

Epson Stylus® Pro 3800 Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What is Epson UltraChrome K3™ Ink Technology?

An 8-color pigment based ink system developed over the past two years with collaboration between Epson and the professional printing industry. Designed to completely replace the previous Epson UltraChrome Inks, Epson UltraChrome K3 is a high-end professional ink set.

Question: How is it different from the previous Epson UltraChrome® Ink Technology?

Eight completely new higher density pigments, new higher gloss resin encapsulation technology, and three levels of black. The only ink that is the same as the previous Epson UltraChrome Ink set is the Matte Black.

Question: How does Epson UltraChrome K3 reduce metamerism?

By using new pigments, resin encapsulation, three levels of black, and a new screening algorithm, we've been able to reduce the effects of metamerism and bronzing from both color and black and white prints to a level below what the human eye can detect.

Question: How does Epson UltraChrome K3 reduce gloss-differential?

By using a new higher gloss resin encapsulation technology along with our three-level black system, we've been able to dramatically reduce the effects of gloss differential from both color and black and white prints from even the glossiest of media's such as Epson Premium Glossy Photo Paper. We are achieving this breakthrough without the need of a gloss optimizer.

Question: How does Epson UltraChrome K3 achieve such a high black density?

Higher density pigments along with a new higher gloss resin encapsulation have allowed us to achieve a level of black density that approaches most dye-based printers.

This is one of the biggest breakthroughs of Epson UltraChrome K3 technology.

Question: Why are Epson UltraChrome K3 prints color stable?

We are using 100% pigment based ink technology – not dye.

Question: Why do Epson UltraChrome K3 prints have such high lightfastness ratings?

We are using 100% pigment based ink technology – not dye.

Question: How does Epson UltraChrome K3 achieve such a wide color gamut?

Higher density pigments along with a new higher gloss resin encapsulation have allowed us to produce prints with an extremely wide color gamut.

Question: Why are Epson UltraChrome K3 prints so hard to scratch? And what about fine art papers?

Epson UltraChrome K3 Ink Technology uses a different method of “binding” the particle of pigment and the glossy resin encapsulation called

“Cross-linking Chemistry”. This chemical process makes the prints significantly harder than the previous Epson UltraChrome Ink technology. As a result, the scratch resistance is amazing on normal RC or Photographic-grade media types.

Fine art papers also benefit, but there is another problem. Although the ink is harder to scratch off, the surface of the print can get “scuffed” and the print will still have a “scratch”. Similar to moving your hand across a suede jacket. The ink did not come off, but you still ruined the print.

Question: Do the Epson UltraChrome K3 inks have less “outgassing” than the previous Epson UltraChrome Inks?

The new Epson UltraChrome K3 inks have about the same outgassing as the previous ink set. So, depending upon the environmental conditions, Epson recommends that you let your prints “outgass” into interleaving papers (Epson Singleweight Matte, Doubleweight Matte, and Presentation Matte all make great interleaving papers) for at least 48 hours before framing.

Please note: You must replace the interleaving paper at the 24 hour mark with a fresh sheet. Proper framing procedures must be used, including no contact between the print and the inside of the glass or UV acrylic.

Question: Which Epson media types produce the best Dmax or L* value?

Our testing has shown the Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper using Photo Black ink will produce a Dmax up to 2.4 with an L* value as low as 3.1.

You will get different results depending upon the media, black ink mode, driver settings, and ICC profile used.

Question: What is the Epson Advanced Black & White Printing Mode?

This is a proprietary Epson screening and color management technology designed specifically to produce professional level black and white prints. The math behind this unique screen technology takes advantage of our three level black technology along with Yellow, Light Cyan, and Light Magenta to produce professional black and white prints from either color or grayscale files.

Epson's new Advanced Black and White printing technology is simply another tool or alternative for professionals to use towards achieving the ultimate black and white print.

Question: Can I still make professional level, metamerism free, black and white prints using the normal "No Color Adjustment" driver setting and a custom ICC profile within Adobe PhotoShop CS2?

Yes. In fact, many professionals may find they can produce better black and white prints using our standard 8-color screening technology and Adobe PhotoShop CS2. We feel professionals will have to try both solutions to make up their minds.

Question: What is Epson PreciseColor™ Technology?

This is a unique production process that measures the amount of ink every newly built printer can flow through its print head. We take this information and feed it back into the printer's memory to essentially "inform" the printer of how much ink its new print head can flow. We also tell the printer how much ink it should be flowing through its print head.

By having both data points, the printer can now compensate for its production process variations and perform consistently with other printers manufactured.

Question: What is Advanced Meniscus Control (AMC™) Technology?

This is one of the major technologies that makes an Epson print so photographic.

Our proprietary print head technology uses this additional technology to control the curvature of every ink droplet within each nozzle before releasing it onto the media. The result is extremely accurate ink droplet placement for outstanding photographic print quality.

Question: Which printer connections will keep the new printers at FULL speed?

All connections will be able to keep this printer models at full print engine speeds. However, when using a USB connection, only USB 2.0 will keep the printer at full print engine speeds. Your CPU will now be the biggest factor in print engine speeds.

Question: What CPU specifications does Epson America recommend for use with the new printers?

For Macintosh Users, we feel a PowerPC G5 or better running Tiger.
For Windows Users, we feel a 3.2 GHz P4 or better running XP (Pro or Home).

Also, you should have at least 1 GB of memory in both systems. For Tiger users, you should have at least 2 GB of memory.

Question: How accurate is the Auto Head Alignment and Cleaning Technology used by the Epson Stylus Pro 3800?

Very. In fact, although you can still perform these maintenance procedures manually, you will probably never be able to beat the accuracy of the white-beam sensor technology inside the printer.

Question: Does Epson America have any recommendations for third-party RIPs?

Epson America tries to be "RIP Neutral". Because there are so many great RIP/Driver solutions available for our product lines, it's hard to pick out just one. Some of our favorites include; EFI/BEST, CGS, GMG, ColorBurst, ColorByte, ONYX, KPG/Creo, Wasatch, etc.

Question: Which Epson media types are SWOP® Certified?

SWOP Certification depends upon the printer model, ink, RIP, and media used. Not just a single media type. Most RIP companies will probably be SWOP Certifying their own RIP solutions with some of our Stylus Pro printer models and media types. Check with your RIP company for more information about SWOP Certification.

The Epson America Professional Editions are SWOP Certified when printing on Epson Premium Semimatte Photo Paper (250) and Epson Proofing Paper Semimatte media types with the supplied SWOP environment setting.

Question: I need to buy a new computer when I install my new Epson printer. Does Epson America have any suggestions?

We get this question asked during every new product launch. The answer is simple, buy the fastest PowerPC G5 or Windows XP CPU you

can afford. Make sure you get at least 1 GB of memory (2 GB if you're running Tiger).

Also, having internal 10/100 BaseT is extremely useful. We highly recommend this option. If you're running over USB, make sure your running at USB 2.0 speeds not 1.1.

Finally, buy a copy of Adobe® PhotoShop® CS2. It's worth it.

If you're a Macintosh® user, upgrade to Tiger. Epson has optimized our Mac OS X drivers to run under Tiger. Tiger is worth the upgrade and the best Mac OS ever made.

Question: Where can I learn more about the Epson Professional Line of printers?

Visit proimaging.epson.com

Question: Where can I purchase an Epson Stylus Pro printer model?

Visit proimaging.epson.com and use our Dealer Locator to find an Authorized Reseller nearest you. Epson America highly recommends using one of our Authorized Resellers when purchasing an Epson Stylus Pro printer, options, and consumables. We've trained these resellers well. So, take advantage of them.

Epson America also sells the Epson Stylus Pro 3800 model through many mail order/internet resellers. Check the internet for product availability.

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RH 08/06/2007