

CHAPTER 3: The Colors Palette

The Colors palette is used to select and edit colors and patterns. It can be opened from the Tools menu [Command-Y] or by double-clicking the Eye Dropper tool.

The Back box indicates the color or pattern used for the background color. This fills holes created when selections are moved, cleared or cut. The Frame box indicates the color or pattern chosen for frames. The Fill box indicates the color or pattern used in painting and fill operations. Choose a color type for editing by clicking in the box. The selected color type is shown with a gray border.

Six different displays are available for the bottom portion of the Colors palette: HSB Range, Color Wheel, Sliders, Color Grid, Scratch Pad, and Patterns.

HSB Color Range

The HSB Color Range displays a graduated range of colors. The color saturation increases as you move from left to right. The color brightness increases as you move from bottom to top. The hue for the display is selected by moving the slider at the very bottom of the palette. Select a color by clicking in the display.

Color Wheel

The Color Wheel shows a graduated range of colors, showing all hues or colors, fully saturated at the outside edge and decreasing as you move toward the center. The pop-up menu lets you choose between HSB Wheel (Hue-Saturation-Brightness) and HSL Wheel (Hue-Saturation-Lightness). In HSB Wheel, the slider at the bottom controls the brightness. In HSL Wheel, the slider controls the lightness.

Sliders

Sliders displays slider controls to change the selected color. The pop-up lets you choose between RGB, HSB, CMY and Grayscale. The sliders are adjusted by clicking and dragging on the button. Clicking on the pointers at each end changes the settings one unit at a time. Changes made are reflected in the selected color box at the top of the palette.

Color Grid

The Color Grid displays colors that may be chosen by clicking on a color square. The pop-up menu gives you a choice of palettes of different colors. The number of colors displayed depends on the type of document open. A grid of 256 colors will appear for documents with 256 colors to millions of colors; documents with 16 or fewer colors will display a grid of 16 colors. Grayscale documents with 256 levels show a grid of 256 grays; documents with 16 or fewer grays display a grid of 16 gray levels.

Clicking the Edit button brings up a dialog box where any of the available color sets can be edited or a new color set created.

A color square is selected by clicking on it. Clicking the Copy button copies the color square. The square can be pasted into another square by clicking on the square and clicking the Paste button. Clicking the Clear button changes a color square to black. The Undo/Redo button is a toggle that lets you reverse the last action taken for a square.

The Pick button opens the standard Apple color picker, where a color can be selected by clicking within the color wheel or entering values in the text boxes.

A range of squares can be selected by clicking and dragging. The Blend button will blend colors between the first and last squares selected.

The Sort button opens a dialog box that lets you choose methods of sorting the colors in the set. The Primary and Secondary pop-up menus offer several choices for sort methods.

The Reverse button swaps the order of the selected color squares.

The Warm, Cool, Light and Dark buttons change the selected colors by changing their color values. Clicking the button again repeats the operation on the newly-changed color.

The Tint... button opens a dialog box where a value from -20 to 20 can be entered that tints the starting color by the value entered to the ending square. A positive range lightens the selected colors; a negative value darkens the selected colors.

Scratch Pad

The Scratch Pad allows you to experiment with Color It!'s brush tools or make temporary changes to a portion of the image without changing the original image.

The commands in the Options pop-up menu let you import images into the Scratch Pad.

The Grab From Image... command lets you grab a portion of the document and place it on the Scratch Pad. When you select the command, a dialog box appears where you can select a portion of your document to copy to the Scratch Pad.

To make a new selection, move the cursor over the selection rectangle, then click and drag the rectangle to a different portion of the document.

For finer control, move the cursor over the box on the left, then click and drag to nudge the selection. Once you have selected a new area, click the Grab button.

The Paste From Clipboard command pastes the clipboard contents into the Scratch Pad. Clipboard images are scaled to fit.

The Set Logo command places the default Color It! image into the Scratch Pad.

The Clear command deletes the contents of the Scratch Pad.

The Save command saves the contents of the Scratch Pad.

The Revert command undoes any changes made to the Scratch Pad. Clicking the Eye Dropper checkbox turns tools moved over the Scratch Pad into the Eye Dropper tool. Clicking on the Scratch Pad selects the color at the point selected.

Patterns

Pattern fills can be used like any other fill with selections, as paint for brushes, etc. Color It! comes with a number of patterns. Patterns and sets can also be created or modified.

The Pattern Set pop-up menu allows you to choose and save patterns and pattern sets.

Select a pattern by clicking on the sample square. The pattern appears in the selected color square at the top of the Tools palette.

The scroll bar and scroll arrows at the bottom of the palette can be used to make more of the patterns in the set visible.

The pattern can be used as a fill or as paint for a brush. Any attributes that can be applied to a brush such as style, size and opacity can be used.

Clicking the Edit button opens the Pattern Edit dialog box where patterns can be created or modified. A pattern square is selected by clicking on it and a gray frame is displayed. The scroll bar and scroll arrows at the bottom of the dialog box can be used to make more the patterns in the set visible. Each pattern set can hold up to 24 patterns.

Patterns are arranged in sets. The Set pop-up menu lets you choose a set, convert a Color It! 2.0 set, or create a new pattern set.

The New Set... command brings up a standard Open dialog box showing the Pattern Sets folder (located in the Color It! Stuff folder.)

The Convert 2.0 Set... command also brings up a standard Open dialog box where you can locate existing Color It! 2.0 patterns.

Patterns can be changed and moved using the Cut, Copy, Paste and Undo buttons.

Patterns within sets can be manipulated using the Cut, Copy, Paste, and Undo buttons. The Modify button opens a dialog box where existing patterns can be modified or new patterns created.

The pattern width or height can be changed by entering numbers in the New Size or Percent textboxes. Unchecking the Keep Aspect Ratio lets you change the width or height independently.

Clicking the Convert To checkbox lets you convert an pattern into one of three types:

Direct Color patterns always appear exactly as they were created. All of the color information of the original picture is saved, and it is not be affected by changes to the fill or background colors.

Gradient patterns are displayed using the colors in the color bar in the Tools palette. The grays in the pattern will be directly replaced by the colors in the color bar. The white regions of the pattern use the colors at the left side of the color bar; the darker regions of the pattern use the colors at the right side of the color bar.

Two Colors patterns use only solid white and black. The white is replaced with the color at the left end of the color bar; the black is replaced with the color at the right end of the color bar.

Clicking the Display Pattern Tiled fills the left end of the Modify Pattern dialog box with the pattern.

Clicking the Grab button at the bottom of the Pattern Edit dialog box lets you use a portion of the active document to create a new pattern. Enter numbers in the Width and Height checkboxes.

move the cursor over the selection rectangle, then click and drag the rectangle to a different portion of the document. For finer control, move the cursor over the box on the left, then click and drag to nudge the selection. Once you have selected a new area, click the Grab button. You are returned to the Pattern Edit dialog box. Clicking the Done button and save changes.

The new pattern now appears in the patterns shown and is available for use.