

ColorVision/DataColor Spectro

www.PaulRoark.com

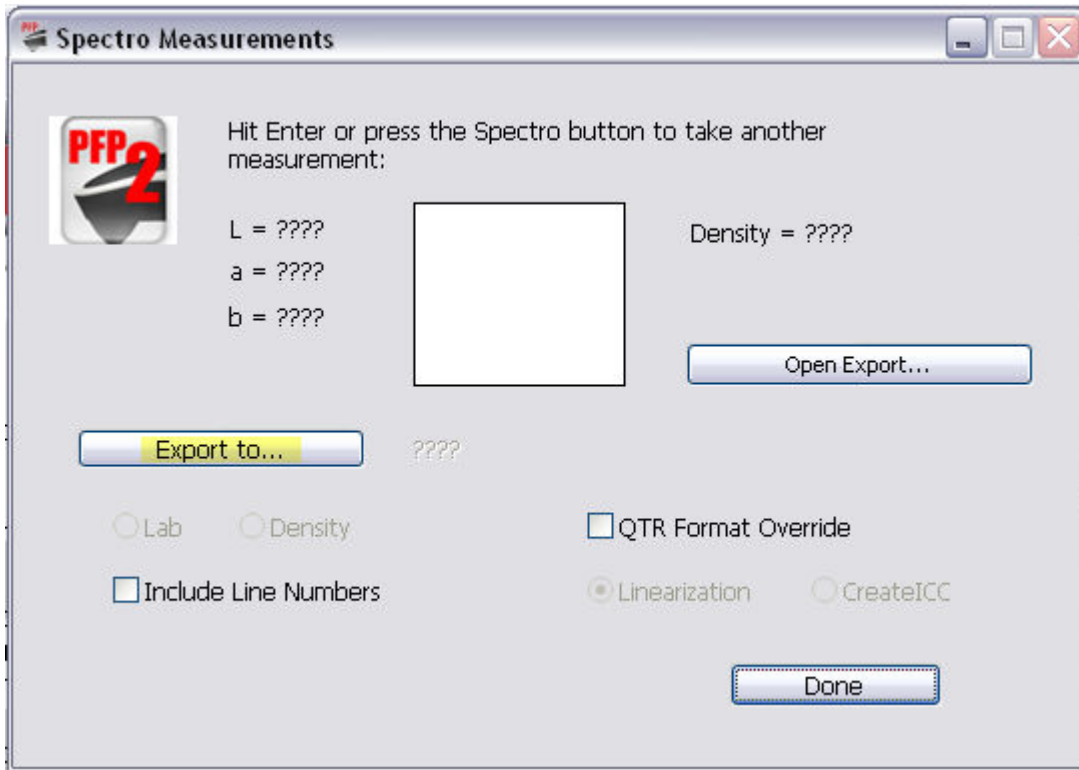
5-18-09

I regularly use the ColorVision/DataColor spectro (PrintFix Pro 2 or other) to measure B&W test strips for making QTR and other profiles. This is a brief description of my workflow.



On the first screen of the software version I have (and they are all somewhat similar), clicking on Tools results in a drop down menu that includes a number of items. The first thing that needs to be done is to calibrate the spectro.

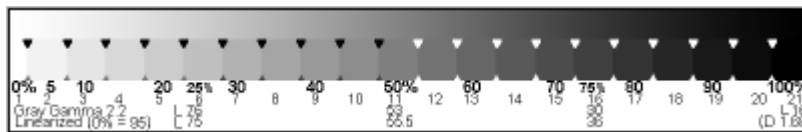
Once this is done Tools>Measure gets you to the box that controls the spectro.



If you're just looking for the best dmax or otherwise not interested in saving a series of readings, just measure and the results will be shown.

If you want a series of numbers for linearization, click on "Export to" and tell the software what to name the file. I have the file name include, in order, the printer, inkset, paper, and then tone or other information, separated by a hyphen (or underscore). You'll find there are limits on the length of the file name.

After the file name is specified, I read the 21-Step test file, from left (paper white) to right (100% black). I use a version of this file:



One version of this file is at <http://www.paulroark.com/BW-Info/21-Step.jpg> I'd save it as a Tiff file to avoid any deterioration of the file.

After I read the 21 steps manually, the "Done" button is pushed.

The files are saved as text files in the following folder for Windows XP and the older versions of this software: "C:\Program Files\ColorVision\PrintFIX PRO\Data\Export" I make a shortcut to this location for my Desktop so I don't have to type all this every time I want to open one of the files.

Newer versions of the DataColor software may save the text files in the following folder:
"C:\Documents and Settings\Paul Roark\Application
Data\Datacolor\Spyder3Print\Data\Export"

This avoids some of the security problems Vista has with storing data in Program Files.

The data is arranged in 3 columns, with Lab L at the left, Lab A in the middle, and Lab B at the right.

These text files can be opened by any number of programs. I personally open them first with Excel so that I can graph the results to see how linear the Lab L is and what the Lab A and B tones are. In Excel I highlight/select the data I want to see and click on Insert>Chart>Line. I graph/chart Lab L separately and Lab A & B in a single chart. I adjust the vertical axis of the Lab A & B charts to cover the range -5 to +5, with one unit divisions. A uniform scale helps in comparing, and less than a 1 unit change is essentially irrelevant.

To linearize QTR, I just copy and paste the data into Notepad or open the file with Notepad and paste the Lab L data into QTR. For Create ICC, just save the Notepad file to the Desktop, and drag and drop it into Create ICC.