



## PRESS CUTTINGS

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Subject: Color Munki

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The screenshot shows the 'Verify Display Type' step of the ColorMunki software. It features a sidebar on the left with a list of messages and a main window with instructions. The instructions are: 1. 'To accurately profile your display, we need to know the type of display being profiled. Please verify your display type below.' and 2. 'Choose the display profiling mode you would like to use.' Below the instructions are three radio buttons for 'LCD', 'Laptop', and 'Projector', and two radio buttons for 'Color' and 'Advanced'.

10279 Total Messages

- 2cvi0hy.jpg by Sylvia Hardy
- 025\_1907.jpg by Sharon Turner
- Walk in the wood by Richard Heeks
- Showing images on HD TV by Margaret Pratt
- Holiday Brittany 2008 - 0552v2\_resize.jpg by Sharon Turner
- Dusk - Aoraki Mt Cook.jpg by Sylvia Hardy

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To calibrate a screen, you point the thing at a target on the computer screen, or run it along a printed target - simple! It will produce both colour and black and white palettes for calibration and the only issue is they do chew through a lot of ink. Naturally, a profile only works with one printer, one type of ink and one kind of paper; if you regularly swap paper stocks or switch from colour inks to dedicated blacks and whites, you need a profile for each change.

The calibration process itself is quick and almost wholly automated - the colour geeks who like to hack into their own profiles may find this a little too simplistic and, in fairness if you want to tweak your black & white profile to taste, the ColorMunki won't let you.

You should give a screen upwards of half an hour to settle down before calibration, but the profiling should be finished in about 15 minutes. If the screen is new, you should calibrate it every few weeks, but as it ages, it needs regular feeding to keep colour correct. Generally, compared to a by-eye calibration, the images will seem slightly dark and almost olive coloured. Calibrating a printer takes slightly longer than just the monitor and matching the two takes longer still. But it's worth the effort. Why? If you simply take the images straight out of the camera and print them, then no... the necessity to have a colour-managed screen and printer is not that vital at all. Most of us don't do that. Many of us shoot RAW and finish the photo on the computer. At this point suddenly that colour management becomes vitally important. ColorMunki shows a before and after image, by switching the profile on and off, while viewing an image:



The screenshot shows the 'Before and After Comparison' step of the ColorMunki software. It features a sidebar on the left and a main window with a large image of a woman's face. The image is split vertically to show the 'Before' and 'After' results. The 'After' side shows a more vibrant and accurate color reproduction. The text on the right says: 'Use the "Before" and "After" buttons to see how your new profile has enhanced your display's color accuracy and image quality. Click Next when you are done.'

If your screen is set too dark or too light, the temptation to 'fix' this image by tweaking the levels in Photoshop would be hard to resist. And it would be wrong. Also, if the colour of your monitor is off, you might tweak the colour balance to correct errors that may not be there in the first place. Worse, if the printer has no reference point to work with, the end result could be similarly out of true. If you are lucky, the alignment of the screen and printer happen to work together well... but do you really want to put your prints in the hands of lady luck so readily? ColorMunki takes the luck element out of the equation.

Colour management systems are not particularly new and there are cheaper calibrators than the ColorMunki. Few of those support as wide a range of products, though; you will not find a device that supports screens, printers, projectors and can scan colours in the real world at anything like this price. And that - plus the peace of mind colour correction offers - makes this a clever little Munki.

**Our Verdict**

Design	★★★★★★★★	8	Picture Quality	★★★★★★★★	8
Ease of Use	★★★★★★★	7	Value	★★★★★★	6

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Overall ★★★★★★★ 7

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