

*This information was collated by new member Mike Robinson when he wanted to learn more about preparing prints for our competitions. He asked some existing members and also searched online. This is not intended to be a definitive guide and "other providers are available". But it seems a good starting point on some useful topics. Many thanks Mike.*

I've pieced together the advice I received from club members on print services and other info I found on preparing prints in general. This is by no means a comprehensive list but it is a useful starting point and really helped get me going.

### Comments on commercial print services (in no particular order)

- The Print Space, based in east London. Not cheap but pretty efficient and with an interesting range of papers. You can order online or collect in person. For a small fee you can order a sample pack of their different papers. <http://www.theprintspace.co.uk>
- Moving towards the top of the range you get Whitewall, a German company who happen to have an outlet in Bluewater. <https://uk.whitewall.com/>
- Members have used Photobox in the past although there has been a move towards DS Colour Labs. <http://www.photobox.co.uk/>
- For the October competition I used PhotoVision in Sevenoaks High Street (aka The Fuji Shop). Prints seemed to be good quality and they offered a 1hour or 24 hour service at a reasonable price. <http://www.photovisionservices.com/>
- BPD Photech are a good professional printer, based in Warrington but you can upload online. <http://www.photech.co.uk/>
- DS Colour Labs. A good site, easy to operate and the prints are very good and good value. <http://dscolourlabs.co.uk/>

### Colour Profiling

I got bogged down worrying about color-profiling and with hindsight probably the best advice is to send off a small test-print and see what it actually looks like rather than worry about what it might look like! That said, if you like worrying about colour profiling then read on ....

It seems a lot of the print services support colour profiling which in theory allows you to predict how your prints will look, e.g. soft-proofing in lightroom: <http://www.ephotozine.com/article/soft-proofing-in-lightroom-22008>. Photoshop Elements does not support soft-proofing but apparently the Elements+ (<http://simplephotoshop.com/elementsplus/>) add-on package enables it as mentioned here: <http://www.elementsvillage.com/forums/archive/index.php/t-64914.html> Soft-proofing is obviously fully supported in the full version of Photoshop.

There is a club Gretag Profiler which supports colour calibration for monitors, printers, scanners and digital projectors. Lending fee is currently GBP 5, usually for about a week. Brian Tabor, our Vice Chairman, is currently the guardian of the gear.

I found the following links to instructions/colour profiles on using the various print services

- Instructions: <http://www.theprintspace.co.uk/photoshop-and-colour-management-techniques.php>, Profiles: <http://www.theprintspace.co.uk/digital-c-type-prints.php>
- <http://www.photovisionservices.com/digitalprinting.html>
- [http://dscourlabs.co.uk/tech\\_support.cfm](http://dscourlabs.co.uk/tech_support.cfm)
- I expect the other services will have colour-profiles too but I didn't hunt these down.

### Mount Sizing

It seems members generally use a 50cmx40cm mount as a standard size as it is the size required for the Annual Exhibition and Kent competitions. This is flexible with respect to rotation into landscape or portrait format. i.e. both 50Wx40H and 40Wx50H boards are acceptable. Smaller mounts can be used if preferred, the only restriction being that the minimum size of print is 18cm on the longest side. More detail here

<http://www.sevenoakscameraclub.org.uk/Competitions/Competitions.htm>

### Mount Cutters

I bought a Logan 350-1 mat/mount cutter. On the expensive side but it worked well for me. <http://www.logangraphic.com/blog/logan-350-1-compact-elite/>

### Mount Borders

Not definitive guides, got me thinking what a can of worms it all is!

What size border.

[http://www.framemart.com.au/framing%20101/Framing101\\_Proportions.html](http://www.framemart.com.au/framing%20101/Framing101_Proportions.html)

What colour:

<http://www.nicholsonprints.com/Decorating/MatColor.htm>

<http://www.picturedraw.co.uk/mounting%20and%20framing%20a%20black%20and%20white%20picture.htm>

<http://www.picturedraw.co.uk/Matt%20and%20frame%20a%20colour%20picture.htm>