



Technical Newsletter: New firmware for the HP Designjet Z3100 Photo Printer Series

Aug 31st, 2007



This document explains the changes implemented in the different firmware and driver releases done since introduction.

Firmware Releases Summary

Version & Date ¹	Firmware Changes	Driver / Printer Utility Changes
6.0.0.7 Aug 31 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ragged Edges sheet loading. • Being able to export custom papers. • Ink Limit reduction. • New paper presets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows Vista Supported. • Change from HP Easy Printer Care to Printer Utility in Windows.
5.0.0.4 May 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better match to screen in Fine Art papers. • Skin tones improvements for some papers. • Reds improvements for papers. • Soft Proofing improvements. • USB connection from MAC more stable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Any" Paper Type selection for using the paper loaded in the printer.
4.2.0.2 Mar 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Art Media Pearl paper preset added. 	N/A
4.1.0.2 Mar 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in the vividness of reds for certain papers. • Improvement in Skin Tone transitions. • Improvement in shadows detail and high density zones. 	N/A
4.0.0.6 Dec 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoother transition on gray scale. • Fix an inversion we had on blue axis (dark blues appeared as light blues). • Improve detail in saturated reds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better support for long plots. • Automatically select paper source prints either on sheet or roll. • Adobe RGB color management fixed. • Custom Page can be used in Client-Server environments.

Note: Each firmware release also includes all changes done in previous releases.

¹ Date meaning available date at [HP Knowledge Center](http://www.hp.com/go/knowledgecenter)

- For further detail on the points in the table, please refer to the next pages.
- For downloading the latest firmware and driver, see the Appendix at the end of this document.
- Calibrating and Profiling your papers is strongly recommended after each firmware upgrade.

New Release

Firmware version	6.0.0.7
Driver version	5.1 (MAC) or 61.071.361.42 (Win)
Printer Utility version	3.1.0.424 (MAC) or 1.4.0.14 (Win)

New functionality:

- The skew check for sheet loading can be disabled. So now you will be able to load ragged edges sheets.
- Custom papers can be exported: The custom paper presets you create using the Printer Utility can be exported and then installed to other z3100 printers.
- Capacity to reduce the amount of ink that is put on the paper: Ink limits functionality through the Printer Utility.

For more information about these new functionalities refer to their specific technical notes (*Export paper presets*, *Ragged Edges* and *New Version of Adding Custom Paper*).

New paper presets:

Several paper presets have been added, so more options are available when using 3rd party papers. Most of these new papers presets were available in previous release as a download package.

- Fine Art Pearl Paper (less ink)
- Fine Art Pearl Paper (more ink)
- Photo Gloss Paper (less ink)
- Photo Gloss Paper (more ink)
- Photo Semi-Gloss/Satin Paper (less ink)
- Photo Semi-Gloss/Satin Paper (more ink)

The Fine Art Pearl Paper has been moved from Custom Papers to the Fine Art category. Then you will be able to create a Custom Paper from it. Also HP papers can be cloned to create Custom Papers.

For more information, please refer to the *Working with non-hp papers* technical note (the updated version for release 6.0.0.7).

Connectivity:

- Incorrect part number of light cyan cartridge reported from the embedded web server (the correct one is C9390A).

- IO configuration was not correctly set to defaults when using the “Reset to Factory Defaults”.
- Fixed the issue that did not allow opening the printer usage page from Printer Utility with USB connection.
- Being able to do a paper presets upgrade or a firmware upgrade when the file name contains spaces.
- Fixed an issue that cause that the accounting generation failed when one record contains a job cancelled by user and the setting “Send accounting report” is activated.
- Accounting information was erased when a hard reset (cable unplugged) was produced.
- Improve the stability of the printer in a stress multi-user environment.

Localizations:

Localization issues in languages Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, German, Spanish and Catalan have been solved.

Changes in the driver

- Windows Vista 32 bits and Windows Vista 64 bits are supported.
- Support for the new paper presets.
- When selecting ‘Any’ as media type, it will now allow selecting any other setting in the driver, including Borderless or Gloss Enhancer.

Win:

- The 16-bit compatibility setting has been removed to avoid misunderstandings with options related to 16-bit color reproduction. The Max application resolution setting can be used instead.
- It is not allowed to create custom page sizes that are wider than longer to avoid some accuracy issues related to this kind of paper sizes.

Changes in the Printer Utility

- Windows Vista 32 bits supported.
- Support for the Ink Limit functionality.

MAC:

- It is possible to select the Gloss Enhancer option when installing a profile generated by an external device using the ‘Install ICC Profile’ option.
- Fix the paper list update functionality – In previous version sometimes it was not working properly.

Win:

The **HP Easy Printer Care is not supported any more** (last supported version is 2.1). The Printer Utility will be used instead – This new utility has

similar functionality to the HP Easy Printer care, but only supports Designjet printers. The advantages of this new tool are:

- Performance improvements: The Printer Utility takes less time to open the application and get the information about all the printers.
- The mechanism to discover automatically installed printers has been improved.
- When creating a custom paper type with the cutter set to off, the setting was ignored.
- It is possible to create an ICC Profile or a custom media type for a printer that is installed in a client/server environment, or when the printer has been searched manually with the Find Other Printers feature.

Older Releases

Firmware version	5.0.0.4
Driver version	5.0.2 (MAC) or 61.071.341.00 (Win)
Date	May 15 th , 2007

Color improvements:

- Match to screen in shadows using Perceptual rendering intent for Fine Art papers improved. Papers affected:
 - Canvas
 - HP Artist Matte Canvas
 - HP Professional Matte Canvas
 - HP Matte Litho
 - Fine Art Paper
- Skin tones metamerism and red color reproduction improved. Papers affected:
 - Photo Glossy Paper
 - Super Heavyweight Coated Paper.
 - Thick Fine Art Paper (>250 g/m²).
- Profiles modified in order to obtain more realistic Soft Proofing.

Connectivity

- The USB connection between MAC and the printer has been improved to avoid disconnections – This could cause the printer to stop printing.
- Improvements in the hpgl2 file processing (only applies customers having the hpgl2 upgrade): Resizing complex files and printing very long plots.

Changes in the driver

- A new “Paper Type” called “Any” has been added. Selecting this paper the printer will use the settings of the paper that is currently loaded in the printer. This setting is the new default.

MAC:

- The name of the loaded paper will be shown under the “Paper Type” field.
- Color and gray balance sliders will keep previous values when disabling them and enabling them again.
- Profiles are now correctly updated in Colorsync after performing a reset to factory in the printer utility .

Win:

- Print preview will show if the image will fit in the loaded paper or not.
- When cut sheet is loaded, the driver shows both length and width of the sheet.
- Printing files longer than 3.2m (129in) is possible from x64 Operating Systems.
- The button to create a Custom Page Size has been added to the main driver screen.
- Job name send to printer will not contain full path, so printer front-panel will only show the file name without the path.
- In client-server environments the driver is now able to get information from the printer related to the media loaded, the status, or alerts.
- Custom page sizes appear immediately in the paper size list after creating them without the need to close the driver and enter again.
- Problems printing files containing certain Asian characters in the file name have been solved.
- Fixed an Explorer.exe crash after opening the Printing Preferences. This problem typically appears after creating custom media types or after a synchronization of the media list via the Easy Printer Care.
- Fix for an error message saying that the document had failed to print, even when the file had been printed properly.
- Fix for page sizes longer than 6m (236in) when using Autocad.

Firmware version	4.2.0.2
Driver version	No driver version associated with this firmware
Date	March 26 th , 2007

The improvement this firmware brings to the market is a new media presets:

- **Fine Art Media Pearl:** Allows you to print on thick fine art paper with “pearl” coating/finishing. This new paper present contains the carriage in the upper position but with a little bit higher ink limits (not as high as the

gloss but higher than others fine art) and also allow the usage of gloss enhancer in the fine art papers (again, not as much quantity as in a glossy but enough to get the benefit on gloss uniformity)

So now, you have further flexibility at the time to work with non-hp media.

Firmware version	4.1.0.2
Driver version	No driver version associated with this firmware
Date	March 2 nd , 2007

This new firmware has several improvements in the color space as explained in the following table:

Area	Description
Red	Improvement in the vividness of reds (and colors that use red) for certain papers
Skin Tones	Improvement in Skin Tone transitions
Dark areas	Improvement in shadows detail and high density zones

These changes **affect only the HP driver** and only the following paper types: (names that appear in the driver)

- HP Premium Instant-dry Photo Gloss
- HP Premium Instant-dry Photo Satin
- HP Professional High-Gloss Contract Proofing Paper
- HP Professional Semi-Gloss Contract Proofing Paper
- HP Professional Matte Canvas
- HP Artist Matte Canvas
- HP Hahnemühle Smooth Fine Art Paper
- HP Matte Litho-realistic Paper
- HP Hahnemühle Textured Fine Art Paper
- Canvas
- Fine Art paper

We strongly recommend that you either re-profile these papers again with the internal HP Embedded Spectrophotometer using HP Color Center or download the related ICC profiles which you can find in the same HP Knowledge Center under the ICC profiles section.

Firmware version	RO.04.00.6
Driver version	4.2.1 (MAC) or 60.63.42.0 (Win)
Date	December 15 th , 2006

Main changes in the driver are related to fix some color issue we have seen in previous version.

Issue	Description
Black & White transition	Smoother transition on gray scale
Blue inversion	Fix an inversion we had on blue axis (dark blues appeared as light blues)
Saturated Reds	Improve detail in saturated reds

These changes affect only to RGB path and affect the following 18 medias as appears in the driver:

- HP Premium Instant-dry Photo Gloss
- HP Premium Instant-dry Photo Satin
- HP Professional Satin Photo paper
- Photo Gloss paper
- Photo Semi-Gloss/Satin paper
- HP professional High-gloss Contract Proofing paper
- Proofing Gloss Paper
- Proofing Semi-Gloss/Satin Paper
- HP Translucent/Clear film
- HP Super Heavyweight Plus Matte paper
- Super Heavyweight Plus Matte paper
- Fine Art paper
- Thick Fine Art paper
- HP Hahnemuhle Textured Fine Art paper
- HP Hahnemuhle Smooth Fine Art paper
- HP Matte Litho-realistic paper
- HP Artist Matte Canvas
- HP Professional Matte Canvas

These changes does not affect gamut.

Changes in the driver

New functionality with regards Z2100 driver:

- Gloss Enhancer
- Color sliders
- Grayscale sliders
- HP Proactive Support is available (this includes functionality like automatic updates of alerts and automatic SW & firmware update)

Main fixes from previous version:

- Better support of plots longer than 3,2 meters
- Possibility to manually define roll with when selecting auto-rotate
- When you select "Paper Source = Automatically select" the image will be printed in any kind of paper that is loaded, either sheet or roll.
- Before, when choosing "Adobe RGB" in color management it behaved as sRGB. Now is fixed
- Possibility to create a Custom Page size in Client-Server environments (in previous versions, unless the client has rights to write in the Server, it was not possible to create a custom page size for a client)

Appendix

You can download the newest firmware version at the **HP Knowledge Center** web site at:

http://www.hp.com/go/knowledge_center/djz3100

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HP Knowledge Center
Support for HP Designjet Z3100 Photo Printer series



Product downloads

- » Drivers, software & firmware
- » Paper presets

Media information

HP offers a wide range of media with this printer

- » Supplies for HP Designjet Z3100
- » Large format printing applications
- » Large format printing how-to workshops
- » Supplies support

Contact support

- » Email support
- » Phone
- » Support options

How to | Multimedia trainings

Quickly and simply learn how to print images that match your creative intent with HP's multimedia training.

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- » How to Prepare a black & white photo exhibition
- » How to match a press and proof

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- » Promotions
- » Downloads
- » **Support and Drivers**
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 - » Forums (English only)
 - » FAQs
 - » Warranty
 - » Support guide

Note: Look at the upper right corner of the page. Under the section "Product Downloads" you will find the link to the Firmware, Drivers and Printer Utility upgrade.

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