #3503 (Macintosh) from Sonnetech's fax-on-demand system. You can also receive information about configuring Colorific for use with specific applications, which will improve color matching when printing from within that application.

Colorific for Windows disk won't install

If Colorific Setup gives an error message or repeatedly asks for a missing disk, check to make sure you have the correct version for your operating system. Colorific for Windows 3.1 will not work under Windows 95, and vice versa. Contact your monitor maker or Sonnetech if you did not receive the correct version.

Some Windows 3.1/3.11 versions of Colorific use a compressed disk format that can't be copied using regular DOS or Windows file copy commands. Be sure to install from the original Colorific disks in this case. Also, Windows 3.1/3.11 network users who have trouble installing Colorific should try rebooting with no network connection.

Windows users who have installed certain versions of Photoshop in the past might see the following error message during installation:

Bad Arg 3: AddSectionFilesToCopyList [KodakCMSCP, A:\, C:C:\]

This message indicates an error in the Kodak file KPCMS.INI installed by some versions of Photoshop. Request document #6013 from Sonnetech's fax-on-demand service to correct this problem.

If you are unable to install Colorific for reasons not listed above, contact Sonnetech Technical Support.

Windows 3.1/3.11 won't boot after Colorific installation

If Windows 3.1/3.11 won't boot after Colorific installation, go to the Windows directory and rename the file SYSTEM.INI to SYSTEM.HGC. Then, rename the file CLRIFIC0.INI to SYSTEM.INI. You should now be able to run Windows normally.

If you are experienced with editing Windows system files, see below for details. Otherwise, contact Sonnetech Technical Support for help. If communicating by e-mail or fax, send a copy of the file you just renamed SYSTEM.HGC.

Colorific for Windows 3.1/3.11 changes the system.driv= line in Windows's SYSTEM.INI file. Other programs, such as Adobe Type Manager and Helix Software's Hurricane, also make changes to this line. Current versions of these programs work together fine if you follow the installation instructions in Colorific's Setup program. Conflicts could occur if some other program makes unanticipated changes

to this system.drv= line.

Windows 95 boots in Safe Mode

If Windows 95 boots only in Safe Mode when Colorific is installed, you have probably installed the Windows 3.1 version of Colorific. Normally, the Colorific Setup program would not allow this to happen, but it could occur with an older version of Colorific, or if you upgraded from Windows 3.1/3.11 to Windows 95 with Colorific already installed on your system. To correct the problem, uninstall Colorific by running the Colorific Setup program, just as you did to install, but choose the Uninstall option when it appears (usually in the second dialog box).

The white on my printout has a slight blue tint when I use Colorific in the "Current White Point" or other settings

If you look closely, you will see that the white on your monitor does indeed have a slight blue tint. If you want less blue, try changing the white point (color temperature) of your display to be closer to the white of paper (5000K). If you don't have a color temperature control, try re-running Colorific and choosing a square 1 to 3 places counterclockwise from the proper choice at Colorific's White Point screen. Then print again.

Colorific profile isn't available in ColorSync System Profile control panel

This usually indicates a conflict between the versions of Colorific and ColorSync installed on your system. Colorific 1.x works with ColorSync 1.0.x, and Colorific 2.0 works with ColorSync 2.0. If you upgraded to ColorSync 2.0, you should upgrade to Colorific 2.0 as well. Contact your monitor maker or Sonnetech to upgrade.

If you installed Apple's System 7.5.3 upgrade, check to make sure both the ColorSync extension and the control panel are version 2.01. If not, remove them from the System Folder and reinstall ColorSync, using either the Apple System upgrade disks or the Colorific installation disk. Then re-run Colorific.

The Colorific Monitor/Printer Setup screen doesn't list my printer.

Contact Sonnetech or Kodak (800-CD-KODAK or 716-726-7260) to see if there is a profile for your particular printer. In the interim, choose a profile for a similar printer by the same manufacturer, if available. Or, select "Generic CMYK."

The Colorific Monitor/Printer Setup screen lists only "Current White Point" for Monitor Color Balance.

Your video card or current video mode does not offer the Warm (Paper White) option. This is normal for many systems.

The Windows Desktop has a slight tan color.

If you have reset your monitor to 5000K or 6500K, or if you have selected the Warm (Paper White) option in Colorific for Windows 3.1/3.11, your monitor will have a warmer tone. This more closely simulates professional proofing conditions. If the color is too tan for your liking, you can do one of the following:

1. Change your monitor's color temperature setting to a higher value (e.g., 9300K).
2. In Windows 3.1/3.11, try rerunning Colorific. At the White Point screen (where you match the screen with the Color Reference Card), be sure to increase the lighting in your work area so that a lot of light strikes the Color Reference Card. Also, try to match *hue* (color), not brightness or saturation (intensity). If the problem persists, select a patch 1 to 3 squares further clockwise than the proper choice for a cooler tone.

Windows 3.1/3.11 restarted a second time.

This is to ensure the proper setting of the monitor's color temperature.

In Windows 3.1/3.11, Colorific's Final Screen does not appear.

Change the swap file size using the Windows Control Panel. (Consult your Windows manual.) The Windows 386 enhanced mode needs a permanent swap file size of at least 10 megabytes (MB). In addition, at least 5 MB of hard disk space is temporarily required when running Colorific.

Colorific displays the Sixteen-Color Notice (Windows 3.1/3.11 only).

If you see this screen, your system's video card is displaying only 16 colors. (Don't worry, Colorific will still work.). You might want go to Windows Setup in the Program Manager's Main group to see if you have a greater choice of colors. (See your Windows manual or video card manual to learn how to load new video drivers.)

If your system cannot display more than 16 colors, rerun Colorific. At the Sixteen-Color Notice, use the arrows to search through the rectangles for a continuous scale of gray tones, then click on Continue.

None of the choices in the Sixteen-Color Notice displays a gray scale (Windows 3.1/3.11 only).

Go to Windows Setup in the Program Manager's Main group. Select a different Display mode, such as VGA. If this still fails to produce a smooth scale of grays, Colorific will not work with your video card. Contact Sonnetech about a solution for your system.

The message "No matching output simulation precision transform for selected output precision transform" appears with PhotoStyler or other Windows applications containing the Kodak Precision CMS.

The application needs the Kodak Simulation PT for your printer, available from Sonnetech. In the meantime, Colorific and most of the capabilities of the application will still work.

Uninstalling Colorific

Windows 95 Use the right mouse button to click on the Colorific icon (a monitor displaying a blue, red and green design) in the Windows 95 taskbar. Choose Exit from the menu that appears. Then, from the Start menu, choose Settings/Control Panel. Double-click on Add/Remove Programs. Choose Colorific for Windows 95 from the list, then click on the Add/Remove button.

To undo the changes Colorific made to Windows 95's color-matching module, use Windows Explorer to open the System\Color subdirectory of your Windows 95 directory, and delete any files with Colorific in the filename. You must reboot Windows for the change to take effect.

Windows 3.1/3.11 Follow the steps for installing Colorific, but choose the Uninstall button when it appears. To uninstall manually, follow the instructions in the README.TXT file on the Colorific installation disk or in the Colorific directory, or request document #2009 from the Sonnetech fax-on-demand system.

WARNING! Do *not* attempt to uninstall Colorific from Windows 3.1/3.11 by simply deleting the Colorific directory. If you do, you will be unable to reboot Windows!

Macintosh Drag the Colorific folder to the trash. To undo the changes Colorific made to ColorSync, open the ColorSync Control Panel and select a different monitor profile.

A Little Bit About Color

One of the most important things about color is that color perception is subjective— everyone sees color somewhat differently. Even moods can influence your perception of color. In addition, light in your surroundings will affect how you see colors, particularly in a printed image. Fluorescent light has a green tint and incandescent light has a pink tinge. If the ambient light has any tint, the printed material will reflect that bias. To view your printed output in the most neutral light, look at it in the light from a light box like those graphics professionals use.

In the process through which printed materials are produced with a computer system, there are basically two kinds of color: additive (colored light transmitted from the monitor) and subtractive (light reflected from printed material). Both have the same effect on the human eye, which identifies a color by the wavelength of light that it perceives. Mixing primary colors alters the wavelength of the colored light transmitted (additive) or reflected (subtractive).

Monitors, by exciting phosphors on their screens, produce red, green, and blue (RGB) light that, in various combinations, can represent millions of colors. If all three colors are combined in the right mix, you will see white light. In the absence of any color, the eye perceives black.

The inks in printed material produce color by absorbing (subtracting) portions of the spectrum from the white light that strikes them. This subtractive process uses cyan, magenta, and yellow (CMY) primary color pigments in combination to produce the colors you specify. You would think an equal combination of these inks should print black, but impurities in all inks cause the result to look more like a muddy brown. Printers typically add some black ink to produce a true black. (This, then is known as CMYK color.)

What all of this means is that color perception is not only personally subjective, but also subject to a number of outside influences, and that color matching during the reproduction process is difficult. Colorific gives you a simple means to deliver improved color matching between your monitor and your printer.

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Technical Support

Sonnetech, Ltd.

350 Townsend Street, Suite 409

San Francisco, CA 94107-1699

Fax-on-demand and voice support: (415) 957-9941

Voice only: (415) 957-0152 Fax: (415) 957-9942

E-mail: colorific@aol.com Web site: www.colorific.com

Updated information can be obtained from Sonnetech's 24-hour fax-on-demand system. Call (415) 957-9941 from a fax machine phone to request a catalog of documents. Tech notes are also available at the Colorific Web site.

When calling for technical support, please have the following information available: brand and model of the monitor and printer, the version of Colorific you have installed, and a precise description of the problem.

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