



PREPRESS TWO CENTS: Color: Monitor vs. Proof vs. Printed

Why can they all look different?

OR: Why doesn't the proof match my screen?

You've designed your job, you love the color and you send it off to the printer. It sails through preflight and a couple of days later you receive your high quality Epson color proofs.

The color isn't the same as what you saw on your screen! What's going on? Worse yet, some of these photos have been printed by other companies and the printed pieces don't match the high quality Epson proofs either. Uh oh.

Don't panic; this is a common occurrence. As mentioned in a previous article, the RGB color model used by computer monitors is completely different from the CMYK color model used in printing. The very nature of this difference accounts for some of the difference in color that you see.

There are many factors which can account for color difference. Some computers run color calibration software, some don't. Some monitors are CRT, some are LCD. Some plates are generated by using film and some plates are generated directly from a computer file. Some stocks make colors look brighter, some stocks make colors look darker or muddier.

This is why the same image printed on different kind of stocks, using

different plating methods, or printed by different companies, can potentially all look slightly different.

At Crescent Printing, our high quality 9600 Epson proofer very accurately represents the color of the file you have given us. This means the Epson proof we provide is the only thing you should be looking at to determine if the color is acceptable. The proofs are generated using an international standard that our presses can hit and which our pressmen will use to match the color once your job is ready for printing.

Keep in mind that our color verification software for the Epson 9600 doesn't allow a discrepancy of higher than 2.5 delta E. The human eye, in most cases, cannot even detect a difference in this range. All of our proofs are checked with this color verification software and labeled to show that they are within the established tolerance range.

You can be confident knowing that we are always working to provide the best possible color for your printed piece.

