

PulseReader utility

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This is a small tool that enables to use X-Rite DTP20 spectro (Pulse) together with QTR. I wrote this program because standard X-Rite measurement tools are not very useful, when you have a printer without color inks – you have to print target on two printers, or cut and glue parts of different targets together.

In the last firmware update for Pulse X-Rite introduced new command that could be used for “simple strip” reading. In this mode device doesn’t need target ID or strip ID, it will read predefined number of patches and store data in a volatile memory, not in the target database. PulseReader will work only with instruments that have firmware version FB01. You could update firmware from X-Rite site.

Strip still should be in the standard format: 1mm gray patch, then 5.5mm white space, then patches, then 3.5mm white space, then 5.5mm gray patch. Patches normally have 12mm height. Color patches are normally 6.5mm wide.

I prepared two targets for the use with PulseReader, one has 21 patches, and another one has two strips 25 and 26 patches. You could print these targets with QTR, and then measure the print. Both targets are added to the archive with the program. You shouldn’t scale the target, when printing, otherwise it will be unreadable.

After you unpacked the archive into some folder, you will find there the following files:

PulseReader.exe – executable file with the utility

XdsIII.dll – support library from X-Rite SDK, should be in the same folder as PulseReader.exe.

Pulse21-GraySimpleStrip.tif and Pulse51-GraySimpleStrip.tif – two target files, not required for the program, you could move it any other place.

Command “PulseReader -?” prints some help text on the screen.

Command switches:

-mode:strip will switch to strip reading mode, without this switch program will do spot measurements.

-count:21 or -count:25,26 or -count:x,y,z will set number of strips and number of patches in each strip. Utility will prompt you for each measurement. All data will be returned as single array of measurements. By default program will expect 21 patch strip, if mode was set to strip reading.

-out:filename will save data to the new file, or append data to the existing file.

-copy:l or “la” or “lab” will define which part(s) of measurement should be placed into the system clipboard. By default program will store L only, which is the only component used by QTR CreateCurve

tool. After you are done with measurements, you could paste data into linearization table. Or, you could paste it into any other program, like Excel.

That's it. Enjoy

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