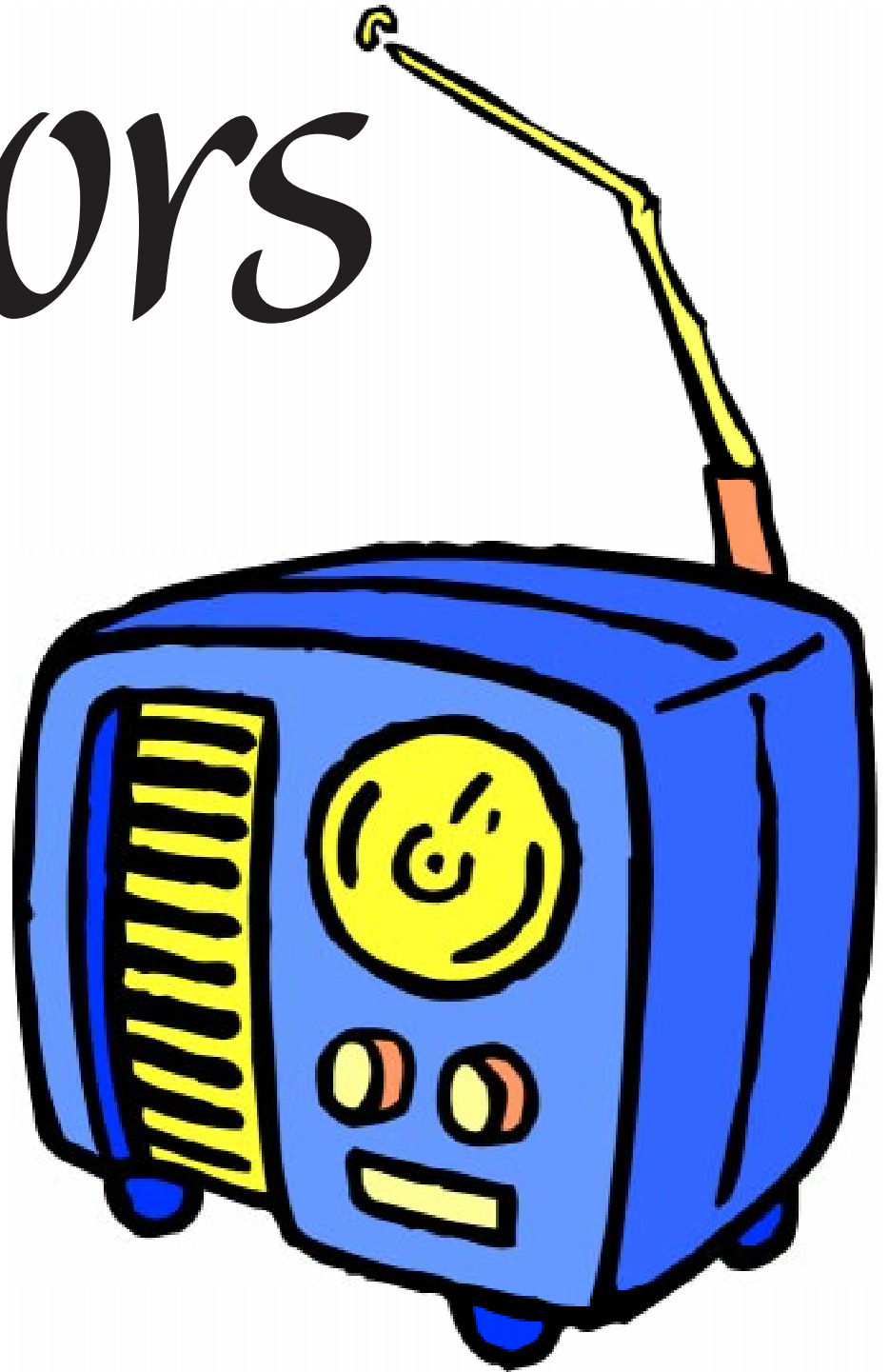# Web–safe Colors

Adobe Digital Video Evangelist George Jardine demonstrates using Web-safe colors in Adobe Illustrator® 6.0.2

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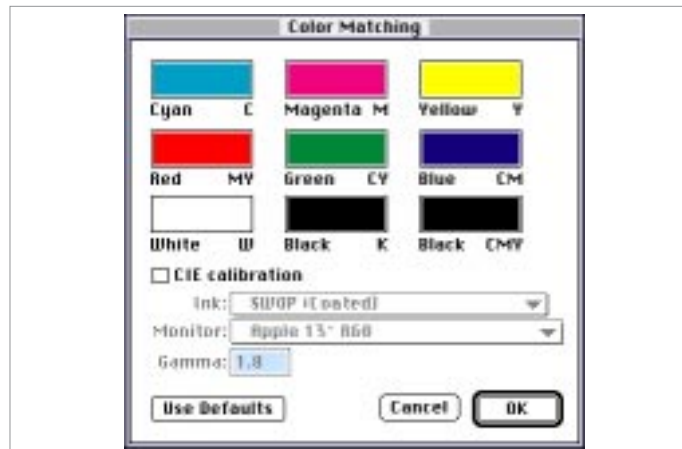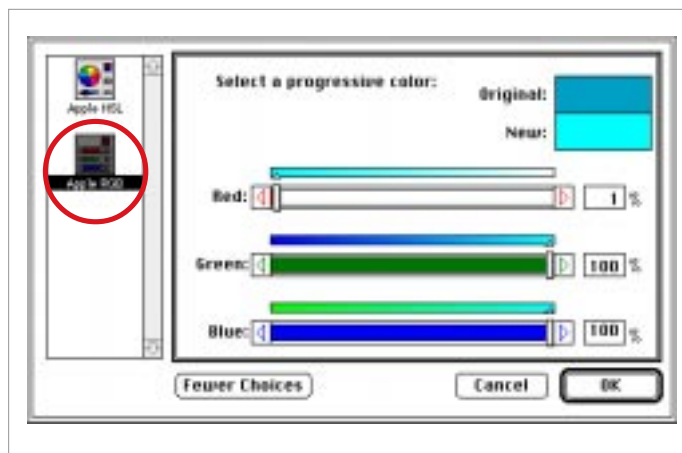
Adobe

So...you want to choose your CMYK colors in Adobe Illustrator 6.0.2, and have them map directly to one of the 216 non-dithering "Web-safe"colors? Here's the information you've been looking for. It's easy, but the secret is it requires your copy of Illustrator 6.0.1 be updated to version 6.0.2. You can download the 6.0.2 updater from the Adobe Systems web site at http://www.adobe.com/supportservice/custsupport/LIBRARY/ilmac.htm.

WEB-SAFE COLOR IN ILLUSTRATOR 6.0.2

1. Now that you've updated your copy of Illustrator to version 6.0.2, here's the trick. All you have to do is make a few minor changes to the way Illustrator translates its CMYK colors into RGB, and you will have perfect translation to "Web-safe" color palettes. Start by choosing File > Preferences > Color Matching.

2. Click on the Cyan swatch. Using the Apple RGB Color Picker, create a pure Cyan RGB color by setting the Red component to 0%, the green to 100% and the Blue to 100%. Click OK.
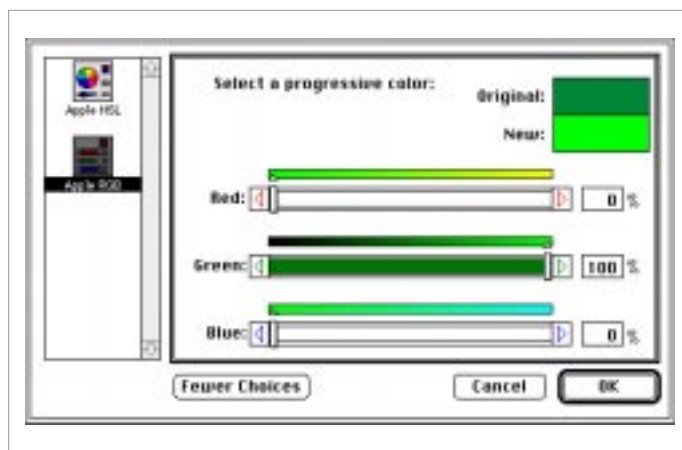

Colors
The Apple RGB Color Picker is a component of the Apple Color Picker system extension version 2.0 and 2.0.1.
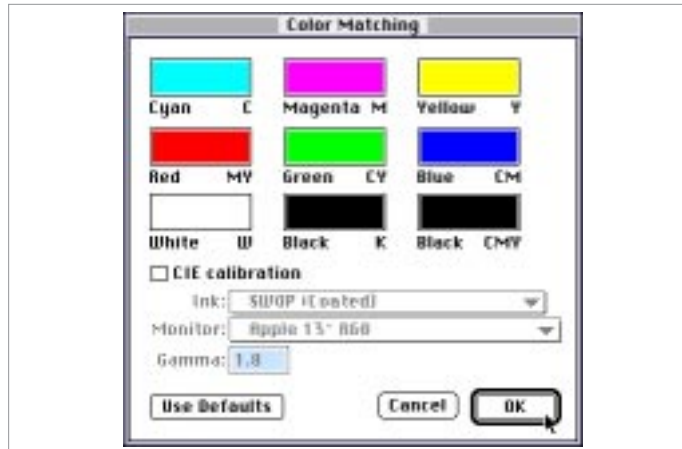
3. Repeat step 2 for the rest of the colors in the Color Matching Preferences dialog with the following settings:

Magenta = 100R, 0G, 100B
Yellow = 100R, 100G, 0B
Red = 100R, 0G, 0B
Green = 0R, 100G, 0B
Blue = 0R, 0B, 100B
White = 100R, 100G, 100B
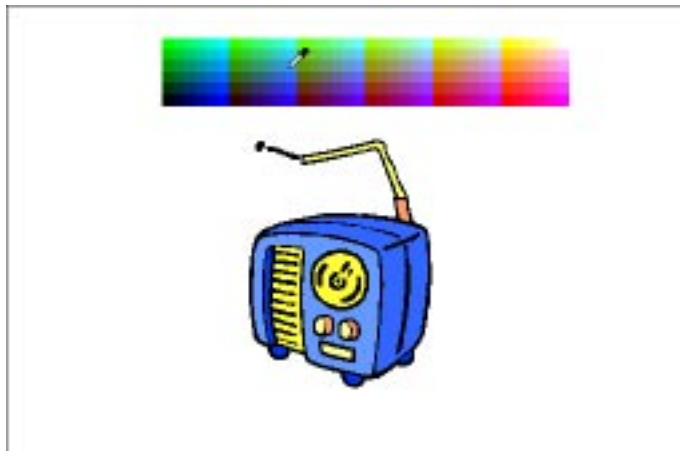Black - K = 0, 0, 0
Black - CMY = 0, 0, 0

WEB-SAFE COLOR IN ILLUSTRATOR 6.0.2

4. When you're finished setting all the colors, your Color Matching window should look like this, with nice bright, pure RGB colors. Click OK.
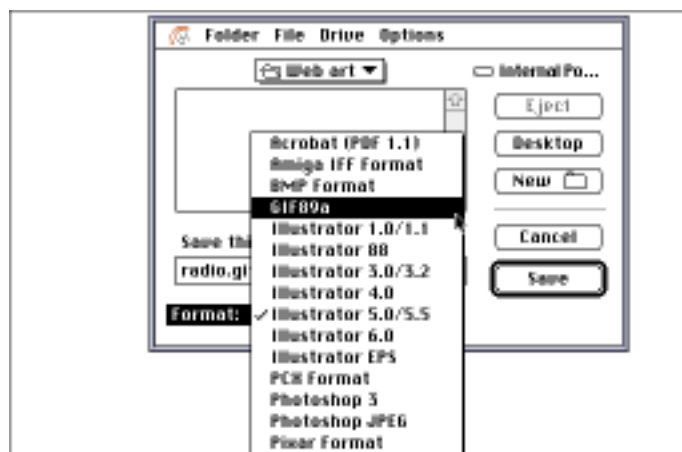

5. Open the Illustrator file provided with this tip, "Internet Colors.ai" and use those colors when creating your artwork. These are the exact 216 colors that are in most Web browsers palettes. You can use the eye dropper tool in Illustrator to pick up the colors in this file when creating your artwork, as was done to color this radio.

Dull Colors?

If you open the "Internet Colors.ai" file using the default Illustrator Color Matching settings, you will see them looking much duller than this, so it is essential that you enter the values shown on step #3 of this tip before opening and using the "Internet Colors.ai" file.

6. When you are finished with your artwork, delete the internet colors, choose File > Save As, and save your file with a new name. This is because you will export the file in GIF format, but you should keep a copy of the vector artwork as a backup. Now choose File > Save As again, rename the file, and set the Format pop-up to GIF89a. Click Save.

Naming Files

It is best to name your gif files with no spaces and the suffix .gif.

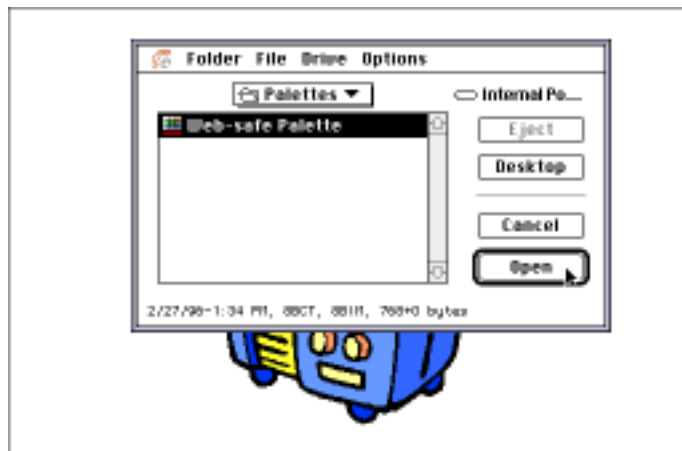**7.** In the Gif89a Options dialog, click Other for the Palette option. Click OK.

Anti-Alias

You can choose to have Adobe Illustrator Anti-Alias your artwork while rasterizing it by clicking on the Anti-Alias button. This will make your rasterized artwork look better, and it will still only use "Web-safe" colors, but it could end up somewhat larger in file size.

8. When you are asked to select a palette, locate the "Web-safe" palette provided with this tip. Click Open.

That's all there is to it! To check your work, open your file in Adobe Photoshop.

Don't forget!

You've changed the way Illustrator is displaying CMYK colors on screen, and if you now open a file you intend on printing the old fashioned way, on paper using CMYK inks, the colors will not be accurate! To reset the colors to standard CMYK, just click on the Defaults button in the Color Matching dialog.

AI6.0.2 1/97