

---

Subject: Re: 24-bit color on printer device  
Posted by Liam E. Gumley on Thu, 26 Sep 2002 14:23:28 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Kenneth Bowman wrote:

> I have a short program (posted below) to test 24-bit color. On a 24-bit  
> X-Windows display, it works as intended, blending red and green to get yellow.  
>  
> The printer device does not produce color output, however. As evidenced  
> by the xprinter.eps file filled with, e.g.  
>  
> ...  
> 0.4 setgray  
> gs np 325.44 176.88 t 325.44 176.88 lo 331.68 176.88 ...  
>  
> (also by opening xprinter.eps in Illustrator and Ghostview).  
>  
> Any ideas?  
>  
> Many thanks, Ken Bowman  
>  
> PRO TEST24, PRINT = print, VERBOSE = verbose  
>  
> IF KEYWORD\_SET(print) THEN BEGIN  
> entry\_device = !D.NAME  
> SET\_PLOT, 'PRINTER'  
> DEVICE, /TRUE\_COLOR  
> ENDIF  
> !P.BACKGROUND = 255 + 256\*(255 + 256\*255) ;White background  
>  
> n = 1000L  
> x = RANDOMU(seed, n) ;Random numbers [0, 1]  
> y = RANDOMU(seed, n) ;Random numbers [0, 1]  
> r = LONG(255\*x) ;Red proportional to x  
> g = LONG(255\*y) ;Green proportional to y  
> b = REPLICATE(0B, n) ;No blue  
>  
> PLOT, [0,0], [1,1], /NODATA, COLOR = 0 + 256\*(0 + 256\*255) ;Blue axes  
> PLOTS, x, y, PSYM=1, COLOR = r + 256\*(g + 256\*b) ;Red-green-yellow points  
>  
> IF KEYWORD\_SET(verbose) THEN BEGIN  
> HELP, /DEVICE  
> HELP, !D, /STRUCT  
> ENDIF  
>  
> IF KEYWORD\_SET(print) THEN BEGIN  
> DEVICE, /CLOSE  
> SET\_PLOT, entry\_device

```
> ENDIF  
>  
> END  
[stuff deleted]
```

I get the same result in IDL 5.5 for IRIX when I use the default PRINTER output device (Generic EPS). However if I select printer-specific output using

```
result = dialog_printersetup()
```

and select the 'HP Color LaserJet PS on FILE:', then I get 24-bit color output as expected. IDL remembers this setting via the \$HOME/.XprinterDefaults file, so the next time I start IDL, this printer is the default when the PRINTER device is selected.

Cheers,  
Liam.  
Practical IDL Programming  
<http://www.gumley.com/>

---