

Digital Diva

Question: What are color profiles and why is it necessary to convert to sRGB for projection or the web?

Have you ever wondered why your entries, which looked so vibrant at home, looked dull when projected at our meetings?

When working with PhotoShop, PhotoShop Elements or any other program that supports color management, we like to work in Adobe RGB or Pro Photo RGB which give us the widest range of colors that it is possible to print on our inkjet printers. This color range is known as the **Color Gamut** of the space. If you choose a color that is not within that range it would be **out of gamut**.

If we were to look at the two photos below in a color managed space, such as Photoshop, they would look exactly the same, but you can see that moving them into an unmanaged space, i.e. the web, which is where you are looking at them now, immediately shows us the difference. The photo on the left, my adorable great nephew Willem at 1 year old, looks very drab compared to the image on the right. The only difference between these two images is the color profile assigned to them.



Willem_ProPhoto RGB



Willem_sRGB

The color space assigned to the web, sRGB, is much smaller than that of Adobe RGB and even more so of ProPhoto RGB, so it cannot show all the colors that are in this photo. By changing the colors to sRGB it assigns colors that are out of gamut to the closest color that is available within the gamut of sRGB, so that your picture is rendered the same in this unmanaged space as it originally looked in the managed space.

So, to have your entries looking the best they possibly can be sure to convert them to the sRGB color profile before sending them on to me.

Susannah