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Subject: Re: Widget color tables

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Mon, 15 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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throop@colorado.edu wrote:

```
> I'm having problems setting the color table properly in a widget
> program. IDL 5.2, sparc ultra, 8-bit display. Here's the situation:
> o The problem is that the loadct command appears to be completely
> ignored; the color table is just not set, or at least not displayed.
> Instead, my default desktop color table is used. help, /device tells
> me that indeed a 100-element private color map is assigned.
> o I've found that if, before or after the widget is realized,
> I create a non-widget window:
> and move the cursor _into that window_, the color table for the widget
> will be properly displayed and updated, as long as the cursor's in
> that window. It appears that idl may be setting the color table
> properly, but only displaying it when the cursor is in a draw window,
> and not when the cursor's in a widget window.
> | Henry Throop throop@colorado.edu (303) 492-1628 |
> | Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics |
> | University of Colorado, Boulder 80309-0392 |
```

The following IDL startup file should be an effective cure for this problem:

```
;---cut here---
;- Set up 8 bit display and grab colors

if !version.os_family eq 'unix' then device, pseudo = 8
device, retain = 2, decomposed = 0
window, /free, /pixmap, colors = -5
plot, [ 0 ]
wdelete, !d.window
print, 'Number of colors is ', !d.n_colors

;- Set graphics and widget font sizes

device, set_character_size = [ 6, 9 ]
widget_control, default_font = '7x13'

;- ensure IDL 5.0 XMANAGER behavior is consistent with IDL 4.0

xmanager, catch = 0
;---cut here---
```

Just set the environment variable IDL\_STARTUP to the full name and path of the startup file. It will then be executed every time you start IDL.

Cheers,  
Liam.  
PS Didn't IDL get started at LASP way back when?

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Liam E. Gumley  
Space Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison  
1225 W. Dayton St., Madison WI 53706, USA  
Phone (608) 265-5358, Fax (608) 262-5974  
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

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