

Chroma

User Guide

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Introduction

About Chroma

Chroma is a color-palette generator. It generates color palettes by selecting the five most distinctive colors in an image and generating a series of light to dark shades for each of these colors. This makes it easy to find matching colors that can be used alongside images in web and print designs.

System requirements

Chroma should run on any Mac with macOS 10.10 (Yosemite) or later.

Help and support

Select Support and Community from the Help menu for support in using Chroma. This links to our Chroma discussion forum, where you can get help from us and from other Chroma users.

The discussion forum is also a place where you can discuss Chroma and provide feedback.

Documentation

Select Chroma User Guide from the Help menu to view this manual on screen.

About this manual

If you are reading the manual on screen, you can navigate around it by clicking on items within the Table of Contents, or by clicking on cross-references in the text. You can also navigate back to your starting place using the Back command (normal shortcut: ⌘[). Use the Search command in your PDF viewer to find items within the Table of Contents and elsewhere.

Typographical conventions

This manual uses a different font to identify words and phrases that represent user-interface items or keyboard shortcuts. Examples include: the Copy command in the Edit menu and its associated keyboard shortcut ⌘C.

In this example the symbol ⌘ represents the Command key, which is normally next to the space bar on keyboards. This is a modifier key, which you hold down while pressing the following key (C). Modifier and other keyboard symbols include:

- ⌘ The Command key, also labelled as `cmd`
- ⌥ The Option key, also labelled as `alt`
- ^ The Control key, also labelled as `ctrl`
- ⇧ The Shift key
- ⌫ The Escape key, usually labelled as `esc`

Chapter 1: Quick start

1. Import an image by clicking on an empty window
2. Click on a color (or copy icon) to copy a color
3. Click on the loupe (magnifier) icon to choose a different color
4. Paste color values into color pickers or CSS stylesheets (etc.)

Chapter 2: Documents

Working with documents

Options for managing documents can be found in the File menu. These are standard options that behave the same way in most Mac programs.

Creating a new document

Select **New** from the File menu (or use the keyboard shortcut ⌘N) to create a new document.

Opening an existing document

Select **Open...** from the File menu (shortcut: ⌘O) to open an existing document. Alternatively, select **Open Recent** from the File menu to open a recent document.

Closing and saving documents

Select **Close** from the File menu (shortcut: ⌘W) to close a document. Chroma will prompt you if you have unsaved changes. To close all documents, hold down the Option key and select **Close All** from the File menu (shortcut: ⌥⌘W). An alternative way of closing a document is to click on the red button at the top left of the window.

Select **Save** from the File menu (shortcut: ⌘S) to save a document. If you have not previously saved this document, Chroma will display a dialog asking you for a file name and a location to save the document.

Like most modern Mac programs, Chroma automatically saves any documents that you are working on, so there is no need for you to keep saving them manually. However, saving a document manually creates a “version” of the document. You can revert to previous versions using the **Revert** command (see [Reverting a document](#), below).

Duplicating documents

Select **Duplicate...** from the **File** menu (shortcut: ⌘⌘S) to duplicate the current document. To save the current document under a new name, hold down the **Option** key and select **Save As...** (shortcut: ⌘⇧S) from the **File** menu.

Renaming a document

Select **Rename...** from the **File** menu to rename a document. You can also rename a document by clicking on its name in the title bar of the window and typing a new name in the popup dialog.

Moving a document

Select **Move To...** from the **File** menu to move a document to a different location. You can also move a document by clicking on its name in the title bar of the window and choosing a new location in the popup dialog.

Reverting a document

Select **Revert To** from the **File** menu if you wish to revert to an earlier version of a document. You can easily revert to the last saved version, or the last opened version, or you can choose **Browse All Versions...** to revert to any previous version.

Chapter 3: Images and colors

Importing images

The first step in using Chroma is to import an image. An easy way to do this is to click on an empty window, and choose an image from the file dialog. You can also drag images from the Finder onto any Chroma window. A third way to import images is to choose Import... (keyboard shortcut ⌘⇧I) from the File menu.

You can also paste images that have been copied from other applications.

Color palettes

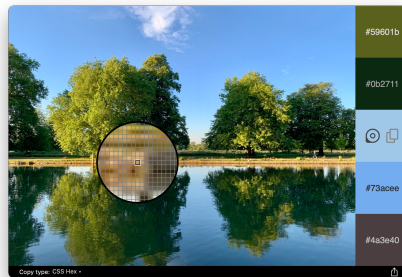
Chroma automatically generates a palette from any image that you import. After a few seconds or less, it displays a matching palette for this image. On the right side of the window, Chroma displays a list of five colors that are most representative of the colors used by the image. Each of these colors is labelled with a hex value that represents the color's RGB (red, green, blue) components. To the left of each color is a strip of eleven matching shades in levels of perceived brightness (dark to light).

Note: If you choose an image that contains fewer than five different colors, Chroma will display fewer colors. For example, a monochrome image (e.g a greyscale or sepia image) contains only one color.



Choosing alternative colors

You can replace any of the main colors that Chroma has automatically chosen by selecting a different color. To do this, move the mouse cursor over one of the main colors on the right of the window. When you do this, Chroma will display a pair of icons: a loupe (magnifier) icon on the left, and a copy icon on the right. Click on the loupe icon, and Chroma will slide out the palette of color shades in order to display the imported image. If you move the mouse cursor over the image, you will see a loupe (magnifier) that allows you to click on any of the pixels within the image, and use its color to replace the previously selected color, and generate a matching series of shades. You can also cancel by clicking a second time on the loupe icon, or by pressing Esc.

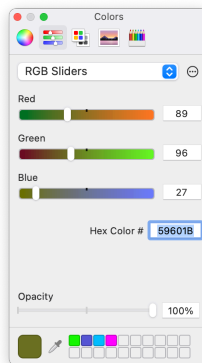


Copying colors

To copy one of the five main colors, click on the copy icon (next to the loupe icon). To copy a lighter or darker shade of this color, move the cursor over the shades to the left: Chroma will display the hex (RGB) value of each shade as you move the cursor over it. Then click on the shade that you wish to copy. When you copy a color, Chroma will display a message saying that it has copied the color, in whatever format is currently chosen as the “Copy type” (see below).

Copy types

Chroma can copy colors in various formats. The default format is “CSS Hex”. This copies the CSS hex value of the color. You can use this value directly in CSS style sheets, or you can paste it into a color picker within another application. If you use Xway (our web-design application), you can paste hex values into the Hex field of the New Color dialog. You can also paste hex values into the Hex Color field in the RGB sliders pane of Apple’s color picker within any Mac program that uses the color picker to choose colors: choose the Color Sliders pane and select RGB Slider from the popup at the top of this pane, then paste into the Hex Color field below the sliders.



There is a range of other formats that can be chosen from the **Copy type** popup at the bottom of a Chroma window. These include: five CSS formats, five

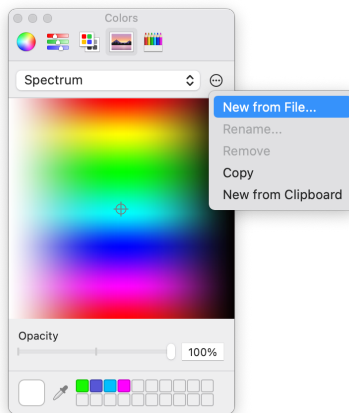
Objective-C formats, five Swift formats, and the actual color. Some applications allow you to paste actual colors: for example, TextEdit allows you to select some text and color it by pasting an actual color over it. In general, unless you are a programmer or coder, the most useful copy type is CSS Hex or Hex value (which omits the # prefix).

Exporting palettes

You can also export entire palettes from Chroma. To export a palette, choose **Export...** (keyboard shortcut ⌘⌘E) from the **File** menu, or click on the **Export** icon at the bottom right of a Chroma window. Then choose a palette format from the **Format** popup within the file dialog. There are four formats that Chroma supports: Photoshop, Adobe, Freeway, and Apple. Photoshop and Adobe formats can be imported into Photoshop and other Adobe applications. Freeway format can be imported into Freeway (Xway's predecessor). Palettes that are saved in Apple format can be imported into Apple's color picker.

To export a palette in Apple format, choose **Apple** format in the **Export** dialog and click on **Save**. Chroma will save a file with a .clr extension.

To import an Apple-format palette in the color picker:



1. Switch to the **Color Palettes** pane of the color picker.
2. Click on the menu icon (☰) to the right of the **Palettes** popup.
3. Choose **New from File...**
4. Select the .clr file you exported from Chroma.