

# Introduction to calibration and characterization

To establish the ICC profile of a printer, you must first choose the paper and ink for the printer and manage the quantity of ink on the support ( **Calibration** ).

And in a second step to print in CMYK or RGB with the printer a test chart (for example an IT8.7 / 3 chart) and to measure with a spectrophotometer the colors in  $L^* a^* b^*$  of the test chart to generate a profile ICC ( **Characterization** ).

The printer's ICC profile, calculated with appropriate software, therefore makes the link between CMYK or RGB and  $L^* a^* b^*$  spaces.

The purpose of the ICC profile is to optimize the chroma of your prints.

For a large format printer or press profile, the method is the same.

For professional results, the use of a spectrophotometer is still necessary.

For more information, see the website: [Wikipedia.org - ICC Profile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ICC_Profile)

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