

Re: color space of a scanned image

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.image.processing/2006-06/msg00208.html>

- *From:* "vonschwartzwalder" <vonschwartzwalder@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 23 Jun 2006 14:28:25 -0700
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Wil,

With a color profile you are probably getting sRGB from the scanner. I didn't say sRGB from JPEG, because I don't know how your JPEG decoder works.

I can't really say much about how your system is set up. One thing you could do is print a test pattern of color blocks, scan it, display the scan on screen and see if the screen matches the printed test pattern. If it does you are either very lucky or your entire system (printer, screen and scanner) are using profiles. You won't get a perfect match, though, because the screen gamut and printer gamuts are different (printer is smaller).

As for the manual describing things: this is probably a consumer level device. The technical writers don't include stuff like that because it just generates support calls and/or confuses the user. The hardware is likely much more capable than they tell you. A profile system is not something everyday users care about, they just want the colors to be 'good'.

Once you know the words 'color space' you become a 'power user' and you get to learn everything from somewhere else. Given today's technology, if the above test works, you get sRGB.

How critical is your color measurement? Given you are using a consumer level scanner you can probably just assume sRGB and convert to L*a*b* from there. If that's not good enough you'll probably have to invest in something a little better for color measurement.

duane

news.purdue.edu wrote:

Dear Duane,

Thanks for your reply.

When you said RGB, do you mean sRGB?

When a scanner is set up, the ICC profile is installed automatically and is

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used when it scans, is that correct?

Is there any rule here how I can determine it? I did have checked the manual and specification of the scanner, but didn't get anything related to color space.

wil.

"vonschwartzwalder" <vonschwartzwalder@xxxxxxx> wrote in message news:1151066186.296774.15360@xx

There are two likely possibilities:

- 1) if you got a JPEG, it's YCbCr that is converted to RGB when decoded
- 2) any other file type on Windoze is RGB

If you used an ICC profile, you probably got sRGB, so converting to L*a*b* is possible.

Is that what you are after, or is there a real question behind this one?

duane

wil wrote:

Hi all,

I read a lot of materials on the web related to color management but still could not answer this question.

I used a HP flatbed scanner connected to a Windows XP PC and created a few scanned samples. I need to further manipulate them, and in particular I want to perform a few experiments that require converting the data into L*a*b* color space. Before doing this, I however don't know what color space the image files are now in.

Anyone can help me to figure this out? Is there anything I can look into to find this out? Is it related to the setting of the ICC profile installed with the scanner?

I appreciate for your kind help. Thanks a lot.

wil.

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