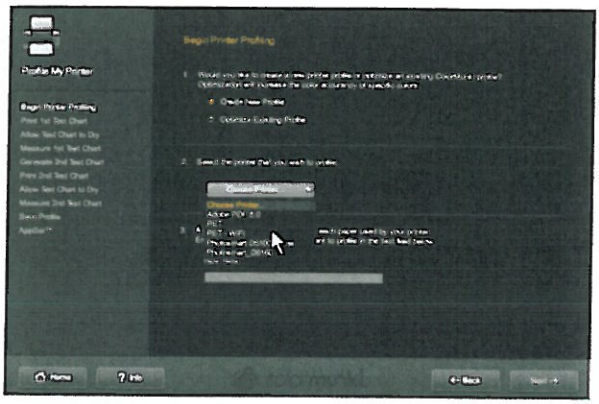
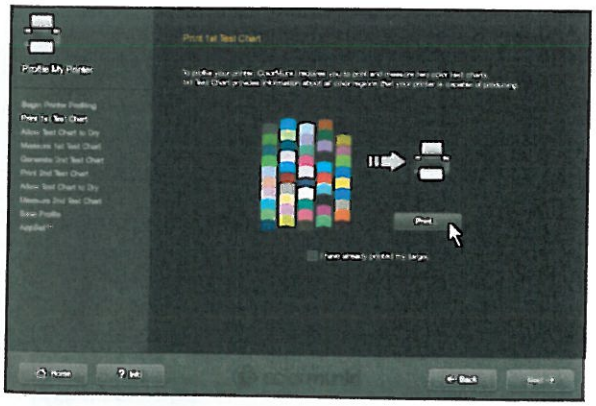
Perfect Prints Using The ColorMunki

A two in one device that will do your monitor, then your prints!

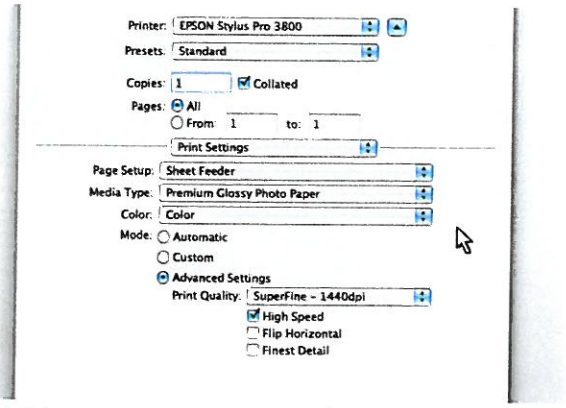
The ColorMunki is two units in one and comes in two flavours, ColorMunki Photo and ColorMunki Design. The Photo version is aimed at photographers, while the Design unit is for graphic designers and printers. Both use the same basic measuring device. The following shows how the printer profiling works.



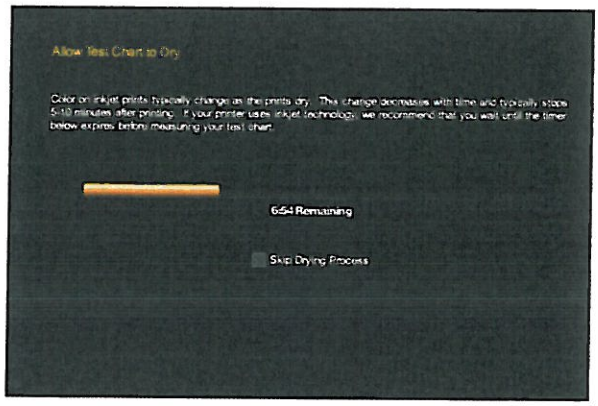
01 After electing to profile the printer, ColorMunki asks if this is a new profile or if you are appending an existing profile (see steps 10 and 11). Select new profile, choose your printer from a drop down list (your printer must be connected and switched on), and then name the paper you are creating the profile for.



02 The next screen will present you with a test chart to print. You can see the colour patches in the diagram above – these will be used to make the measurements. Click the Print button and your printer driver will open up.

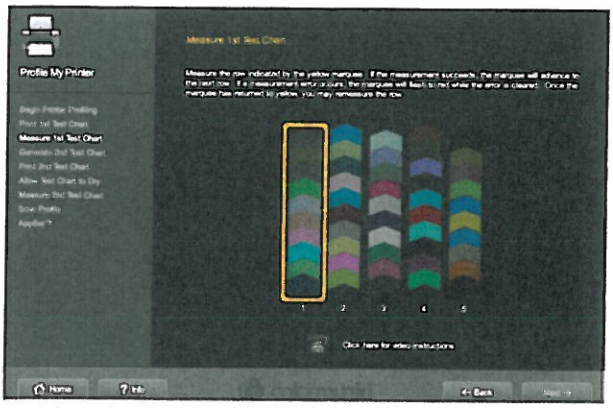


03 It is important to set your printer driver correctly. Begin by telling the driver what type of paper you're printing on, plus any other settings (such as print quality, high speed, etc). Next, ensure that all colour managment is turned off. What you are doing is turning off the colour management in the printer because we are going to let Photoshop handle it for us with our profile.

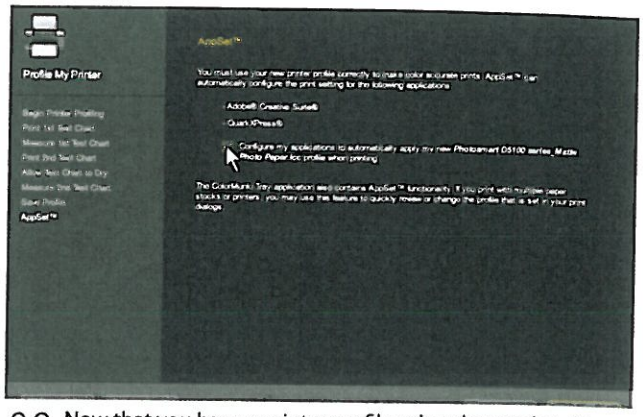


04 Once the test print is ready, ColorMunki suggests you wait at least 10 minutes before making your measurements. In fact, for a glossy print it's better to wait half an hour. A timer will keep track of ten minutes for you, and after that you're on your own!

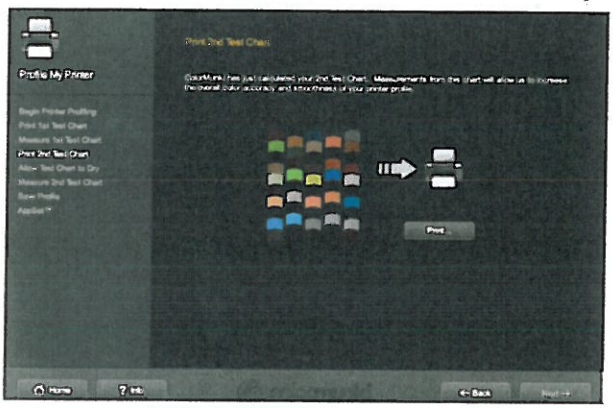
05 To measure the test chart, you turn the ColorMunki device on (it should be attached to your computer already via a USB cable), and drag it down each column of colours, one after the other. There's a mark on the measuring device to help you line up the patches – it's a very straightforward process, even more with the on-screen help provided by the software (see Step 6).



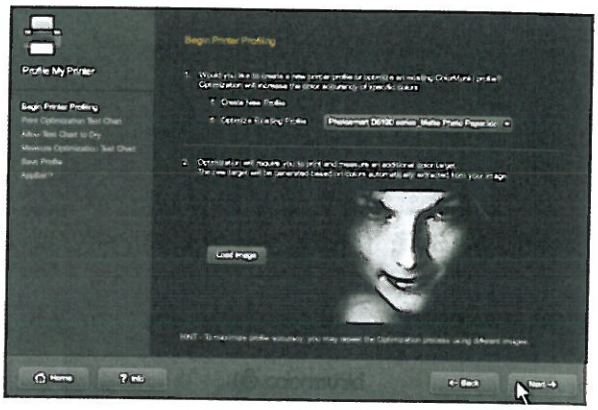
06 The software tells you which column of colour patches to measure and reports back if the measurement was successful or needs to be done again. The process is easy and foolproof.



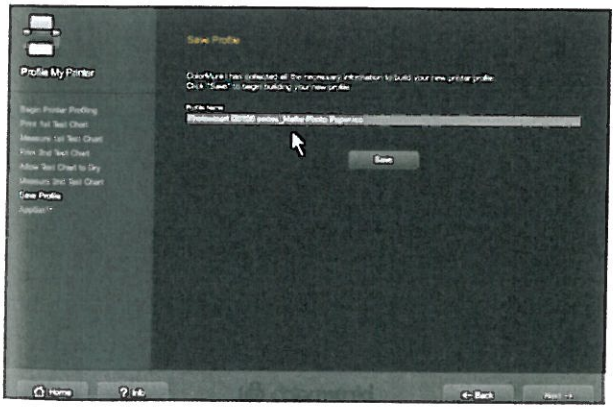
09 Now that you have a printer profile, what do you do with it? On the next pages we'll explain how to find and use the profiles, but if in doubt, you can tell ColorMunki to set this profile as the default setting for Photoshop and any other programs you use to print with. This part of the process is very cool.



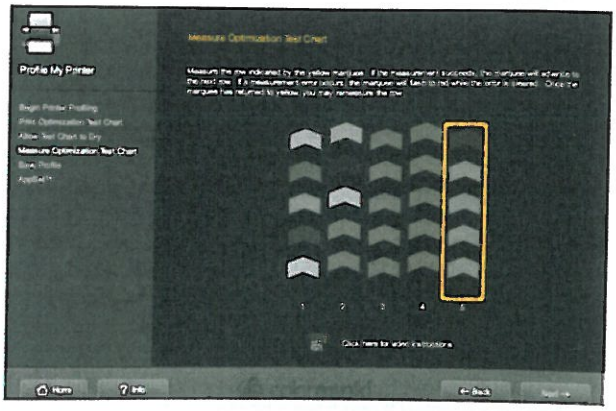
07 With the first test print measured, ColorMunki uses this information to generate a second set of colours and the process is repeated. While the actual measuring and pressing buttons doesn't take long, you may need to allow up to an hour to generate a profile, assuming you let each test print dry for nearly half an hour.



10 Do we have the best possible profile? Possibly not because ColorMunki allows you to refine the profile by printing extra tests based on specific photos. Say you've printed out a black and white portrait and it doesn't look quite right. Return to the ColorMunki software and tell it which photo you were printing. A new test chart will be created using the colours in the photo.



08 With the second test measured, the ColorMunki software goes to work, producing a printer profile. Using the name of the paper you entered at the beginning, it suggests a name for the printer profile. It's easiest to accept this. Your profile is written.



11 Measure this chart the usual way and the ColorMunki will add this information to the existing profile. In this way, you can append the profile with more information and each time you do so, you produce an increasingly accurate profile based on the type of photographs you are printing. And the best news is the price – $649 for a device that profiles both monitors and printers.