

If you have an earlier version of Elements, the dialogue boxes are slightly different.

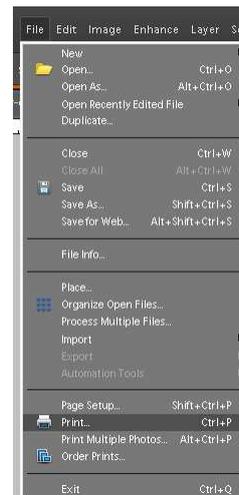
There is a separate tutorial for these.

Unfortunately it's not that simple. But it is understandable and very satisfying once you know how to make it work.

Just choose print... ?

Using the menu

Choosing File from the menu bar will open this dialogue.

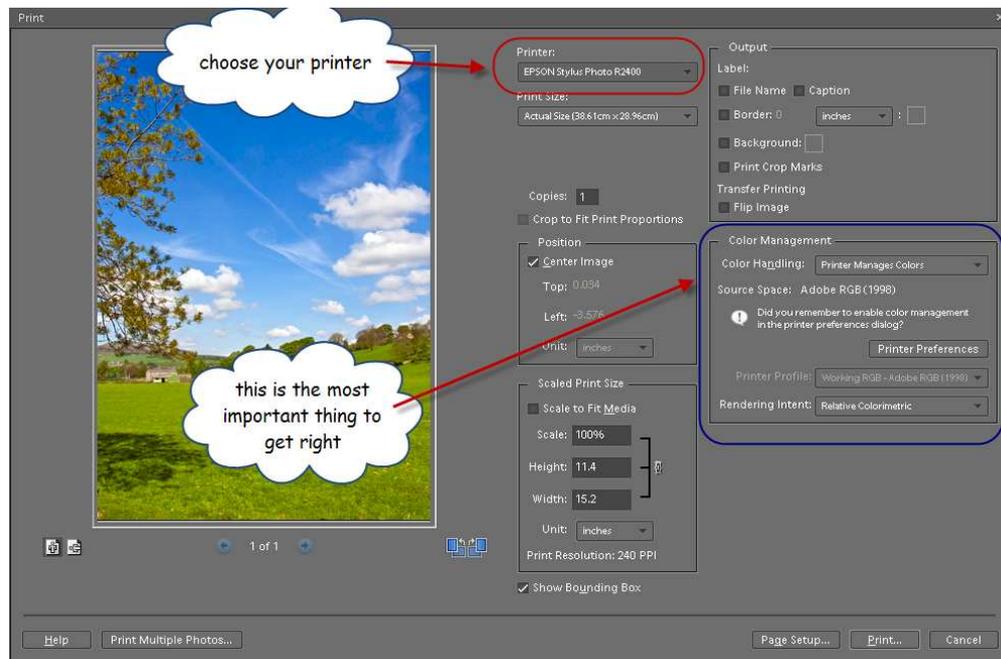


Page Set-up will allow you to check that you have the correct size of paper but you can also do this when you choose Print.

Print “Multiple Photos” and “Order Prints” need not concern us here.

So – just choose Print.

Photoshop Elements print dialogue.



At first sight, this looks quite intimidating. On closer examination, most of it is self-evident and we only need to look at “Colour Management” in detail...

Colour Handling

This section offers three choices:

1. Printer manages colours
2. Elements manages colours
3. No colour management.



Many people find that choosing “Printer Manages Colours” works well. If you use the printer manufacturer’s own paper and ink, then this is option is worth trying.

If you use third-party papers and/or inks or you choose to have print profiles made that match your system more accurately, you should choose “Elements manages colours”.

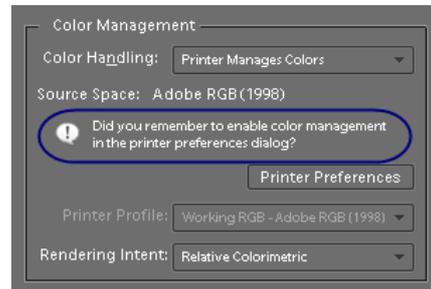
The third option, “No colour management”, is not used for normal printing. The only time you may use this is if you have custom profiles made. If so, the profile maker will provide full details.

In the following section, we will deal with the first two options.

Printer manages colours

In this dialogue, “Source Space” shows that the image we are about to print is in the Adobe RGB colour space.

The important part is ringed in blue. Pressing the “Printer Preferences” button will open the printer manufacturer’s print dialogue.



Navigating this is the subject of another tutorial!

Elements manages colours

With this option we are reminded to turn-off the printer’s own colour management. But, before we do this, there are other things to sort out – the Printer Profile and the Rendering Intent.



Printer Profiles

When you installed your printer, profiles for the manufacturer's materials would have been installed at the same time. In recent years these profiles have improved a great deal. It's worth visiting the printer manufacturer's website from time to time to get the latest profiles.

Other media manufacturers such as Ilford, Permajet, Lyson and Fotospeed provide profiles for their materials. Some will produce custom profiles, free of charge, for your system for their materials.

When you click the down-arrow next to "Printer Profile" you will be presented with a list of all of the profiles on your computer.

You need to choose the one that matches the material you are using.

For example, if I want to print on Epson Archival Matte using my R2400 printer, then I would choose the first option shown opposite.



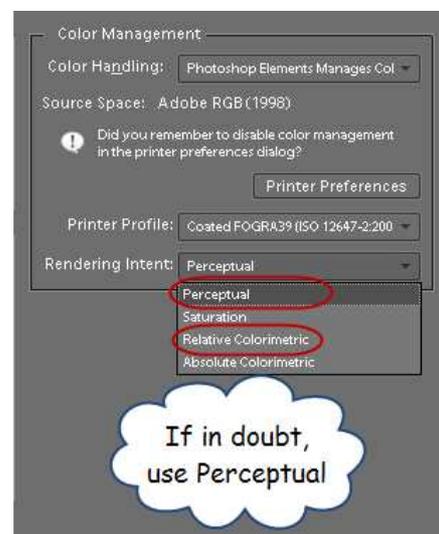
Rendering Intent

In simple terms, "rendering intent" determines how the information in the image space (e.g. Adobe RGB) is converted to the printer's colour space.

For photography the choice is either Perceptual or Relative Colorimetric.

For most images you'll find that perceptual works best.

The only way to really decide which to use is to do test prints. The differences will be quite subtle.



Ready to go

With all these choices made, the next step is to find your way through the printer's dialogue. This is covered in another tutorial.

