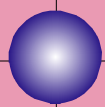


A large, stylized blue graphic on a blue background. The top part is a spiral that starts from a central circle and winds outwards. Below the spiral is a stylized figure, possibly a dancer, with a long, thin neck and a head that is a solid circle. The figure's arms are outstretched, and its legs are also stylized.

Tips and Tricks

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the digital doctor

By Helene DeLillo

Send your questions or image challenges to Helene DeLillo at: *Digital Imaging, Ask Dr. Helene*, Cygnus Business Media, 445 Broad Hollow Road, Melville, NY 11747, or e-mail: editor@digitalimagingmag.com and we will forward your queries to the digital doctor.

ASK DR. HELENE



What do you think of the Olympus P400?
Cristy, photographer

We just tested the Olympus P400 in my studio. It is a cool dye sublimation printer. Dye sublimation printers use multicolored ribbons and special glossy paper to create photorealistic output. The output from this printer is really beautiful. In the past, I never really liked dye sub printers because they were too slow, too expensive and a pain to calibrate. However, this printer is fast, has good color and is reasonably priced. The prints look like photographs made from light-sensitive paper and chemicals. I was really impressed by this product.



I have one problem that I could use some help resolving — scanning black-and-white negatives. Do you have any ideas on this? Or any suggestions or additional reference manuals that may describe how to accomplish this?
J.D., photographer

I usually scan my black-and-white negatives as color (RGB). The tonal range captured is much greater, and I can convert it in Photoshop to black and white using three different functions depending on my preference.

The first is by going to the Image menu and selecting Grayscale. This technique takes all of your RGB channels and converts it to one channel.

The second way is by creating a new adjustment layer. Go to the Layer menu, select New Adjustment Layer, and choose Hue/Saturation, then -100 in the saturation. This works for some images, however it doesn't always do the best job. I

prefer to manage the highlight mid-tones and shadows from RGB channels using this method.

Go to the Layer menu, select New Adjustment Layer and choose Channel Mixer. Make the Output Channel Green, then click on the Monochrome box.

I start with Green. Experiment and have fun with this technique — it's just an adjustment layer, so you can always change it.



I just bought a Mac (Dual 450, 256 RAM, 36GB SCSI hard drive), and now I need to address the monitor. In an article you recently wrote, you said that you are an advocate of the Apple 21-inch ColorSync Studio Display. I cannot seem to find one. I have been looking at other 21-inch monitors by Sony. What is your opinion of that? Where would you recommend that I look for the ColorSync you referenced?
Doug, graphic designer

Apple only makes a 17-inch ColorSync — great monitor, but too small for me. However, many photographers prefer this model.

Personally, I like the studio display — the big, cool-looking flat-screen model. You will need to purchase a calibration tool, but it features great color and is all digital.



How can I get rid of the streaking lines on my Epson 1200 printer that look like they're coming from the paper rollers?
Megan, graphic designer

The ink heads dry or clog out if you don't use the inkjet printers regularly. Here are the steps for the 1200:

If you notice streaks of ink marring your printouts, your printer's paper eject rollers may be dirty. You can clean the rollers using the cleaning tool that came with your printer (or you can just use cotton swabs). Follow these steps:

1. Make sure the printer is turned off and the power light is off.
2. Place several sheets of plain paper in the printer.
3. Dampen the cleaning tool, and then squeeze out any excess water.
4. Hold down the yellow ink cartridge replacement button, and then turn on the printer by pressing the power button. Continue holding down the yellow button until you see all three control panel lights flashing.
5. Press the load/eject button. A sheet of paper feeds into the printer (under the paper eject rollers) and the rollers turn slowly.
6. Wipe ink off from the rollers using the dampened cleaning tool as shown in your manual. If the paper ejects before you finish cleaning, press the load/eject button to feed another sheet into the printer.
7. When you're finished, turn the printer off. (Visit Epson's Web site, www.epson.com, for more information.)



Helene DeLillo owns and manages Dancing Icon, Inc. in New York City. Specializing in digital imaging, Dancing Icon has designed some of the biggest digital photography studios in the city, including Sothebys.com and Pier 59 Studios. To reach her, call (800) 626-0817.