

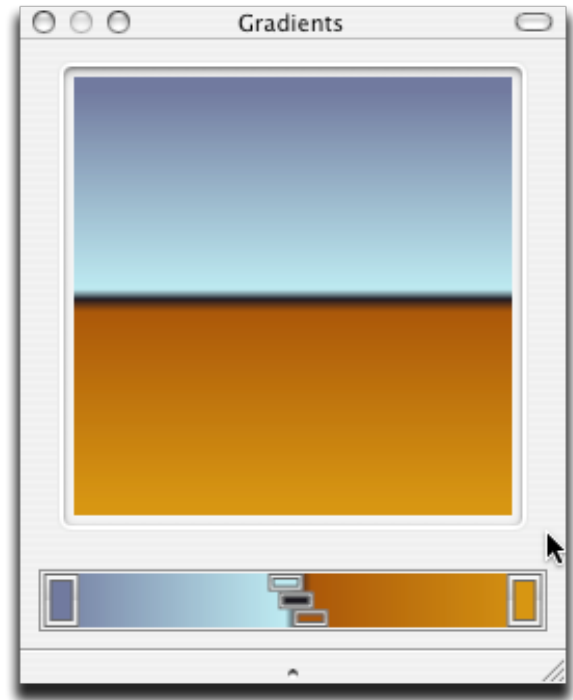
The Gradient Panel

Version 1.0

Our Story

Color gradients are all around the web and our desktop. Technically, it's just a blending of colors across a canvas but in practice there are a near infinite combination of colors and blending techniques for every creative palette. So, color gradients (CGs) are cool but how do you make them?

There are many graphic applications that include some form of CGs as part of their repertoire. Most provide some type of graphical "inspector" offering various parameters to affect the visual rendering of a CG. But they are all different from one another. Furthermore, sharing CGs between these applications is currently impossible.



Our Offer

We offer an alternative. We are giving our Gradient Panel to developers at no charge. We wish to encourage its use in other applications and to offer an open, standard way of creating and sharing CGs among them. CGs can be saved to a file singly or as a collection (library), copied and pasted and even dragged and dropped easily between participating applications. If another app doesn't yet play, you can create images of the gradients and use those.

This is just our first step in making many graphic and drawing capabilities available to a variety of applications.

Quick Start

Gradients

What is a color gradient? Simply put, its a gradual blending of colors across a canvas but not a mixture. It might be easier to have a look.

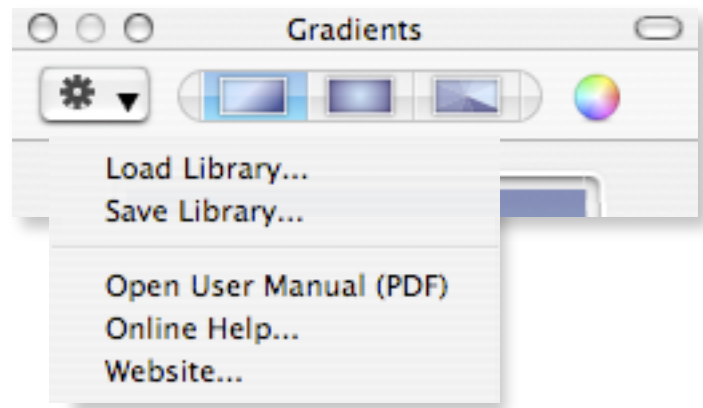
You can always load some pre-made gradients via the Action Menu: Load Library action on the toolbar.

This Quick Start is designed to point out the available feature controls. We expect that you will learn more by “doing”.

Color



Gradient



The Gradient Panel in 4 Parts



toolbar - Access gradient type settings, actions, libraries, and Color Panel.

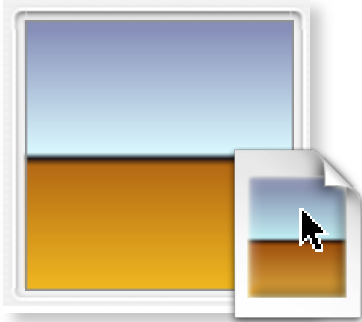
the well - Has type-specific controls. These appear when you mouse over them and fade away to let you see details clearly.

color slider - Edit and move individual stops.

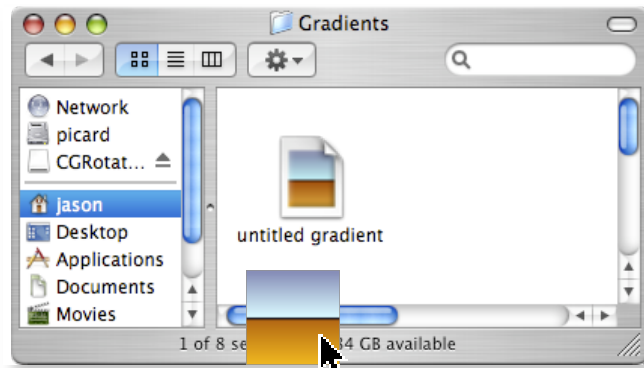
library palette - displays gradient swatches from your current library. Double-click to show in the well. Drag to rearrange or drop on gradient receptive views (such as a well).

Creative Controls

The Well



Drop Gradient Documents on the main well or Library Palette.

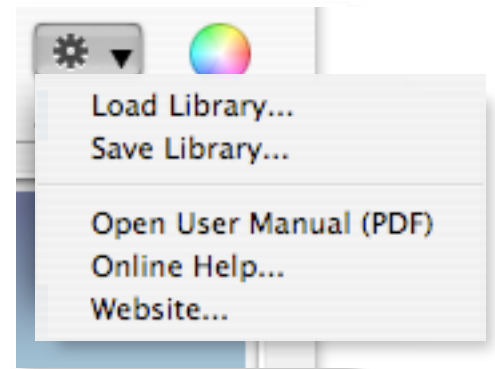


Drag and Drop a swatch to the Finder or your Desktop and it's saved as a standard file.

Library Palette



Save and Load your set of gradient swatches for later use or to share with your friends. Some applications may provide you with a starter set.



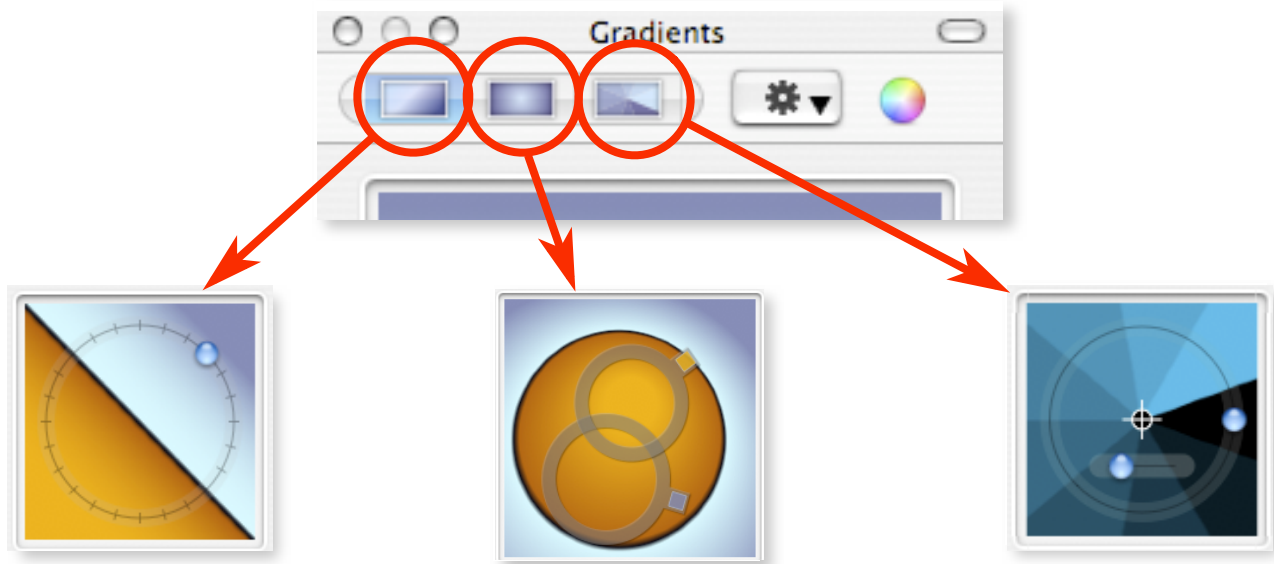
Drag and Drop to rearrange your gradient swatches. Double-click to load to the Main Well or drag it there.



When Loading you can replace your current swatch collection or merge them together for more options.

Well Controls

Controls within the well vary according to the **Gradient Type** selected in the toolbar. Normally, the controls are invisible but will readily appear whenever you move your mouse over or click in the main well.



Linear Gradient Control

Blend colors between **Color Stops**, all along a single line with an adjustable angle **dial**.

Radial Gradient Control

Adjust the color blend between 2 circles of color using the **Iris Controls** to adjust the radius and center point.

Sweep Gradient Control

Colors blend sweeping around an adjustable center point. You can also set the rotational angle and number of color divisions.

Color Slide

With the **Color Slide** you can add, remove, and adjust the relative position of individual **Color Stops** of the color gradient.



Color Stops

Drag to reposition or **Drag Off** to delete a **Stop**.



Well Controls in Detail

Normally, the controls are **invisible** but will readily **appear** whenever you move your mouse over or click in the main well.

Linear Gradient Control

Blend colors between Color Stops, all along a single line. Drag the knob around the **dial*** to adjust the angle.



Sweep Gradient Control

Colors blend sweeping around a center point. In addition an angle **dial*** you can drag the **center point** to reposition the center of the circle and adjust the **slider** to set the number of color divisions.

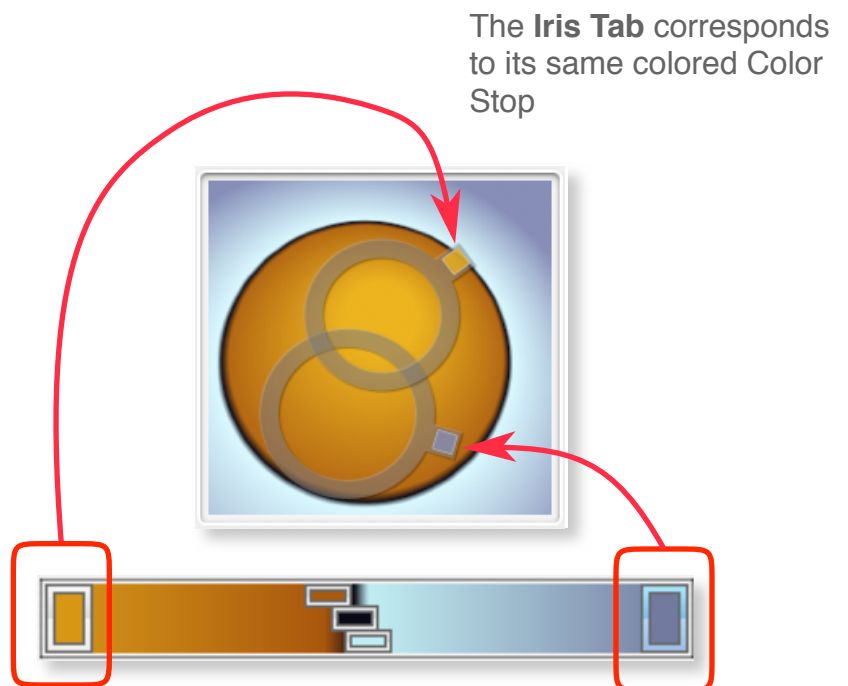
* Holding the **Shift-Key** rotates in lock-step, snapping to the closest 15° on the dial. Release the **Shift** for finer adjustment.

Radial Gradient Control

Adjust the color blend between circles of color using the **Iris Control**.

Each **Iris Control** has a colored **Tab** that adjusts the color circle's radius as you drag it around the **ring**.

Drag the **Iris Ring** to move the color circle's center point. **Shift-Drag** to move both points together.



The **Iris Tab** corresponds to its same colored Color Stop

Color Slide & Stops

Color Stops represent your color settings along a spectrum that you create. A gradient will always have at least **2** colors. You can vary your gradient by adding or removing stops, adjusting their position, and setting the color of each.

The way in which your gradient is displayed in **the well** will depend on the **gradient type** selected.



Drag a stop to reposition it.

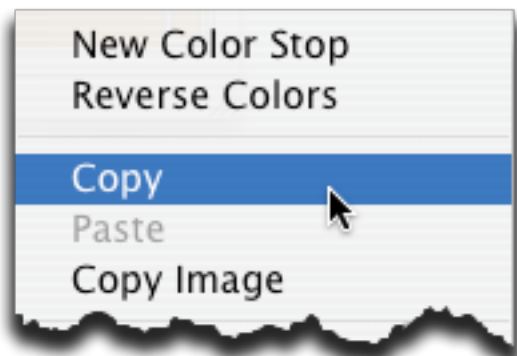


Drop a Color on a **stop** to change its color or **drop** it in bar area to create a **new stop**.

Drag Off off a **stop** the bar to delete a it. Remember that you can't delete the last two.



The Contextual Menu offers a number of options. Quickly available with the **Right Mouse** (or **Control-Left Mouse**)



New Colour Stop - Insert a new stop at the mouse location.

Reverse Colors - reverses the ordering of the Color Stops.

Copy / Paste - standard

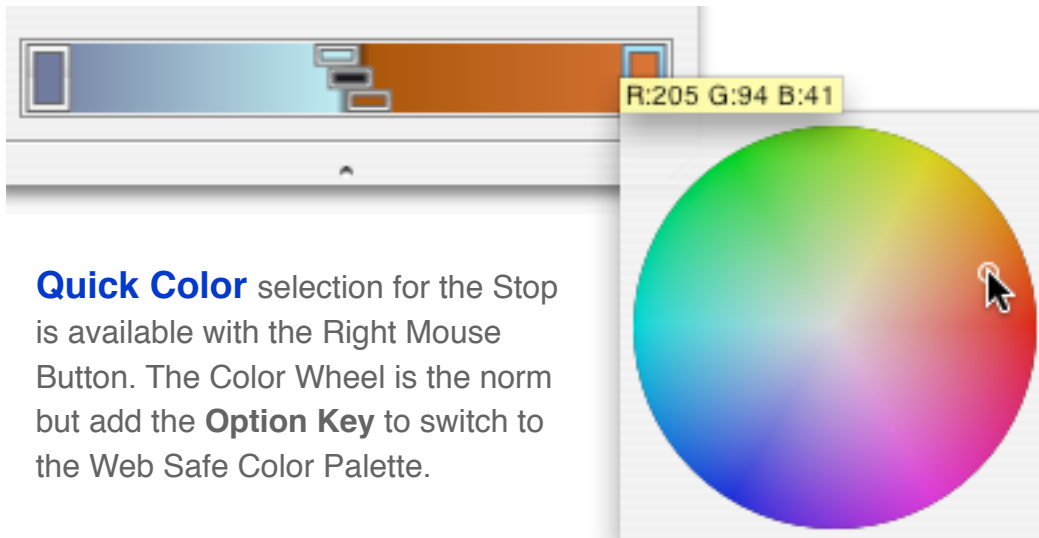
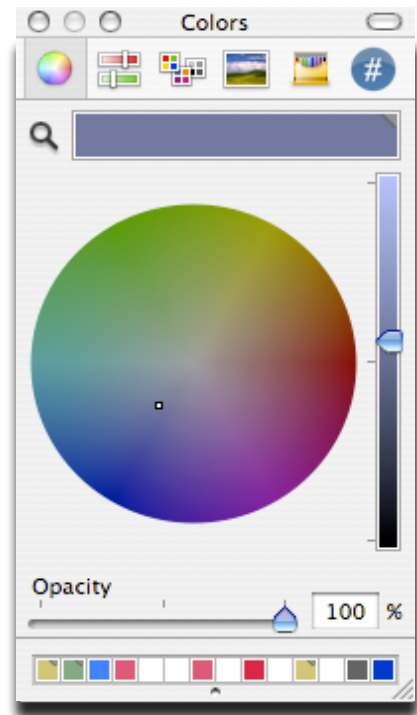
Copy Image - converts your gradient to a standard TIFF image for easy transfer (pasting) to another application.

More with the Color Slide & Stops



Click a **Stop** to fine tune its color with the standard Color Panel.

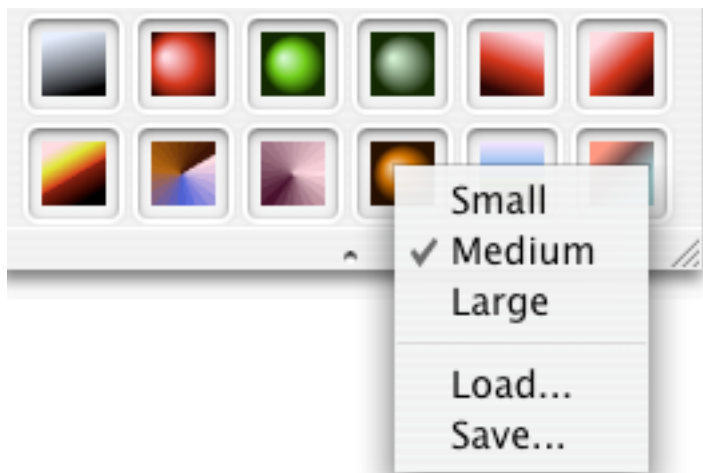
Notice that the **selected stop** tracks changes made in the Color Panel



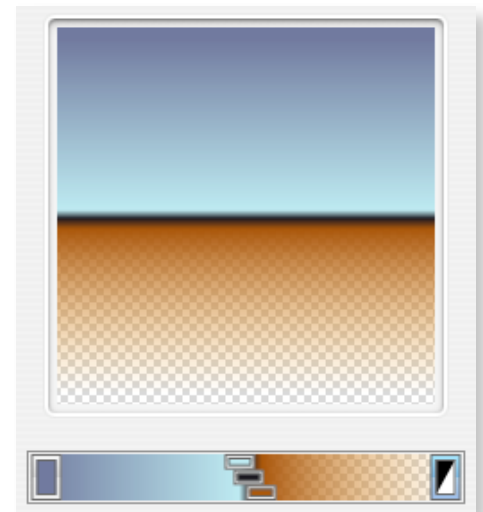
Quick Color selection for the Stop is available with the Right Mouse Button. The Color Wheel is the norm but add the **Option Key** to switch to the Web Safe Color Palette.

Quick Trick If you have a scroll wheel, Right Click the Stop, move your mouse over the color wheel and scroll your mouse wheel to change the brightness.

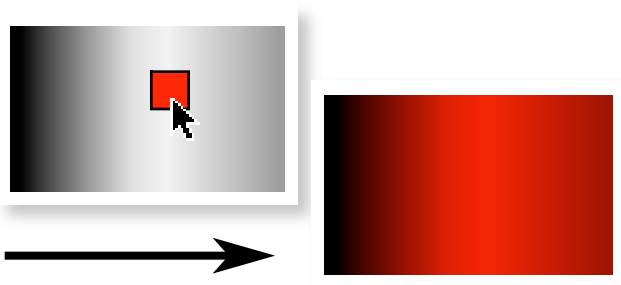
Other Tips, Tricks & Advanced Features



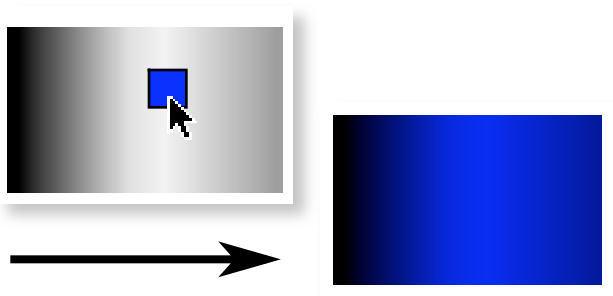
Change the Well Size using the **Contextual Menu** (Right Mouse or **Control-Left Mouse**). You can also access the Load and Save Panels from here as well.



Transparency is indicated when the underlying checkerboard pattern is visible.



Colorize a previously created gradient by dropping a new color swatch on the **main well**.



Web Safe Colors can be accessed in lieu of the standard Color Wheel. Just press the **Option** key when accessing the **Quick Color** popup.

