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Macintosh Scrapbook And 24-Bit Images

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TOPIC -----

Can I paste a 24-bit graphic into the Scrapbook from an application without losing any of the detail or color depth?

DISCUSSION -----

The Macintosh Scrapbook can handle 24-bit images. The application from which the image is being copied must support copy and paste commands for the scrapbook. The application must place the image in a PICT2 file format, which includes parameters for describing the image (8-bit, 24-bit, chunky, planar, and so on).

A problem occurs, however, when displaying a 24-bit image on an 8-bit video card and/or in an 8-bit graphics program. The image colors will be incorrect, because they are set for 24 bits, but the image will continue to be stored as a 24-bit image. For example, one possible outcome of a 24-bit RasterOps image paste to 8-bit Pixel Paint is a blue image. This is because three 8-bit red, green, and blue transfers are sent to the video card. The last image transfer is blue, so a Macintosh II video card will only show the blue portion of the image.

The image also may not display correctly when pasting to different 24-bit displays, because the implementation of 24-bit color differs from video card to video card.

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