

Monitor Gamut Test

The GAMUT of a device is the range of colors it is capable of displaying. Photoshop has a basic and simple test to examine the gamut of a generic monitor. While I cannot guarantee the accuracy of this test, it does serve as an example of “Monitor Gamut.” You can use one of Photoshop’s generic monitor profiles. If you wish to do this test with your own monitor, obtain a copy of the color profile (usually an ICM or ICC file) from their website. Install the profile, following the instructions in the documentation for your operating system, (or Photoshop). Once the profile had been installed open the test image, “RGB Gamut test.JPG” in Photoshop. If given an option to assign a profile, choose, “Leave as is.”

1. From the “View” menu, select Proof Setup > Custom.
2. In the “Profile” pulldown in the “Proof Setup” dialogue box, select the monitor to test. Make sure the “preserve color numbers” checkbox is unchecked and click OK.
3. In the “View” menu select “Gamut Warning.”
4. A portion of the image will change to gray.
5. Using the eyedropper, sample points in the gray area. These color values cannot be displayed properly on the sample monitor.

This demonstration shows why you can’t rely on your monitor to set the colors for your final print.