

Make Better Prints

Inkjet Printing Through Photoshop - Macintosh

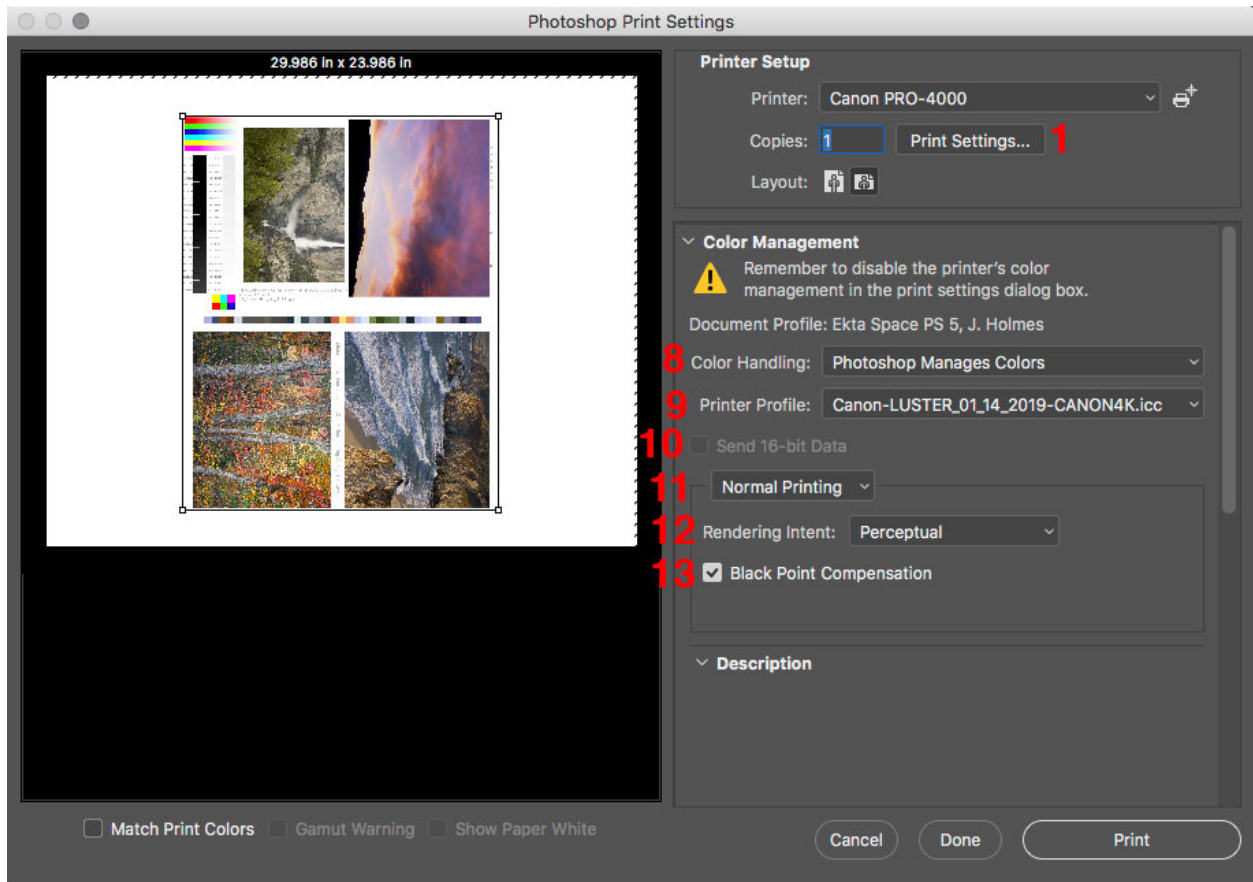
This is a guide to the settings to use for color managed printing through Photoshop and the Macintosh printer driver. Lightroom replicates some of these settings, and adds other settings that are not part of color management but relate to image quality.

These settings have been validated to reproduce my color reference sheet accurately when used with custom ICC profiles. Different versions of Photoshop and the mac printer driver may show slightly different options, and may behave different. You should always do your own testing to confirm the settings produce your results. This is one of the reasons I always test my profiles and printer settings against my master reference sheets.

Every setting outlined is of critical importance. Using one wrong setting will produce the wrong result. Because of that, you should create your own checklist to follow based on this document and the specific settings for each paper and printer combination you use. Pilots and astronauts used checklists for critical procedures, and so should you, as it will reduce expensive paper waste and insure consistent results.

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Choose **File>Print** in Photoshop and you will see the **Photoshop Print Settings** dialog. I've numbered the settings in the graphic to match the instructions below.



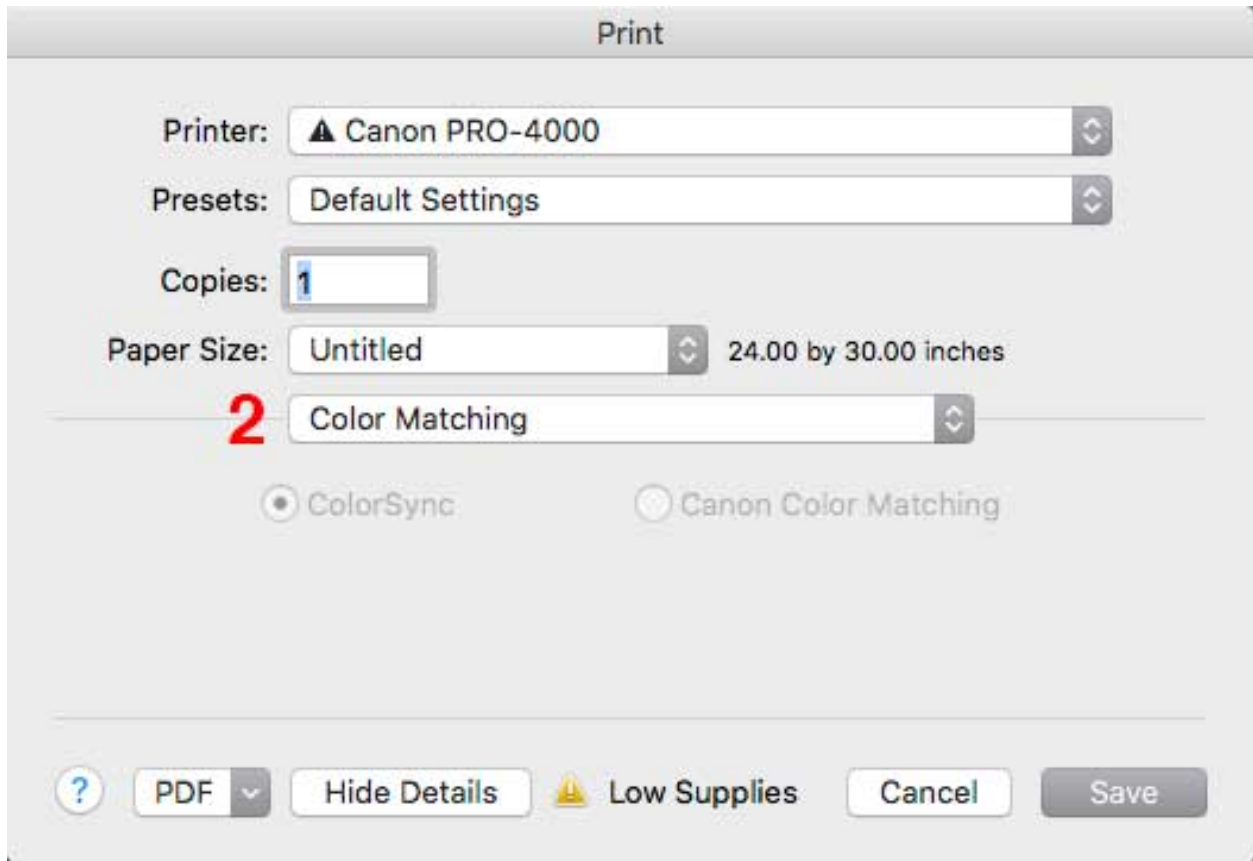
1. Print Settings...

You should set up your print setting first. This document covers the color management settings, but you will also need to set the paper size and orientation.

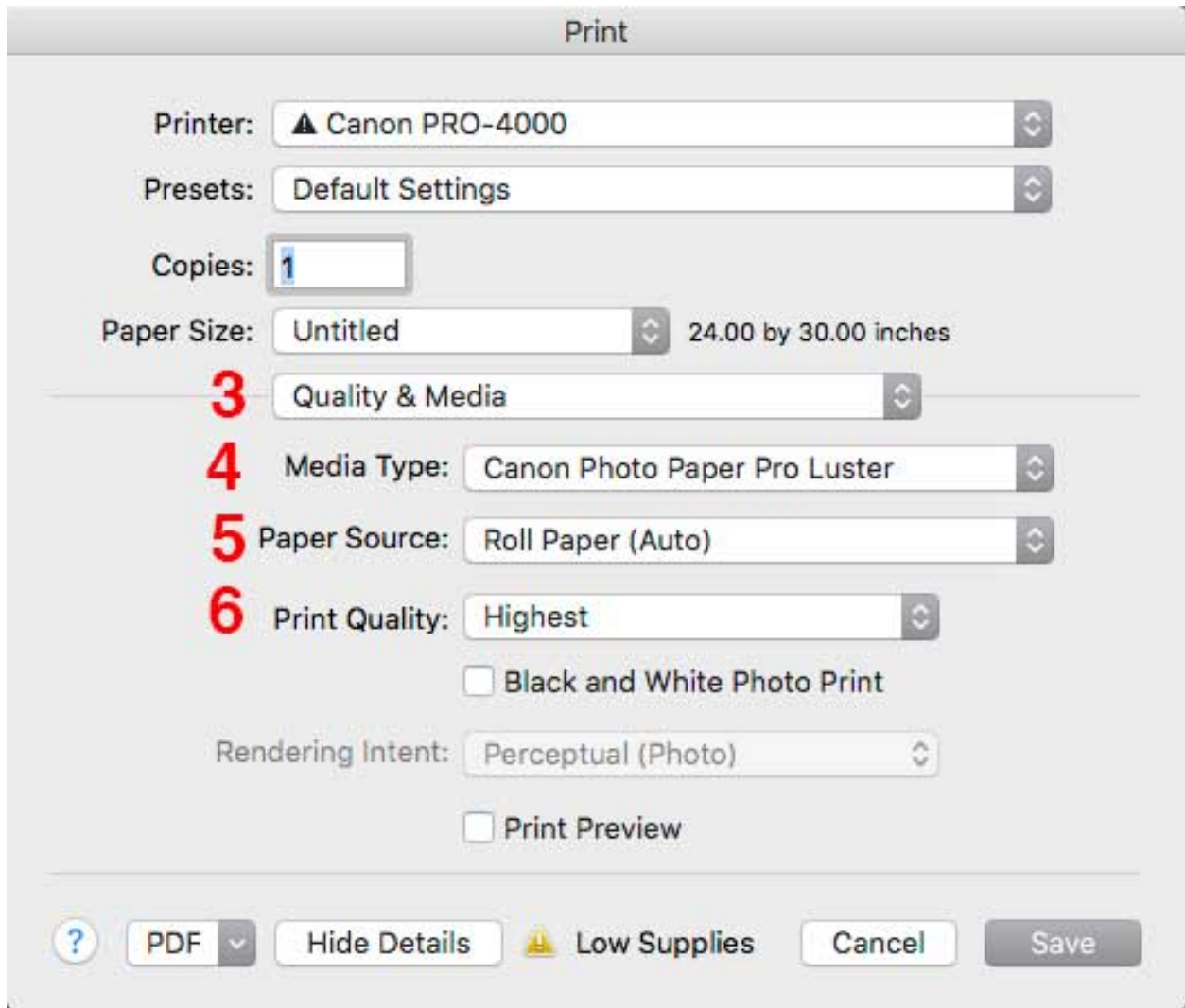
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After clicking **Printer Settings...** you will see a dialog that looks like this.

2. The **Color Matching** pulldown should match the graphic below with the options grayed out so that you can not change them, and **ColorSync** selected.



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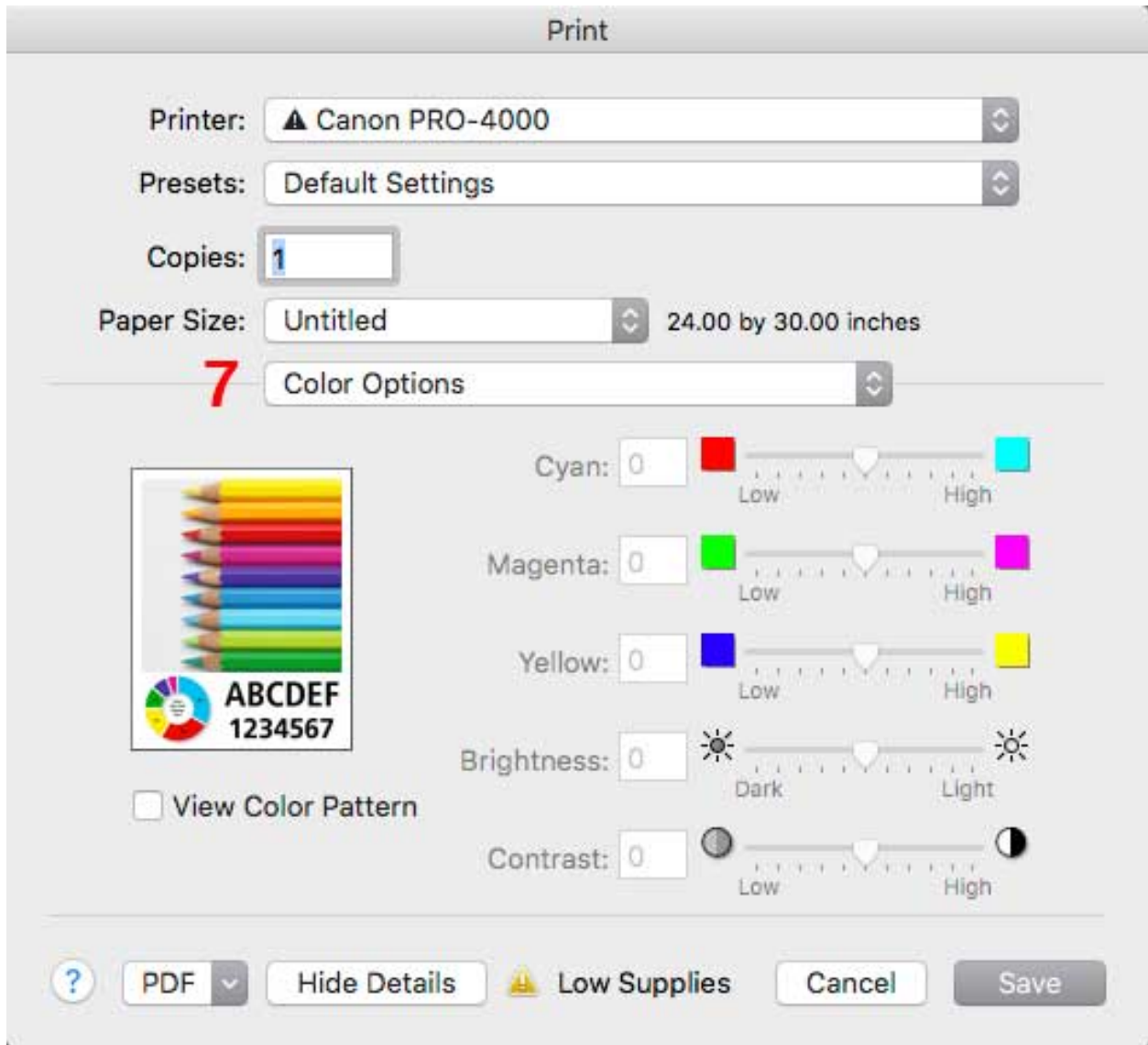
3. Under **Quality & Media** we need to choose several settings.

4. **Media Type**: This is the media type that corresponds to the setting used when the profile was made. It is possible that it will not be the same as the actual paper you are using. When using canned profiles, be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions to find the correct setting for their profile.

5. **Paper Source**: Not color management related but does need to be set correctly.

6. **Print Quality**: Changing this setting also changes the color, so it should match the setting used when the profile was made to get the correct results. When I have to guess, I choose "highest".

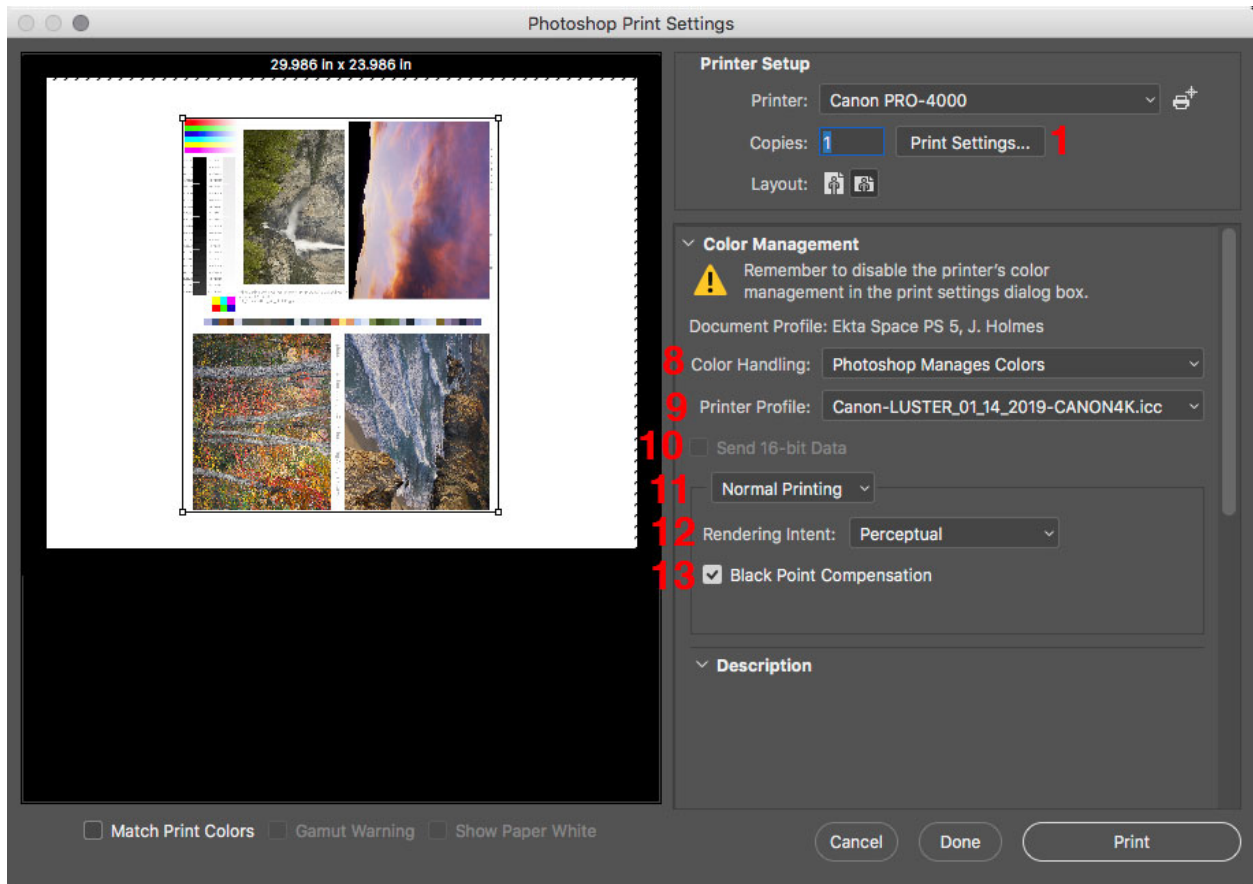
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7. Color Options

DO NOT TOUCH!!!! Correcting color is the job of the profile. These settings can never replicate what a profile can do.

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8. Color Handling —> set to **Photoshop Manages Color**

This setting uses Photoshop to handle the conversion from the file's working colorspace to the printer profile.

9. **Printer Profile**

Every printer/paper combination uses a different profile. Choose the correct one for the paper you are printing on. Make a checklist that records the correct profile for each paper you use.

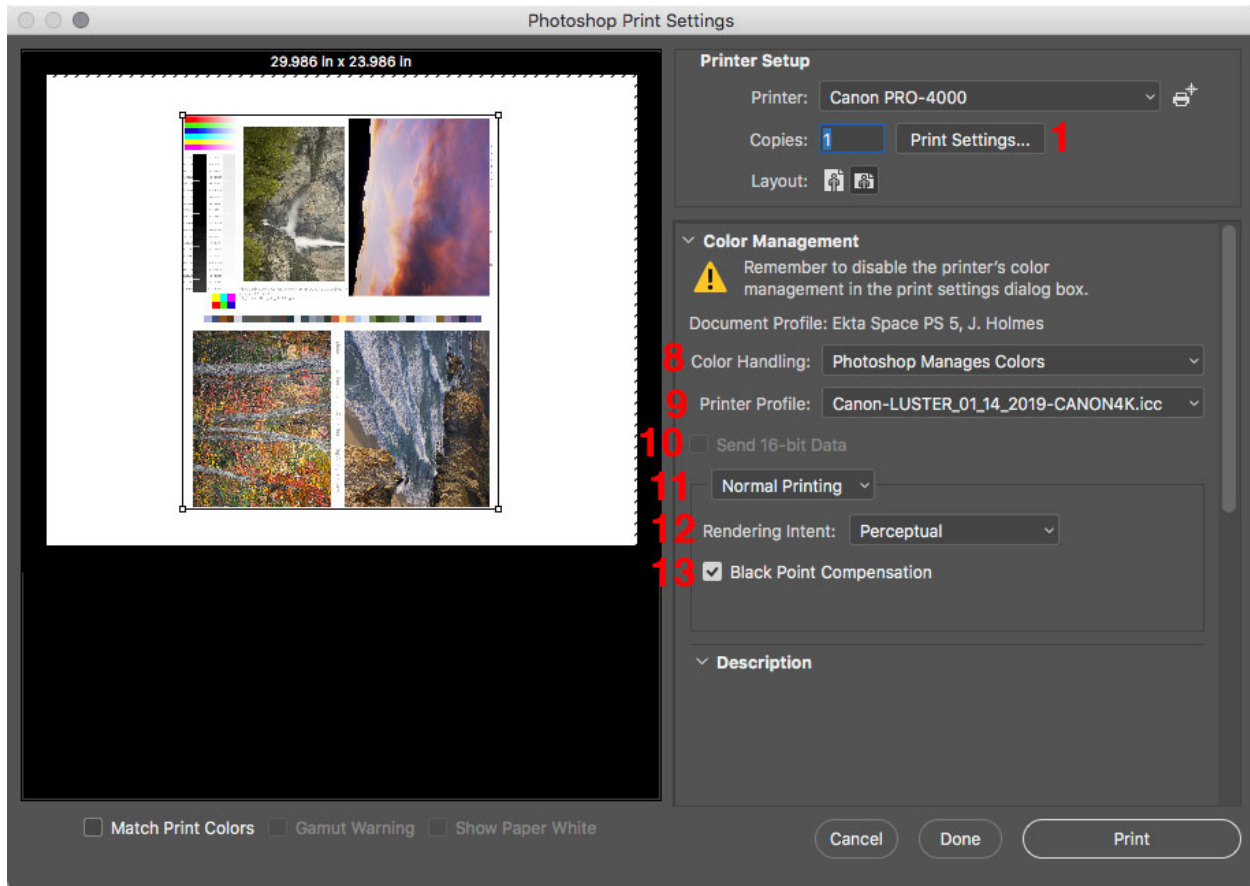
10. **Send 16-bit Data**

If I have 16 bit data, I check this and send it to the printer. Dialog is grayed out for 8 bit images.

11. **Normal Printing**

The correct setting for normal printing of photos.

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12. Rendering Intent

Perceptual is my typical choice for rendering intent because I find it produces the results I want in a fine art print. So I recommend you start with perceptual. It's been a long time since I've needed to use one of the other rendering intents, and it was for attempting to simulate a 4 color CMYK printing press.

13. **Black Point Compensation** controls how the blacks are mapped to different paper/ink combinations that have different densities of black. I always have this block checked to use "Black Point Compensation".

When all these have been set correctly, you are ready to print!

Remember to record the settings you use so that you can replicate them **exactly** every time you print.

Visit my blog MakeBetterPrints.com for more helpful printing information.

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