

The SIGNATURE EDITION Series from Precision Colors for Canon Pro Printers

Early in 2017, I decided to take a fresh look at the Pro-10 series of printers because we recognized that despite it being shown as one of the better inksets globally, there was room for improvement in my opinion because I simply have high standards. Many would say, it's good enough and already ahead. We don't stand by that motto, at least not me.

I have struggled with this printer model since it was introduced as it never really behaved similarly to most other printers that we had come across with respect to how it used the ink colors when it printed images and again judging by what other sellers of aftermarket inks are offering, they struggled even more.

At about the same time, the Pro-1000 aftermarket chips were announced and that signaled a go-ahead for the Pro-1000 refill kit. In reviewing the Pro-1000 a key feature with the printer is that it contained intermediate built in ink reservoirs inside the printer itself. That means that even when a cartridge is changed 33 to 40% of the capacity of each cartridge remains INSIDE the printer. This has enormous consequences.

The user of a Pro-1000 is likely to be a serious hobbyist or professional, who has some understanding of what serious color is and most likely has a calibrated monitor and knows how to use custom ICC profiles. ICC profiles require that ink colors remain stable at all times. A change of less than 2-3 % on key colors is visible to serious viewers and considering the audience, is an issue. Because of the substantial amount of ink remaining inside the printer even when a cartridge is changed, the color of the ink remaining inside the printer will continually be changing as the printer used because incoming ink is different from what was there before. This problem is multiplied by the amount of cartridges so the problem is quite large if refill inks are not extremely tightly matched to within extremely small percentages. Thus any kind of refill kit for the Pro-1000 MUST be of the highest order and much better than anything anybody had offered before. Each refill MUST be seamless.

This precipitated the need for an accurate method of determining correct color matches to the original OEM ink if an alternative ink was to be offered. I developed just such a process where we can accurately determine the performance of an ink as how inks are actually used in printing. It correctly outlined and showed the printing characteristics of the OEM and as a result created a specification of how a real compatible ink should perform. This also demanded that we understand or interpret the print engine that Canon had designed into these printers. **Prior to this none of the aftermarket ink makers had this technique nor were they as accurate in determining correct color match on printed media. That is at the lab level. At the ink refill sellers level, it did not even register.**

All colors had to match the OEM in printing characteristics including the tonality of the ink. Black ink for example has a tonality to it at lower densities. It is not just the blackness of the ink but the underlying color of the black.

Months of exhaustive testing and reformulations and fine tuning has yielded what we at Precision Colors call the *SIGNATURE EDITION*. Each signature edition inkset performs superior to ANY previous aftermarket ink and that is a bold statement to make but if it were not the case I would not call it so.

August 17, 2017.

Pro-10 and Pro-1

Two weeks ago, I was prepared to sign off on the final prototypes and then I made a mistake and contaminated the ink. I took a lab shortcut and it cost me as for two days I could not understand what was happening. I had to get a new batch of prototype and then continued the testing. This caused two weeks delay.

Today I signed off on the second to last remaining color.

We are waiting for the final iteration of the final color. Only 3 weeks ago, I had determined that I would recommend that users continue to use OEM for that color. As of today, I think based on my last testing that we might be able to conquer this troublesome color that Canon has used in their newer pigment ink printers.

Use OEM profiles, Download aftermarket paper profiles and use them like they use OEM ink.

Pro-1000,

At this point, we are able to offer 9 of the 12 colors. A tenth color is under revision to see if we can nail it. Since refilling of the Pro-1000 will be done one color at a time, a kit offering all 12 colors is not necessary immediately. We will begin offering the completed colors (purchaseable one color at a time) and then bring on the last 2 or 3 colors as they are completed. In the meantime, we would then recommend that users purchase only OEM ink for those remaining colors. Do not be tempted to put in any kind of ink, initially the color might seem good until it isn't. Why? Remember that 33% to 40% remaining ink in the system? You won't be able to tell until it hits you. Getting out the mismatched ink color is equally hard and expensive. To flush out the ink would require using cleaning out the system as if the printer were to be moved. This would need 3 maintenance tanks and disposing of approximately 4 cartridges worth of ink. We don't see users flushing out hundreds of dollars worth of ink and maintenance tanks to start refilling. For this reason, we again recommend for the colors we cannot offer, stick to the OEM for the time being.

Refill kits for the Pro-1000 will reuse the OEM cartridge body. What is needed is to change the chip and refill the tank. It is simple and no complicated tools are necessary at all. Kits will consist of an 80ml bottle of ink, chip and syringe and needle. A scale is convenient but not absolutely necessary.

No reprofilling is necessary. Use OEM ICCs and Brand Paper ICCs without issue. Totally seamless.