

Troubleshooting Photos

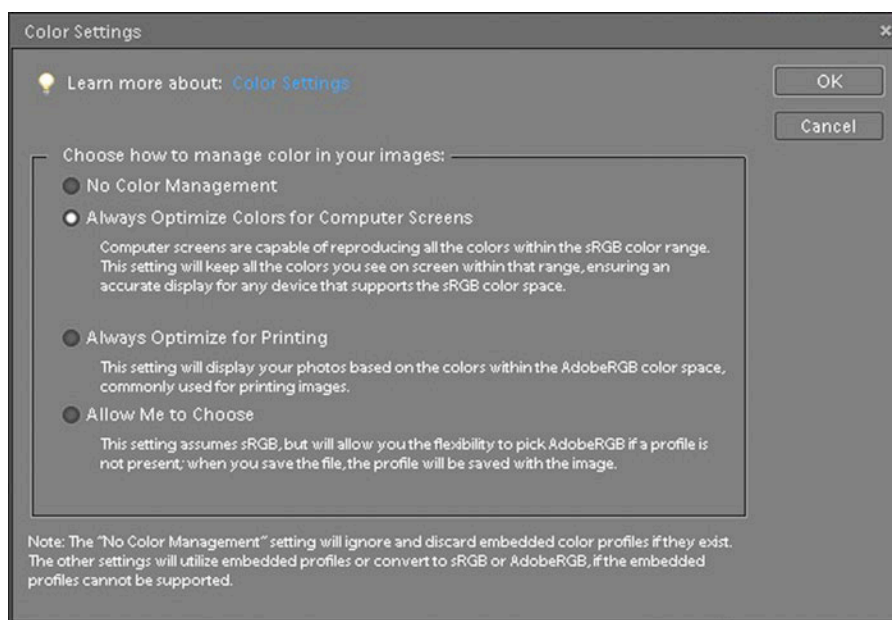
Color Management With Photoshop Elements 7 for Windows XP

Adobe has done a good job in slicing the Photoshop Elements feature set out of Photoshop. You can't do as many different things with Photoshop Elements 4 as you can do with Photoshop, but for the things you can do to prepare and print photos, you are given a good set of tools. This is true also in color management – not everything is possible, but what you can do, you can do well. This guide assumes you are already familiar with other photo editing and printing operations.

Setting up for Color Management

1. Go to Photoshop Elements >> Color Settings.

Assuming you want to set up for printing, choose: **Always Optimize for Printing**.



This setting, however, should not be considered set in stone – if you are preparing pictures that will only be used on the Web, don't hesitate to revisit this dialog and set the **Always Optimize for Computer Screens** option. Click **OK**.

Opening the image

2. Open the photo in the Editing workspace (the Organizer has different options).

Apply any improvements you'd like to make to the photo (as mentioned earlier, this article assumes that you are familiar with these processes).

In addition to any other changes you want to make... (and this is unrelated to color management but really is worthwhile for print quality), size the photo for the paper you're using. You can set the print size in the **Print** dialog, but if you use **Image >> Resize >> Image size**, you have more control over the size and how

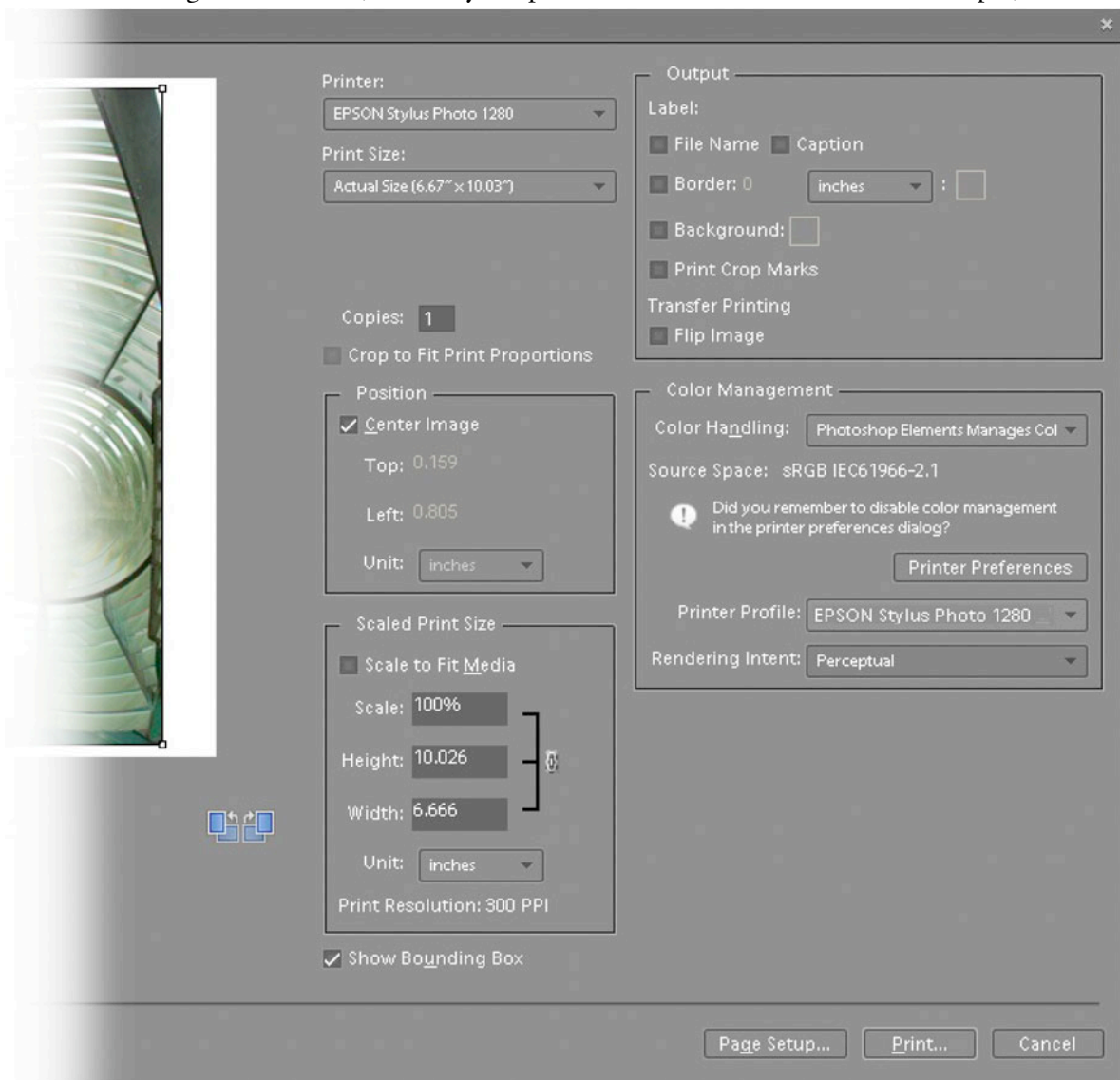
accurately detail is maintained by interpolation (see *Troubleshooting Photos >> About >> Resizing Photos – How and Why* for a complete treatment.). This also is the time to sharpen the photo in **Filter >> Sharpen >> Unsharp Mask** (see *Troubleshooting Photos >> Solutions... Harsh Outlines* for a complete treatment.)

Printing Your Photo

3. Open **File >> Page Setup** to set the paper size and orientation. If you're printing to a special format, such as roll paper, this should appear as an option now. If not, you may have to create a custom size.

Go to **File >> Print**.

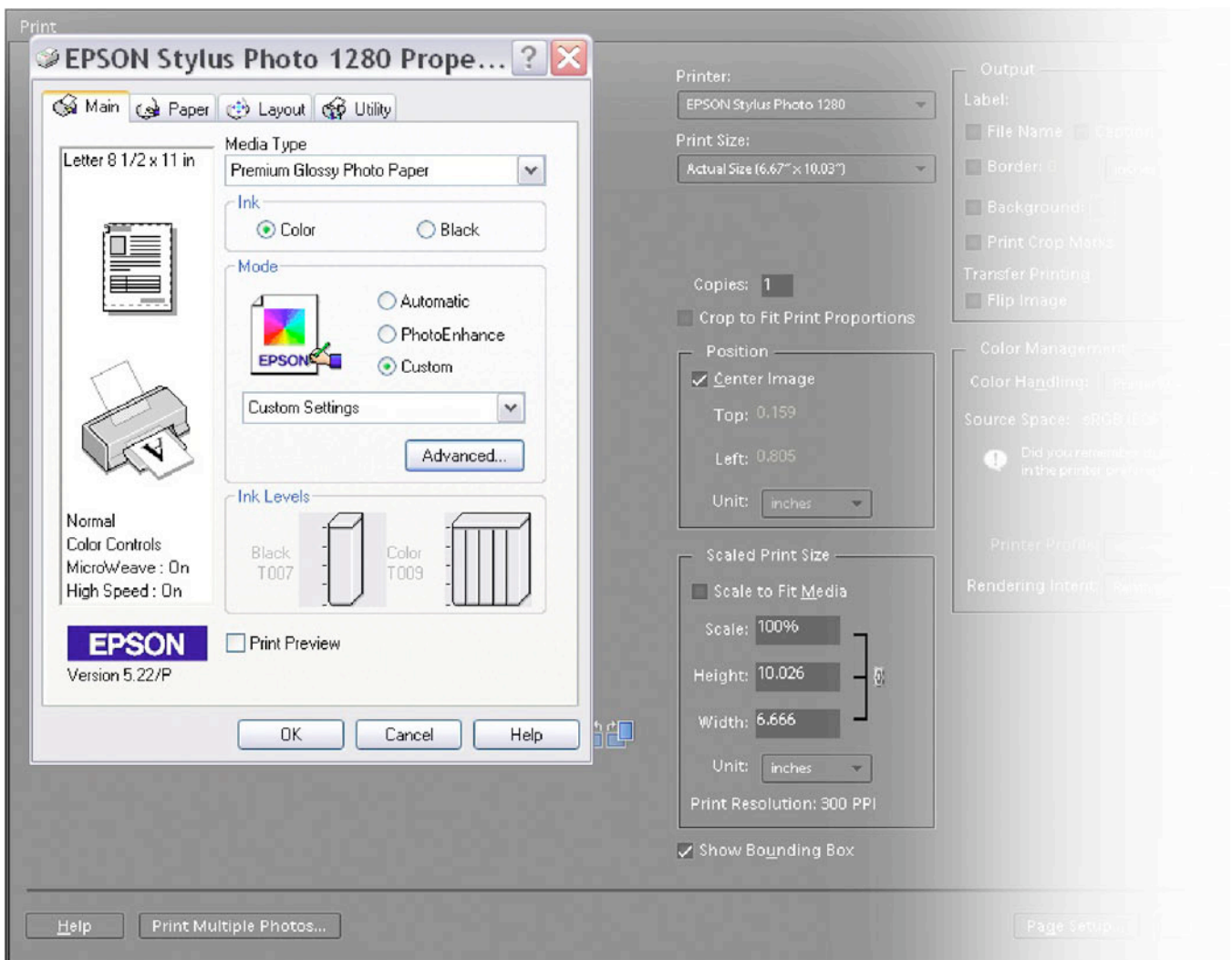
4. Under the heading **Color Management** on the right side, you'll see **Color Handling**. Set this to "Photoshop Elements Manages Color". This ensures that color management is active in Photoshop Elements (the other option, "Printer Manages Color", turns it off). **Source Space** gives the color space of your photo. Looking farther down, choose your printer in **Printer Profile**. In this example, the



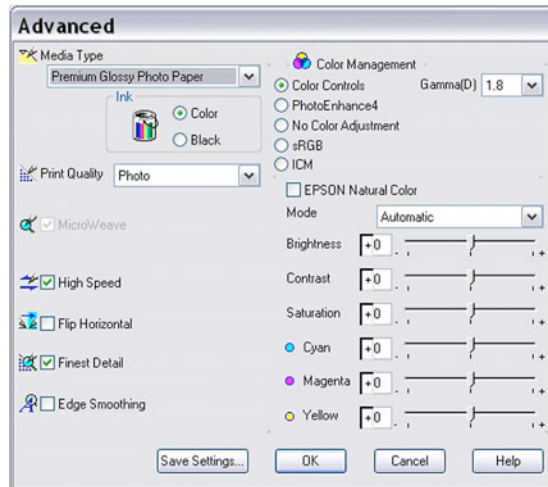
chosen profile is for an Epson Stylus Photo 1280 (a profile supplied with the printer driver). For Intent, select “Perceptual” because it’s the choice that works with almost every photo. “Relative Colorimetric” works equally well with this picture because all the colors are in gamut for this printer. Some prefer to use this intent; experiment and see which you prefer.

Although Adobe calls this a **Print Preview**, it would be more accurate to call it a “Page Position Preview”, because it doesn’t show you what the color will look like in response to your color management settings. The photo preview in the left panel only shows where your picture will be printed, given the paper size and format you’ve selected.

5. Looking back to the middle of the Color Management section, and just below the warning telling you to turn off color management in your printer, you’ll find the place to do so: **Preferences**. Your **Preferences** dialog will open set up to control printer color. You have to go to the following dialog to turn off printer color management. Two variations from Epson are shown, not so much to foreground Epson printers as to give an indication of how this shift from basic to advanced is typically handled.



Variation 1: Initially Preferences will open with **Automatic** selected in the **Mode** section. Click the **Custom** button to see the **Quality** <=> **Speed** slider replaced by a pull-down menu labeled **Custom Settings** and a button labeled **Advanced** (as shown above). Click **Advanced** to go there now.

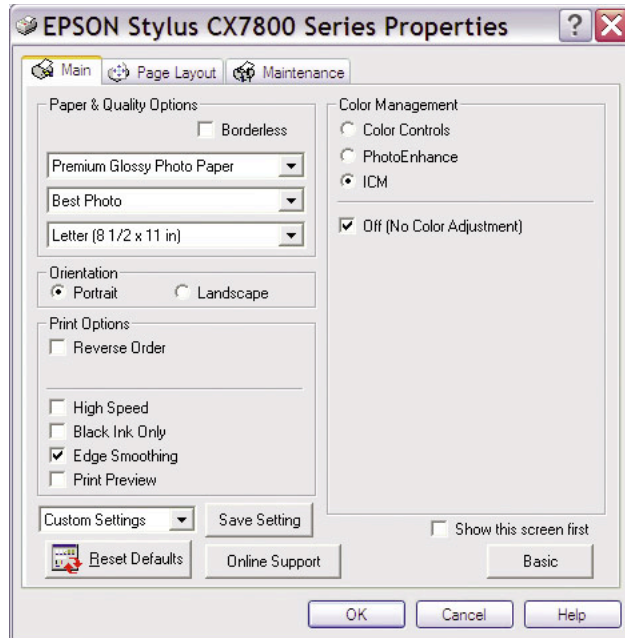


In the **Advanced** dialog, choose:

- your **Media Type** (here it's "Premium Glossy", but your print driver may give you many choices) and **Ink** (color, naturally);
- a **Print Quality** of "Best Photo" (you can – and should – experiment with other options later – but this is what we'll use now);
- choosing "Best Photo" may select or de-select some of the checkboxes below it, but you should be sure that "High Speed" is *not* checked if you want best quality.
- under **Color Management**, you'll see a list of tantalizing choices (shown) to tinker with. Check "No Color Adjustment" and they disappear. Eliminating all



these options may seem a strange choice, but this selection ensures that your picture is only being color-managed by the profile you chose in the Print Preview. If you were to make any other color adjustments at this point, you would be double-managing the printer, which gives very strange results (see *Solutions >> Overall Red Shift*). Go on to step 6.



Variation 2: Initially, your **Properties** dialog may open as shown in the Stylus CX7800 dialog. This type of dialog enables you to make a number of selections very quickly, but it doesn't go into the options you need to manage color. Click the **Advanced** button. You may then be presented with a dialog warning that dire consequences may follow if you proceed to **Advanced** settings. Check **Do not show again**, and click **Continue**.

Initially, the **Advanced** dialog opens with "Color Controls" selected, above a collection of sliders that adjust the ink settings. Note that there is no option, as there was in the previous variation, for simply clicking "No Color Adjustment". Instead, you must click "ICM" (Image Color Management is Windows' name for ICC color management), then click the "No Color Adjustment" checkbox that appears in place of the sliders. The reason for choosing this option is explained under Variation 1. Uncheck **High Speed** for better quality and check **Edge Smoothing** (other manufacturers may have a different name for a similar function). Go on to step 6.

6. If you want to save these settings, click **Save Settings...**, which opens a small dialog in which you can give your settings a name. Close this dialog and click **OK** on the **Advanced** dialog to apply your settings.

You will now be returned to the **Preferences** dialog where you will see all your choices summarized. If you are satisfied, click **OK** here and **OK** in the **Print** dialog that follows. Your photo will now be printed using color management.

7. A final note: on the first page it was pointed out that these instructions apply to

the Editing workspace and that the Organizing workspace is different. Once you've used color management in the Editing workspace, transfer to the



Organizer should be straightforward. With one exception: the **Preferences** button is unlabeled in the Organizer print dialog. Look for a small square icon to the right of the printer selection box (above).