Soft Proofing Your Image

Soft proofing allows you to see what your image will look like with a particular ICC profile. Matt Schmidt of the NVPS Tech Team has generated a ICC profile when calibrating the NVPS projector. You can use this profile to soft proof you images in Photoshop to see what they will look like on the NVPS projector. It's critical that you've calibrated your own monitor accurately for the soft proof to work correctly.

You can use this same technique for previewing what images will look like with printer profiles.

You must be using the full Photoshop (CS) to do soft proofing - Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop Elements do not support this. There is a plug-in for Elements that claims to support this, it's called Elements +, but I don't know anyone who has used it, so try it at your own risk. http://simplephotoshop.com/elementsplus/.

NVPS Digital Projector

The NVPS projector's color gamut is slightly smaller than the standard sRGB color gamut as seen in the comparison in Image 1. The grey outline is the sRGB color space, the colored areas are the colors that the projector is capable of producing.

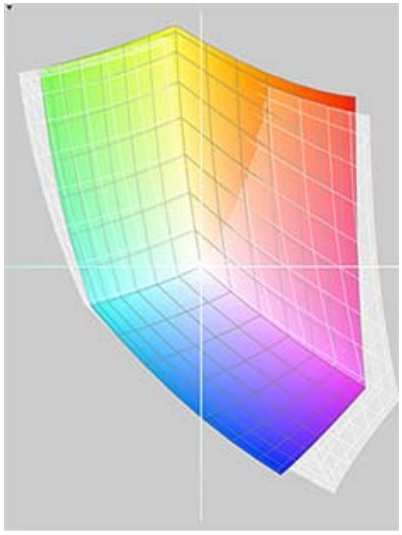


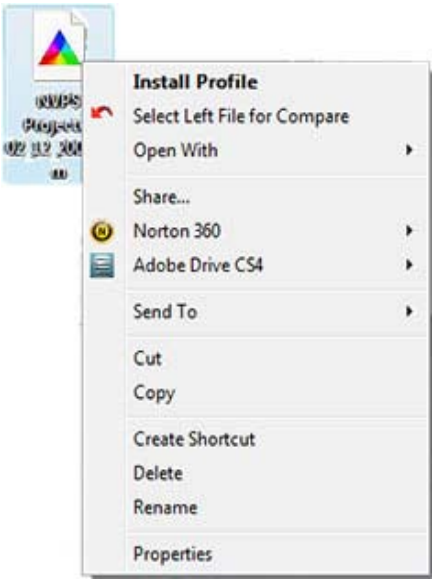
Image 1 - Courtesy Matthew Schmidt

Because of this difference in color gamut, heavily saturated colors will tend to project slightly flatter on the screen, and blacks will tend to muddy down to a single color. Using the image in Image 2 below as an example, the blacks in the Kodak CYM chart (vertical grayscale strip on the right of the image) from 15 - 20 all appear to be identical.

Image 2- Courtesy Matthew Schmidt

Download NVPS Projector Profile

Download the profile from the NVPS website. Close Photoshop and follow the instructions for installing the profile for the operating system you are using.



For Windows:

1. Click once on the profile file
2. Click your right mouse button and the menu above (or something similar) will show
3. Select "Install Profile" from the menu

If you have any problems you can manually copy the profile file to the following locations depending on your operating system.

OS	ICC File Location
Win 98/ME	Windows/System/Color
Win NT/2000	Windows/System32/Spool/Drivers/Color
WinXP / Vista	Windows/System32/Spool/Drivers/Color

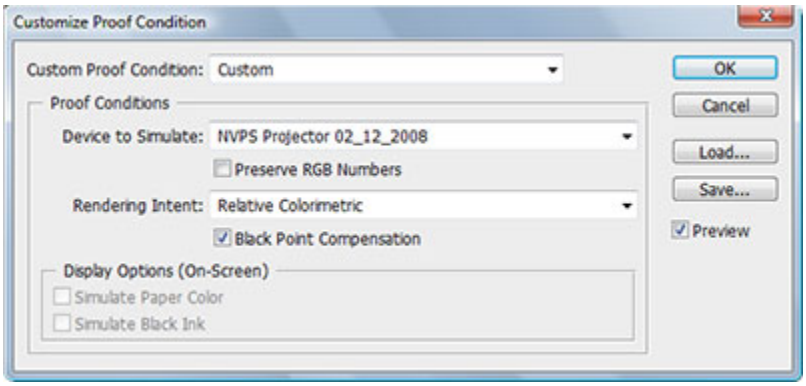
For Mac OS manually copy the profile to the following location depending on your operating system version.

OS	ICC File Location
Mac OS 9.2.2	System Folder/Colorsync Profiles
Mac OSX	Library/Colorsync/Profiles

Soft Proofing in Photoshop

Tools Used: Customize Proof Conditions (Photoshop CS Family, 7, 6.5 & 6 only)

Steps



1. From the menu choose View > Proof Setup > Custom
2. Choose the NVPS Profile as the device to simulate
3. Uncheck preserver RGB numbers
4. Use the Relative Colormetric rendering intent
5. Check Blackpoint Compensation
6. Check Preview
7. Save your custom proof condition to a name you will remember

You can now select your custom proof condition any time to see what your image will look like on the NVPS Projector. You can turn the proof on and off with the "Proof Colors" menu selection. You can also check if any of the colors are out of Gamut (out of range to be reproduced) by turning the Gamut Warning on.

On the left is an oversaturated image, on the right is the image previewed with the NVPS profile. The gray areas show where the image is out of Gamut. This is the visual Gamut warning.