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

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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.

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