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Subject: Re: IDL and 24 Bits--help + added question  
Posted by [grunes](#) on Wed, 22 Jun 1994 15:16:46 GMT  
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RSI's David Stern pointed out to me and others that IDL has a built in function (COLOR\_QUAN) that allows the display of 24 bit color on 8 bit color displays.

One minor warning: it was a recent addition to IDL.

That means that PV-Wave does not possess it. At least not in the versions we use--perhaps it has been added?

I try to keep my code portable between IDL and PV-Wave because I primarily use IDL/PV-Wave as a semi-portable graphics and image interface among PC's and a variety of Unix boxes, which have various IDL or PV-Wave versions installed.

Of course, I could always install the free trial version of IDL, but its limitations (no file output, except stuff like postscript, no SPAWNs, 7 minute limit) are a nuisance.

For those without that problem, this, along with support for more image file formats, and the fancy widget stuff, is one of a number of clear advantages of IDL over PV-Wave for those interested in image work. I can't figure out why PV-Wave is more expensive. Especially since, if you exceed the license, IDL reverts to free trial mode, whereas PV-Wave won't let you in at all. Any thoughts on this?

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