
Subject: transparent background
Posted by [craigni](#) on Tue, 03 Jun 2003 16:59:02 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi all,

I'm trying to import a plot into PowerPoint, but I'd like the background to be transparent. I've been fooling around with the metafile display device, e.g.

```
SET_PLOT, 'METAFILE'
```

but so far have been unable to achieve a transparent background. Any ideas?

Many TIA,
Craig

Subject: Re: transparent background
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 05 Jun 2003 19:16:44 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Rick Towler (rtowler@u.washington.edu) writes:

> You didn't really fool around for 20 minutes, did you?

Indeed I did. I thought it might take five. And now I've just spent another 15. :-)

> With the B/W linear color table loaded:

>

> IDL> test = BYTARR(200,200)

> IDL> test[100:199,*] = 200

> IDL> tvlct, r,g,b,/get

> IDL> write_png,'test.png',test,r,g,b,TRANSPARENT=[0]

>

>

> In PP, Insert -> Picture -> From File... and select 'test.png'

>

> I have a 200x200 image, right half is lt. gray, left half is transparent.

>

> Load test.png up in Photoshop and the left half of the image is transparent

> too.

Well, I can see this works. But why doesn't my test program work?

PRO TEST

```
thisDev = !D.Name
```

```
white = FSC_Color('white', !D.Table_Size-2, Decomposed=0)
```

```
red = FSC_Color('red', !D.Table_Size-3, Decomposed=0)
```

```
green = FSC_Color('green', !D.Table_Size-4, Decomposed=0)
```

```
Set_Plot, 'Z', /Copy
```

```
Erase
```

```
Plot, findgen(11), Color=red, Background=white, /NoData
```

```
Oplot, findgen(11), Color=green
```

```
snapshot = TVRD()
```

```
tv!ct, r,g,b,/get
```

```
Set_Plot, thisDev
```

```
write_png, 'tester.png', snapshot, r,g,b, TRANSPARENT=[!D.Table_Size-2]
```

```
Print, !D.Table_Size-2
```

```
I = Where(snapshot EQ !D.Table_Size-2, count) & Print, count
```

```
END
```

My background (index 254) is white. I want that to be the transparent pixel value. There are 304,055 pixels in my image with this value. You'd think a *few* of them would be transparent. But no, when I put this into Powerpoint, I get an image with a white background.

Any ideas?

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

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

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: transparent background

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 05 Jun 2003 19:43:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

> Rick Towler (rtowler@u.washington.edu) writes:

>

>> You didn't really fool around for 20 minutes, did you?

>

> Indeed I did. I thought it might take five. And now

> I've just spent another 15. :-)

>

```

>> With the B/W linear color table loaded:
>>
>> IDL> test = BYTARR(200,200)
>> IDL> test[100:199,*] = 200
>> IDL> tvlct, r,g,b,/get
>> IDL> write_png,'test.png',test,r,g,b,TRANSPARENT=[0]
>>
>>
>> In PP, Insert -> Picture -> From File... and select 'test.png'
>>
>> I have a 200x200 image, right half is lt. gray, left half is transparent.
>>
>> Load test.png up in Photoshop and the left half of the image is
>> transparent too.
>
> Well, I can see this works. But why doesn't my test
> program work?
>
> PRO TEST
> thisDev = !D.Name
> white = FSC_Color('white', !D.Table_Size-2, Decomposed=0)
> red = FSC_Color('red', !D.Table_Size-3, Decomposed=0)
> green = FSC_Color('green', !D.Table_Size-4, Decomposed=0)
> Set_Plot, 'Z', /Copy
> Erase
> Plot, findgen(11), Color=red, Background=white, /NoData
> Oplot, findgen(11), Color=green
> snapshot = TVRD()
> tvlct, r,g,b,/get
> Set_Plot, thisDev
> write_png,'tester.png',snapshot,r,g,b,TRANSPARENT=[!D.Table_Size-2]
> Print, !D.Table_Size-2
> I = Where(snapshot EQ !D.Table_Size-2, count) & Print, count
> END
>
> My background (index 254) is white. I want that to be the transparent
> pixel value. There are 304,055 pixels in my image with this value.
> You'd think a *few* of them would be transparent. But no, when
> I put this into Powerpoint, I get an image with a white background.
>
> Any ideas?
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

```

David,

did you have tried with 24bit or 16bit color resolution.
I believe you have 16bit used.

If it's 16bit then it is the same problem JD posttest on 22.5.
I added an other example there.

I recognized this during beta test of idl5.6.

Reimar

--

Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/>

=====

a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

Subject: Re: transparent background
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 05 Jun 2003 20:03:44 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Reimar Bauer (R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de) writes:

> did you have tried with 24bit or 16bit color resolution.
> I believe you have 16bit used.
>
> If it's 16bit then it is the same problem JD posttest on 22.5.
> I added an other example there.
>
> I recognized this during beta test of idl5.6.

I used TVRD in the Z buffer. That is surely an 8-bit
color resolution!

I don't think it is the same problem. I *know* I have
pixels with that value (some 300K of them!). They
just don't go transparent and I can't figure out why
not.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I'm reluctant to spend much more

time on it and blow my cover about knowing everything
about IDL without having to do all the hard work. :-(

--

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

Subject: Re: transparent background
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Thu, 05 Jun 2003 20:22:09 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"David Fanning" wrote in message..

> Rick Towler writes:

>

>> You didn't really fool around for 20 minutes, did you?

>

> Indeed I did. I thought it might take five. And now

> I've just spent another 15. :-)

>

>> With the B/W linear color table loaded:

>>

>> IDL> test = BYTARR(200,200)

>> IDL> test[100:199,*] = 200

>> IDL> tvlct, r,g,b,/get

>> IDL> write_png,'test.png',test,r,g,b,TRANSPARENT=[0]

>>

>>

>> In PP, Insert -> Picture -> From File... and select 'test.png'

>>

>> I have a 200x200 image, right half is lt. gray, left half is
transparent.

>>

>> Load test.png up in Photoshop and the left half of the image is
transparent

>> too.

>

> Well, I can see this works. But why doesn't my test
> program work?

It looks like WRITE_PNG only accepts "0" as a valid transparent pixel index
value. I can get your program to work if I load your background at 0 and
specify 0 as the transparent index but it will not work with any other
value. it looks like I was just lucky :)

Another annoying thing I noticed is that the VERBOSE keyword isn't verbose at all. I didn't get any additional output with it set.

I would submit these as bugs.

-Rick
