

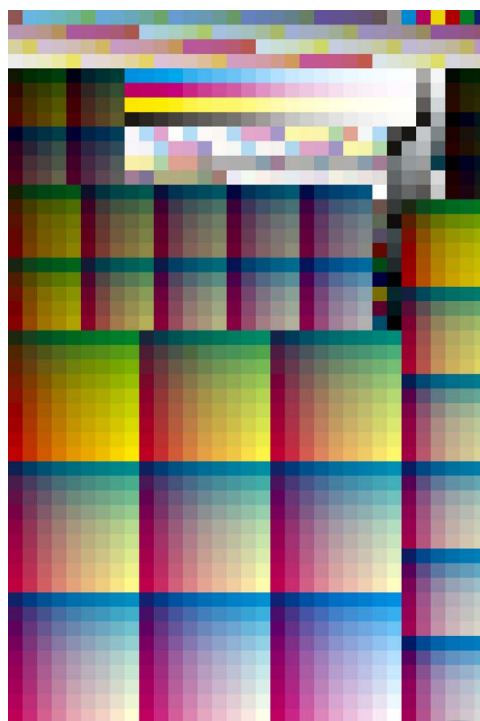
Introducing the IT8.7/5

The IT8.7/5 is a new CMYK printer characterization target combining the unique patch values in the standard IT8.7/4 target with all the patch values in columns 4 and 5 of the P2P51 target.

The IT8.7/5 maintains the same patch count as the IT8.7/4 (1,617 – hence the name) by removing 29 duplicate patches from the IT8.7/4 and replacing them with the 29 patches in columns 4 and 5 of the P2P51 that were absent in the IT8.7/4.



IT8.7/5



IT8.7/4 (visual)

Benefits for the G7 Master submission process

The primary purpose of the IT8.7/5 is to reduce the time and cost of verifying G7 Colorspace compliance, by eliminating the need to print and measure two separate targets (the IT8.7/4 and the P2P51).

Effective immediately, print samples submitted for G7 Master Colorspace evaluation may include a single IT8.7/5 target instead of separate IT8.7/4 and P2P targets.

Benefits for ICC profiling

An important side benefit of the IT8.7/5 compared to the IT8.7/4 is that it improves the characterization accuracy of a printing system, thanks to the addition of 29 new gray patches. Under certain circumstances this can produce more accurate ICC profiles and less chance of unwanted color artifacts in neutral gray image areas, but the difference may be difficult to detect except on extremely stable printing systems.

Introducing the IT8.7/5

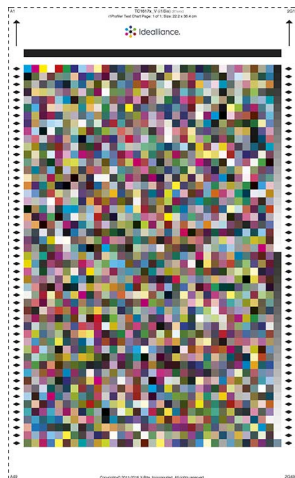
Design

Unlike the IT8.7/4, the IT8.7/5 is only available in randomized layouts (there is no “visual” version), however the CMY and K-only gray patches are not randomized, but rather arranged as two contiguous gray ramps along the edge of the target. This helps reduce small tonality or color variations throughout the gray ramps due to in-line ink starvation effects or uneven inking that would be magnified if the gray patches were randomized throughout the target.

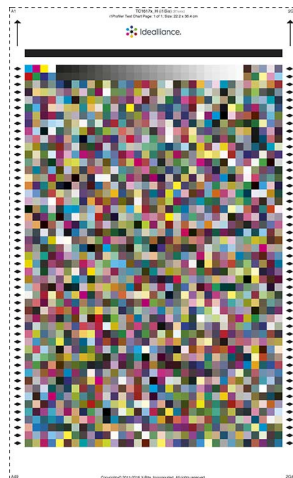
Standard IT8.7/5 image files

Three versions of the IT8.7/5 are available from the Idealliance website; two for the i1iSis and one for the i1iO. The two i1iSis targets are designed for either vertical or horizontal gray ramp alignment, and are marked accordingly with “V” or “H” in their names.

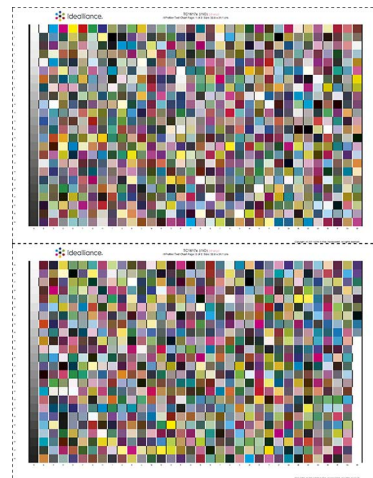
The i1iO target contains two pages in one image, with the gray scales in line with each other. Before measuring, cut the pages apart so the top of each page is closest to the i1iO armature.



IT8.7/5_V



IT8.7/5_H



IT8.7/5 (i1iO)

Orientation on press

On printing systems subject to uneven inking or directional ink exhaustion, align the IT8.7/5 so the gray ramps point in the direction of paper travel (e.g. around an offset press cylinder) or parallel to ink variation lines. This minimizes the chance of color anomalies within each gray ramp and can yield smoother curves and better G7 $w\Delta Ch$ and $w\Delta L^*$ scores.

16 bit target precision

The supplied 8 bit TIFF CMYK target images were produced using LSB error diffusion, giving each patch effectively 16 bit precision when integrated by a spectrophotometer aperture. This extra precision can be important in very light gray patches between 0 and 20%.

User-created targets (from the supplied CGATS text files) may not have the same accuracy but should be adequate for most purposes.

CAUTION: Lossy (e.g. JPEG) compression or re-sizing will eliminate most of the extra precision contained in the supplied 8 bit dithered targets.

Introducing the IT8.7/5

Instrument compatibility

The supplied IT8.7/5 target images can be measured on the Konica Minolta FD9, X-Rite i1iSis or i1iSis XL (1 or 2) and the X-Rite i1iO (1 or 2).

Software compatibility

The IT8.7/5 can be measured by any software that drives the above instruments and accepts X-Rite .pwx or .rwx workflow files, or standard CGATS .txt files. Before measuring, copy the supplied .pwx, .rwx or .txt files into a location where the software can easily find them.

Custom IT8.7/5 target images can be created and measured on other software or devices using the supplied CGATS .txt files, but may not be so accurate (see *16 bit target precision*).

ICC profiles can be created from IT8.7/5 data in baslCColor print, X-Rite i1Profiler, or any software that accepts (and uses all the patches of) customer-generated CMYK target designs.

Impact on Idealliance press forms

The IT8.7/4 will be replaced by the IT8.7/5 in all press forms and G7 Master kits on the Idealliance website.

Impact on the P2P target

The IT8.7/5 eliminates the need for a separate P2P51 target for G7 Master Colorspace submissions, but the P2P51 is still recommended for G7 Grayscale or G7 Targeted submissions, and is still required by certain G7 calibration or verification software.

Impact on present and future CRPC data sets

Present (and future) CRPC data sets that have been (and will be) issued by CGATS or ISO in standard IT8.7/4 format will also be distributed by Idealliance in the G7-friendly IT8.7/5 format. This is being done because of the following advantages;

- The IT8.7/5 contains real data for 25 G7 CMY gray samples compared to only 3 real G7 CMY gray samples in the IT8.7/4
- The IT8.7/5 contains real data for 25 G7 K-only samples compared to only 17 real G7 K-only samples in the IT8.7/4
- Due to the lack of 29 real G7 gray samples, IT8.7/4-based profiles may not be as accurate in G7 gray areas as IT8.7/5-based profiles
- Prints based on IT8.7/5 profiles may achieve better scores for $w\Delta Ch$ and $w\Delta L^*$
- IT8.7/5 -based prints may have better accuracy or stability in gray image areas
- Profiles made from IT8.7/4 and IT8.7/5 datasets should be visually identical

Note that for practical purposes, each pair of data sets will be interchangeable, however the IT8 version will continue to be the only official “standard” data until further notice.

Comparing IT8.7/5 data to legacy IT8.7/4 data

The 29 new gray patches added to IT8.7/5 data sets will be synthesized to perfectly meet the G7 neutral gray definitions in ANSI CGATS TR015. Some legacy-data patches (e.g. white, gray or black) may also have to be adjusted slightly to align with the new G7-perfect patches, but these changes should be very small and invisible to the eye.

Large Aperture Device Targets (LAD)

Recent years have seen an increase in the volume of printing onto fabrics. This increase has heightened the popular demand for large aperture color instruments in order to capture more accurately a better overall sampling of color on uneven surfaces. With the growth in demand has come new instruments on the market which serve to make large aperture measuring more affordable and available to more users. With this in mind, Idealliance and the Print Properties Committee, have made available several of the more common Characterization targets and control wedges, with large enough patches to meet Instrument Manufacturers' minimum requirements including:

IT8.7/5 - Available at www.idealliance.org/specifications/gracol/

12647-7 3-Row Control Wedge - Available at www.idealliance.org/specifications/gracol/

These charts are fundamental to industry leading color management strategies including G7® based print production

When possible, the larger, multi-page targets should be used rather than the smaller targets. There are other LAD patches provided through other applications designed for specific purposes, but many may not yield optimal results that are found when using certain targets.

The image files of these charts include 16-bit precision of color in certain gray patches. The included reference (.txt, .pwx, .rwx) files can be used to create your own custom layout charts in your own chart generating software, but custom targets may not have the same precision as the .tif files included in this package. For many calibration purposes, this image precision (or lack of it) may not make a difference in the final outcome.

Unless stated otherwise, these charts will be able to be measured on all large-aperture instruments popular in the industry today. They can be measured using the Barbieri LFP and LFPq using the 8mm aperture, and the X-Rite i1IO3 using the Plus version of the i1Pro, for M0, M1, M2 and M3 (polarized) measuring modes.

Essential resources including G7 Master Qualification test charts such as the Idealliance P2P (proof to print) target, and G7 Verifier, formatted for large aperture devices, are also available to certified Idealliance G7 Experts & G7 Professionals, G7 Process Control Experts, and BrandQ Experts. Sign in to www.idealliance.org to access those resources.

