

*FAQ: Audience questions from  
“Find More Colors: Expand Your Printing Options With Pantone CMYK Guides”  
Webinar*

Thank you for your interest in our November 2021 Graphics Webinar, “Find More Colors: Expand Your Printing Options With Pantone CMYK Guides”. This FAQ answers the questions from the sessions. A recording of the Webinar is available here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8063045740384997902>

Session 1: November 9, 9:00 AM EST / 3:00 PM CET

**Which GraCOL profile is used for the US?**

There are actually six GRACOL profiles available for different paper types, but the only ones you need to use are GRACoL2013\_CRPC6 and maybe GRACoL2013\_CRPC3. CRPC6 is for a #1 coated sheet, so it is recommended for use in Creative Cloud because if you ever convert RGB to CMYK – such as in Photoshop – the converted CMYK will look good because the CRPC6 profile has a large gamut.

CRPC6 corresponds with the Pantone Coated CMYK and the Pantone Coated Color Bridge Guides.

CRPC3 is for an uncoated stock. If you are using colors from either the Pantone Uncoated CMYK or Pantone Uncoated Color Bridge Guide, and you want the reasonably accurate on-screen appearance, switch your CMYK working space to GRACoL2013\_CRPC3. Remember, however, to switch it back afterwards or all your RGB to CMYK image conversions will have a dull appearance since the gamut of CRPC3 is smaller than that of CRPC6.

**I'm in Europe, but can I send my students to: <https://idealliance.org/specifications/gracol/> to get US profiles? Could it be "GRACoL/SWOP 2013 ICC Profiles" that I should send them to?**

Yes, you can access this link from anywhere in Europe as far as we know. You can also get CRPC6 and CRPC3 here:

<https://www.color.org/registry/index.xalter>

**Is Pantone Connect an alternative to using a pantone book to check colours?**

Only for getting inspiration colors, such as extracting them from images or using the Color Match Card. Pantone Connect will not give you a perfectly accurate on-screen appearance of the colors unless you have an accurately calibrated, professional-grade color monitor, so the Pantone Guides and Chip books are still essential for you to see color in the physical world and show it to design clients so that they know what to expect when a design is printed.

**If I wanted to pick a colour for a print job and I don't have access to a pantone book. Can I choose a colour from Pantone Connect?**

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Yes, you can, but the appearance on screen will probably not match the way the color looks if it is going to be printed. See the previous question and answer.

**Is the RGB visual representative of the printed colour?**

It can be but it requires a high-quality display that you calibrate regularly with a spectrophotometer or colorimeter and proper configuration in Adobe Creative Cloud using the “Proof Setup” controls.

**Is there a way non-printers can project RGB or CMYK in LAB space to convert colours?**

You can project colors or ICC profiles into CIELAB space as I showed using a tool like Chromix Colorthink. You can also convert lists of color values as well with Colorthink, but for most conversions (of images and other design elements) you should use the control in Creative Cloud. This is mainly in Photoshop where you can choose Mode from the Image menu to change the color space which uses a color managed conversion through CIELAB, or, if you want more control over the conversion, choose Convert to Profile from the Edit menu.

**I have a creative cloud subscription and have purchased books in the past, yet there is a subscription fee for me to use Pantone Connect. You mention it being free but that wasn't the case for me.**

I apologize if I gave you the impression that Pantone Connect is free. What you may have heard me say is the Connect Extension for Creative Cloud is free, but you will still need to subscribe to Connect. Your Creative Cloud subscription does not give you access to the latest Pantone colors or the values for them – see elsewhere in this FAQ where some attendees report these discrepancies. To get all the Pantone Colors and the right color values for them in Creative Cloud you need a Pantone Connect subscription. Remember, you get three months free with the purchase of a new guide and it's additive for every book/guide purchased.

**I got the color match card, but it is not compatible with the iphone 13 pro. Do you think Pantone will update it so it will be compatible with the 13 Pro?**

We are working on this. Always make sure you have updated to the latest version of Connect on your mobile device.

**Hello, can I receive a copy of the webinar to review it again?**

The link to the recording is at the top of this FAQ. It is:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8063045740384997902>

**Does Pantone Connect replace the Capsure product?**

No. Capsure is a hardware device for measuring a color and finding the closest Pantone Color. You can do this with Connect only if you get a Color Match card which we highly recommend

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since you normally carry your phone and can put a color match card with it rather than always walking around with a Capsure device.

**What's the point of using D50 lighting when the consumer is never going to see the print in that light, thus never seeing the true colour?**

That is a good question, but the answer is that in the printing industry you will always approve color in D50 light so it is best to use this throughout the production process. In case a customer ever complains about color match in some other lighting you can demonstrate that it “works” in the D50 standard light of the photo and printing industries. There are consultants that can develop workflows to match colors in non-D50 lighting. Also, if you use spot colors printed as spot colors from the Pantone Formula Guide these may be less affected by metamerism (the technical term for colors matching in one viewing condition, but not in another).

**The colours that we see on Pantone Connect are ultimately seen from a digital screen, i.e., RGB space, so do the CMYK colours appear different to us?**

The CMYK values in Connect use the sRGB values and represent the CMYK appearance either for the CMYK Guide or Bridge Guide CMYK. Connect does not yet have full color management to let you control how to convert this to your monitor space, but you can get accurate soft-proof by using the colors from Connect in Adobe Creative Cloud and sRGB values will work since they are the right values to represent the appearance of the CMYK tint.

Remember that for soft-proofing to work you need a fairly high-end display, something that usually costs at least \$2,000 U.S. and has 12-bit DACs and other electronics to properly render gray tones. You also need a measuring device (spectrophotometer or colorimeter), associated software to calibrate it and to create an ICC Profile for your display. Ideally you should have a darkened viewing environment with a tabletop ISO compliant D50 light booth with adjustable brightness. You need this last item so that you can take a contract proof and put it in the booth to confirm it matches the calibrated display.

**Is there a difference between the CMYK Guides and conventional color CMYK books, such as DCS from graphipress? Which begs the question, up to which percent of any given color of the four that are reproducible? 1, 2 or 5%?**

Yes. The DCS book is used to help you predict what various combinations of CMYK will look like, so that you can use them in a design, but more typically it’s so that you know the tint values to match a real-world object. You could use the Pantone CMYK Guide in this same way and the advantage is that the book is printed to compliance with an industry press reference.

**I have the color picker and the app and it's not working. What can I do?**

What app is that? I’m afraid you’ll have to send me more details on LinkedIn. If you mean the online color picker, that has been discontinued and replaced by Pantone Connect.

**Ciao, could you show us a tutorial of “how to scan a color with the Pantone color match card”?**

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We plan to publish a tutorial at the beginning of next year. If you want something sooner send me a message on LinkedIn and I will send you a video I have showing its use.

**Thank you! Do you ship to Norway?**

Yes, if you order from Pantone.com your order will be fulfilled by one of our facilities in Europe.

**The CMYK Guide colors are only reproduceable in PSO offset or also in flexo and gravure printing process?**

Any press, regardless of print technology or analog digital, that has been calibrated to PSO will give you a close match. If you want a better match, make your design using the GRACoL CRPC profile in Creative Cloud, save it as a PDF, then set Acrobat to convert the colors from GRACoL to PSO space when printing.

**Which "standard" do you mean if you speak from "standard CMYK press"?**

This simply means a press running conventional CMYK inks (or other CMYK colorants in a digital press).

**Pantone Connect is a free software?**

No, Pantone Connect requires a subscription, you can get more information at <http://www.connect.pantone.com>. However as mentioned above, you get 3 months free with the purchase of a new guide and it's additive for every book/guide purchased.

**Can I share palletes on Pantone Connect with other designers? Is it better than sharing swatches?**

Yes, you can share by entering their email. You must all be subscribers. It's much more efficient than sharing swatches, but if you are making color-critical decisions you will still want swatches so that you have the most precise color appearance.

**Should I change all my Adobe CC to US GRACoL2013 CRPC6.icc?**

If you are in the US or another territory where G7 printing is used, yes. Check with your print service provider to see if they are G7 qualified, but even if they are not they are probably printing closer to GRACoL than SWOP unless it's a web press. See elsewhere in this FAQ for how to sync all you Adobe apps to the same color settings.

**Would these CMYK inks still match if my digital inkjet press does not have those values built into its lookup tables? Also, does anything change if your press uses water-based ink vs. soy oil/petroleum distillates?**

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If your press, or more precisely the Digital Front End (DFE, the “RIP”) that drives your press, has Pantone lookup tables and the job has named colors (name must match exactly, like “Pantone 165 C” or P 24-5 C for a CMYK Guide example) then the tables will be used. They might be more accurate if you have color management tools with the DFE that let you optimize spot colors by measurement. Otherwise, if the named color is not in the tables, or you use the tint values in the design without making a named swatch, then the values will go through regular color management on the DFE which will also be fairly precise – or as precise as your press is at matching GRACoL CRPC 6. Ink solution should not have any effect provided the press can be run to ISO 12647:2013 targets and is G7 calibrated to at least G7 Gray compliance.

**Can you tell about textiles color like you mention in the beginning?**

Sorry, not much I can tell you in the FAQ! Stay tuned for our FHI Webinars.

**I have my RGB setting (Adobe CC) as Adobe RGB rather than sRGB. I'm running on an iMac Pro.**

It's fine to use AdobeRGB, lots of designers do. This will only affect your Pantone Colors if you are making an RGB file such as for the Web. If this is what you are doing and you want to use the RGB values for a Pantone color from Connect or the Color Bridge Guide, the appearance will be more correct if you use sRGB since that's the space in which we calculate the RGB values.

**Since the release of the final version of Pantone Connect, the page number displayed with each colour swatch in the colour library does not correspond to the physical guides. For example, in Pantone Connect, the colour 3508 C - indicates that it is on Library book page number 1677. In my Bridge guides, Pantone 3508 C is on page number 240. The Beta version gave correct results.**

Good catch, this has been reported to our Connect QA team.

**How much does it affect sublimated, matching CMYK to Pantone?**

I think you are referring to dye sublimation printing. The CMYK Guides will work fine if your device is calibrated to match GRACoL. If I misunderstood your question, please send me more detail on LinkedIn.

**What's the price for Pantone Connect?**

\$59.99 a year or there are monthly plans. There is a reduced-price subscription available on our website right now, so please take a look there.

**Hello, why isn't the latest Adobe CC software up to date with all the PMS colours? I often see a colour in the book, then it's missing from the software.**

We have been out of sync with Adobe CC for a long time. The libraries bundled from Adobe are from 2010. Connect gives you all the latest colors and the right CMYK values for CMYK colors that we started printing to reference print conditions since 2019.

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**Would you suggest to buy new CMYK Guides (we have some from the year 2005)?**

Yes! Pantone Guides fade or colors shift after a year or two. We advise our customers to always replace Guides at least every 18 months. If you are in the US and you still have an older set there is a trade-in program available here:

[https://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwiZkeHy4pH0AhUxH60GHWYTDbsYABAAGgJwdg&ae=2&ohost=www.google.com&cid=CAASEuRo3d-7hvHdOQuiybksGZKn2g&sig=AOD64\\_2QlwmO27TgBzk6iUFzqnXhklKsAA&q&adurl&ved=2ahUKEwjC1tLy4pH0AhUSK30KHU5wDMIQ0Qx6BAgCEAE&dct=1](https://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwiZkeHy4pH0AhUxH60GHWYTDbsYABAAGgJwdg&ae=2&ohost=www.google.com&cid=CAASEuRo3d-7hvHdOQuiybksGZKn2g&sig=AOD64_2QlwmO27TgBzk6iUFzqnXhklKsAA&q&adurl&ved=2ahUKEwjC1tLy4pH0AhUSK30KHU5wDMIQ0Qx6BAgCEAE&dct=1)

**What guides would you suggest for daily work in a design agency (Color bridge and CMYK guides)?**

Yes, I'd get a Bridge set for when you want to use PMS colors and a CMYK set to give you more choices and “in-between” colors.

**Why does Pantone C look good on my screen, but Pantone U looks very different? Is there a way that both look good on the screen?**

No, that is expected. Look at your printed Guides, as described elsewhere in this FAQ. That's the only way to see the real color appearance unless you have a pretty sophisticated calibrated monitor. When you look at the Guides, you'll see we print coated on a coated sheet so the colors are bright and saturated. In the Uncoated Guide, we print the same colors on uncoated stock so that you can predict the appearance if a design is run on an uncoated or a matte sheet which is a popular trend in design.

**Does Adobe CC automatically import the palettes you create in Pantone Connect?**

Not automatically, but you can select each color in the Connect Extension and click “Add to Swatch”.

**I am getting different CMYK values for Pantone 2603 CP in Illustrator than are in the latest Colour Bridge book. It means I cannot check my colours against my Pantone book! Why is this? please help!**

If you are using the Pantone library that came with Illustrator (from swatches-> color books...) then those values are from our 2010 library. In 2019, we started printing our Color Bridge to G7 / GRACoL reference, so the CMYK values changed. Pantone Connect will use the modern values that match your printed Color Bridge Guide.

**My Pantone Book states CMYK for 2603 CP is 66/100/0/4 and Illustrator using FOGRA39 states 72/99/0/3 which is a different colour. Why is this? I bought my Pantone Colour Bridge book in May of this year.**

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The book shows you the CMYK values for the GRACoL reference used in the U.S. If you have Illustrator set to use Fogra39, then the values are being looked up through that profile and they should give you close to the expected appearance in the printed Guide if you have your job proofed or printed to Fogra39 compliance. You may want to switch to PSO Coated v.3 ICC which is more modern and based on the Fogra 51 dataset. The link to download it is in the presentation.

**Is there any way of reproducing the specialty palettes (pastel/neon/metallic) in CMYK?**

Not really. You can get a color match for metallics and pastels, but the metallic shimmer of Metallics or fluorescent appearance of Neon won't be seen. Pastels may work.

**Is the CMYK guide printed on Fogra51 or Fogra52 certified paper? ISO standard in Europe.  
Best regards.**

I didn't know that the Fogra 51 press run was done on an ISO standard sheet. Most of the 'certified' papers are for proofing. The white point of Fogra 51 is 95 / 1.5 / -6 CIELAB, so it is close to the white point of the paper we print the coated Guides on. Reach me on LinkedIn if you want to discuss further.

**I'd love to see that practical guide section at the end again more slowly, or see screenshots.**

See the recording of the presentation at the link at the beginning of this FAQ.

**I may have missed this at the beginning, but why do I need the Color Bridge guide as well as the CMYK guides? I design for web and print.**

They are two totally separate libraries. Bridge has the PMS colors, 2,130 colors. CMYK guide has 2,868 colors and only 989 of the colors in the coated book match a PMS color (meaning they are within 2.0  $\Delta E$  2000). So, there are not only 700 more colors, but there are actually 1,879 unique colors that don't match any PMS color. This gives you more color choices and the ability to find colors "between" PMS shades. The CMYK Guide swatches that do match a PMS color are marked with an asterisk.

**When creating a color palette for a brand, which will need to be reproduced in PMS, CMYK, and RGB, where is the best place to start?**

You want to start with Formula Guide (PMS Colors) if some of the brand applications will use spot colors. Then you can use Bridge to see the closest CMYK equivalent to determine for which applications it might be ok to print in CMYK instead. CMYK Guides will give you many more color options in the CMYK space, so it's probably your third choice for what you do.

**If I currently own 0 Pantone guides/swatchbooks, etc... which are the best to start investing in?**



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It depends on what you do. If you design for Web/online and/or CMYK print, the Bridge is where to start. Use CMYK guides, now or in the future, if you design for CMYK print and want more color choices.

**Do I need to change my color space to the updated GRACOL in every Creative Cloud app separately (i.e., InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop, etc.) or is there somewhere in the Creative Cloud where I can just do it once?**

No. Use Adobe Bridge for that. It comes with Creative Cloud. Configure the settings you want in Photoshop Color Settings the save a .csf file in the default location. Then launch Bridge, go to Edit-> Color settings, pick the name of the settings you saved from Photoshop, and click Apply. This synchronizes color settings for all the Adobe Creative Cloud apps.

**When we use the color bridge CMYK it does not produce like it looks in the color bridge book.**

Sorry, need more information. Are you proofing or printing on a G7 calibrated system to the GRACoL CRPC 6 reference? Let me know on LinkedIn and I can talk to you or connect you with our Support team.

Session 2. November 9, 1:00 PM EST

**What are the Pantone Swatchbook options that you recommend for textiles?  
Mainly Sublimation of polyester fabrics.**

The Polyester Swatch Book has colors on polyester.

**If LAB ensures colours are all consistent regardless of device, why does the colour printed on digital equipment sometimes look completely different than the Pantone colour in a Pantone book and/or litho outputs?**

L\*a\*b\* does not ensure consistency on physical devices unless the ICC profiles are used to translate colors into and out of L\*a\*b\* appearance space. The #1 problem you will find if you ask print suppliers about their digital presses is that the majority do not make custom profiles for their actual press and the paper they will print your job on. Even if they do have a custom profile, regular calibration and color quality assurance using a measurement device are essential for them to match your colors. To be fair, the Pantone Guides are guides, not references. The colors can and do vary from the appearance of the master digital standards to some degree in any book because we have to contend with ink dryback and the challenges of running thousands of press forms consistently. If you do want to compare with a Guide, be sure it was purchased in the last 12-18 months because some colors do fade and yellow over time. If you want a reference that is guaranteed to be in tolerance to the digital master library, consider ordering [on demand](#)



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[prints](#) from the Pantone website. Finally, if conventional printing is not matching that is most likely because they are not printing with a spot color, but converting your colors to CMYK and perhaps not printing them on a well-calibrated press.

**Is a conventional press an "offset press"?**

Yes, these are the same. Conventional printing is primarily done with offset lithographic presses so people commonly shorten this and say “Offset” or “Litho”. There are also conventional printing technologies for special applications or substrates including Flexography, Gravure, and Screen Printing.

**Why are some of the CMYK color matches in the Bridge book NOT the perfect match, however the perfect CMYK match is in the bridge book, but it is under a different PMS.**

This could be due to inconsistent printing in the Bridge Guide or in the Formula Guide you are comparing it to. We are constantly working to improve our quality so I encourage you to contact me so that we can look at what you are seeing together.

**Why do vendors prefer PDF?**

PDFs print more consistently than printing from the application because there is less risk that the print settings will be changed by the press operator in the print driver. Also, PDF files have “everything”. Have you ever sent a job to be printed and the shop had to call you to get fonts or images that were missing?

**Is it ok to make a CMYK color a spot color to get %s vs. transparencies?**

Yes, you can do this either way, but tint may preview and overprint other colors more predictably in some cases.

**How do you recommend working with %s of PMS swatch numbers?**

This is just a matter of making a tint of the spot color in your design application. Pay close attention to the proof before going to press as sometimes tints can shift slightly in hue from the solid. PantoneLIVE does include tint values for printing on various substrates for critical printing applications such as packaging.

Session 3. November 10, 2:00 PM HKT

**What is difference between Pantone Base colours and Pantone Digital Base colours? e.g. Pantone Yellow Vs Pantone Digital yellow**

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There is no difference. In fact, there is no “Pantone Digital Yellow” color. The yellow base inks at Pantone Yellow and Pantone Yellow 021. The master digital values for these colors are used to represent them when used in digital form such as in Pantone Connect or Adobe Creative Cloud.

**What printing process Pantone use to produce Pantone books?**

Pantone uses traditional analog offset lithography to print all the graphics Guides.