
Subject: Re: METAFILE + TVLCT

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 28 Mar 2005 16:33:37 GMT

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Ed Hyer writes:

> I got started using the 255-color color tables IDL provides, which are
> useful immediately for quick plotting. After a while, I got greedy and
> started using TVLCT when I needed another color that wasn't in the
> color table I was using. Now I am creating my graphics as METAFILES and
> have found this trick doesn't seem to work. I initialize the device as
> follows:

```
>>  set_plot,'METAFILE'  
>>  device,file=outfile  
>>  device,xsize=xsize/30,ysize=ysize/30  
>>  device,/index  
>>  device,true=0
```

> Then, I use TVLCT to give me colors I need, such as adding a gray for
> NODATA to my usual ROYGBIV colors:

```
>>  loadct,39  
>>  tvlct,[100,100,100],1
```

> This works beautifully on the WIN display device, but does not change
> the colors at all in the METAFILE.

> Is there another workaround for this?

Now that I know what the METAFILE graphics device is, maybe I can offer a suggestion. Several graphics devices, apparently, do not allow you to load colors once you have made them the current graphics device. (The PRINTER device is the most notorious of these.) Knowing Windows as intimately as I do, I could believe the METAFILE device might also be one of these.

In this case, it is necessary to load the color table *before* you SET_PLOT to the device. This action then copies the current colors into the device color tables, and you have to pretty much be content with what you've got. (Personally, I think RSI is trying to teach us an important life lesson here, but your mileage may vary.)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
