

Swatch Maker 2 for Adobe® InDesign® CS2

The Swatch Maker script is used to create color swatches within a specified range of colors.

Preparation/Prerequisites

There must be an InDesign document open before launching this script. Preferences for the open document are set to allow the correct execution of the Swatch Maker script. If there is no document open, the script will state this and quit. To continue, open a document and relaunch the script. If a large number of swatches are to be made, it is recommended to make the page size equal to the maximum size of the color proofer to be used.

Installation

Move or copy the script to the following location depending on your platform:

Mac OSX:

Applications\Adobe InDesign CS2\Presets\Scripts

PC:

C:\Program Files\Adobe\InDesign CS2\Presets\Scripts (this will depend on where your Application is located)

Using the Script

After launching the script, the Swatch Maker dialog box is brought up (see Figure 1). This dialog allows the starting color percentages to be entered as well as the increment percentages, number of steps, whether to use iterative combinations (explained below) and the swatch size.

The following steps should be followed to create color swatches:

1. Make a document to the desired size (Maximum size = maximum color proofing size).
2. Launch the Swatch Maker script.
3. Enter the starting CMYK percentages and the increment amounts. An increment of zero “turns off” a color.
4. Enter the Number of Steps (between two and ten). The step value is how many times the increment values will be added to the Start Color values. If any start value, increment value and step value results in percentages over 100%, an error is displayed asking the user to reenter correct values.
5. The “Combinations” check box should be checked if all possible color combinations possible are wanted. For a reduced number of colors, uncheck the “Combinations” check box. Be careful not to use step values of 8-10 and incrementing three or four colors while using the “Combinations” option. This will result in extremely large numbers of colors and will take long intervals of time to compute. Please see Appendix A for the total number of colors that will be made for varying increment and step values.
6. Enter the desired square swatch size in the Swatch Size box. The measurement unit of this value is the same measurement unit as the vertical ruler of the document. Swatch sizes have a minimum value of 0.5 inches (36 points, 3 picas, 12.7 mm, 1.27 cm or 2.815 cicerros) and a maximum size about 1 inch (72 points, 6 picas, 25.4 mm, 2.54 cm or 5.630 cicerros) less than the page width.
7. Click the OK button. A dialog is shown when the swatches are done being made.

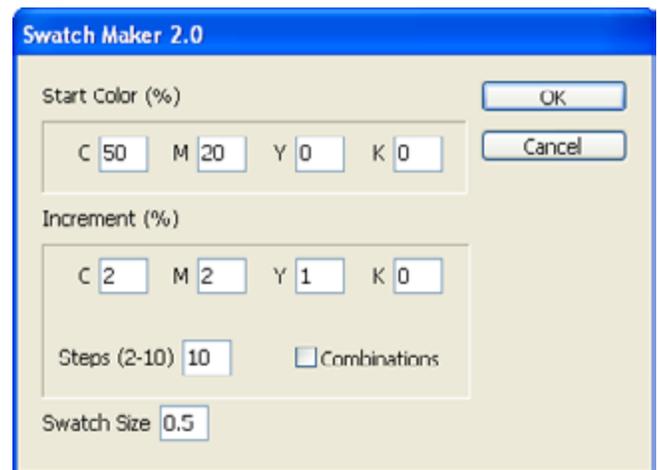


Figure One. The SwatchMaker dialog box.

APPENDIX A

Number of swatches created based on the number of steps and the number of colors being incrementing.

| # Colors # Steps | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 |
| 3 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 31 |
| 4 | 4 | 10 | 22 | 56 |
| 5 | 5 | 13 | 29 | 61 |
| 6 | 6 | 16 | 36 | 76 |
| 7 | 7 | 19 | 43 | 91 |
| 8 | 8 | 22 | 50 | 106 |
| 9 | 9 | 25 | 57 | 121 |
| 10 | 10 | 28 | 64 | 136 |

Table One. Number of swatches created without using "Combinations".

| # Colors # Steps | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------|----|-----|------|-------|
| 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 |
| 3 | 3 | 9 | 27 | 81 |
| 4 | 4 | 16 | 64 | 256 |
| 5 | 5 | 25 | 125 | 625 |
| 6 | 6 | 36 | 216 | 1296 |
| 7 | 7 | 49 | 343 | 2401 |
| 8 | 8 | 64 | 512 | 4096 |
| 9 | 9 | 81 | 729 | 6561 |
| 10 | 10 | 100 | 1000 | 10000 |

Table Two. Number of swatches created using "Combinations".

[On an AMD 2600+ processor, a Step Value of 7 and incrementing 4 colors took 172 seconds and a Step Value of 8 and incrementing 4 colors took 303 seconds.]

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Known Issues

This script hasn't been tested in InDesign CS1. Upgrade to CS2!

It is not recommended to use 8-10 steps with 4 incrementing colors. Run times of 10 minutes or more can result using these combinations.

History

- 2.0 Converted AppleScript to JavaScript to allow Mac and PC compatibility via InDesign.
 Redesigned to be more "efficient" (efficient as a $O(n^4)$ run time can be). (6/07/06)
- 1.0 Initial AppleScript for QuarkXPress®.

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