RasterLink8

Emulation Tool Guide

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This document describes how to install, set up, and use the Mimaki RasterLink8 ("RasterLink8") emulation tool.

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About this Guide

Notation used in this guide

- The buttons and items displayed in screens are enclosed in square brackets, such as [OK] and [Open].

Symbols used in this guide

Description		
Important!	Important	The "Important" symbol represents information you must be familiar with when using this tool.
	Mandatory action sign	Indicates an action that must be carried out.
	Tip	The "Tip" symbol represents useful information to know.
	Reference information	Indicates the corresponding page for related information. Clicking the symbol takes you to the applicable page.

How to obtain this guide and related documents

The latest versions of this guide and related documents are available at the following location:

- Our official site (https://mimaki.com/download/software.html)

Chapter 1 Overview



This chapter

This chapter provides an overview of the emulation tool.

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1.1 Operating Environment

The required operating environment is the same as that for RasterLink8. For more information, refer to the RasterLink8 installation guide.

● Supported RasterLink8 versions

RasterLink8 v.1.0.0 or later

● Supported colorimeters

Name displayed in RasterLink8	Supported colorimeter	Manufacturer	Remarks
i1Pro	i1Pro/i1Pro2	X-Rite	
i1iO	i1iO2	X-Rite	*1
i1Pro3	i1Pro3	X-Rite	
i1Pro3 PLUS	i1Pro3 PLUS	X-Rite	
i1iO3 with i1Pro3	i1iO3 (with i1Pro3 connected)	X-Rite	*1
i1iO3 with i1Pro3 PLUS	i1iO3 (with i1Pro3 PLUS connected)	X-Rite	*1
SpectroLFP	SpectroLFP	Barbieri	

*1. Can be used only with the emulation tool. Cannot be used for color replacement.

For more information on colorimeter selection, refer to ☞ "Setting the Colorimeter"(P. 12).

● Supported ink sets

No.	Ink set	Supported/Not supported
1	CMYK	Supported
2	CMYKLcLm	Supported
3	BMYK	Supported
4	BMYKLbLm	Supported
5	BMYKLbLmLk	Supported
6	CMYKOr	Supported
7	CMYKLkOr	Supported
8	CMYKLcLmLkOr	Supported
9	CMYKOrVi	Not supported
10	CMYKFyFp	Not supported
11	CMYKOrViFyFp	Not supported
12	BMYKViOr	Not supported
13	BMYKFyFp	Not supported
14	BMYKViOrFyFp	Not supported
15	BMYKLbLmFyFp	Not supported
16	BMYKLbLmViOr	Not supported

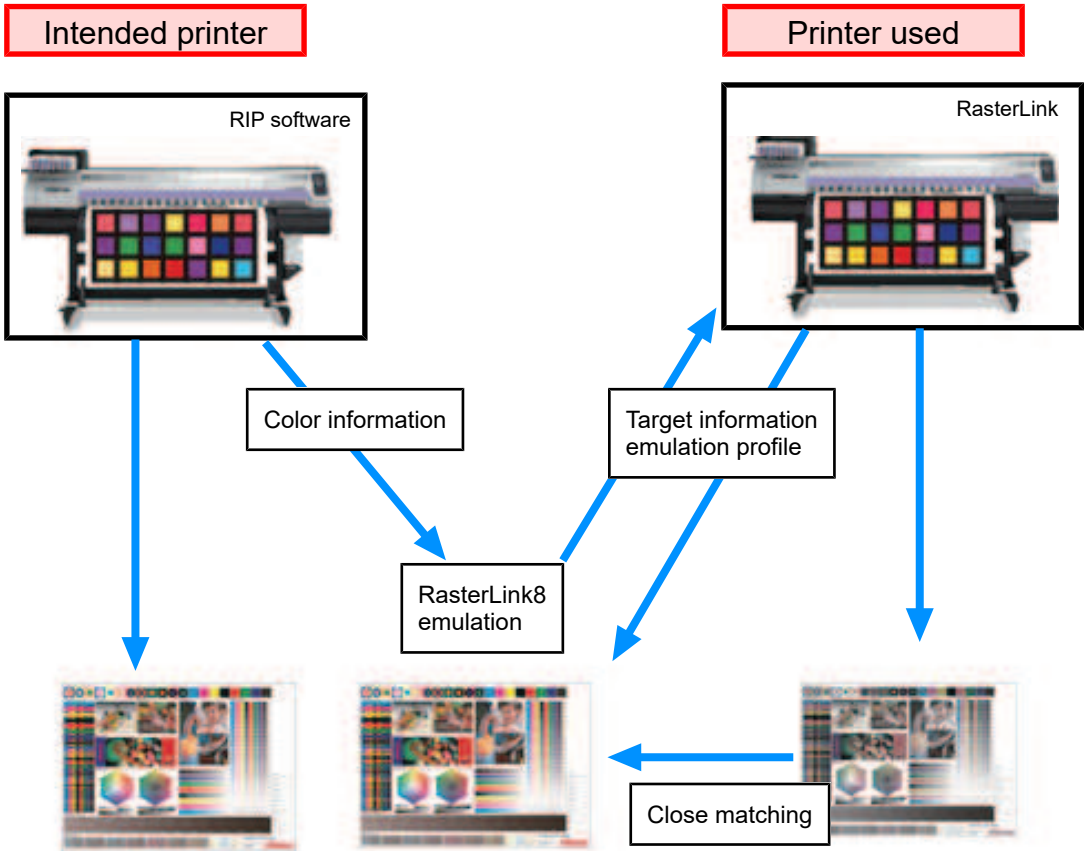
1.2 Terminology

Term	Explanation
Color measurement	Measuring colors using a colorimeter.
Color measurement value	A numerical value expressing the result of color measurement. The RasterLink Series primarily uses the L*a*b* color system.
Chart image	An image containing rows of color patches to be measured. The size and layout will differ depending on the particular colorimeter used.
Measured color value file	A file containing the color measurement results for a chart image.
Color difference	A value expressing the difference between two colors. Color differences can be calculated in several ways. This tool uses the following two values: ⊿E, ⊿E2000
MimakiProfileMaster3 (MPM3)	Mimaki color management software. Includes functions for creating RasterLink Series device profiles and functions for various types of color matching, including emulation.

1.3 What is Emulation?

Changes can occur in colors printed using inkjet printers due to factors such as inkjet head replacement, variations in inkjet nozzles over time, and fluctuations in ambient conditions.

Emulation is a function that measures color to automatically adjust ink density and ensure that colors are printed closely matching the base color set as the datum.



Important! • Color differences are calculated assuming a D50 light source, therefore different lighting environments may lead to different results. Note that there may be differences between the appearance and the numerical values.

Emulation applicability

RasterLink8 emulation data is individually created for each registered printer and device profile. Emulation data was created for a different printer, therefore cannot be used, even if the model is the same. This is because emulation data is created based on individual printer information.

Select a device and favorite when creating emulation data. ☞ "Favorite Settings"(P. 13) This can be used when applied to a job regardless of the favorite used when creating the job, provided the same device profile is selected for the registered printer.

Chapter 2 Before Use



This chapter

This chapter describes the procedures that must be performed before using the emulation tool.

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2.1 Setting the Colorimeter

- When installing RasterLink8, driver of colorimeter is not installed. Therefore, please install the driver of the colorimeter to be used separately.

1 **Select [Environments] - [Option...] from the RasterLink8 menu.**

2 **Select the [Device] tab, then click [Colorimeter setting].**

- The [Setting] screen will appear.

3 **Select the colorimeter to be used from the [Device] list.**

- Click [Connection check] to confirm the colorimeter is connected correctly.

4 **Click [OK] on the [Setting] screen.**

- The colorimeter is set.

2.2 Favorite Settings

The emulation tool uses the [Favorite] function to specify corresponding device profiles and to determine chart output conditions.

The favorites used for emulation are set before launching the emulation tool.

For more information on setting favorites, refer to the RasterLink8 Reference Guide.

This section describes important settings for each screen.

● [Properties] screen

- Do not select "Mono Color" for [Job Attribute]. Selecting this option will print the chart image in monochrome.

● [Print Condition] screen

Specify the device profile to be emulated.

Device profiles that cannot be emulated

The following device profiles cannot be emulated:

- Device profiles for which [Type] is "Metallic"
- Device profiles for special purposes (e.g., bottom clear device profiles)
- Device profiles with profile version v3.4 or earlier
- Device profiles with "Emulation" or "Equalization" data created using MPM3 (Refer to MPM3 Reference Guide for details.)

● [General Print] screen

- The chart image will always be printed at 100 %, even if [Scale] is set other than 100 %.
- The value set on this screen will be the initial value of [Mirror] and [Rotate] at the time of chart printing. Enable [Mirror] to prevent mistake if the image needs to be output reversed - for example, when using transfers or transparent media.Print a chart image

● [Special plate] screen

- [Special plate] must be set when printing white plates, such as for transparent or special media. "Whole Image" must be selected for [Special Color Print Area] in such cases.

● Hot folder setting

- A hot folder set for the favorite is used for chart printing. A hot folder must be created if one has not already been created.

Chapter 3 Emulation Procedure



This chapter

This chapter describes the emulation procedure.

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3.1 Emulation Workflow

1. Launch the emulation tool

☞ "Launching the emulation tool"(P. 17)

2. Select the emulation conditions

☞ "Selecting the emulation conditions"(P. 18)

- Select the printer and favorites

3. Create target information

☞ "Creating target information"(P. 18)

This involves the following three steps:

- Save the chart image file
- Print the chart image file in the target environment
- Measure the color of the printed chart image

4. Create an emulation profile

☞ "Creating an emulation profile"(P. 21)

This involves the following two steps:

- Print the chart image file using RasterLink8

  Print the chart image file added to the RasterLink8 job list.
- Measure the color of the printed chart image

  After measurement, an emulation profile is automatically created and installed in RasterLink8.

5. Check the emulation results

☞ "Checking the results"(P. 23)

This involves the following two steps:

- Print the chart image file using RasterLink8

  Print the chart image file added to the RasterLink8 job list.
- Measure the color of the printed chart image

  After measurement, the color difference from the target is displayed on the screen.

3.2 Creating a New Emulation Profile

This section describes the procedure for creating a new emulation profile using the emulation tool.

Launching the emulation tool

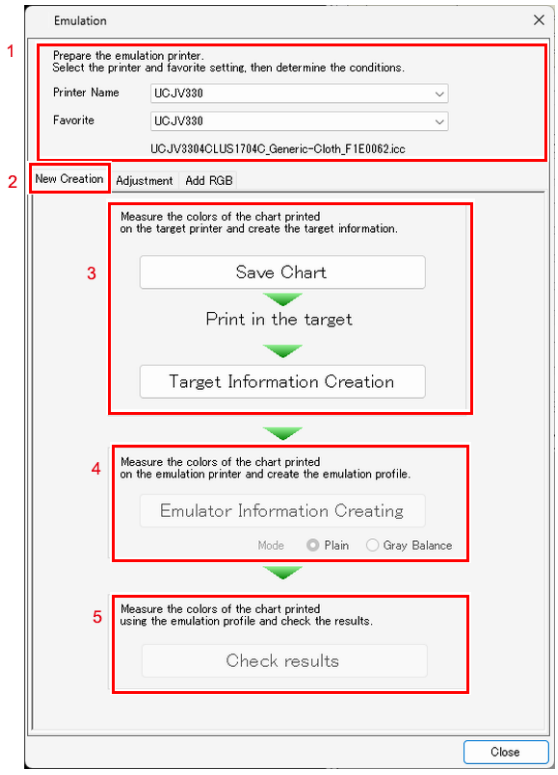
Select [Tool] - [Emulation] on the RasterLink8 menu.

- The emulation tool starts up.

Do not use the following operations in RasterLink8 while the emulation tool is starting up. Using them will affect emulation processing.
- Exiting RasterLink8
- Altering settings for the favorite to be emulated

Explanation of screen

Create a new emulation profile using the settings and operations displayed on the main screen in order from top to bottom. The numbers on the screen image correspond to the numbers in the workflow below.

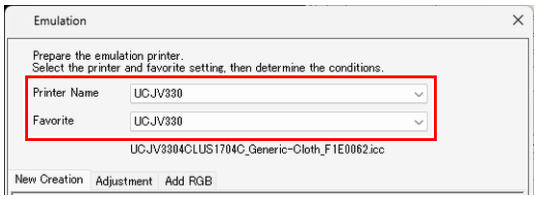


No.	Setting	Reference
1	Select the emulation conditions	☞ P. 18
2	Select the [New Creation] tab	☞ P. 18
3	Create target information	☞ P. 18
4	Create an emulation profile	☞ P. 21
5	Check the emulation results	☞ P. 23

Selecting the emulation conditions

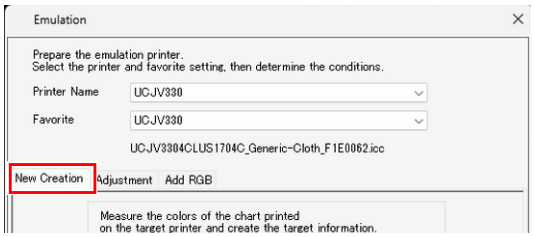
1 **Select the following conditions to specify the emulation conditions:**

- Printer Name
- Favorite



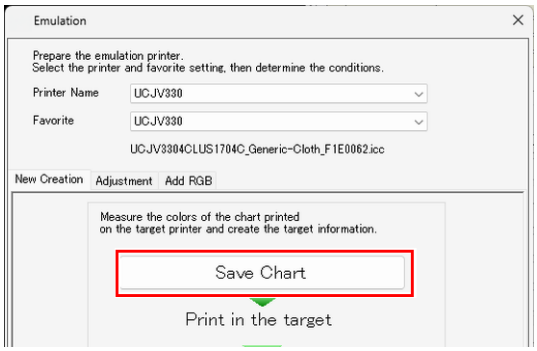
- The device profile name set as the favorite is displayed on the screen.

2 **Select the [New Creation] tab.**



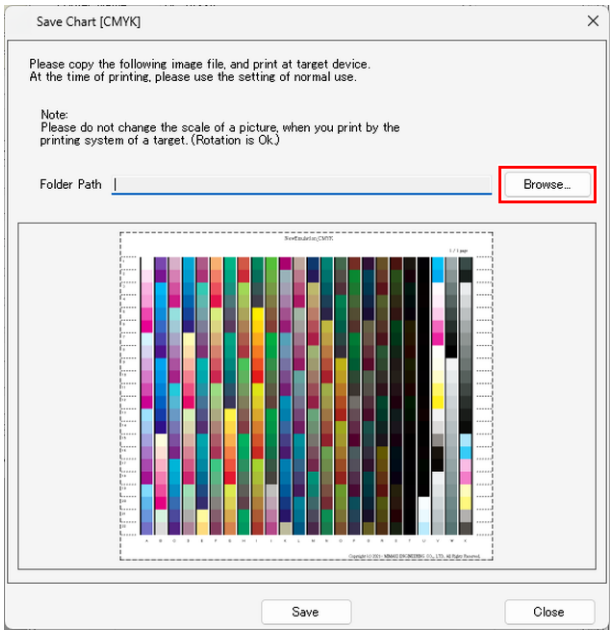
Creating target information

1 **Click [Save Chart] on the emulation main screen.**



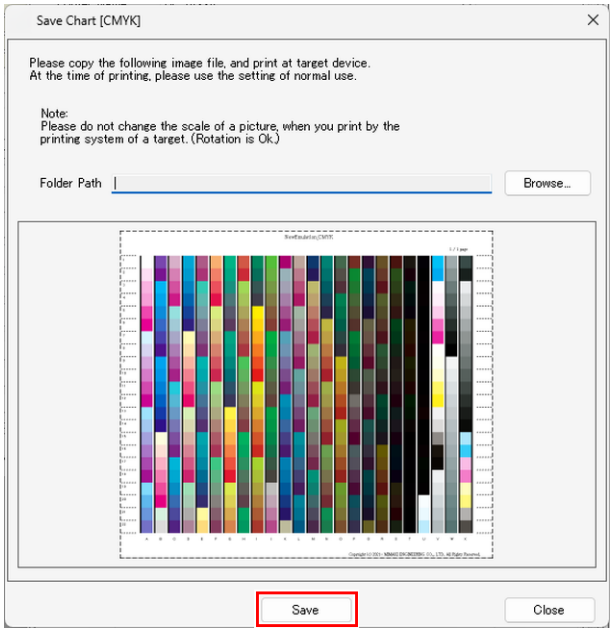
- The [Save Chart] window appears.

2 Click [Browse].



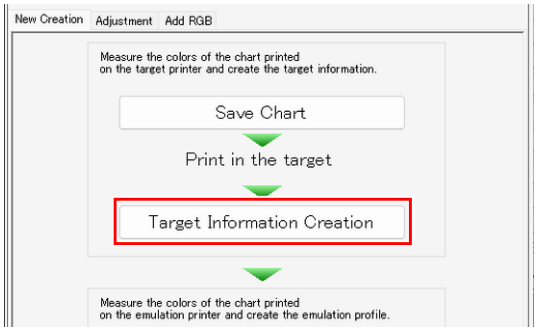
- A folder selection dialog appears. Select the destination folder.

3 Click [Save].



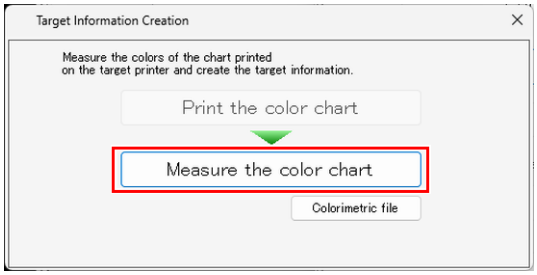
- The color image file is saved in PDF format.
- The chart image file is printed by the target printer.
- The [Save Chart] window closes.

4 Click [Target Information Creation] on the emulation main screen.



- The [Target Information Creation] window appears.

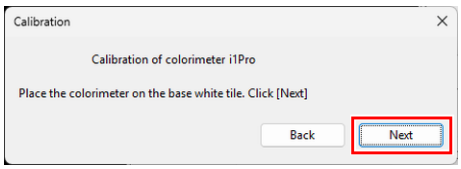
5 Click [Measure the color chart].



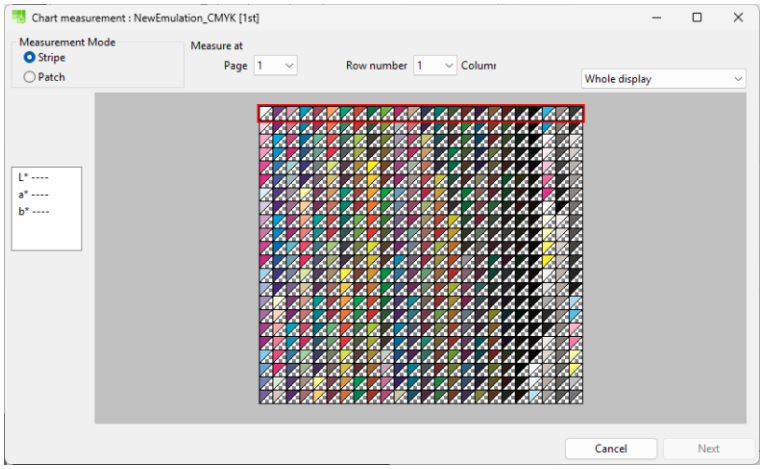
- The [Calibration] dialog appears.

- Clicking [Colorimetric file] displays a file selection dialog. If a previously measured chart has been saved as a file, color measurement can be skipped here by selecting the colorimetric file.

6 Prepare the colorimeter in accordance with the instructions on the screen, then click [Next].



7 The color measurement window appears. Perform color measurement in accordance with the instructions on the screen.



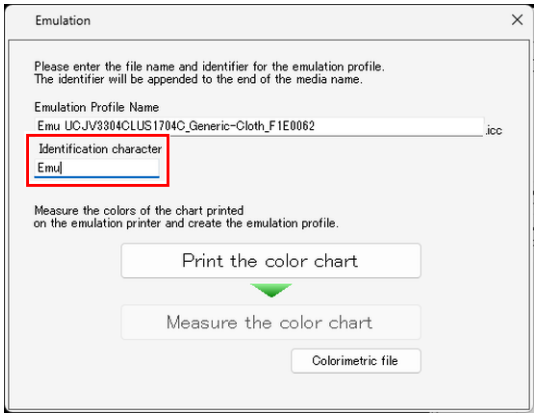
- The chart image will vary depending on the colorimeter selected. The chart image shown here is an example.
- Target information is created automatically once color measurement is complete.

Creating an emulation profile

1 **Click [Emulator Information Creating] on the emulation main screen.**

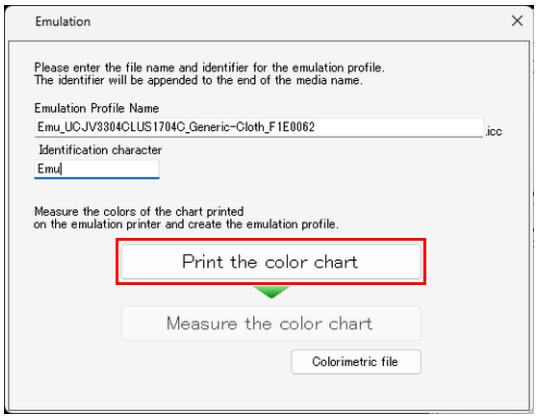
- The [Emulation] window appears.

2 **Enter an identifier to distinguish the emulation profile from the original device profile.**



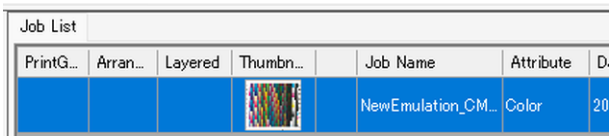
The identifier is automatically appended to the file name of the device profile. It is managed as a separate profile from the original device profile. An identifier is also automatically appended to the media name. The emulation profile can be checked using the device profile name or media name on the [Print Condition] window in RasterLink8.
Mode
- Standard: Performs emulation using ICC colors.
- Gray Balance: Performs emulation using gray balance colors.

3 **Click [Print the color chart].**



- The chart image file is input as a RasterLink8 job.

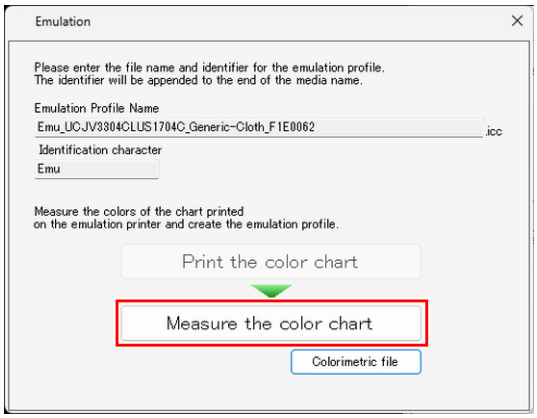
4 Click the RasterLink8 [ ] (Execute) icon, then click [Start].



- The chart image is printed.

- The chart image can be rotated or its layout changed before printing. However, do not scale the chart image, as this will prevent color measurement.

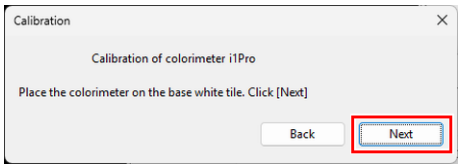
5 Click [Measure the color chart].



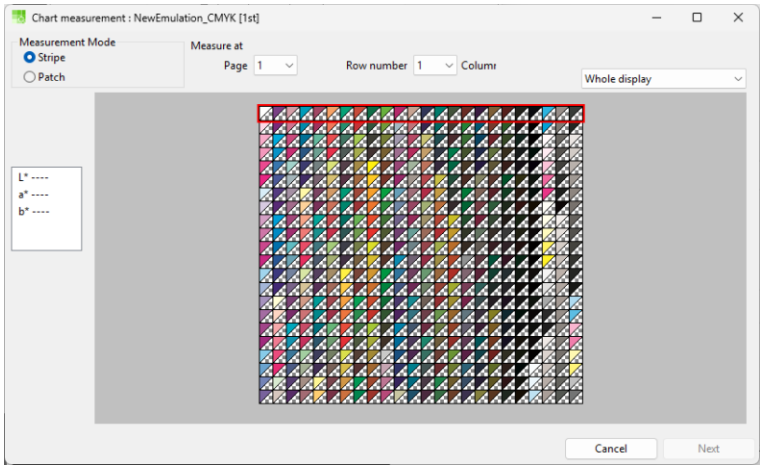
- A colorimeter calibration dialog appears.

- Clicking [Colorimetric file] displays a file selection dialog. If a previously measured chart has been saved as a file, color measurement can be skipped here by selecting the colorimetric file.

6 Prepare the colorimeter in accordance with the instructions on the screen, then click [Next].

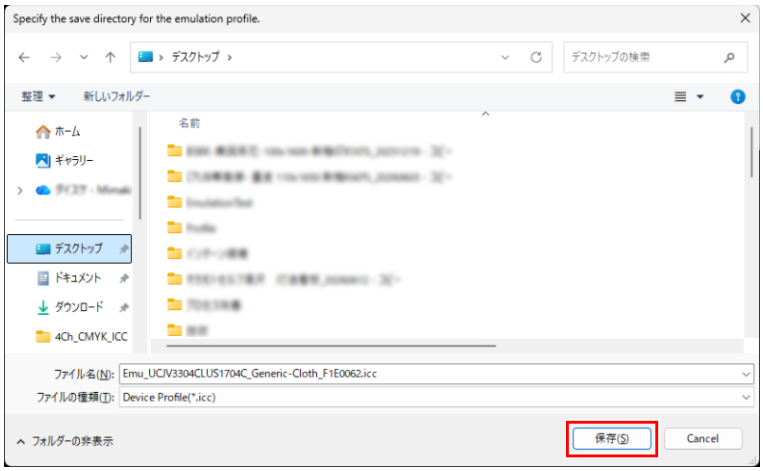


7 The color measurement window appears. Perform color measurement in accordance with the instructions on the screen.



- Once color measurement is complete, an emulation profile is automatically created.

8 **Select the save destination folder for the emulation profile, then click [Save].**



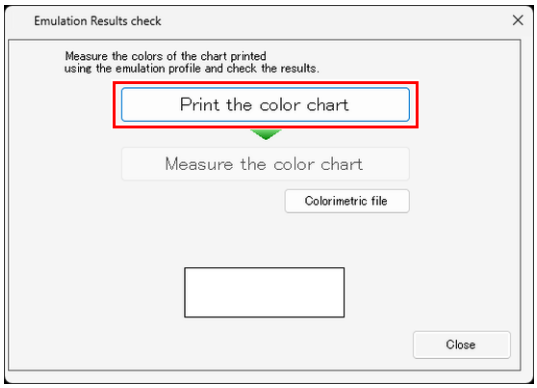
- After saving, the emulation profile is automatically installed in RasterLink8.

Checking the results

1 **Click [Check results] on the emulation main screen.**

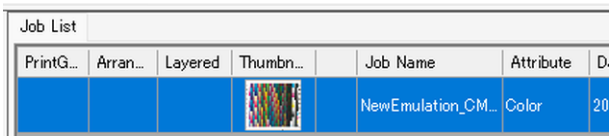
- The [Emulation Results check] window appears.

2 **Click [Print a chart image].**



- The chart image file is input as a RasterLink8 job.

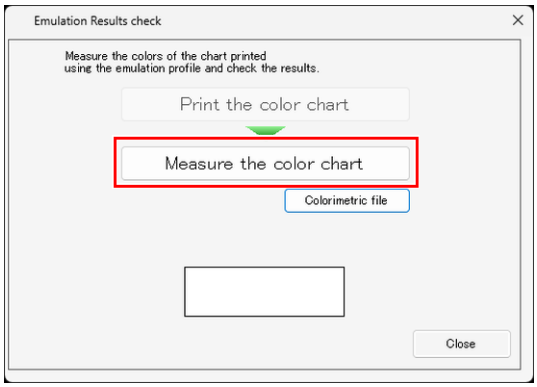
3 Click the RasterLink8 [ ] (Execute) icon, then click [Start].



- The chart image is printed.

- The chart image can be rotated or its layout changed before printing. However, do not scale the chart image, as this will prevent color measurement.

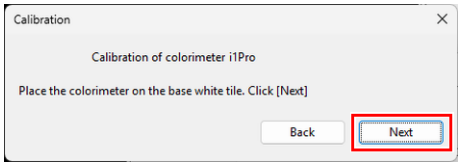
4 Click [Measure the color chart].



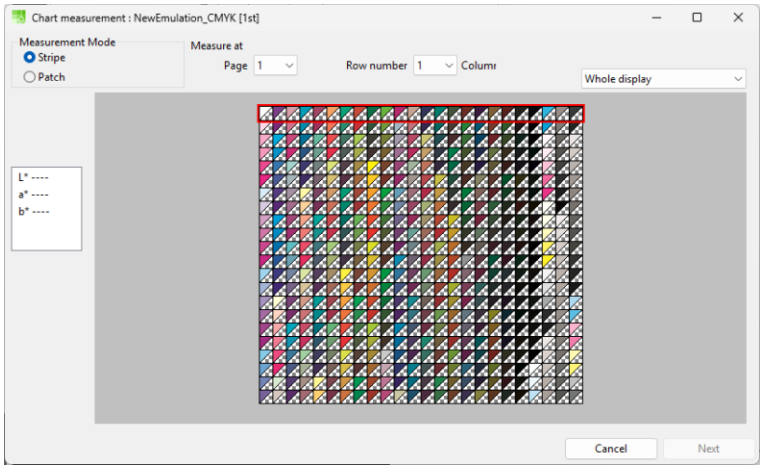
- The [Calibration] dialog appears.

- Clicking [Colorimetric file] displays a file selection dialog. If a previously measured chart has been saved as a file, color measurement can be skipped here by selecting the colorimetric file.

5 Prepare the colorimeter in accordance with the instructions on the screen, then click [Next].



6 The color measurement window appears. Perform color measurement in accordance with the instructions on the screen.



- Information on the color difference from the target is displayed on the screen.

7 **Check the color difference, then click [Close].**



3.3 Adjusting the Emulation Profile

This section describes the procedure for adjusting emulation profiles.

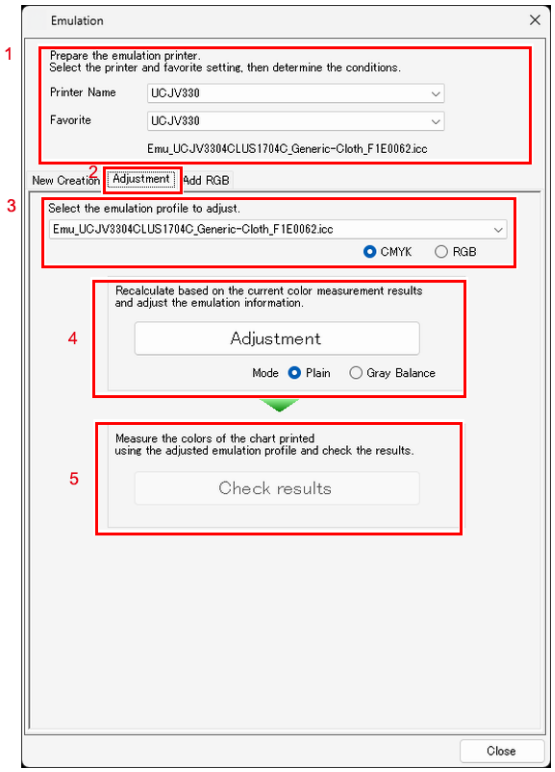
The emulation profile created is recalculated and adjusted based on the colorimetric information at the time it was created.

Important!

- This adjustment recalculates with a finer calculation granularity without changing the calculation range of the color matching. However, the accuracy still may not be better than when the profile was first created.

Explanation of screen

Adjust the emulation profile using the settings and operations displayed on the main screen in order from top to bottom. The numbers on the screen image correspond to the numbers in the workflow below.



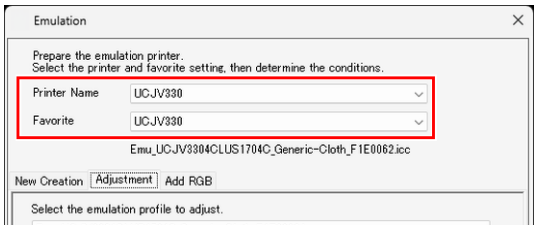
No.	Setting	Reference
1	Select the emulation conditions	☞ P. 27
2	Select the [Adjustment] tab	☞ P. 27
3	Select an emulation profile	☞ P. 27
4	Adjust the emulation profile	☞ P. 28
5	Check the feedback results	☞ P. 28

Selecting the emulation conditions

Select the emulation conditions.

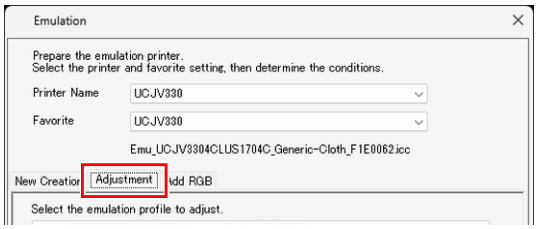
1 **Select the following conditions to specify the emulation conditions:**

- Printer Name
- Favorite



- The device profile name set as the favorite is displayed on the screen.

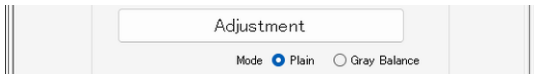
2 **Select the [Adjustment] tab.**



Selecting an emulation profile

Select an emulation profile.

1 **Select an emulation profile.**



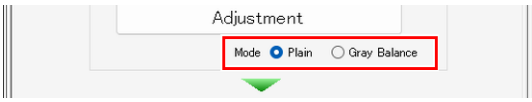
- If the emulation profile was newly created, only CMYK mode can be adjusted. If an emulation profile with RGB emulation information added is selected, select whether CMYK or RGB is to be adjusted.

Adjustment

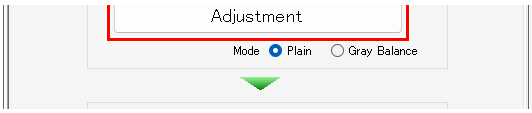
Select the mode to be adjusted, then perform recalculation.

1 **Select the model to be adjusted.**

- Standard: Performs emulation using ICC colors.
- Gray Balance: Performs emulation using gray balance colors.



2 **Click [Adjustment] on the emulation main screen.**



- Recalculation starts.

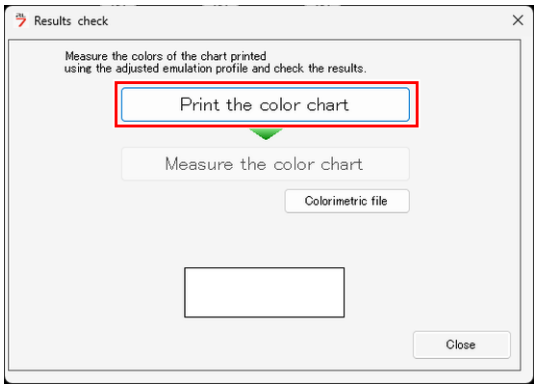
Checking the results

Check the adjustment results.

1 **Click [Check results] on the emulation main screen.**

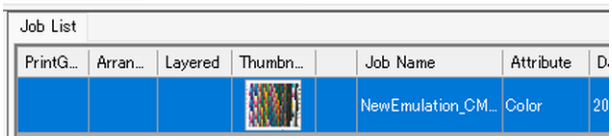
- The results checking window appears.

2 **Click [Print a chart image].**



- The chart image file is input as a RasterLink8 job.

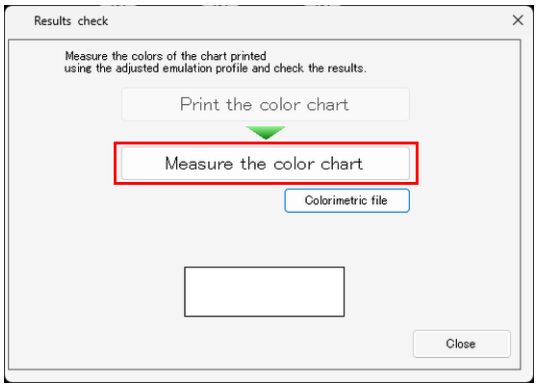
3 **Click the RasterLink8 [ ] (Execute) icon, then click [Start].**



- The chart image is printed.

- The chart image can be rotated or its layout changed before printing. However, do not scale the chart image, as this will prevent color measurement.

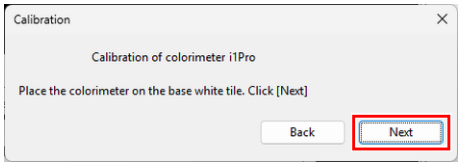
4 **Click [Measure the color chart].**



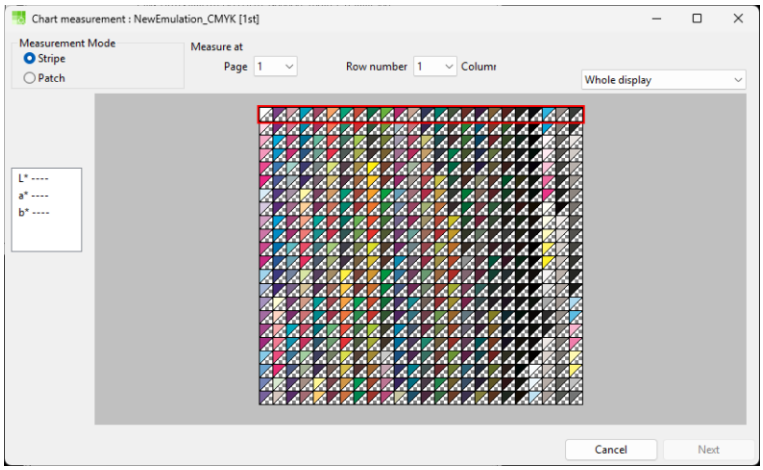
- The [Calibration] dialog appears.

- Clicking [Colorimetric file] displays a file selection dialog. If a previously measured chart has been saved as a file, color measurement can be skipped here by selecting the colorimetric file.

5 **Prepare the colorimeter in accordance with the instructions on the screen, then click [Next].**

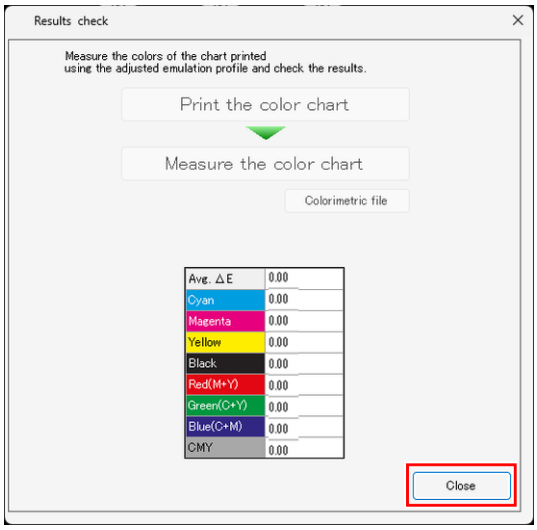


6 The color measurement window appears. Perform color measurement in accordance with the instructions on the screen.



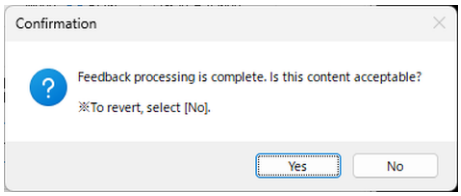
- Information on the color difference from the target is displayed on the screen.

7 Check the color difference, then click [Close].



8 Determine whether to apply the feedback results to the emulation profile.

- Yes: The emulation profile is updated with the adjustment results applied.
- No: The emulation profile is not updated.



3.4 Adding RGB Emulation Information

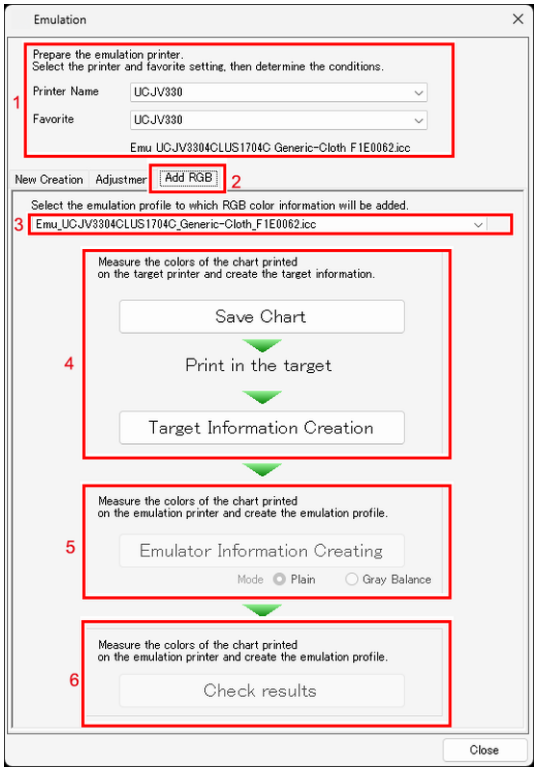
This section describes the procedure for adding RGB emulation information to an existing emulation profile.

Important!

- RGB emulation profiles cannot be newly created. An existing CMYK emulation profile is required in order to add RGB emulation information.

Explanation of screen

Add RGB information using the settings and operations displayed on the main screen in order from top to bottom. The numbers on the screen image correspond to the numbers in the workflow below.

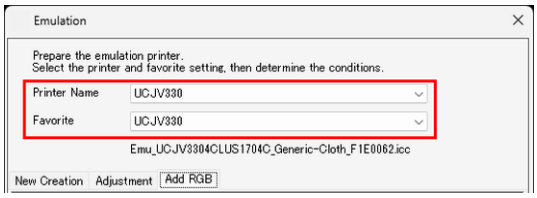


No.	Setting	Reference
1	Select the emulation conditions	☞ P. 32
2	Select the [Add RGB] tab	☞ P. 32
3	Select an emulation profile	☞ P. 32
4	Create target information	☞ P. 32
5	Create RGB emulation information	☞ P. 35
6	Check the emulation results	☞ P. 37

Selecting the emulation conditions

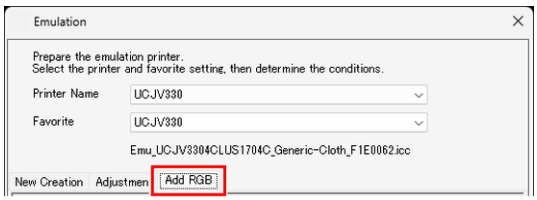
Select the emulation conditions.

1 **Select the following conditions to specify the emulation conditions:**
· Printer Name
· Favorite



- The device profile name set as the favorite is displayed on the screen.

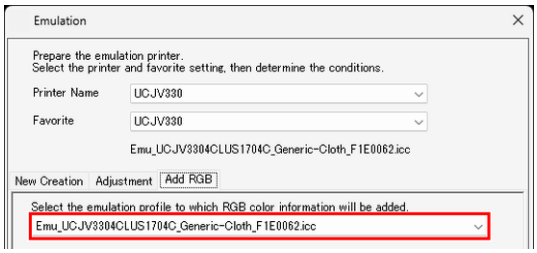
2 **Select the [Add RGB] tab.**



Selecting an emulation profile

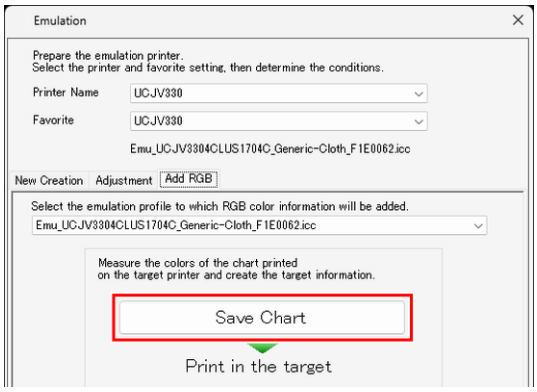
Select an emulation profile.

1 **Select an emulation profile.**



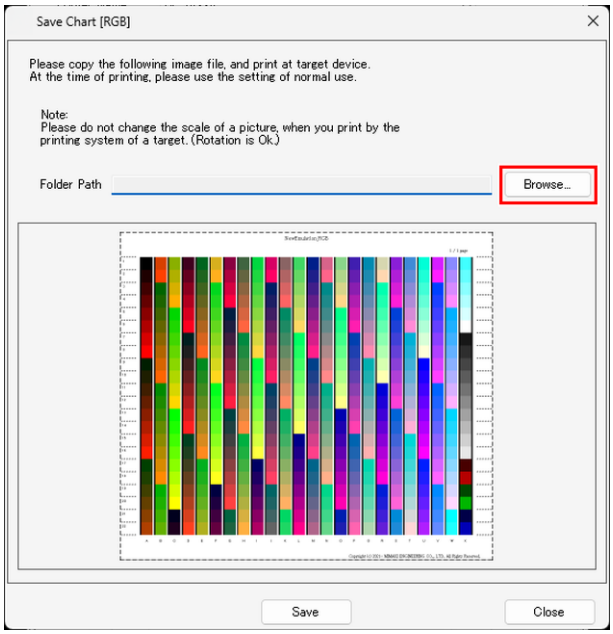
Creating target information

1 **Click [Save Chart] on the emulation main screen.**



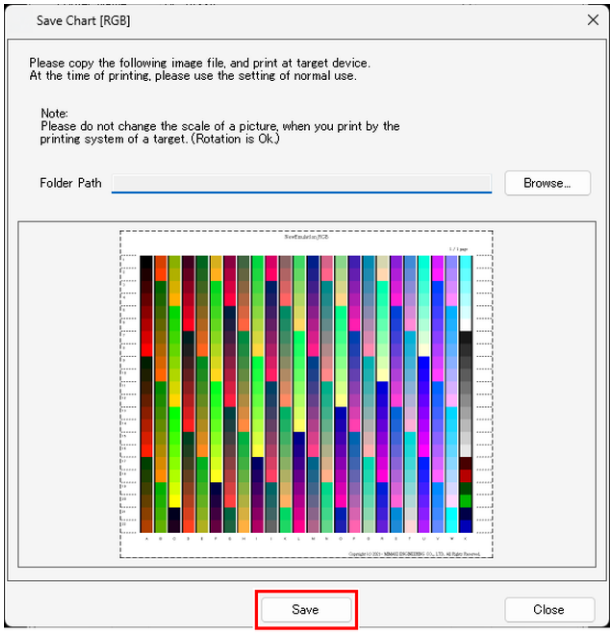
- The [Save Chart] window appears.

2 **Click [Browse].**



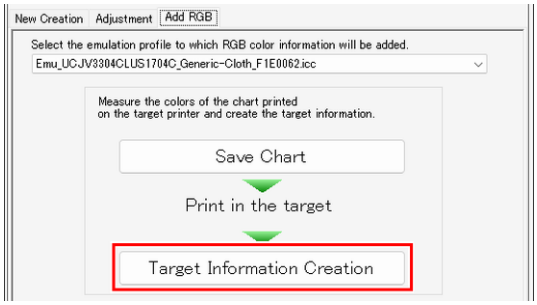
- A folder selection dialog appears. Select the destination folder.

3 **Click [Save].**



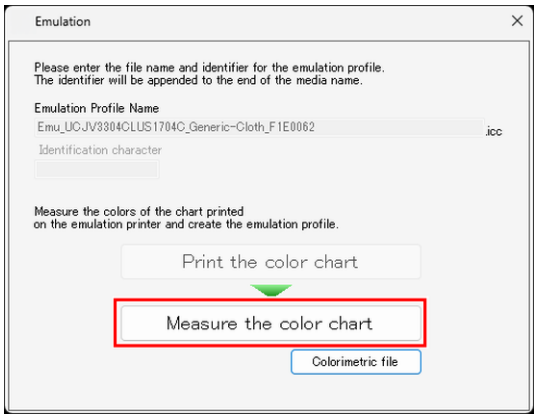
- The color image file is saved in PDF format.
- The chart image file is printed by the target printer.
- The [Save Chart] window closes.

4 Click [Target Information Creation] on the emulation main screen.



- The [Target Information Creation] window appears.

5 Click [Measure the color chart].

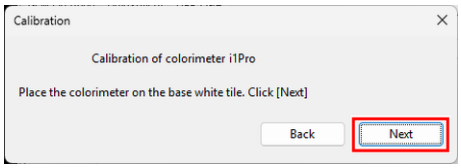


- The [Calibration] dialog appears.

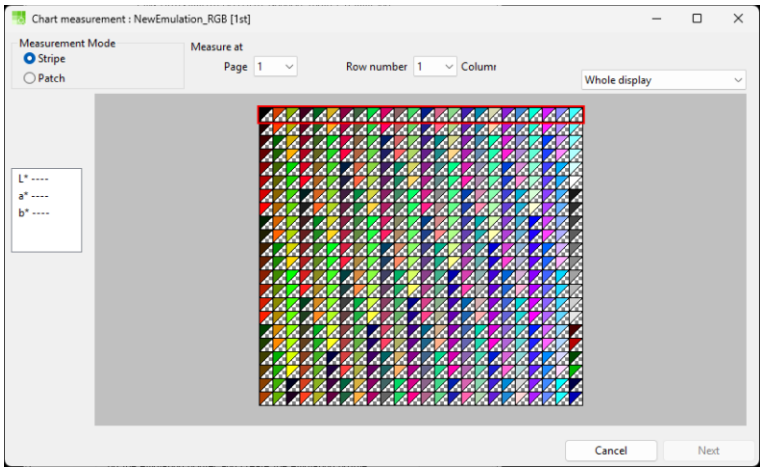


- Clicking [Colorimetric file] displays a file selection dialog. If a previously measured chart has been saved as a file, color measurement can be skipped here by selecting the colorimetric file.

6 Prepare the colorimeter in accordance with the instructions on the screen, then click [Next].

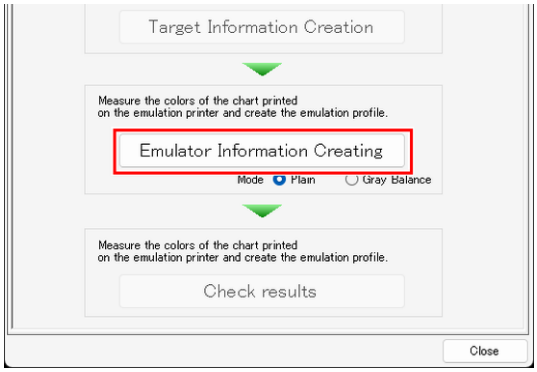


7 The color measurement window appears. Perform color measurement in accordance with the instructions on the screen.



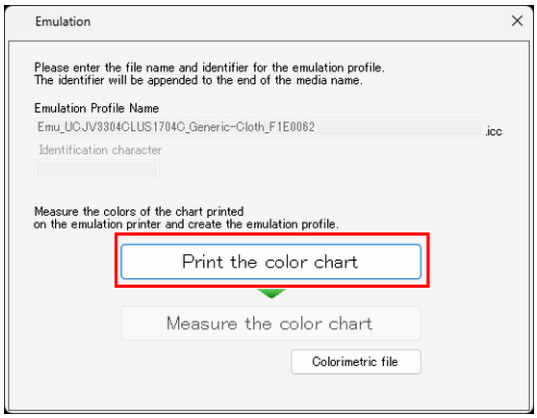
Creating RGB emulation information

1 **Click [Emulator Information Creating] on the emulation main screen.**



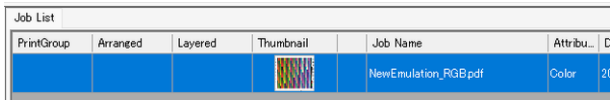
- The [Emulation] window appears.

2 **Click [Print the color chart].**



- The chart image file is input as a RasterLink8 job.

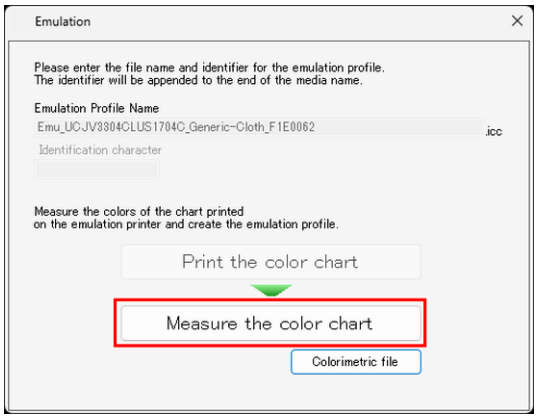
3 **Click the RasterLink8 [ ] (Execute) icon, then click [Start].**



- The chart image is printed.

- The chart image can be rotated or its layout changed before printing. However, do not scale the chart image, as this will prevent color measurement.

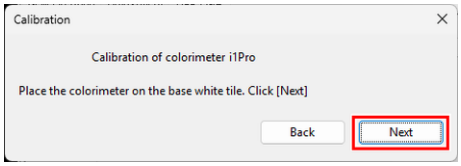
4 Click [Measure the color chart].



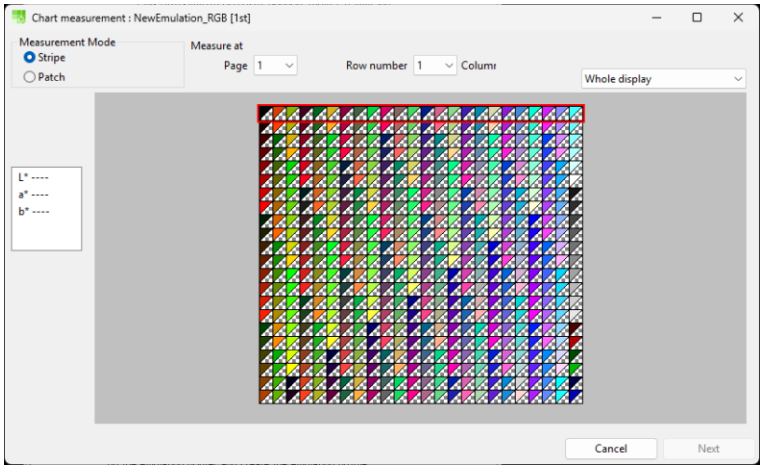
- The [Calibration] dialog appears.

- Clicking [Colorimetric file] displays a file selection dialog. If a previously measured chart has been saved as a file, color measurement can be skipped here by selecting the colorimetric file.

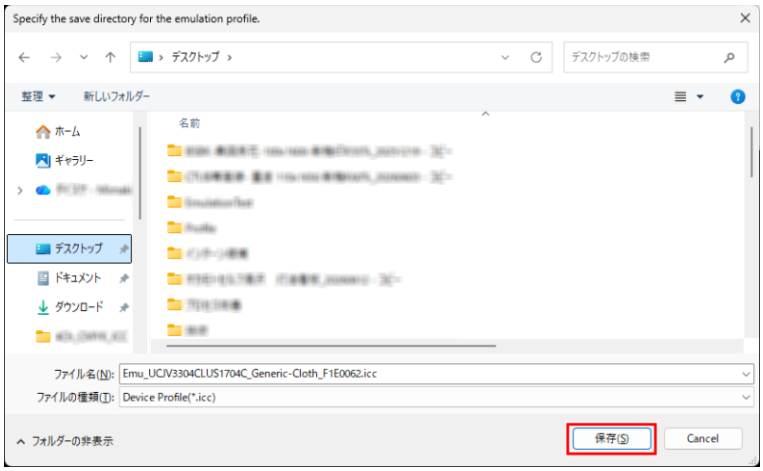
5 Prepare the colorimeter in accordance with the instructions on the screen, then click [Next].



6 The color measurement window appears. Perform color measurement in accordance with the instructions on the screen.



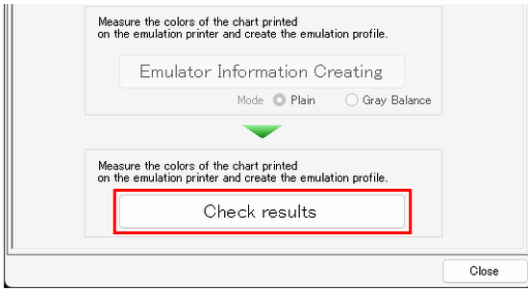
7 **Select the save destination folder for the emulation profile, then click [Save].**



- After saving, the emulation profile is automatically installed in RasterLink8.

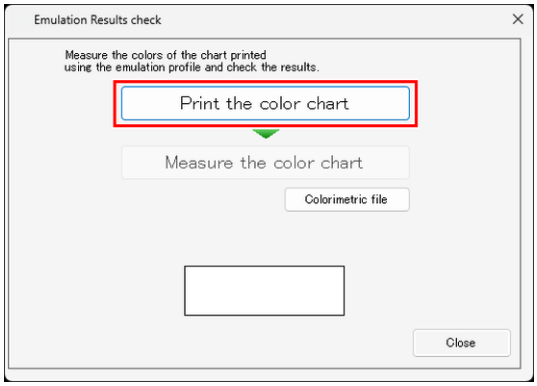
Checking the results

1 **Click [Check results] on the emulation main screen.**



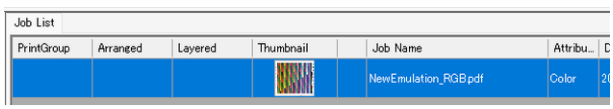
- The [Emulation Results check] window appears.

2 **Click [Print the color chart].**



- The chart image file is input as a RasterLink8 job.

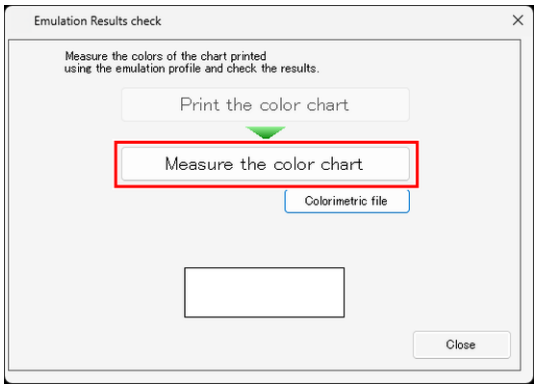
3 **Click the RasterLink8 [ ] (Execute) icon, then click [Start].**



- The chart image is printed.

- The chart image can be rotated or its layout changed before printing. However, do not scale the chart image, as this will prevent color measurement.

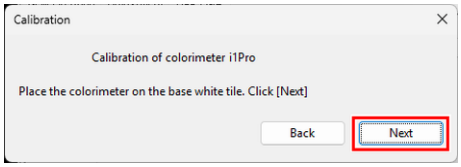
4 Click [Measure the color chart].



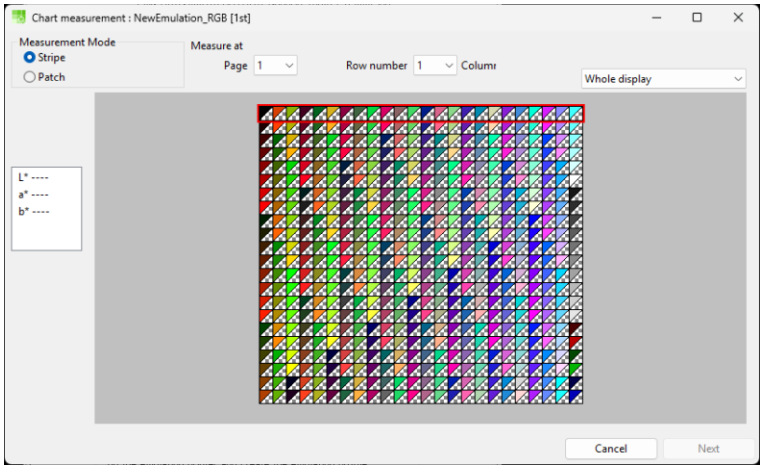
- The [Calibration] dialog appears.

- Clicking [Colorimetric file] displays a file selection dialog. If a previously measured chart has been saved as a file, color measurement can be skipped here by selecting the colorimetric file.

5 Prepare the colorimeter in accordance with the instructions on the screen, then click [Next].

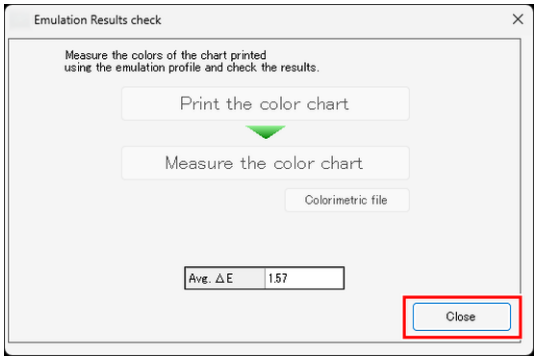


6 The color measurement window appears. Perform color measurement in accordance with the instructions on the screen.



- Information on the color difference from the target is displayed on the screen.

7 Check the color difference, then click [Close].



3.5 Using with RasterLink8

This section describes the procedure for using created emulation profiles with RasterLink8.

- Created emulation profiles are automatically installed in RasterLink8.

Selecting an Emulation Profile

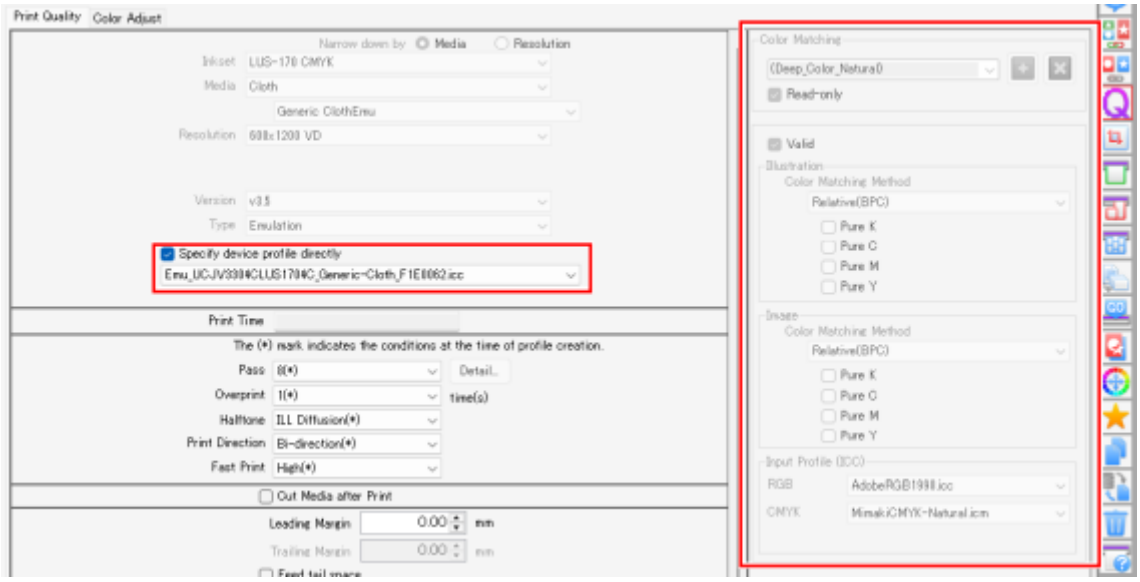
Select an emulation profile to be used on the RasterLink8 [Print Condition] window.

1 **Select a job in RasterLink8 to display the [Print Condition] window.**

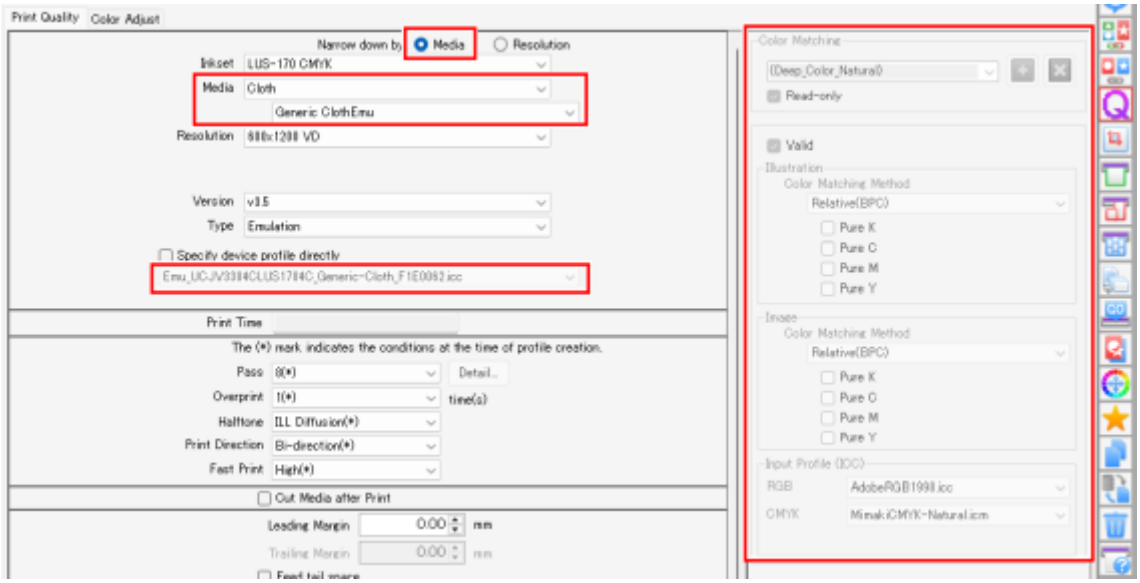
- The [Print Condition] window appears.

2 **Select an emulation profile.**

- Select the [Specify device profile directly] check box to directly specify an emulation profile.



- Emulation profiles can also be filtered using the media name.



Important!

- [Color Matching] cannot be selected if an emulation profile is selected. The [Color Matching] setting will be grayed out.

Chapter 4 When in Trouble



This chapter

Describes how to resolve potential problems and operation procedures that may be unclear.

Q & A 42
Basics 42
Differences from MimakiProfileMaster3 (MPM3) 42
Troubleshooting 44
Color measurement errors frequently occur while color measuring a chart image/The color difference has increased after emulation 44
Dealing with Messages 45

4.1 Q & A

Provides answers to frequently asked questions.

Basics

● Can emulation profiles be calibrated?

Yes.

● Can emulation data be moved to other PCs?

They can be moved using the job backup function.

1 **Select a job, then select the device profile for which the emulation data to be moved has been set.**

2 **Create a backup job. (For more information on the backup procedure, refer to the RasterLink8 Reference Guide.)**



- Backup files contain the emulation data for the specified device profile.

3 **Backup files can be restored using RasterLink8 on the destination PC.**

Important!

- If base color and emulation data has already been created for a printer and device profile at the destination PC, this information will be overwritten when the backup file is restored.

Differences from MimakiProfileMaster3 (MPM3)

The RasterLink Series includes an emulation function using MimakiProfileMaster3 (MPM3) separate from this function.

● What are the differences between the MPM3 emulation function and this function?

The differences between emulation using this tool and MPM3 are as follows:

	MPM3	RasterLink8
Emulation data save destination	Data is saved in the target profile and emulation profile.	Data is saved in the RasterLink8 system separately from the device profile.
Method for applying emulation data to RasterLink after creation	Target profile and emulation profile are installed manually.	Manual installation is not required. (Installed automatically when emulation profiles are created)
Method for applying to jobs	Select a target profile and emulation profile on the Print Condition window.	Select an emulation profile on the Print Condition window.
Performance	Gray balance mode not supported RGB images not supported	Gray balance mode supported RGB images supported

● I previously performed emulation using MPM3, but is it possible to perform this work in RasterLink8?

If you have been creating emulation data using MPM3, you should continue using MPM3.

4.2 Troubleshooting

Color measurement errors frequently occur while color measuring a chart image/The color difference has increased after emulation

The following precautions should be observed to ensure correct color measurement of chart images without errors occurring:

● Check to confirm there are no missing dots or nozzle contamination.

If missing dots or nozzle contamination is observed, resolve the issue, then print the chart again.

● Remove any tackiness from the printed surface.

If the printed surface has not dried sufficiently and remains tacky, errors or incorrect color measurements may result due to the colorimeter catching on the surface.

Eliminate any tackiness by allowing the surface to dry adequately.

● Check the favorite settings.

Check that the following settings are correct in the favorite:

- If a UV unit is used, check that "Whole Image" is set when white plate automatic composition is enabled using the [Special plate] function.

● Check the settings when printing a chart image.

- Check that [Mirror] is turned on if the printed face is to be viewed from the opposite side, such as with transfers and transparent media.

● Use the same post-processing as for the end product.

In the case of transfers, measure the actual transfer after it has been transferred, and not the image printed on to transfer paper.

In the case of textiles, measure after post-processing (such as heat treatment and washing).

4.3 Dealing with Messages

Message	Operation/Cause	Corrective action
Please setup colorimeter settings.	[Tool] - [Emulation] was selected on the RasterLink8 menu.	No colorimeter has been selected. Select a colorimeter.☞ "Setting the Colorimeter"(P. 12)

RasterLink8 Emulation Tool Guide

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