
Subject: Re: Using Postscript & Colours in IDL
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 28 Jan 2008 14:38:26 GMT
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chloesharrocks@gmail.com writes:

> This is probably an incredibly stupid question (but I'm a complete
> programming novice!), but how do I actually use your program? I
> presume I have to copy the fsc_color.pro into IDLDE and save that as a
> program, but then how do I load that program within my code?
>
> Sorry for the basic questions, but I don't have a clue what I'm doing
> and really need a simple step-by-step guide!

Oh, well, then you need the book, too. ;-)

You just copy these programs into a directory (I've named mine "coyote") that is located somewhere IDL can find them. This means somewhere on your IDL path (!PATH). Usually, you just copy them into a directory, and add the directory to your path. (Somewhere under Preferences, depending upon what version of IDL you are using.)

You use the programs like you use any other command in IDL.

```
thisDevice = !D.Name  
keywords = PSCONFIG(Cancel=cancelled)  
IF cancelled THEN RETURN  
Set_Plot, 'PS'  
Device, _EXTRA=keywords  
Plot, findgen(11), Color=FSC_COLOR('navy', /NODATA, $  
    BACKGROUND=FSC_COLOR('ivory')  
Oplot, findgen(11), Color=FSC_COLOR('indian red')
```

etc....

```
Device, /CLOSE  
Set_Plot, thisDevice
```

There will be directions and examples in the headers of all the files. Ask if you don't understand something.

You will find a book helpful. If you don't know anything at all about programming, I would recommend Ken Bowman's book. If you know a little, but don't know anything at all about IDL, I would recommend either Liam Gumley's book or mine. You can learn more about them here:

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/books.html>
http://www.dfanning.com/documents/book_recommendations.html

My book is available in a PDF format. And I always give students big discounts on the hardcopy if they ask. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
