

*Tested System:*

**ID#: 327**

Printer: Epson SureColor P800

Inks/Colorants: Precision Colors PCK3HD

Media: Red River Palo Duro Soft Gloss Rag

Coating(s): no additional coating

**Sample set: AaI\_20160912\_SN002**

Testing Status: 20 Megalux hours total light exposure

*Light fade testing is complete. Dark storage update on approximately December 10, 2019*

### Conservation Display Ratings (CDR) Summary to Date:

**Sample(s) exposed to light, measured immediately**

*Lower limit:* 1.3 Megalux hours (for weakest 10% of the color patches)

*Upper limit:* 1.7 Megalux hours (for average of all the color patches)

**Dark Storage control sample, no light exposure, measured after 4 years**

*Lower limit:* excellent condition, not exceeding lower CDR limit

*Upper limit:* excellent condition, not exceeding upper CDR limit

\*Note: a CDR with narrow range (typically less than 2:1) indicates relatively even overall fading of the image. A wide range indicates faster fading in certain local colors/tones prior to general fading of most colors/tones in the entire image. Compare ratings for different systems directly and/or use the table on page 2 to estimate time (years) on display.

\* Please read document AaI\_2009\_0118\_TA-01.pdf, **“An Overview of the AaI&A Conservation Display Ratings”**,

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## Section I: Process Description

This section contains a description of the tested print process, typically comprised of an inkjet printer, a specific set of inks, and a specific choice of media. However, the test report may also describe other photographic and/or photomechanical printing processes such as conventional chromogenic color processes, alternative B&W processes, dye sublimation, xerographic processes, etc., and the tested samples may also include additional coatings or laminates applied to the print surface at a later stage in the fabrication. This section may also contain illustrations and other documentation about the the process as well.

*Epson SureColor P800, Precision Colors PCK3HD, Red River Palo Duro Soft Gloss Rag, no additional coating*

**Sample Set:** AaI\_20160912\_SN002      **Batch #:** Q1  
**Printer:** Epson SureColor P800  
**Ink:** Precision Colors PCK3HD  
**Media:** Red River Palo Duro Soft Gloss Rag  
**Coating(s):** no additional coating  
  
**Test Print Prepared by:** AaI&A Member  
**Printed:** September, 2016  
**Initial Print colors measured** November 29, 2016  
**Test Started:** November 30, 2016  
  
**Test Image:** AaI\_StandardColorSet(v2)forSRGB.tif  
**RIP/Driver settings:** Epson OEM driver, 2880dpi, High speed = off, platten gap = wide, thickness = 4  
  
**Media Setting** Premium Photo Paper Semigloss  
  
**Profile:** AaI\_P800\_PCK3HD\_RRPDSGR\_2880dpi\_HSOFF.icm  
**Profile type:** custom, supplied by AaI&A, TC918 target, BasicColor DropRGB software  
**Rendering intent:** perceptual

**Paper White and Maximum Printed Black Values (M0 readings)**

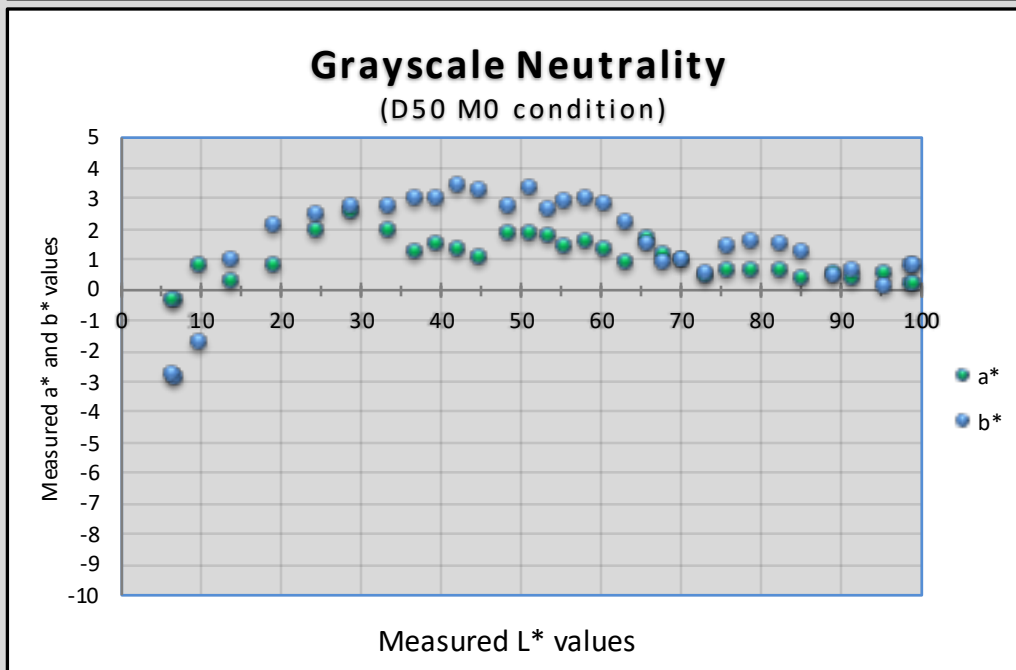
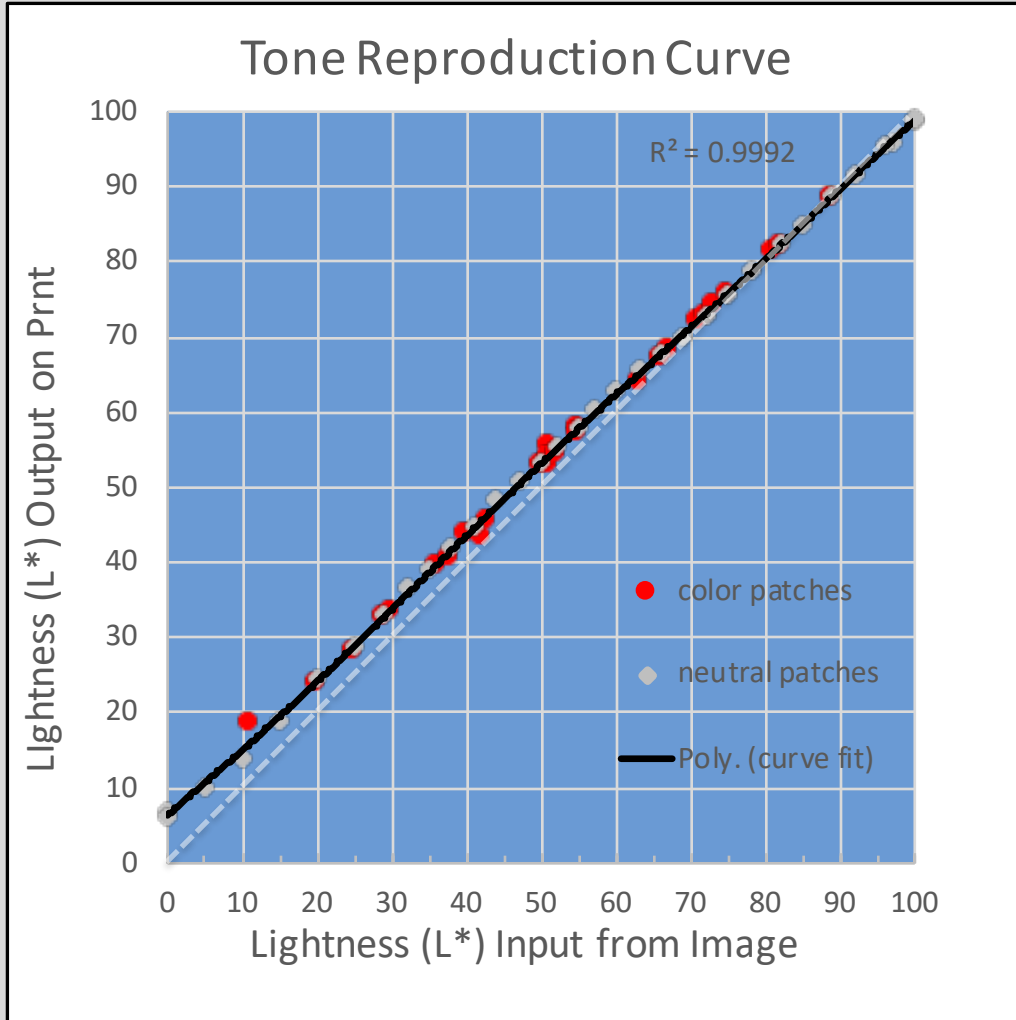
<b>Optical brighteners Present?</b>	<b>L*</b>		<b>a*</b>		<b>b*</b>	
<i>no</i>						
<b>M0 Media Whitepoint Color</b> ISO 13655-2009:	UV inc	UV exc	UV inc	UV exc	UV inc	UV exc
	98.9	98.9	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.9
	<b>UV-inc/UV-exc <math>\Delta L^*</math>, <math>\Delta a^*</math>, <math>\Delta b^*</math> respectively</b>					
	0.0		0.0		0.0	
L* = 98.9	<i>Calculated differences, especially for <math>\Delta b^*</math>, indicate the role and magnitude of fluorescence on original paper color</i>					
a* = 0.2						
b* = 0.9						
<b>Maximum Printed Black</b>	<b>L*</b>	<b>a*</b>	<b>b*</b>	<b>Optical Density (Dmax)</b>		
	6.6	-0.4	-2.7	2.13		

**Paper White and Maximum Printed Black Values (M1 readings)**

<b>Optical brighteners Present?</b>	<b>L*</b>		<b>a*</b>		<b>b*</b>	
<i>no</i>						
<b>M1 Media Whitepoint Color</b> ISO 13655-2009:	UV inc	UV exc	UV inc	UV exc	UV inc	UV exc
	99.0	98.9	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.9
	<b>UV-inc/UV-exc <math>\Delta L^*</math>, <math>\Delta a^*</math>, <math>\Delta b^*</math> respectively</b>					
	0.0		0.0		0.1	
L* = 99.0	<i>Calculated differences, especially for <math>\Delta b^*</math>, indicate the role and magnitude of fluorescence on original paper color</i>					
a* = 0.2						
b* = 0.9						
<b>Maximum Printed Black</b>	<b>L*</b>	<b>a*</b>	<b>b*</b>	<b>Optical Density (Dmax)</b>		
	6.7	-0.4	-2.7	2.13		

**Light source:** Phillips Colortone F40T12/C50 – 5000K full spectrum fluorescent. Color rendering Index (CRI) =92  
**Light Exposure Cycle:** ~12klux illumination, 24 hours per day  
**Average Temperature:** 25.1°C over full test duration, 25.5°C during light exposure.  
**Average Relative humidity:** 54.4%RH over full test duration, 54.6%RH during light exposure.  
**CIELAB measurements:** D50 2° observer, Xrite i1Pro2, M0,M1, and M2 conditions where applicable

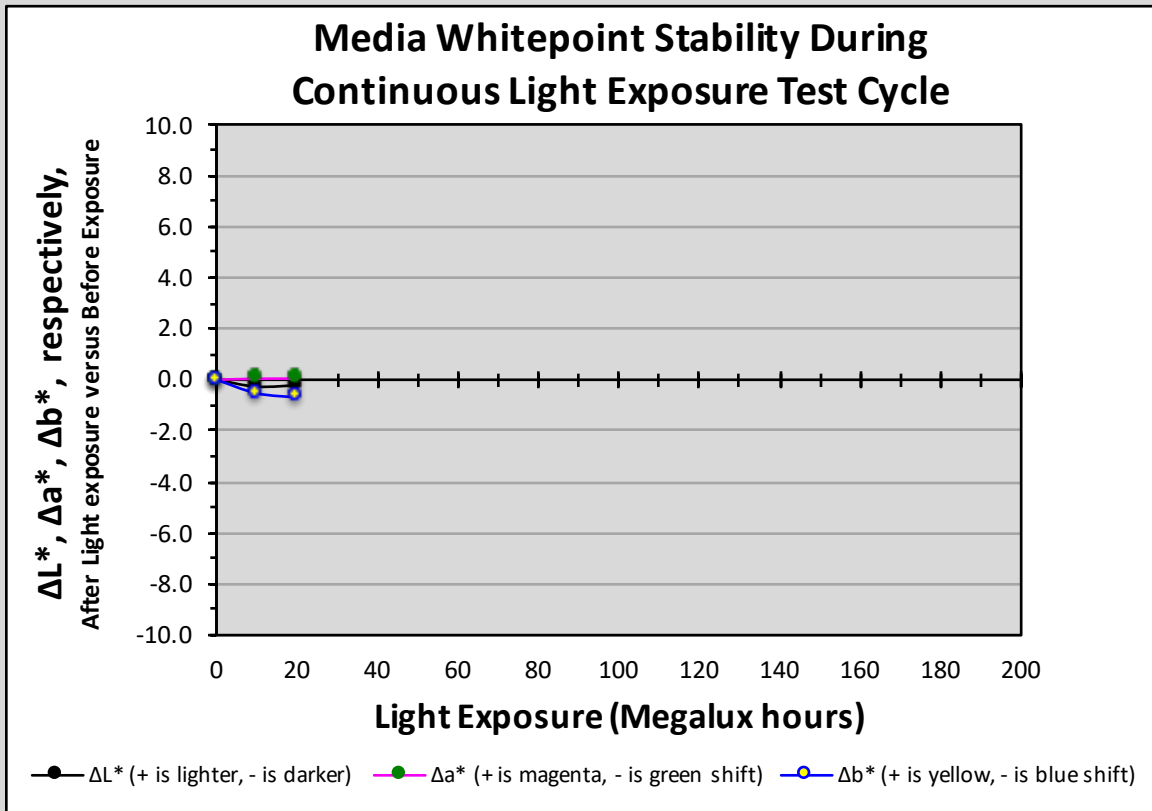
### Initial Image Reproduction – Tone Curve and Grayscale Neutrality

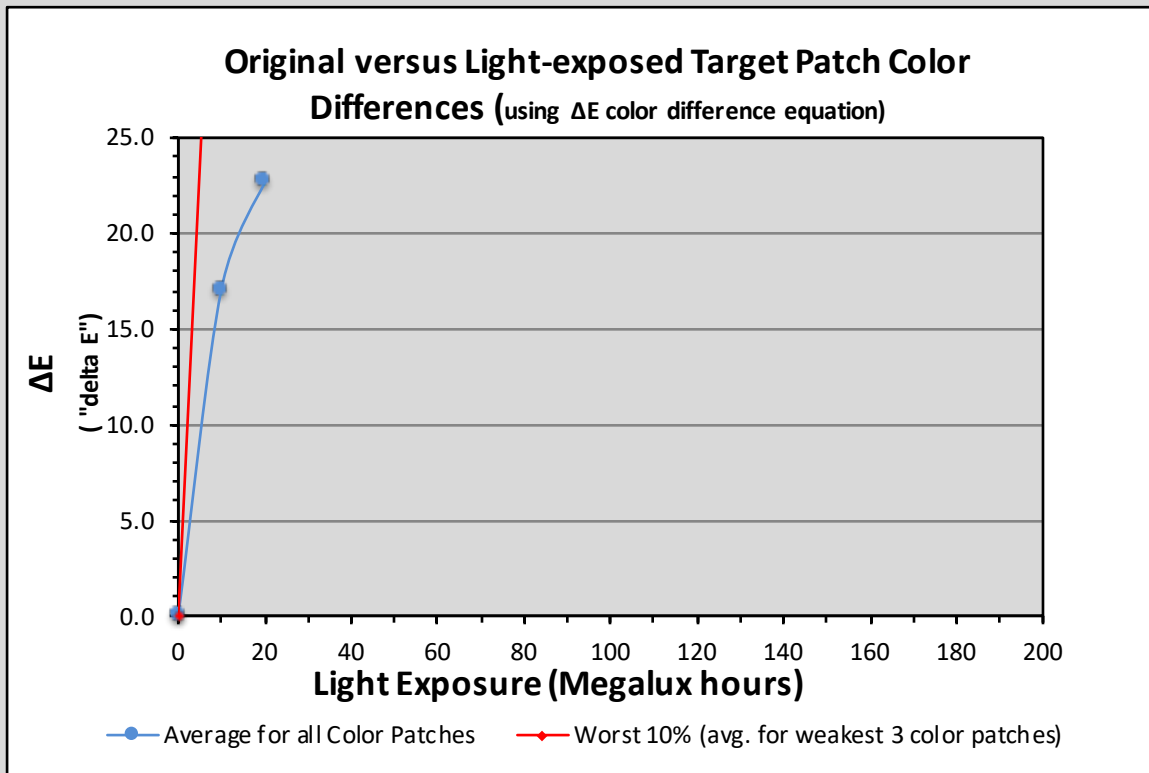
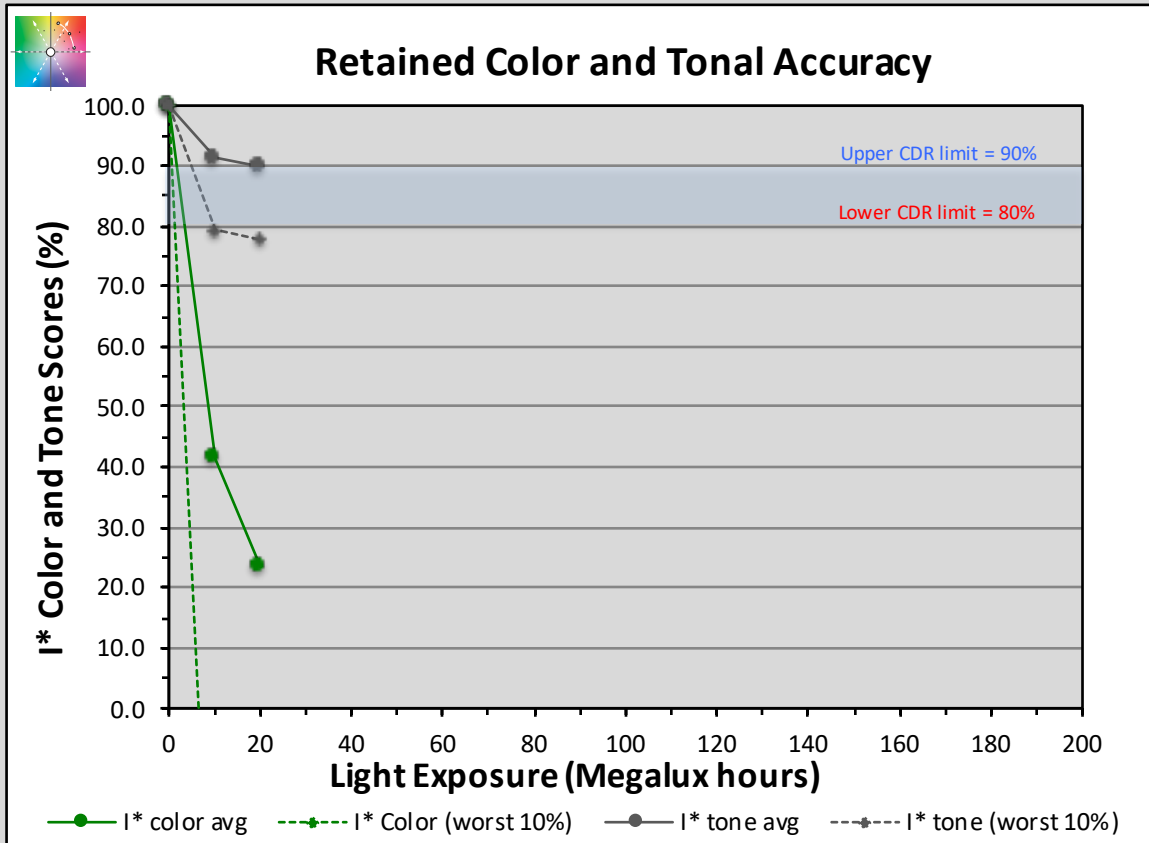


## Section II: Accelerated Light Fade test results

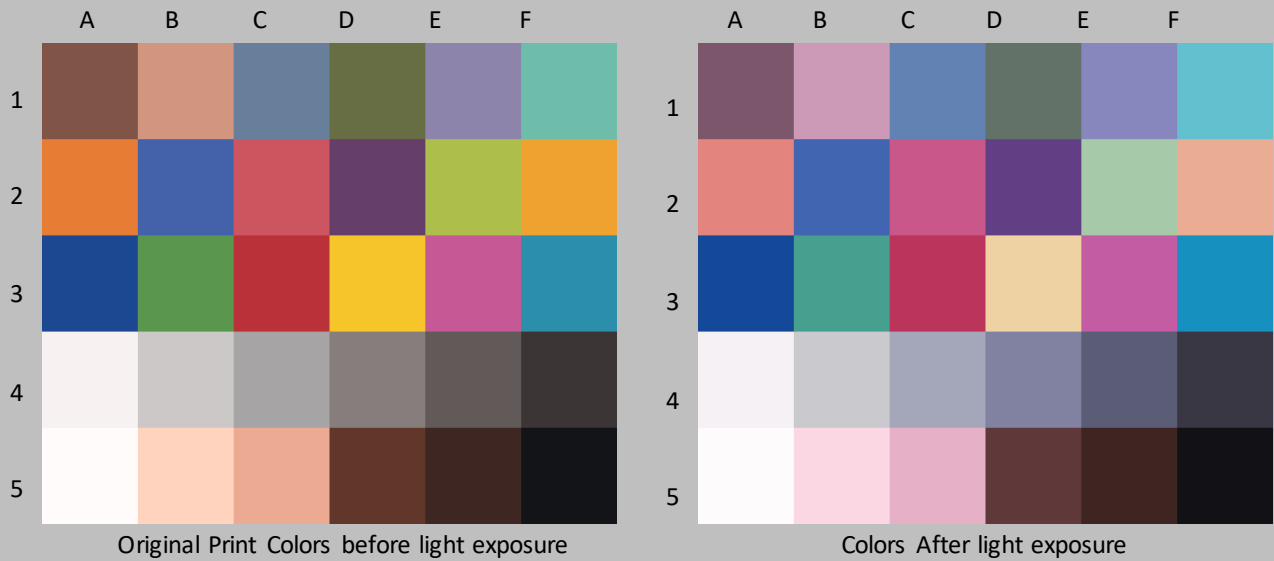
This section of the report contains the light exposure test results measured immediately after each exposure interval is completed. Samples are pulled directly from the light fade test unit, measured within a few hours using an Xrite i1 Pro2 spectrophotometer, and then returned to the test unit for additional ongoing exposure. This methodology is a traditional scientific approach to light fastness testing of photographic materials, and provides insight into the fade resistance of the image forming colorants as well as the fade and discoloration resistance of the media when exposed to continuous illumination on display. However, it does not account for any photochemical reaction products which may require longer time periods at ambient room temperature and relative humidity levels to form additional staining or yellowing appearance. Some reaction products are metastable and thus light bleachable, appearing and/or reappearing only over time when the print is displayed under significantly lower average illumination levels or stored in the dark when not continuously on display. See section III for test conditions designed to track this other potential media yellowing issue.

*Epson SureColor P800, Precision Colors PCK3HD, Red River Palo Duro Soft Gloss Rag, no additional coating*



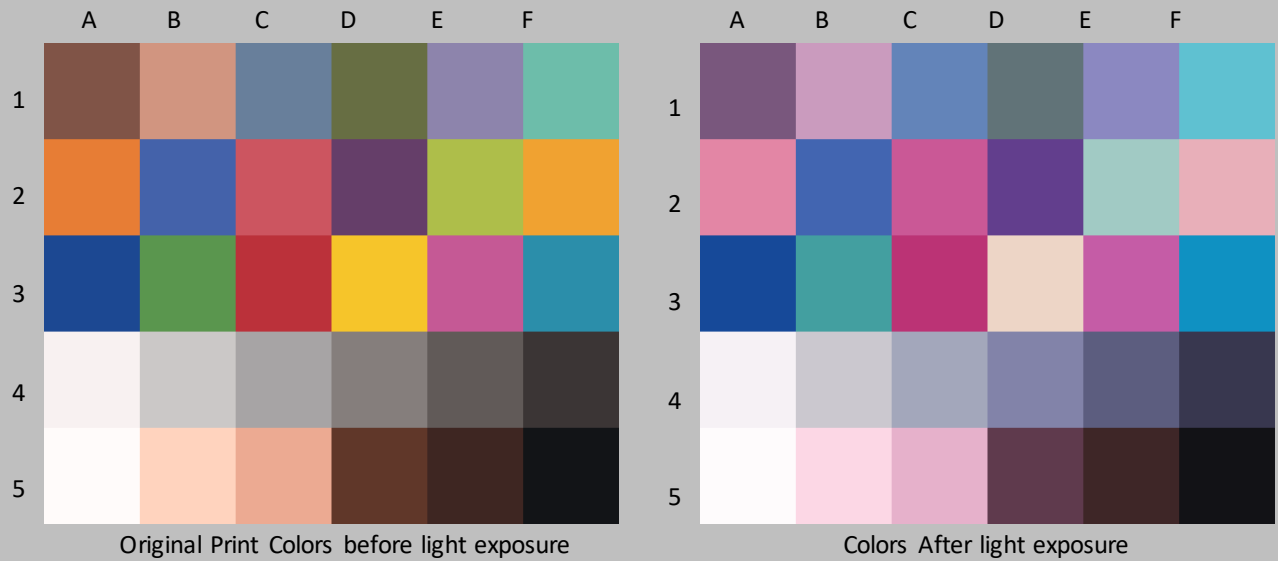


*Epson SureColor P800, Precision Colors PCK3HD, Red River Palo Duro Soft Gloss Rag, no additional coating*



Patch #	Description	I* Color	ΔE	L*		a*		b*	
				Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
A1	Dark Skin	6.7	21.0	40.2	41.5	15.8	18.2	15.2	-5.6
B1	Light Skin	2.0	27.2	66.9	69.0	18.6	21.5	19.8	-7.2
C1	Blue sky	38.6	11.9	52.4	54.1	-1.6	1.6	-18.3	-29.6
D1	Foliage	21.7	20.4	44.9	46.6	-10.9	-8.5	22.9	2.7
E1	blue flower	68.1	7.9	57.1	58.6	10.9	12.2	-20.1	-27.8
F1	bluish green	43.0	17.9	71.5	72.8	-30.4	-25.3	1.7	-15.4
A1	orange	45.2	36.5	63.3	65.5	34.9	34.6	55.5	19.0
B2	purplish blue	95.9	2.4	42.7	43.6	11.0	11.2	-42.1	-44.4
C2	moderate red	56.1	22.8	52.2	53.3	47.5	49.6	18.1	-4.6
D2	purple	51.9	15.3	32.4	33.6	24.4	29.2	-18.4	-32.9
E2	yellow green	27.3	44.0	73.7	77.8	-21.9	-19.4	55.5	11.7
F2	orange yellow	36.7	44.3	72.4	75.9	19.0	17.9	66.3	22.1
A3	blue	94.2	3.2	31.6	32.3	12.8	13.7	-44.6	-47.7
B3	green	33.1	32.3	56.8	59.9	-34.8	-30.7	32.2	0.3
C3	red	69.1	19.2	43.1	43.9	53.7	55.2	27.8	8.7
D3	yellow	35.0	50.3	81.7	85.6	2.8	1.9	76.3	26.1
E3	magenta	86.6	7.3	53.4	54.1	48.9	49.3	-11.8	-19.0
F3	cyan	65.5	10.7	54.8	56.2	-18.8	-15.4	-22.6	-32.6
A4	white	84.2	2.0	95.7	95.7	0.8	0.9	1.4	-0.6
B4	neutral 8	68.6	3.5	80.8	81.2	0.1	0.5	1.1	-2.4
C4	neutral 6.5	(5.2)	10.5	67.8	68.6	0.0	1.7	0.1	-10.3
D4	neutral 5	(100.4)	19.6	53.3	55.3	2.1	6.2	2.5	-16.7
E4	neutral 3.5	(62.8)	16.0	38.9	40.1	2.0	5.2	2.0	-13.7
F4	black	4.7	9.6	23.3	23.8	2.1	4.1	1.4	-8.0
A5	paper white	99.7	0.6	98.9	98.7	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.4
B5	Skin highlight L*=88	19.0	16.6	88.0	89.2	11.9	13.4	15.8	-0.7
C5	Skin highlight L* =75	13.6	25.8	75.3	77.1	19.7	21.9	21.6	-4.0
D5	Skin shadow L*=28	54.9	10.9	27.7	28.4	16.2	17.2	16.3	5.5
E5	Skin shadow L*=13	92.1	1.6	18.4	18.0	10.1	10.8	8.0	6.7
F5	Maximum Black	96.7	0.9	6.5	6.0	-0.5	-0.4	-2.6	-1.8
<b>Summary Results</b>		I* Color	I* tone	ΔE	<b>10 Megalux hours</b>				
Average Score for all patches		41.4	91.3	17.1					
Worst 10% (3 lowest scoring patches)		(56.1)	79.3	46.2					





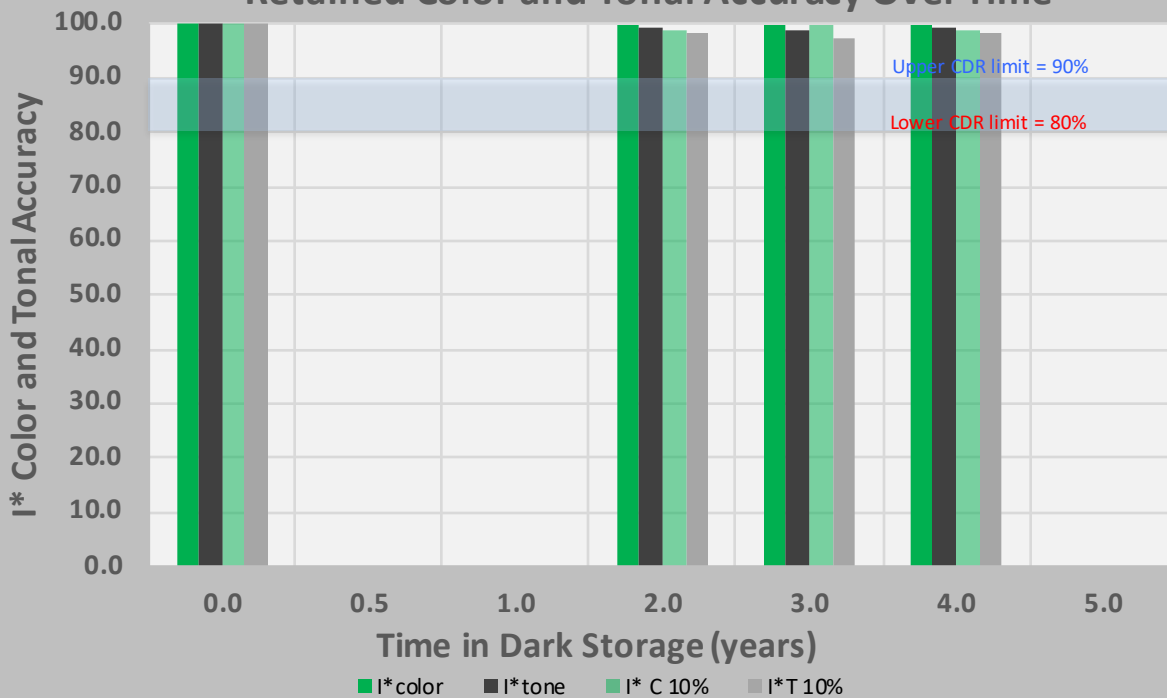
Patch #	Description	I* Color	ΔE	L*		a*		b*	
				Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
A1	Dark Skin	(41.2)	31.5	40.2	42.1	15.8	21.2	15.2	-15.8
B1	Light Skin	(11.0)	30.7	66.9	69.5	18.6	22.3	19.8	-10.6
C1	Blue sky	29.6	13.6	52.4	54.7	-1.6	2.4	-18.3	-31.1
D1	Foliage	(9.2)	28.3	44.9	47.3	-10.9	-6.2	22.9	-4.9
E1	blue flower	64.1	8.9	57.1	59.1	10.9	12.6	-20.1	-28.7
F1	bluish green	36.5	19.9	71.5	72.9	-30.4	-24.6	1.7	-17.3
A1	orange	13.7	57.1	63.3	66.6	34.9	38.4	55.5	-1.5
B2	purplish blue	95.6	2.8	42.7	44.1	11.0	11.4	-42.1	-44.5
C2	moderate red	40.3	30.9	52.2	53.9	47.5	51.5	18.1	-12.5
D2	purple	32.4	21.3	32.4	34.1	24.4	32.1	-18.4	-38.2
E2	yellow green	5.4	57.1	73.7	78.5	-21.9	-16.0	55.5	-1.1
F2	orange yellow	9.5	63.0	72.4	76.9	19.0	21.4	66.3	3.5
A3	blue	92.2	4.2	31.6	32.5	12.8	14.3	-44.6	-48.5
B3	green	13.0	41.9	56.8	60.6	-34.8	-27.4	32.2	-8.9
C3	red	45.1	33.7	43.1	44.5	53.7	57.8	27.8	-5.7
D3	yellow	13.4	66.8	81.7	86.5	2.8	4.8	76.3	9.7
E3	magenta	84.9	8.2	53.4	54.6	48.9	49.6	-11.8	-19.8
F3	cyan	60.7	12.2	54.8	56.6	-18.8	-14.6	-22.6	-33.8
A4	white	82.5	2.2	95.7	95.8	0.8	0.9	1.4	-0.7
B4	neutral 8	66.6	3.7	80.8	81.3	0.1	0.5	1.1	-2.6
C4	neutral 6.5	(13.0)	11.3	67.8	68.7	0.0	1.8	0.1	-11.0
D4	neutral 5	(133.3)	22.8	53.3	56.0	2.1	7.3	2.5	-19.6
E4	neutral 3.5	(119.6)	21.4	38.9	40.7	2.0	7.3	2.0	-18.7
F4	black	(56.9)	15.4	23.3	24.4	2.1	6.1	1.4	-13.5
A5	paper white	98.0	0.7	98.9	98.7	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.2
B5	Skin highlight L*=88	14.3	17.5	88.0	89.5	11.9	13.6	15.8	-1.6
C5	Skin highlight L* =75	6.9	27.8	75.3	77.5	19.7	22.3	21.6	-6.0
D5	Skin shadow L*=28	6.7	22.0	27.7	29.3	16.2	19.3	16.3	-5.4
E5	Skin shadow L*=13	75.6	3.6	18.4	18.4	10.1	11.0	8.0	4.5
F5	Maximum Black	100.0	0.5	6.5	6.1	-0.5	-0.3	-2.6	-2.4
<b>Summary Results</b>		I* Color	I* tone	ΔE					
Average Score for all patches		23.4	89.9	22.7					
Worst 10% (3 lowest scoring patches)		(103.3)	77.8	62.3					

20 Megalux hours

## Section IV: Ongoing Dark Storage Test Results

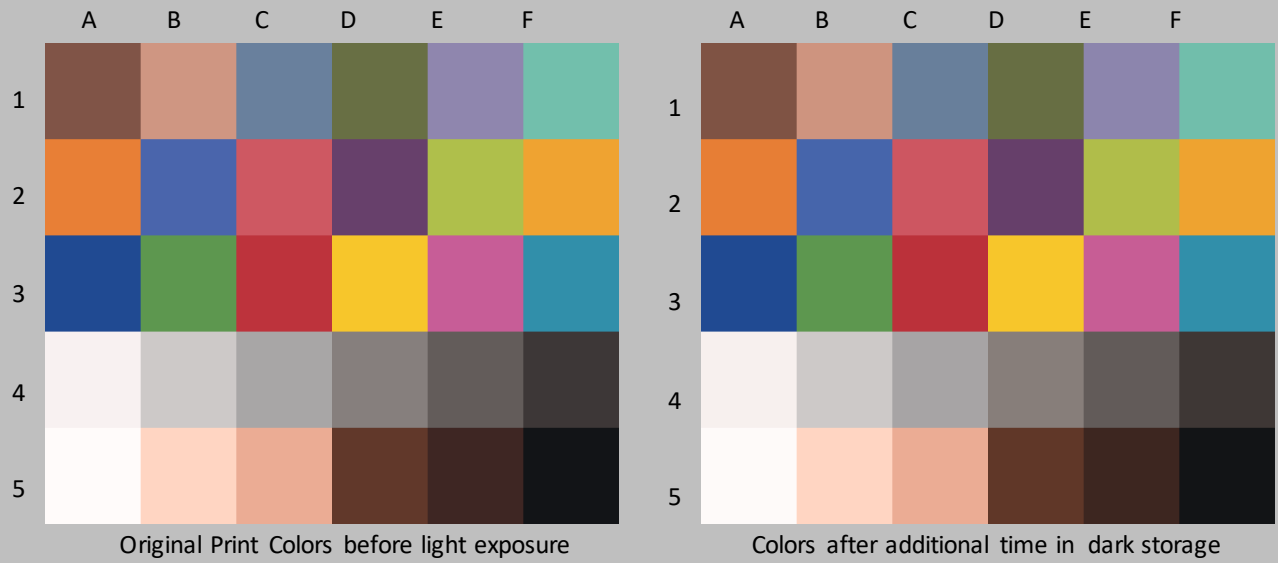
This section of the report tracks a sample of this print process (i.e., printer/ink/media) that remains in an ambient room temperature/moderate RH dark storage environment and has not been subjected to light exposure tests like the other samples. It is essentially a "control" sample that will remain in natural aging conditions (e.g., photo album storage) while the other light fastness tests are ongoing, and then in the Aardenburg Archives under similar conditions indefinitely along with the retired light fade samples. The chart below will be rescaled to longer time intervals once total accumulated storage time exceeds 5 years.

Dark Storage Control Sample (i.e., no light exposure)  
Retained Color and Tonal Accuracy Over Time

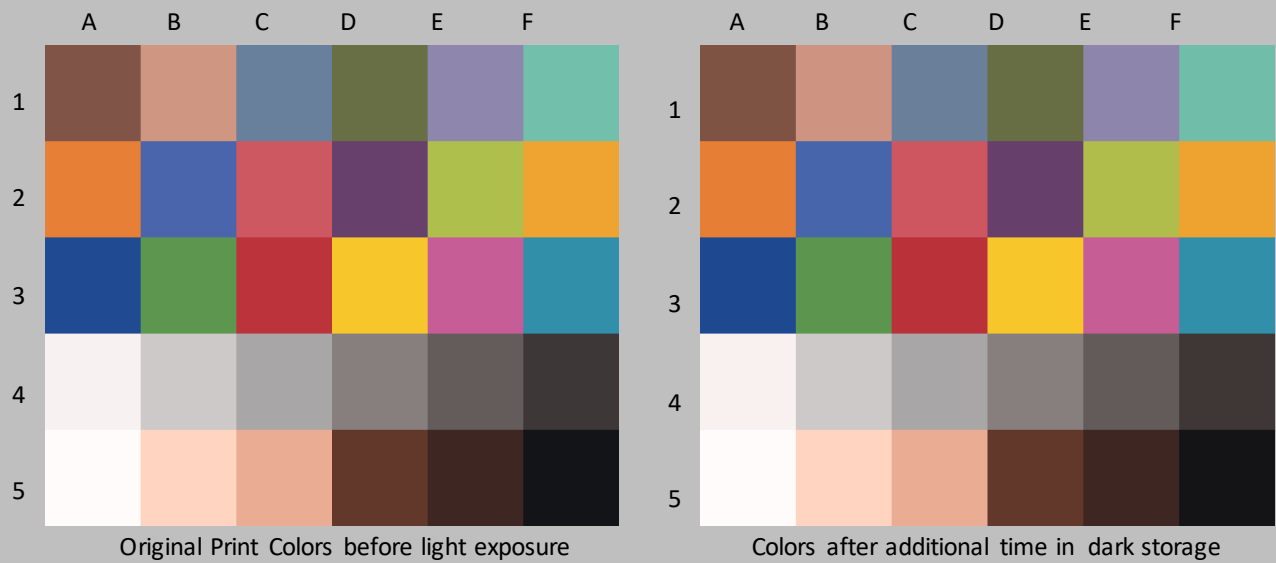


Time in Storage Summary for Dark Storage Control Sample

Years	<i>I*color (worst 10%)</i>	<i>I* Tone (10%)</i>	<i>I* Color</i>	<i>I* tone</i>	$\Delta E$ avg.	$\Delta E$ (worst 10%)
0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
0.5						
1.0						
2.0	98.8	98.5	99.9	99.3	0.4	0.7
3.0	99.7	97.4	100.0	98.8	0.4	0.7
4.0	98.6	98.3	99.9	99.3	0.4	0.7
5.0						



Patch #	Description	I* Color	$\Delta E$	L*		a*		b*	
				Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
A1	Dark Skin	100.0	0.4	40.4	40.1	15.8	15.8	15.4	15.7
B1	Light Skin	100.0	0.4	67.2	66.8	18.5	18.4	19.5	19.5
C1	Blue sky	100.0	0.3	53.0	52.7	-1.9	-1.9	-17.7	-17.5
D1	Foliage	100.0	0.4	45.4	45.1	-10.7	-10.7	22.8	23.1
E1	blue flower	100.0	0.3	58.0	57.7	10.5	10.5	-19.6	-19.6
F1	bluish green	100.0	0.4	72.0	71.7	-29.2	-29.0	1.6	1.8
A1	orange	100.0	0.4	64.0	63.6	34.0	34.0	55.0	55.1
B2	purplish blue	100.0	0.4	43.9	43.6	10.6	10.5	-41.3	-41.0
C2	moderate red	100.0	0.3	53.0	52.7	46.8	46.8	18.2	18.2
D2	purple	100.0	0.3	33.3	33.1	24.4	24.5	-18.0	-18.0
E2	yellow green	100.0	0.5	74.2	73.9	-21.5	-21.3	55.4	55.1
F2	orange yellow	100.0	0.4	72.9	72.5	18.4	18.3	66.1	66.0
A3	blue	100.0	0.4	32.6	32.4	12.3	12.1	-44.3	-44.0
B3	green	100.0	0.2	57.3	57.1	-34.0	-33.8	31.8	31.8
C3	red	100.0	0.3	43.5	43.2	53.8	53.8	27.9	28.1
D3	yellow	100.0	0.3	82.1	81.8	2.7	2.7	76.1	76.0
E3	magenta	100.0	0.4	54.3	54.0	48.3	48.2	-11.7	-11.4
F3	cyan	100.0	0.2	55.4	55.2	-18.7	-18.7	-21.9	-21.8
A4	white	100.0	0.4	95.8	95.5	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.6
B4	neutral 8	100.0	0.3	81.3	81.0	0.1	0.2	1.1	1.2
C4	neutral 6.5	100.0	0.3	68.2	68.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
D4	neutral 5	100.0	0.1	53.9	53.8	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.5
E4	neutral 3.5	100.0	0.2	39.5	39.3	1.7	1.6	2.3	2.3
F4	black	100.0	0.4	24.0	23.7	2.1	2.1	1.2	1.6
A5	paper white	100.0	0.3	98.8	98.6	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.9
B5	Skin highlight L*=88	100.0	0.3	88.4	88.1	11.5	11.4	15.1	15.2
C5	Skin highlight L* =75	100.0	0.3	75.8	75.6	19.3	19.2	20.8	20.7
D5	Skin shadow L*=28	99.2	0.7	28.2	28.0	15.9	16.0	16.1	16.7
E5	Skin shadow L*=13	97.9	0.8	18.5	18.2	9.7	9.8	7.4	8.1
F5	Maximum Black	99.4	0.6	6.7	6.5	-0.4	-0.4	-2.9	-2.3
<b>Summary Results</b>		I* Color	I* tone	$\Delta E$	<b>DS Control at 2 years</b>				
Average Score for all patches		99.9	99.3	0.4					
Worst 10% (3 lowest scoring patches)		98.8	98.5	0.7					



Patch #	Description	I* Color	ΔE	L*		a*		b*	
				Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
A1	Dark Skin	100.0	0.5	40.4	39.9	15.8	15.7	15.4	15.5
B1	Light Skin	100.0	0.7	67.2	66.5	18.5	18.3	19.5	19.4
C1	Blue sky	100.0	0.6	53.0	52.5	-1.9	-1.9	-17.7	-17.3
D1	Foliage	100.0	0.4	45.4	45.0	-10.7	-10.6	22.8	22.8
E1	blue flower	100.0	0.5	58.0	57.5	10.5	10.4	-19.6	-19.4
F1	bluish green	100.0	0.7	72.0	71.4	-29.2	-28.9	1.6	1.8
A1	orange	100.0	0.6	64.0	63.4	34.0	33.9	55.0	54.8
B2	purplish blue	99.7	0.7	43.9	43.5	10.6	10.4	-41.3	-40.7
C2	moderate red	100.0	0.5	53.0	52.5	46.8	46.6	18.2	18.3
D2	purple	100.0	0.4	33.3	33.0	24.4	24.4	-18.0	-17.9
E2	yellow green	100.0	0.6	74.2	73.8	-21.5	-21.3	55.4	55.1
F2	orange yellow	100.0	0.5	72.9	72.4	18.4	18.3	66.1	66.0
A3	blue	99.8	0.7	32.6	32.3	12.3	12.0	-44.3	-43.8
B3	green	100.0	0.3	57.3	57.0	-34.0	-33.8	31.8	31.8
C3	red	100.0	0.3	43.5	43.2	53.8	53.7	27.9	28.2
D3	yellow	100.0	0.3	82.1	81.8	2.7	2.7	76.1	76.0
E3	magenta	100.0	0.5	54.3	54.0	48.3	48.2	-11.7	-11.3
F3	cyan	100.0	0.2	55.4	55.3	-18.7	-18.7	-21.9	-21.7
A4	white	100.0	0.4	95.8	95.5	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.8
B4	neutral 8	100.0	0.3	81.3	81.1	0.1	0.1	1.1	1.3
C4	neutral 6.5	100.0	0.4	68.2	68.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5
D4	neutral 5	100.0	0.1	53.9	53.9	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.5
E4	neutral 3.5	100.0	0.1	39.5	39.4	1.7	1.7	2.3	2.2
F4	black	100.0	0.4	24.0	23.8	2.1	2.1	1.2	1.5
A5	paper white	100.0	0.3	98.8	98.7	0.2	0.0	0.8	1.0
B5	Skin highlight L*=88	100.0	0.4	88.4	88.2	11.5	11.4	15.1	15.4
C5	Skin highlight L* =75	100.0	0.2	75.8	75.6	19.3	19.3	20.8	20.8
D5	Skin shadow L*=28	100.0	0.5	28.2	28.1	15.9	16.0	16.1	16.5
E5	Skin shadow L*=13	99.5	0.6	18.5	18.3	9.7	9.7	7.4	7.9
F5	Maximum Black	100.0	0.4	6.7	6.7	-0.4	-0.5	-2.9	-2.5
<b>Summary Results</b>		I* Color	I* tone	ΔE	<b>DS Control at 3 years</b>				
Average Score for all patches		100.0	98.8	0.4					
Worst 10% (3 lowest scoring patches)		99.7	97.4	0.7					

## Section V: Comments and Conclusions

ID# 327

Compare the Precision Colors PCK3HD ink results to those of Epson OEM HD ink printed on a similar printer model (SureColor P600) and the same media (see ID# 330 in the Aardenburg light fade database). The results speak volumes about the light fastness disparity typically existing between third party inks and more expensive OEM ink sets. It's the classic trade off between cost and quality. The Precision Colors PCK3HD ink set proved so fugitive that the test was terminated after only 20 megalux hours of exposure, whereas the Epson OEM UltraChrome HD ink reported in ID# 329 has been tested all the way up to 200 Megalux hours total exposure and received an Aardenburg Conservation Display rating approximately 100x more stable than the PCK3HD ink set. The cause of this major discrepancy is the yellow colorant fading in the PCK3HD ink set. The PCK3HD yellow ink is so fugitive that the results suggest it may well be a dye or hybrid dye-pigment combination where the yellow dye is fading very rapidly compared to the other pigments. Third party pigment ink formulations are sometimes spiked with dyes in order to better match initial color reproduction characteristics of their "equivalent" OEM pigment formulations.

In view of the poor overall lightfastness of the PCK3HD ink set, this printer/ink/media combination was not evaluated for further light Induced Low-intensity Staining (LILIS). Therefore, section III was omitted from this report.

LILIS is a media related issue. It contributes to the final Aardenburg Conservation Display rating only when the media exhibits the problem and those results are then factored into the score. Because Red River Palo Duro Soft Gloss Rag (RRPDSG) contains no optical brighteners nor does it use TiO<sub>2</sub> as a whitening pigment, it does not suffer from the LILIS problem. This conclusion has been confirmed for RRPDSG in other testing of both Epson and Canon OEM inks on this paper (e.g., see ID# 330 and/or ID# 331 for those extended test results).

This report also includes remeasurments of the dark storage control sample after two years and four years in storage. The results demonstrate that although the lightfastness (and possibly ozone gas fade resistance) of this Precision Colors ink set is very poor, the thermal stability and humidity resistance is not showing any obvious weakness after four years in dark storage. Thus, prints made with the PCK3HD inks on Red River Palo Duro Soft Gloss paper can remain in very good condition for many years, even decades if care is taken to reduce illumination levels on display (e.g. to 50 lux or less such as found under museum lighting conditions) and/or mainly keep the prints in photo albums or archival document boxes where light exposure is effectively eliminated and ozone attack is greatly mitigated.

Third party inks do have a relevant place in today's home do-it-yourself (DIY) inkjet printing market. Nevertheless, it is advisable to stick with the OEM HD or K3 ink sets for the respective Epson printer models that use them whenever the printed image is not easily reprintable, and the print is considered to have enduring artistic, historic, and/or sentimental value.

Mark H. McCormick-Goodhart  
Director, Aardenburg Imaging & Archives

Table to Convert Megalux-hours of Light Exposure to estimated “Years on Display” Light Fastness Ratings.												
Indoor Light Levels for Print Display		Multiply Mlux-hrs by	Megalux-hours in test									
Light Exposure	Description		10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
≤ 10 Lux 24 hours per day	Interior rooms, storage areas, or hallways without windows, illuminated sparingly by artificial lighting	11.42	114	228	342	457	571	685	799	913	1027	1142
50 Lux 12 hours per day	“Museum Standard” display condition	4.57	46	91	137	183	228	274	325	365	411	457
120 Lux 12 hours per day “Kodak Display Years” (1)	Average home illumination level for photos is ~ 60 lux. 90% of all displayed photos do not exceed 120 lux (1).	1.90	19	38	57	76	95	114	133	152	171	190
228 Lux 12 hours per day	Relatively bright home or office. Note the simple 1:1 relationship between “years on display” and Mlux-hr values at this condition.	1.00	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
450 Lux 12 hours per day “WIR Display Years” (2)  Also equals 500 lux for 11.8 hours per day	A bright home or commercial office building illumination level is 200-500 lux. Also, good illumination for color critical viewing and color matching tasks begins at about 500 lux.	0.51	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	41	46	51
2000 Lux 12 hours per day	Commercial Gallery. Also, critical color evaluation standards call for 2000 lux and a D50 illumination source.	0.114	1.1	2.3	3.4	4.6	5.7	6.8	8.0	9.1	10.3	11.4
5000 Lux 12 hours per day	E.g., Sunlight through a window striking print at an angle.	0.046	0.5	0.9	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.7	3.2	3.7	4.1	4.6
10,000 Lux 12 hours per day	South-facing window in U.S.A. , e.g., storefront display with photos directly facing window.	0.023	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.3

Light levels commonly encountered in the real world fluctuate widely throughout indoor print display environments and produce large variations in how long it takes for artwork to acquire light-induced damage. Use this table as a guide to estimate how many “years on display” (denoted in red text) it takes to accumulate an equivalent light exposure dosage. Review the test results to decide which Megalux-hour dose has caused fading to your level of concern (e.g., just noticeable, easily noticeable, objectionable, etc.). Then choose the “Light Exposure” description that best represents how your print is likely to be displayed. You may want to obtain a lux meter and make some measurements in your own display environment!

Note that as the years of display time increase, light-induced fading can be eclipsed by other serious aging mechanisms such as fading and/or staining caused by heat, humidity, and air pollutants. Mould damage can also occur at high humidity. Even when colorants remain water fast, direct contact with liquids may result in physical deformation and staining of the substrate. Also, temperature and especially strong seasonal humidity fluctuations can cause physical cracks and/or flaking, etc., over time. Handling damage such as scratching, abrasion, tears and creases, and catastrophic damage by smoke, fire, flood, etc., also destroy print quality over time. Thus, as illumination levels are reduced other forms of print degradation take on greater probability of occurrence.

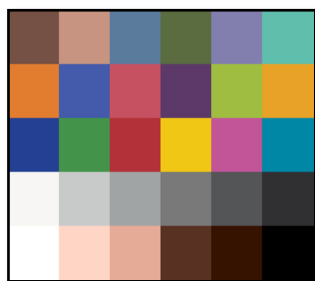
(1) Eastman Kodak cited this exposure condition with a 90% confidence limit as a rationale for estimating print fading times of traditional color photo materials in typical home display environments. However, for light fading claims regarding its line of pigment-based inkjet printers, Kodak adopted the higher level of 450lux/12 hours per day which is also used by Wilhelm Imaging Research, Inc. (See below).

(2) Wilhelm Imaging Research (WIR) standardized its light fastness ratings on 450 lux for 12 hours per day in order to estimate the years on display necessary to reach “easily noticeable” fading. This average daily light exposure dosage, at an assumed 75°F/60%RH temperature and humidity level, has become a de facto industry standard for most industry-sponsored predictive “years of life” light fading estimates in the absence of a published International Standards Organization (ISO) test standard. The table above readily shows how much error occurs in such “print lifetime” predictions as actual real world light levels for prints on display routinely deviate above and below the assumed 450 lux intensity value.



## About this Report

This report contains light fastness information about a sample test print produced by a specific digital printing system. “System” refers to all hardware, software, and materials used to make the finished print. The hardware, software, material components, and printmaker’s skills contribute to the final image quality and image permanence. The tested sample is made with current or recently discontinued stocks of commercially available products unless otherwise stated. Each sample has been prepared by Aardenburg Imaging & Archives or one of its members in accordance with customary print making practices unless otherwise noted. The sample may also contain additional finishing materials such as overcoats and laminates which are also noted when used. Finally, the sample has been tested under standardized conditions that are defined on the Sample Description page (see page 4). AaI&A makes every effort to ensure but cannot guarantee that the samples are properly identified and documented and that test results are accurate. For this reason, AaI&A also strives to test independently produced sample replicates in order to increase sampling confidence and to provide information on process variability. Please compare the results in this report to replicate test samples when the data become available.



The magnitude and visual appearance of fading depends not only on the chosen printing system but the chosen image as well. In other words, different images are comprised of different colors, and the fading relationships between those colors dictate how the image will look as it fades. The sample print in this test report was made by reproducing the digital image shown on the left. It contains 30 standard colors. 24 of the colors are colorimetrically matched to the Munsell ColorChecker™ chart viewed under D50 illumination. The remaining six colors supplement the ColorChecker™ array with four additional skin tone colors, one patch for paper white, and another for maximum black. The additional colors

Information about the fading characteristics of the product is provided in three ways:

**1) You can visually assess the fading.** The target images reproduced in this report are digitally reconstructed from the spectrally measured color data rather than scanning or otherwise reproducing the physical print by conventional techniques. This method ensures a colorimetrically accurate representation of the print appearance as the print fades. A calibrated monitor is recommended to experience the best possible reproduction of the test sample appearance. The side-by-side “before and after” presentation of the target images simulates looking at a perfect copy of the unexposed original print along side the same print after light exposure. You can also use Adobe Reader’s full screen mode to cycle through the pages and “animate” the fading.

**2) I\* Color and tonal accuracy scores are reported.** This report includes I\* metric scores that compare the color and tonal relationships of the light exposed samples to the color and tonal relationships existing in the original print prior to light exposure. Perfect I\* scores of 100% can be approached when no significant fading occurs. Average scores above 90% generally indicate excellent retention of original quality, 80% good, 70% fair, etc., but your conclusions may vary depending on your image quality requirements. I\* color rates the retained color accuracy (hue and chroma) while I\* tone rates the retained tonal accuracy (lightness and contrast). The score is on a percentile scale where 100% is a perfect match between the comparison image (e.g., “after” light exposure) and the reference image (e.g., “before” any light exposure). 0% I\* color means no color accuracy is left. 0% I\* tone means essentially no tonality remains and all image information content is lost. Negative I\* values have significance as well and contribute to the average I\* score when they occur. Negative I\* color values mean false color has occurred, for example, when a skin tone turns green or a neutral gray becomes distinctly colorful. Negative I\* tone scores mean visual contrast between colors has become inverted (i.e., like the tonal relationships in a photographic film negative). Serious image quality problems must arise before false colors and/or tones appear. For more information on the I\* metric, please refer to the AaI&A web site.

**3) Color changes are also reported using the classic color difference model, ΔE.** Note that ΔE values lose perceptual scaling significance when they become large (e.g., > 15). Also, the ΔE equation does not unambiguously measure changes in image contrast. This limitation is generally not a problem for paints and textiles, but can be a serious oversight when evaluating photographic images. Properly tracking changes in image contrast was a major reason behind the development of the I\* metric.

Table I: The Conservation Display Rating Criteria Set	
Upper Exposure limit (calculated from the average score for all sampled colors)	Overall average I* Color score $\geq$ 90% and overall average I* tone score $\geq$ 90%
Lower Exposure limit (calculated from the average score for the worst 10% of the sampled colors)	I* Color score for worst ten percent of sampled colors $\geq$ 80% and I* tone score for worst ten percent of sampled colors $\geq$ 80%
Physical Properties Requirement	No cracking, crazing, flaking, delamination, or physical deformation of image receiver layer observed during the <b>conservation display rated</b> exposure range.
"Worst ten percent" refers to those 10% of the color samples from within the sampled image population that exhibit the greatest amount of change.	

The I\* metric was conceived as a colorimetric algorithm to measure and track changes in image color and tonal accuracy with respect to an original reference image.<sup>1,2</sup> It scores the retained color and tonal accuracy on a percentile scale from a state of perfect matching (i.e., 100%) to a state of no color and tonal accuracy (i.e., 0%). It also scores any state where false rendering of the reference image tone and color quality has occurred (i.e., negative I\* values for color and tone which signify falsely substituted colors and/or tonal reversals). The I\* metric is an excellent foundation upon which to build criteria for acceptable change in color and tonal accuracy.

For more information on the Aardenburg Conservation Display ratings, please see the article entitled: : ["An Overview of the Aardenburg Imaging Conservation Display Ratings"](#).

Other relevant articles are:

- 1) Mark McCormick-Goodhart, Henry Wilhelm, and Dmitriy Shklyarov, "[A 'Retained Image Appearance' Metric For Full Tonal Scale, Colorimetric Evaluation of Photographic Image Stability.](#)" IS&T's NIP20: International Conference on Digital Printing Technologies, Final Program and Proceedings, IS&T, Springfield, VA, October 3–November 5, 2004, pp. 680–688.
- 2) Mark H. McCormick-Goodhart, "[An Introduction to the I\\* Metric.](#)" Aardenburg Imaging & Archives, February 7, 2007

These papers and more are available in PDF format on the documents page of the Aardenburg website:

<https://www.aardenburg-imaging.com/documents/>