Tech Info Library

Apple Media Tool 2.0: Creating Transparent Colors (1/97)

Article Created: 15 January 1997

TOPIC ---

I created a new project in Apple Media Tool 2.0 (AMT) that has color preferences
set to:

1) millions
2) 256
3) Thousands

One of my pict files has a dark gray (RGB=8,8,8) background which I made
transparent. When I view the project in thousands of colors, the background is
transparent, as I expect. But when I play the project on a machine that only
supports 256 colors, the background is no longer transparent. How can I fix
this?

DISCUSSION ---

Apple Media Tool does not handle transparency well when changing color depths.
Here are some recommendations on how you can avoid the problem:

• Keep it Simple. Stick to white or black as a transparent color. Never use 16-
or 24-bit transparent colors.

• Do as much as possible with QuickTime background stills. QuickTime does a good
job of dithering images down to 256 color palettes on Macintosh and Window
computers.

• Use Equilibrium's DeBabelizer Toolbox software to create superpalettes that
play on Macintosh and Window computers, then make a QuickTime Pict from the
result.

• Test extensively on both Macintosh and Window computers using a wide variety
of video boards.

Keywords: <None>

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19970115 15:14:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 20796