

Note on 2400 and other K3 Printers

While the R2400 can make very good looking B&W prints in its standard configuration, the "Advanced B&W" mode prints use more color inks than are necessary. As such, the lightfastness is compromised, and the images suffer from some metamerism.

There are several cures for these problems. Of course, the first would be to use a 100% carbon printing approach, but staying with the 2400, the 2 approaches that make the most sense are, first, to use what I call the Y = Carbon approach, and, second, to use a rip.

Y=Carbon

The Y=Carbon approach substitutes a carbon ink for the yellow-position color ink. The MIS C84 - C88 EZ-Warm yellow position cartridge fits into the 2400 yellow slot, and the chip even works in the 2400. With this setup and the ABW mode controls, the 2400 can make neutral B&W prints that are very good and use the least amount of color inks. It has the advantage that it continues to use the easy Advanced B&W mode with the Epson driver. With MIS carbon inks in the LK and LLK spots, the range of tones is very good. For pure carbon printing, the ABW controls cannot be used, but RGB curves can be used.

For a comparison of 1600 dpi scans of the 5% and 10% patches of test strips using the standard ABW mode with yellow ink installed, ABW with EZ-W carbon ink installed, and RGB mode with Y=EZW, see http://www.paulroark.com/BW-Info/2400_RGB_Y=EZW_1600-DPI.jpg. The bottom line is that ABW mode with Y=EZW is the smoothest.

I recommend the use of MIS LK and LLK because they are warmer than Epson's, thus allowing the ABW mode to achieve more warmth than when Epson OEM inks are used. Additionally, I think the MIS carbon tone is a better carbon print than the greener Epson LLK makes.

Note that this approach allows easy switching back and forth between color and B&W printing. To swap carts with less ink waste, open the lid with the printer off. Turn the printer on. As the cart moves to the left, cut the power to the printer (pull the plug or switch it off at the power bar). Swap the yellow-position cart. Switch the power back on for the printer.

For the MIS ink EZ inks, go to <http://www.inksupply.com/utez.cfm>

RIPs

RIPs (raster image processors) are third party software programs that can control the printer to a greater extent than the Epson driver. As such, they can print B&W with the least amount of color pigments being used, like the Y=Carbon approach, above. RIPs are beyond the scope of this note. The most popular one for B&W is QuadToneRip (QTR), see <http://www.quadtonerip.com/html/QTRoverview.html>

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