1. Phatte Black *FAQ*

What advantages are there to printing in Phatte Black Mode?

With Phatte Black mode, you don't need to purge inks when switching between printing that requires the matte black ink and the photo black ink. This saves money, as any purge results in the wastage of ink (as much as $70.00 worth for each such switch). Purging also takes time--fifteen minutes or so. With Phatte Black mode, switching between Matte and Glossy printing is just a matter of loading the right paper.

How does Phatte Black Mode work?

To utilize this feature, a modified Matte Black cartridge is used in the "light-light" cartridge slot of your printer. Once loaded, you'll need to print a "purge" file that will clear the ink lines of remaining light-light ink. For detailed instructions, see the second part of this section, ***Phatte Black Printing Procedures***.

Will not having the light-light black ink affect print quality?

Not at all.

The light-light black offers **no** advantages when printing with ImagePrint, as our advanced ink mixing and screening already provides the improved tonality that this new ink was put in place to provide   While this ink may help avoid the deficiencies of other less sophisticated printing methods, ImagePrint's technology doesn't need it to get results far superior to the output of any other driver or RIP.

What is a "modified" Matte Black cartridge?

All Epson K3 ink cartridges utilize "smart chip" technology that allows the printer to read each ink cartridge to determine it's ink type, capacity, remaining ink levels, etc. A modified cartridge is one whose smart chip has been altered to appear different to the printer.

Modifying the cartridge means that the smart chip will be changed, or replaced, to make it look like a light light black cartridge to the printer. It may also be necessary to snip off the small, plastic fin on the top of the cartridge that "keys" the cartridge to the proper slot on the printer.

How do I obtain a modified Matte Black cartridge?

Your ColorByte ImagePrint dealer may stock modified Matte black cartidges, which you can then purchase as you would any other ink cartridge. If your dealer doesn't stock these cartriges, contact ColorByte's Sales dept. to obtain the name of a dealer who can provide them.

Another method of modifying the cartridge involves replacing the Matte black smart chip on your cartridge with a light light black one. There are many suppliers of these chips on the internet, and most give full instructions on the procedure of switching out the chip.

Note that ColorByte can offer no support for modifying the cartridge itself--that support is handled through the provider of the chip.

Will this void my Epson warranty?

This process uses Epson inks and Epson cartridges, and is **not** modifying the printer in any way. That said, ColorByte doesn't speak for Epson. If you have concerns, you may want to contact Epson before using modified cartridges.

Can I still use my Epson driver with Matte and Photo black loaded?

No. With both the Matte and Photo black cartridges loaded, the Epson driver will not print correctly as it has no support for that combination. You can only use this mode with ImagePrint. *(The Epson status monitor should work fine however.)*

Will I need new profiles?

ImagePrint will provide profiles for Phatte Black mode for both color and grayscale printing. These profiles will be designated with the letters "DK" instead of the normal "pk" or "mk" in the title. Since the profiles are made at the same time as the "standard mode" profiles, there should be a Phatte Black profile for every standard profile we provide.

How do I switch to Phatte Black mode within ImagePrint?

Switching to Phatte Black mode in ImagePrint is as simple as picking a Phatte Black (DK) profile as the Printer/Paper profile. When the software senses such a profile has been chosen, it will switch to Phatte Black mode automatically.