What is new in ColorAnt 11

Custom Chart

- Improved user interface for efficient test chart creation
- New ***Mini Chart*** option

Edit Primaries

- New option to enter the target density of primary colors
- Improved ***Adopt Secondaries*** functionality

Tone Value

- Support for the Hybrid RIP curve format
- TVI curves can now be adjusted to match the ISO 12647-2 offset printing standard

Main Window

- More flexibility when working with spot colors and spot color libraries

Measure Tool

- Support for the measurement device Barbieri Swing qb

Preferences

- Redesigned ***Preferences*** dialog
- New option to select custom ***Report***, ***Chart*** and ***Profile*** directories

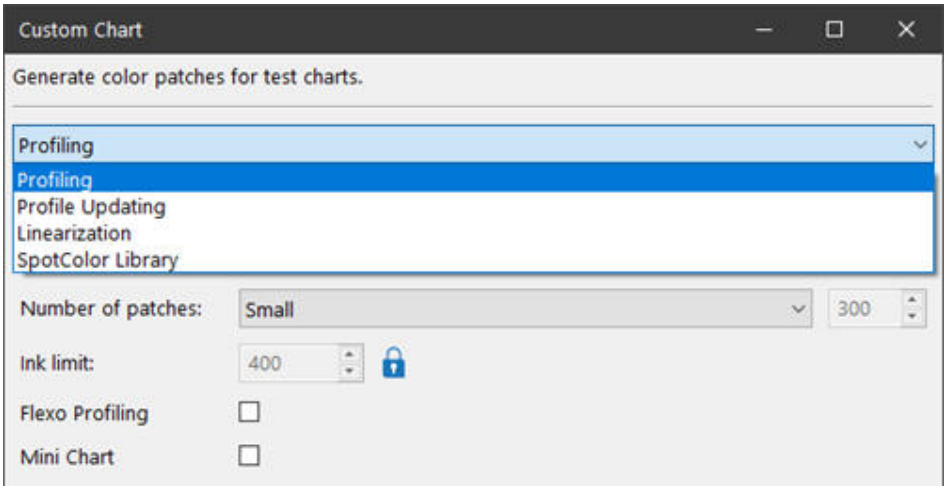
General

- More comprehensive support for CIE files
- Improved exchange of spot color libraries between ColorAnt and ZePrA
- Easy creation of custom data files using Excel spreadsheets
- The position and size of the windows are now remembered

Custom Chart

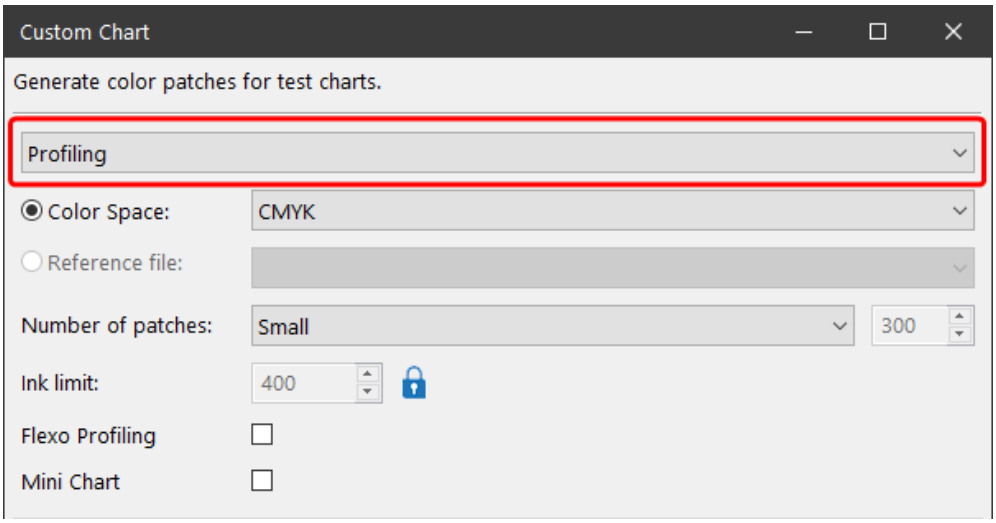
Improved user interface for more efficient test chart creation

The ***Custom Chart*** window has been redesigned to provide a clearer and more streamlined workflow. The workflow now starts by selecting the intended use of the chart from a drop-down menu formerly named "***Mode***". The list of options in this menu has been trimmed down and some of the options that were present in ColorAnt 10 and older have been removed and merged into a single option. This provides a better overview and a more efficient test chart creation workflow.

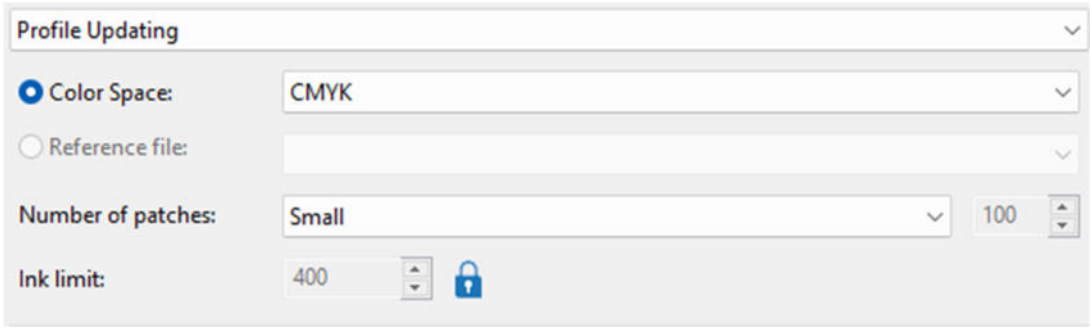


The ***Custom Chart*** tool creates different types of test charts for a variety of requirements. Instead of seven modes, the condensed list now offers the same functionality in just four modes:

Profiling: The new ***Profiling*** option is a combination of the previously available ***Profiling*** and ***Flexo Profiling*** modes. It provides the functions of these two modes in a single place by including the new checkbox ***Flexo Profiling***, which adds the additional Flexo-specific patches to test charts when activated.

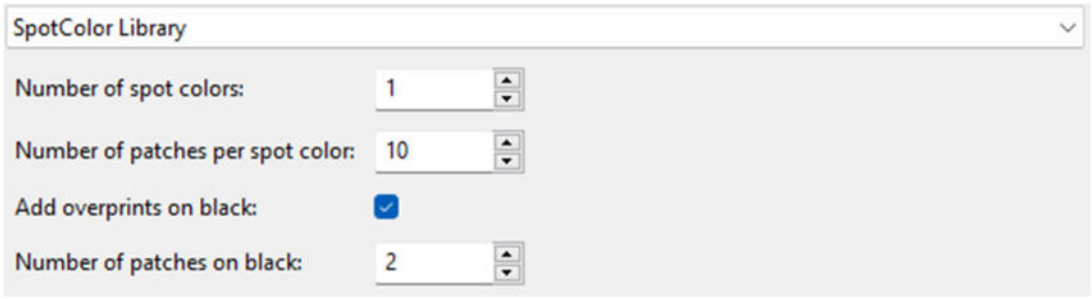


Profile Updating: This mode has not been changed. As before, it generates test charts with a minimum number of patches that can be used in combination with the ***Update Profile*** or ***Iteration*** tools in CoPrA.



Linearization: The new ***Linearization*** mode is a combination of the previous modes ***Linearization***, ***Linearization and InkSplitting*** and ***Linearization and G7 Patches***. It offers all the functions of these three modes in a single place by including two new checkboxes for ***Linearization and InkSplitting*** and ***Add G7 color patches***, which add the relevant patches when activated.

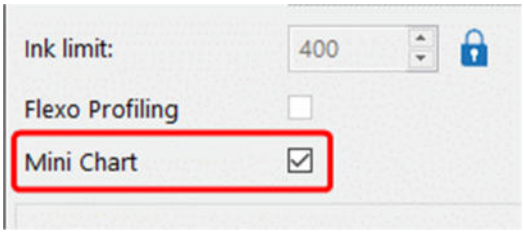
Spot Color Library: This option is now a combination of the ***Color Space*** "***Spot color library***" and the previous mode ***CxF/X-4 Wedge***. It contains all the functions of the former ***Spot Color Library*** dialog, but also the new ***Add overprint on black*** option. After activating this checkbox, the drop-down menu ***Number of patches on black*** becomes available, which allows the selection of the required number of overprint patches.
Note: The Spot format will be automatically exported as CxF/X-4 if spectral data is available and CXF is selected for saving.



Reference File: Loaded reference files (which were listed at the end of the ***Color Space*** drop-down menu in previous versions), are now listed in a dedicated ***Reference file*** drop-down menu below ***Color Space***.

New *Mini Chart* option

The new option ***Mini Chart*** is exclusively available when selecting the ***Profiling*** option from the drop-down menu. ***Mini Charts*** are intended to complement profiling with spot colors via edit primaries, as there are more secondaries included in the chart. It generates very small charts with small gradients for the primaries and 2-color overprints for the 50% and 100% combinations.

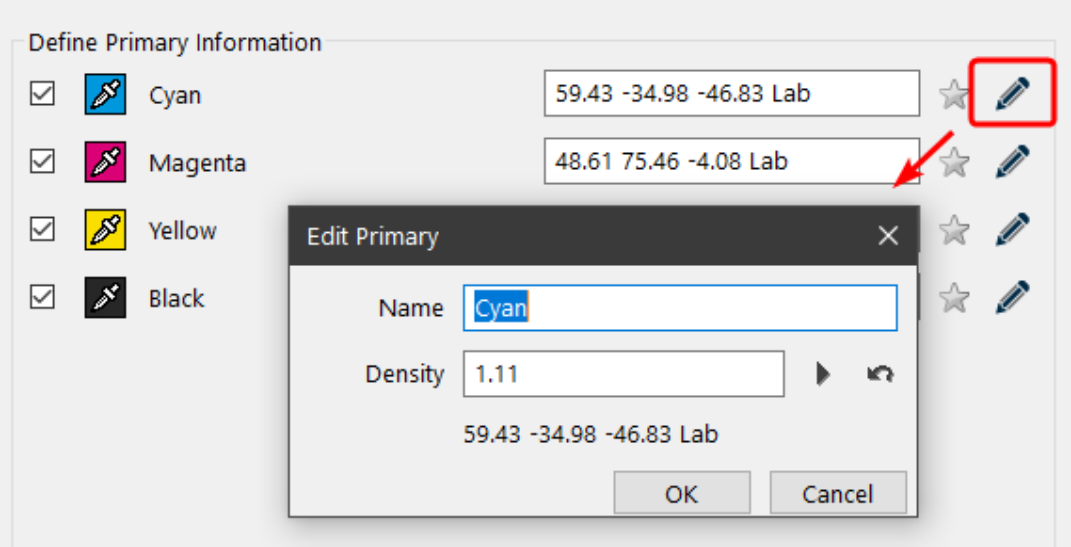


Edit Primaries

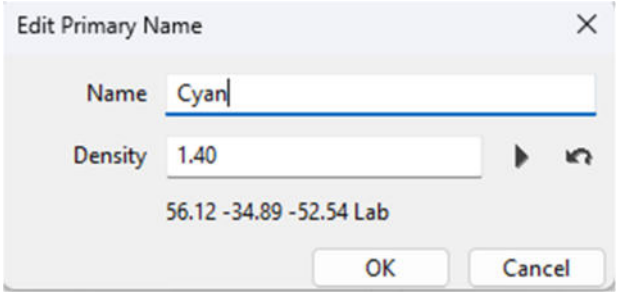
New option to adjust the Density of primary colors

Density changes can now be applied directly to the primary colors in the ***Edit Primaries*** tool. This allows density changes to be evaluated without having to print a new profiling chart, for example in Flexo printing when a new anilox roll is to be used for a primary color, or in Offset printing if the density of an ink is to be increased or decreased. If the density of primary colors changes, corresponding Lab values are calculated and applied by the ***Edit Primaries*** tool. This is based on the spectral information of the primaries. Hence the density option is only available for a loaded test chart with spectral measurement data.

To do so, click on the ***Pencil*** icon to open the ***Edit Primary*** dialog.



The value under ***Density*** indicates the current density taken from the measurement data. Enter the new density value and click on the triangular ***Arrow*** to apply the changes.



The Lab values are automatically calculated and displayed immediately. Clicking on ***OK*** accepts these values and closes the window.

The calculation can be aborted by clicking ***Cancel*** or reverted by clicking the ***Undo*** arrow to restore the original values.

More precise Adopt Secondaries functionality

The ***Adopt Secondaries*** function in the ***Edit Primaries*** tool has been revised and enhanced. As before, the checkbox is only available if secondary colors are present for at least two of the selected colors of a measurement file. At least one 100/100 color patch for the selected color must be present for the checkbox to be activated. In addition, other two-color combinations are now considered as well (this can be any combination, such as 50/50 or 30/70 or 80/60 or any other combination of secondary colors).

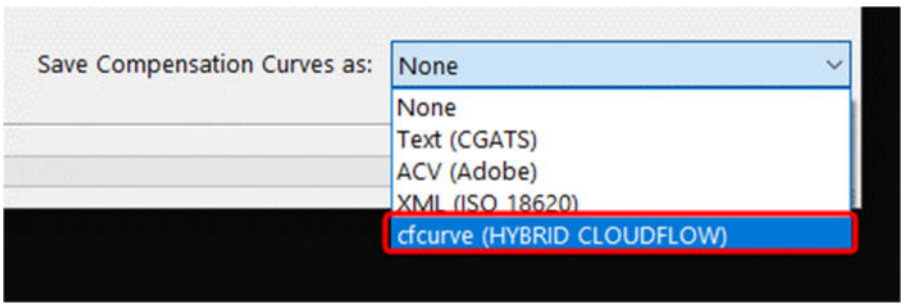
The Lab values (or spectral values, if available) are then retrieved from the measurement file and entered into the spectral model. By supporting any existing printed secondary combination besides 100/100, the calculations are more precise.

Note: If a file contains the 50/50 patch but not the 100/100 patch, the file does have a secondary patch indeed, but the model still requires the 100/100 key point to function correctly.

Tone Value

Support for the Hybrid RIP curve format

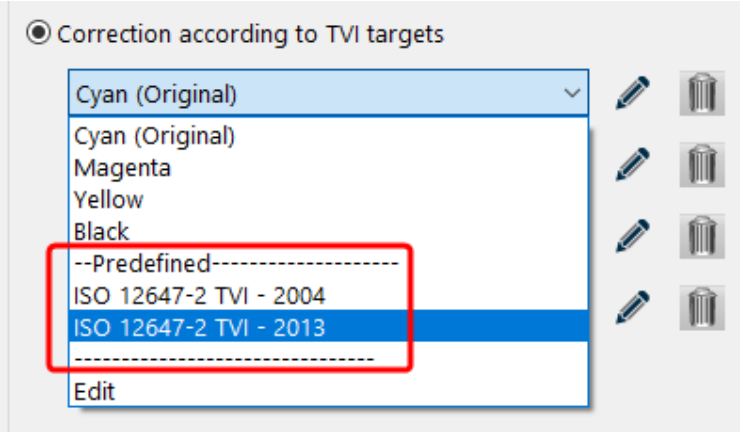
Compensation curves can now be saved in the "*.cfcurve" format. This JSON-based format is compatible with Hybrid CLOUDFLOW and PACKZ, allowing the compensation curves to be imported into these applications.



TVI curves can now be adjusted to match the ISO 12647-2 offset printing standard

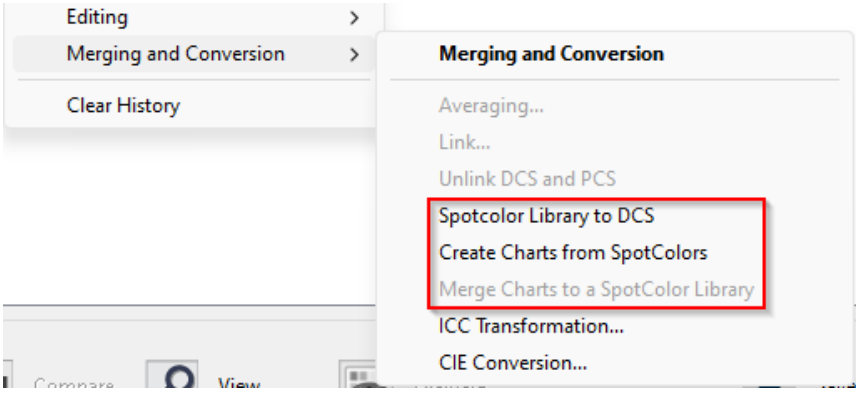
The tone value curves can be calculated to comply with the requirements of the BVDM ISO 12647-2 offset printing standards from 2004 or 2013.

The two new options have been added to the ***Correction according to TVI targets*** drop-down menu of the ***Tone Value*** tool.



Main Window

More flexibility when working with spot colors and spot color libraries



The context menu now offers three new options under ***Merging and Conversion*** regarding the handling of spot colors and spot color libraries.

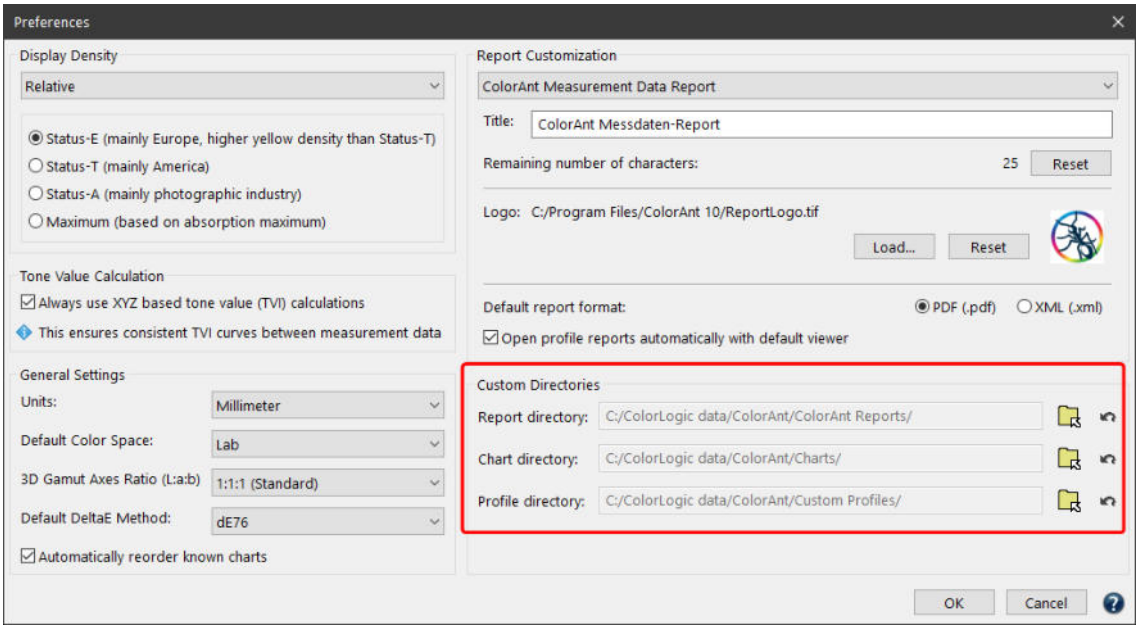
Spot Color Library to DCS: Converts files containing spot colors and up to 15 channels into the corresponding ***Device Color Space***.

Create Charts from Spot Colors: Splits the entire library into individual charts for each color.

Merge Charts to a Spot Color Library: Combines several compatible charts into one spot color library.

Redesigned *Preferences* dialog

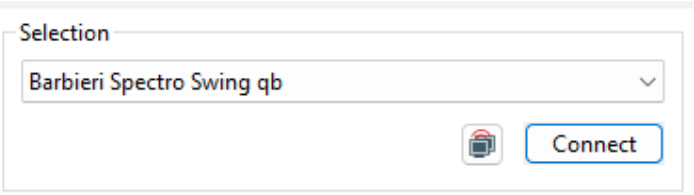
The redesigned ***Preferences*** dialog now offers the new option ***Custom Directories*** to select custom ***Report***, ***Chart*** and ***Profile*** directories. The custom ***Profile directory*** defined here is an additional directory alongside the system profile directory.



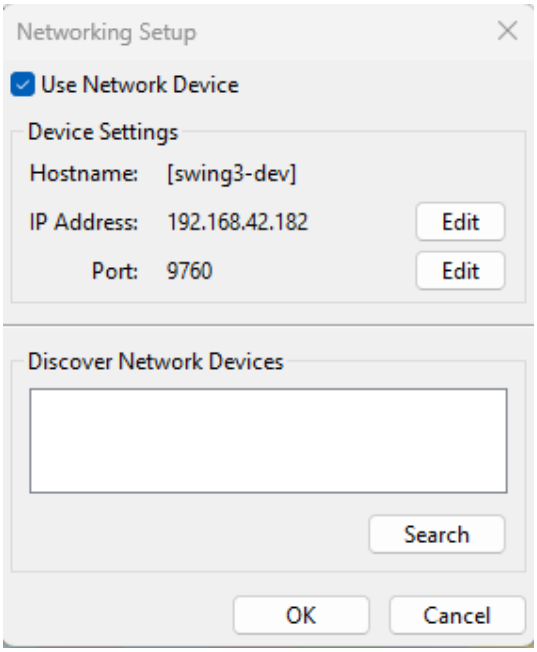
Measure Tool

Support for measurement device Barbieri Spectro Swing qb (Windows only at the moment)

The Barbieri Swing qb is now available in the list of supported devices in the ***Measure Tool***.



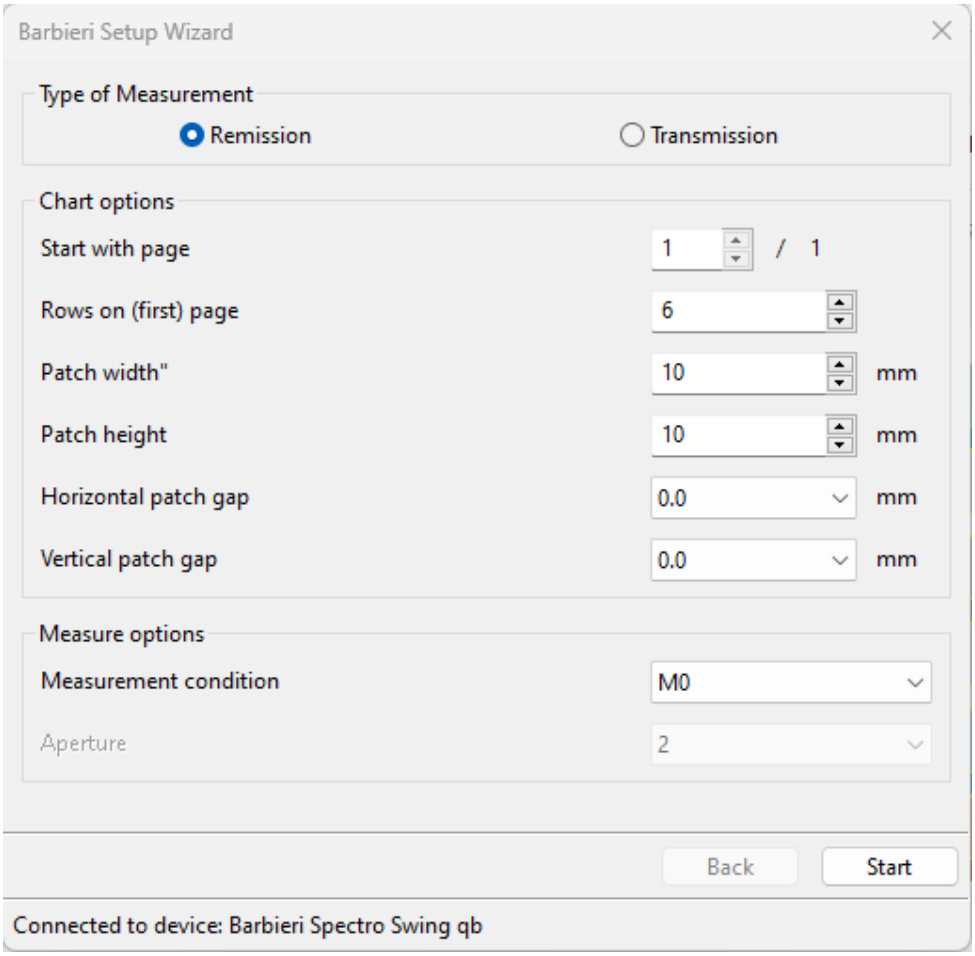
The device can be connected via USB or Ethernet. It is highly recommended to use the Ethernet connection as it provides higher transmission speeds. Click on the ***Network*** icon next to the ***Connect*** button to open the ***Networking Setup***.



If the IP address and port of the device are already known, you can enter them directly. However, it is also possible to ***Search*** for devices in the network and select one from the list.

Note: The ***Use Network Device*** checkbox must be deactivated if the device is to be connected via USB. If the checkbox is enabled and the device is connected via USB, the device will not be found.

After connecting the device, the ***Barbieri Setup Wizard*** opens, where all required information can be entered (if not already filled in from the selected reference) and the desired ***Measurement condition*** can be chosen:



Click on ***Start*** to begin the measurement. Make sure that your chart complies with the layout requirements for the Spectro Swing (a corresponding preset is available in the ***Export Chart*** tool) and that the chart is correctly inserted into the device (short side first - the positioning marks must be on the left and bottom of the chart).

General

More comprehensive support for CIE files

There are now fewer restrictions when importing measurement data from different providers. For example, some CIE files that could not be handled by previous versions can now be imported and opened.

Improved exchange of spot color libraries between ColorAnt and ZePrA

Opacity information can now be saved in both CxF and CGATS file formats. This allows spot color libraries from ZePrA, which may contain custom opacity values for the colors, to be edited in ColorAnt, e.g., smoothing or tone value corrections, and then transferred back to ZePrA without losing the opacity information.

In addition, spot color libraries can now be created easily and quickly using ColorAnt's new ***Spot Color Library*** feature in the ***Custom Chart*** tool, exported as a CxF/X-4 file and loaded into ZePrA.

Easy creation of custom data files using Excel spreadsheets

Custom data files can now easily be created using an Excel spreadsheet template which can be downloaded here.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	CLCOLORDATA					
2	Color Space:	CMYK				
3	Name	Tint	C	M	Y	K
4	Rob	100	6	64	40	74
5	Bob		74	76	89	37
6	Robb	50	58	4	81	90
7	Robert		22	97	46	78
8	Bobby		37	76	52	23
9	Robby		1	61	93	55
10	Bobert		48	73	92	24
11			77	26	11	19

The template file offers several different pages for a wide variety of data and allows for custom spot color libraries to be easily imported into ColorAnt for chart creation in a simple editable format.

Select the sheet that matches the data, modify the sample data and export this page as a CSV file. The resulting file can then be imported into ColorAnt.

The position and size of the windows are now remembered

The position and size of the windows are now saved and restored after a restart, which is a practical feature especially for multi-monitor setups.