

# Color Sets in Corel® Painter™:

## Part 2

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In the previous installment, we looked at the options associated with Painter's Color Sets feature. The Color Set palette enables the saving of a group of repeatedly used colors. Color Set options provide various tools for organizing and viewing color sets.

In this installment, we'll look specifically at how to create a new Color Set, as well as add and delete swatches from a set. Finally, we'll look at a workaround for the lack of an organizational click-and-drag mechanism.

### Creating New Color Sets

There are several sources of color from which a new *Color Set* can be populated. They include:

- New Empty Color Set
- New Color Set from Image
- New Color Set from Layer
- New Color Set from Selection
- New Color Set from Mixer Pad

With the exception of the *New Empty Color Set* command, color sets are created by targeting specific color-bearing content within Painter. An image, layer, selection, or *Mixer Pad* are all color-bearing sources. In each case, Painter analyzes all of the pixels in the targeted color source and creates a new color set of all unique color values found. This technique enables the quick creation of a permanent record of the colors within a specific image or image component.

### Creating a New Color Set

A new *Color Set* is created via the *Color Set* palette's fly-out menu using the *New Empty Color Set* command. A color set targets the *Main Color Square* as its color source. Working with the *Eyedropper Tool*, colors can be selected from an image source and then added to the current *Color Set* via the *Add Color* button located at the bottom of the *Color Set* palette.

A color set can have one currently defined color; the current color set swatch is indicated by a highlighted box around the

selected color. The current swatch can be deleted via the *Delete Color* button located at the bottom of the *Color Set* palette.

### Adding a Name to a Color Set Swatch

The *Color Set Name Field* is toggled on via the *Color Set* palette's fly-out menu *Display Name* command. This updates the appearance of the current color set to display a name field to the right of each swatch. The text fields of a new color set will be empty. To input a name, double-click on an empty name field. The *Set Color Name* dialog will appear, enabling you to type in a name for the selected swatch. When finished, click the *OK* button and the new title will appear in the color set. Color set text fields can be re-edited at any time.

### Rearranging a Color Set with a Text Editor

Unfortunately, *Color Set* palette swatches do not have click-and-drag functionality. Without this, the order of a color set is dictated by the order in which the swatches were added to the color set. There are many cases in which it is desirable to have the swatches appear in a preferred order. Fortunately, there is a workaround for this limitation: editing the color set file with a text editor.

*Note: Color Set files are plain text files; that is, they contain no formatting characters. In order to preserve a color set's readability by Painter, an edited color set must be re-saved in plain text format. Failure to do so will result in a file that is unreadable by Painter.*

*Color Set* files utilize a set of proscribed text fields in which to store color set values. The first 7 lines of a *Color Set* file contain a label and an associated value. These values determine the physical layout of the color set.

For the purpose of re-ordering the sequence of a color set's swatches, the key element we will focus on is the individual line entry that constitutes a color set swatch value.

A sample color set entry is shown below:

R: 246, G:247, B:125 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 Screaming Yellow

The *R:nnn*, *G:nnn*, and *B:nnn* values represent the *RGB* value of the color swatch. The *HV:n.nn*, *SV:n.nn*, and *VV:n.nn* values represent the *HSV Color Variability* values of the color swatch. Typically, you will not edit these values.

The key field for re-arrangement purposes is the *Label Field*. In the above example, it is *Screaming Yellow*. This is the name that has been given this swatch via the *Set Color Name* dialog.

Let's suppose that you have created a color set that you regularly use and you'd like to have the swatches appear in a specific order within the color set. Using the numeric order (1, 2, 3, etc.) that you'd like the swatches to appear, double-click on the text field of the color that will be the first swatch in the list and name it 1.

Continue selecting and incrementally titling each swatch until all swatches have been numbered. Admittedly, this will take a bit of effort for large color sets, but it is worth it if you want a custom ordered color set.

1. Save the color set (Color Set palette fly-out menu: Save Color Set...).
2. Open the saved color set in a text editor.
3. Cut and paste the color set entries, reorganizing the line entries so that the *Title Fields* are in numeric order.
4. Save the color set as a plain text file.
5. Open the edited color set in Painter (Color Set palette flyout menu: Open Color Set...)

The edited color set will now appear in the numerically correct order.

### **Congratulations, You're Now an Official Color Set Geek!**

Not everyone has the desire or inclination to edit color sets into a preferred order, but—no doubt—some of you do. This tutorial empowers you to do so.

*Viva la Painter!*

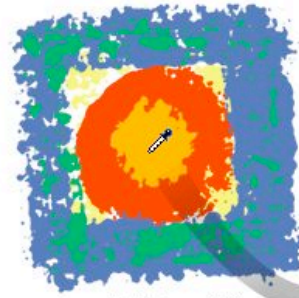
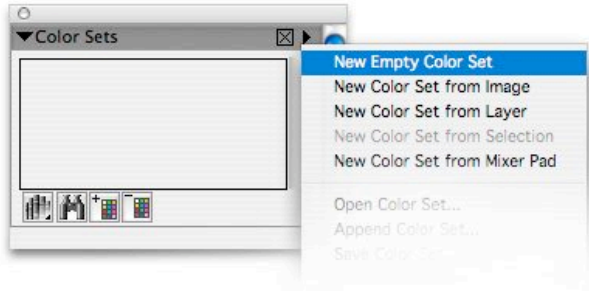
*John Derry is a pioneer of digital painting and one of the original authors of Corel® Painter™. Since 1985, he has leveraged his background in drawing and painting to advance the look and experience of traditional art-making tools on the computer. John has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Fine Art and is a practicing artist and photographer. He is currently serving as Corel's Painter Ambassador-at-Large. John's Web site is at [www.pixlart.com](http://www.pixlart.com).*

# Creating and Editing Color Sets

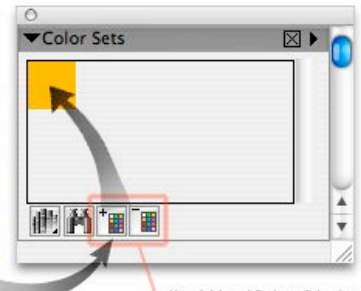
in Corel® Painter™



## Creating a Color Set and Adding/Deleting Colors

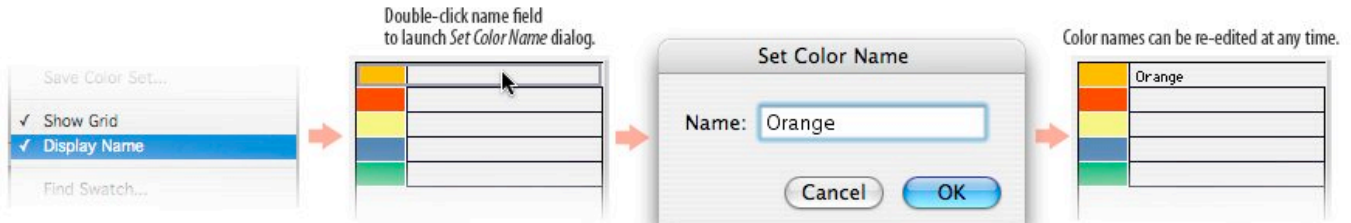


Use Eyedropper Tool to select colors.



Use Add and Delete Color buttons to edit a Color Set.

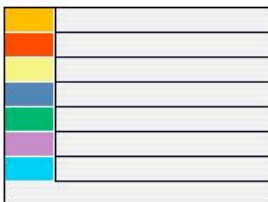
## Adding Names to Colors Using the Set Color Name Dialog



## Editing a Color Set Using a Text Editor

⚠ Color Set files must be saved in plain text format (no formatting).

Original unnamed Color Set



Named Color Set using numbering to indicate preferred order.



View of Named Color Set in a text editor.

```
ROWS 1
COLS 7
WIDTH 32
HEIGHT 32
TEXTHEIGHT 14
MODIFIED 1
SPACING 1
R: 251, G:177, B:021 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 7
R: 219, G:057, B:001 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 6
R: 246, G:247, B:125 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 1
R: 086, G:116, B:166 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 4
R: 086, G:174, B:100 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 2
R: 169, G:117, B:187 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 5
R: 098, G:200, B:242 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 3
```

Edited and re-ordered Color Set



View of edited Named Color Set.

```
ROWS 1
COLS 8
WIDTH 32
HEIGHT 32
TEXTHEIGHT 14
MODIFIED 1
SPACING 1
R: 246, G:247, B:125 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 1
R: 086, G:174, B:100 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 2
R: 098, G:200, B:242 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 3
R: 086, G:116, B:166 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 4
R: 169, G:117, B:187 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 5
R: 219, G:057, B:001 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 6
R: 251, G:177, B:021 HV:0.00, SV:0.00, VV:0.00 7
```