

# Profiles in the Workflow

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## Practical notes about using ICC profiles

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# How Profiles Work

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- Fundamentally, ICC profiles are used in pairs.
- That is, there is a source and a destination profile.

# Four Basic Types of Profiles

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- **Monitor Profiles**

A monitor profile is used to define the monitor's color characteristics and is different from an Adobe Work Space profile.

The purpose of a monitor profile is to optimize the phosphors and brightness of the monitor.

The reason to create more than one monitor profile is because the monitor changes over time as it is used. As the monitor ages, it usually becomes dimmer. So every time you create a new profile, the monitor is brought back to a more optimized state.

- **Adobe Working Spaces**

Working Spaces are part of Adobe System's color management system for displaying and editing color in programs like Photoshop, InDesign, Acrobat and Illustrator. Adobe applications offer Working Spaces for RGB, CMYK, Grayscale, and spot colors. Each Working Space is based on the ICC profile file format.

The implication is that an Adobe Working Space is an ICC profile.

- **Input profiles (Scanner and Camera)**

Input profiles define the color characteristics of a scanner or a camera.

- **Printer profiles**

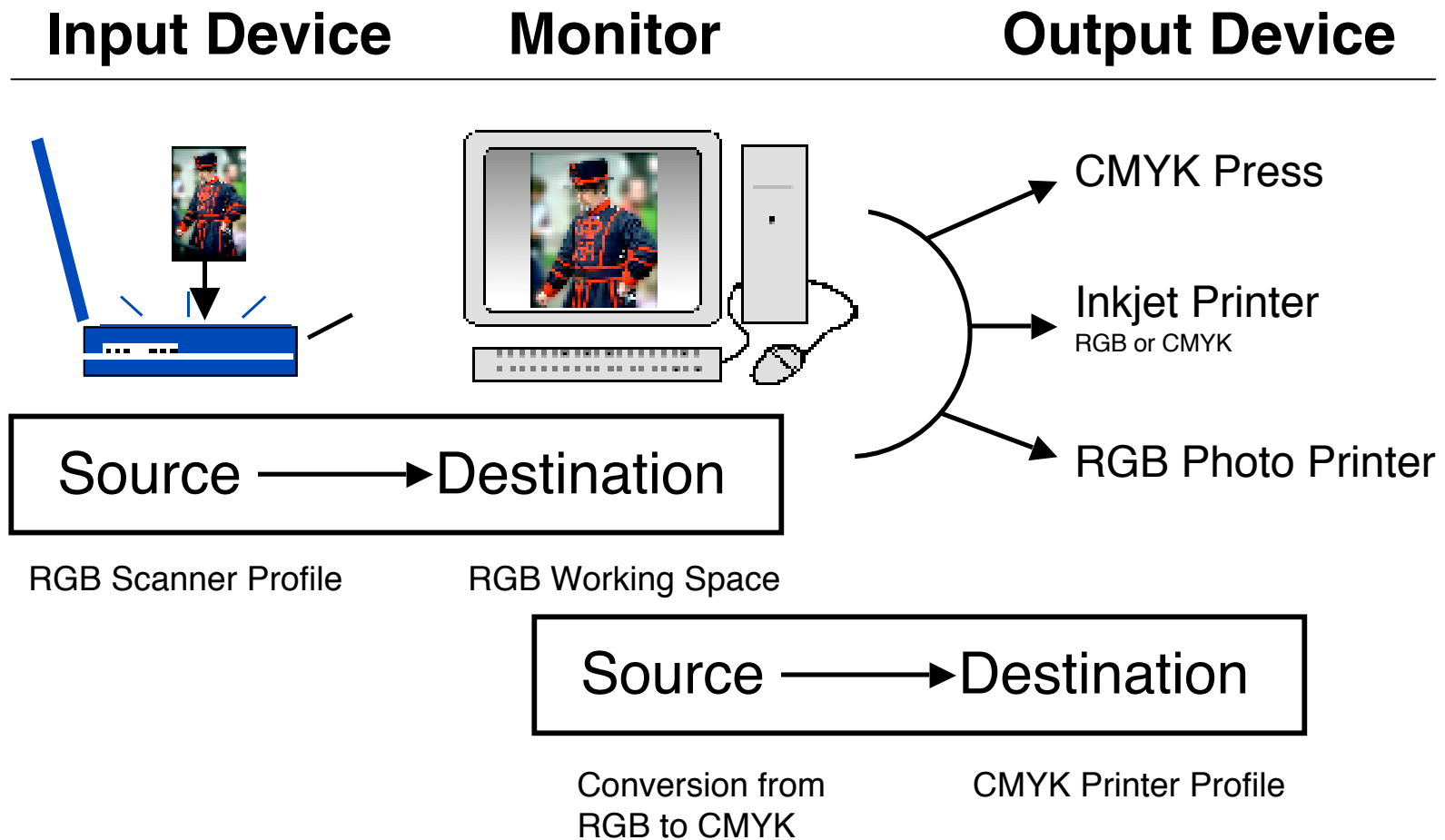
Output profiles define the color characteristics of a printer or printing device.

# Assign and Convert Using Profiles

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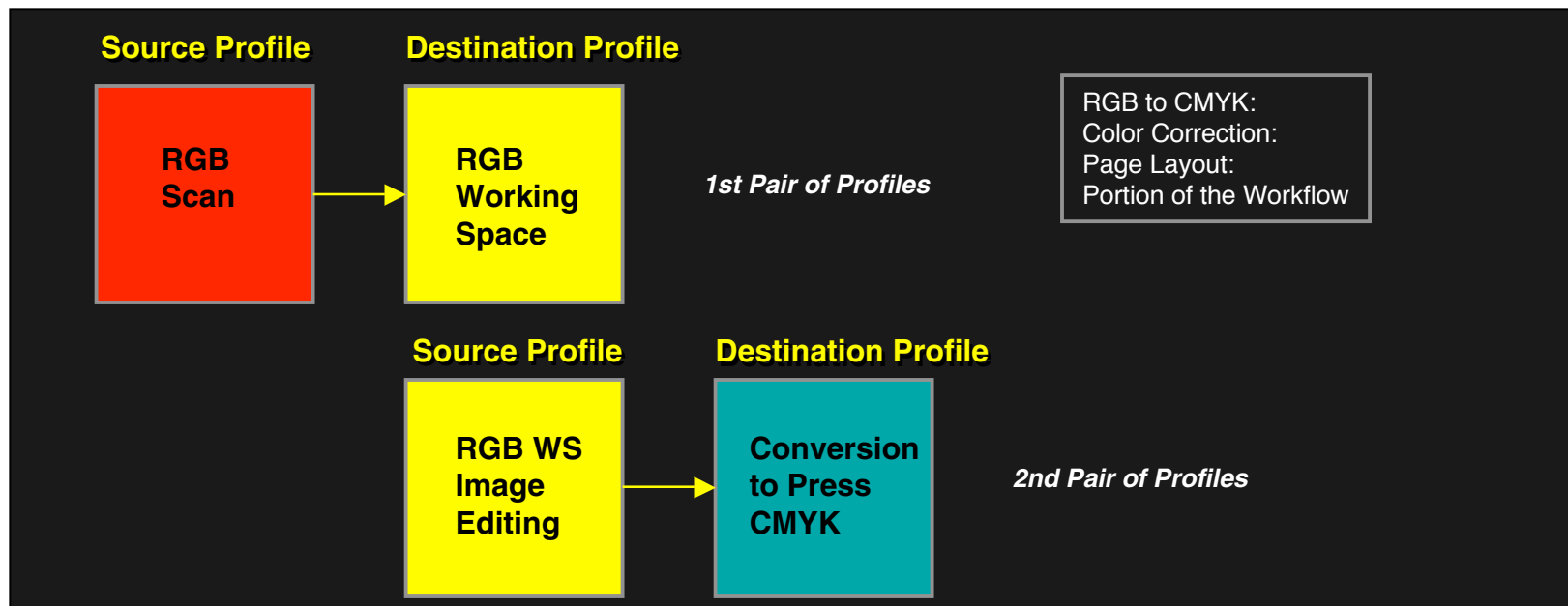
- An Adobe term and method for using profiles is to Assign (a source profile) and then Convert (to a destination profile).
- In the current crop of Adobe products (usually under the Edit Menu) there are two options titled:
  - Assign Profile...
  - Convert to Profile...
- These options allow you to apply or change Source and Destination profiles to images (say in Photoshop) or to pages (say in InDesign).

# Profiles used in Pairs - Example



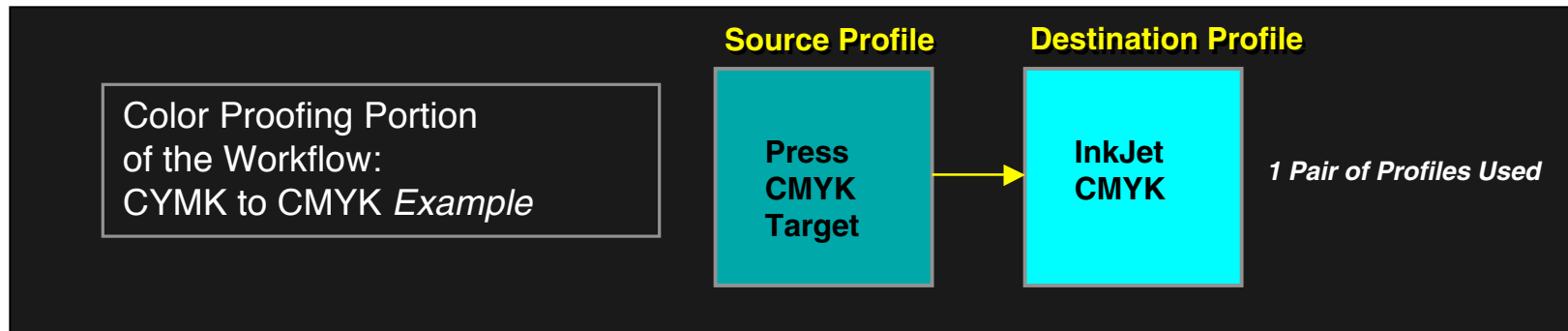
# Color Separation Workflow

## RGB to CMYK *Example:*



This example illustrates how profiles can be used to convert from RGB to CMYK. The CMYK press profile can be an Adobe CMYK profile or a custom made CMYK press profile.

# Color Proofing Workflow



- In this workflow use the *target* color space you want to match in the inkjet proofer. This becomes the *Source Profile* for this workflow.
- This target profile **could** be:
  - A Printing Press Profile
  - SWOP (TR001)
  - Gracol (TR004)
  - Photoshop SWOP v2

# Color Seps & Proofing Workflow Example

