
Subject: Re: Setting colors for Plotting to PRINTER
Posted by [david\[2\]](#) on Sat, 11 Aug 2001 03:38:53 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Aaron Birenboim writes:

```
> Shouldn;t I be able to do something like:
>
> SET_PLOT,'PRINTER'
> TVLCT,255,0,0,2
> PLOT,myData,COLOR=2
>
> To print out a plot in red?
```

If you were to write your code like this:

```
PLOT,myData,COLOR=FSC_Color('Red', 2)
```

Your plot would come out red on your 24-bit display and red in your PostScript file, and red on your printer. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: Setting colors for Plotting to PRINTER
Posted by [Aaron Birenboim](#) on Sat, 11 Aug 2001 14:26:02 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

```
>
> Aaron Birenboim writes:
>
>> Shouldn;t I be able to do something like:
>>
>> SET_PLOT,'PRINTER'
>> TVLCT,255,0,0,2
>> PLOT,myData,COLOR=2
>>
```

>> To print out a plot in red?
>
> If you were to write your code like this:
>
> PLOT,myData,COLOR=FSC_Color('Red', 2)
>
> Your plot would come out red on your 24-bit
> display and red in your PostScript file,
> and red on your printer. :-)

Thanks for the tip... but are you sharing any info
about the internals of how FSC_Color might work...
or sharing the source????

--

Aaron Birenboim | Black holes are where G-d divided
Albuquerque, NM | by zero.
aaron@boim.com |
boim.com/~aaron | -Steven Wright

Subject: Re: Setting colors for Plotting to PRINTER
Posted by [david\[2\]](#) on Sat, 11 Aug 2001 16:23:19 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Aaron Birenboim writes:

> Thanks for the tip... but are you sharing any info
> about the internals of how FSC_Color might work...
> or sharing the source????

Of course.

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/fsc_color.pro
<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/pickcolorname.pro>

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: Setting colors for Plotting to PRINTER
Posted by [Aaron Birenboim](#) on Sun, 12 Aug 2001 02:29:53 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

After reviewing Dr. Fanning's code, it appears to me that
the following should work for a color plot on all non-screen devices
(or at least the ones where !D.NCOLORS EQ 256) :

```
TVLCT,255,0,0,22  
PLOT,indgen(9),COLOR=22
```

To produce a red plot.
Is this correct????

--- However, my PS device (at least) still appears black.
that may be a seperate issue to look into later.

All that aside....

There is a special case for 'PRINTER' where fsc_color.pro
seems to NOT do the TVLCT call.

How is it that for 'PRINTER' a color gets loaded into index 22....
when the TVLCT call appears to be skipped?

This is kind of hard for me to test, since I do not have
a color printer on my development system.

How would the color 22 get set to red for:

```
SET_PLOT,'PRINTER'  
c = fsc_color('red',22)  
; i think c would be 22 here  
PLOT,indgen(9),COLOR=c
```

Is there any place in the IDL documentation that covers
how to set PLOT colors on non-screen devices?

Is the PRINTER device somehow different from other
non-screen devices?

--

Aaron Birenboim | Black holes are where G-d divided
Albuquerque, NM | by zero.
aaron@boim.com |
boim.com/~aaron | -Steven Wright

Subject: Re: Setting colors for Plotting to PRINTER
Posted by [david\[2\]](#) on Sun, 12 Aug 2001 03:40:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Aaron Birenboim writes:

```
> After reviewing Dr. Fanning's code, it appears to me that
> the following should work for a color plot on all non-screen devices
> (or at least the ones where !D.NCOLORS EQ 256) :
>
> TVLCT,255,0,0,22
> PLOT,indgen(9),COLOR=22
>
> To produce a red plot.
> Is this correct????
```

Yes, for all 8-bit displays.

```
> --- However, my PS device (at least) still appears black.
> that may be a seperate issue to look into later.
```

A common mistake is to forget to set the COLOR keyword when you configure the PostScript device. You must also set the BITS_PER_PIXEL keyword to 8. (There are the defaults, by the way, with PSConfig, which is one of the reasons I always use it to configure the PostScript device.)

```
> All that aside....
> There is a special case for 'PRINTER' where fsc_color.pro
> seems to NOT do the TVLCT call.
> How is it that for 'PRINTER' a color gets loaded into index 22....
> when the TVLCT call appears to be skipped?
```

If there is, I can't seem to find it. :-(

```
> This is kind of hard for me to test, since I do not have
> a color printer on my development system.
>
> How would the color 22 get set to red for:
>
> SET_PLOT,'PRINTER'
> c = fsc_color('red',22)
> ; i think c would be 22 here
> PLOT,indgen(9),COLOR=c
>
> Is there any place in the IDL documentation that covers
> how to set PLOT colors on non-screen devices?
> Is the PRINTER device somehow different from other
> non-screen devices?
```

The PRINTER device (depending upon which printer you

are using, of course) is weird. All kinds of strange things go on with it. For example, I've had little luck loading colors while inside the PRINTER device. I almost always have to load colors outside the device, and copy them into the PRINTER:

```
Set_Plot, 'PRINTER', /Copy
```

And then there is a bug in the PRINTER device such that if you load a single color (e.g. red, in your example) while in the PRINTER device, the background shows up in that color. This no matter *what* index you load the color in. (This doesn't happen on all printers, thank goodness.)

So, to make your PRINTER example work, I think you might want to try this:

```
c = fsc_color('red',22)
SET_PLOT,'PRINTER'm /Copy
PLOT,indgen(9),COLOR=c
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
