

Macrex Colour Setting Menu Help

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Users of version of MACREX previous to version 8 please note that the colours are now saved separately from the other options in a file called <filename>.col.

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Introduction

Macrex uses different colours to identify different functions within the program - for example the hard and soft commas are highlighted in different colours on the list of the index on the screen, to make it easier to take in the structure of your entry. Also items on the screen that are for information and items that require action are displayed in different colours, the drop down menus use different colours to highlight the currently selected items and so on.

Macrex is distributed with a default colour scheme that we hope works, but we have put in the facility to change the colours because people like to customise it. If you do change the colour scheme be careful that you do not choose colours that make it harder to use - for example it is essential for the menu item selected colour to be different to the menu background.

If you want to revert to the original colour scheme, you can do this by deleting the file called default8.col - [see below](#).

If the screen appearance of any feature is unsatisfactory try loading one of the .COL files supplied with the program until you find one that produces a satisfactory result. If none of the files we supply produces a good result you should then choose option **M** and experiment with different colour. To access the colour setting menu use Options->Colours from the [main menu](#) or use [Option M](#), Set Colours from [Macrex Options menu 1](#).

M A C R E X C O L O U R S E T T I N G M E N U

A - Centred menus, feint xxxx 243	S - Yank text xxxx 232
B - Centred menus, bold xxxx 241	T - Screen border xxxx 0
C - Centred menus, inverted xxxx 224	U - Flashing text xxxx 143
D - Text being edited xxxx 176	V - Menu background xxxx 143
E - Edit prompts xxxx 244	W - Menu character select col xxxx 138
F - Two-column menus xxxx 244	X - Menu item selected xxxx 10
G - Screen Clear (cursor) xxxx 247	Y - Authority background xxxx 10
H - Information xxxx 242	Z - Authority list xxxx 112
I - Errors xxxx 79	1 - Authority pick xxxx 143
J - Questions/requests xxxx 244	2 - Info window xxxx 245
K - Screen list xxxx 241	3 - Menu highlight select col xxxx 15
L - Screen list ~ ~ xxxx 203	
M - Screen list {} xxxx 232	
N - Screen list \ \ xxxx 15	
O - Screen underlining xxxx 180	
P - Screen list , (headings) xxxx 112	
Q - Screen list , (pages) xxxx 143	
R - Option settings xxxx 252	

Press <ESC> to save defaults
 ^L or ^S/F8 to load or save named colour files
 Select as desired, press <ENTER> when done ==>

Changing the colours

This menu lists all the various different features which you may want coloured. If, for example, you want to change the colour of the text when the index is listed on the screen you should press **L**.

This will present the screen shown below in which all the possible colours are displayed, each identified by a number.

Macrex Version 8.6/TOA/LM/MSC: D:\mx8temp\cows

Insert ON 0

1	16	32	48	64	80	96	112	128	144	160	176	192	208	224	240
2	18	33	49	65	81	97	113	129	145	161	177	193	209	225	241
3	19	35	50	66	82	98	114	130	146	162	178	194	210	226	242
4	20	36	52	67	83	99	115	131	147	163	179	195	211	227	243
5	21	37	53	69	84	100	116	132	148	164	180	196	212	228	244
6	22	38	54	70	86	101	117	133	149	165	181	197	213	229	245
7	23	39	55	71	87	103	118	134	150	166	182	198	214	230	246
8	24	40	56	72	88	104	120	135	151	167	183	199	215	231	247
9	25	41	57	73	89	105	121	137	152	168	184	200	216	232	248
10	26	42	58	74	90	106	122	138	154	169	185	201	217	233	249
11	27	43	59	75	91	107	123	139	155	171	186	202	218	234	250
12	28	44	60	76	92	108	124	140	156	172	188	203	219	235	251
13	29	45	61	77	93	109	125	141	157	173	189	205	220	236	252
14	30	46	62	78	94	110	126	142	158	174	190	206	222	237	253
15	31	47	63	79	95	111	127	143	159	175	191	207	223	239	254

The current colour for Screen list is number 241

Enter number of required colour (F1 to exit) ==>

The message on the second to bottom line of the screen shows the name of the feature you want to colour, in the colour currently selected. To change the colour type the number of the colour you want at the prompt and press <ENTER>. If you press F1 (or <CTRL>Q) the original colour will not be changed.

When changing the colour scheme bear in mind that MACREX uses bold and feint versions of the colours for **two column menus**, **queries** and **screen list**. In each column of the table above the feint colours are the first eight numbers and the bold are the next eight. For example 242 is a "feint" green colour and 250 is the corresponding "bold" version. When choosing colours for the three features above, especially for **screen list**, make sure that the feint and bold versions are clearly distinguishable.

Saving and loading a colour scheme

To save a colour scheme as the default, press <ESCAPE> from the [MACREX Colour Setting Menu](#). You will then be asked if you want to save the colours in the MACREX [home folder](#) (as the default for all indexes) or in the current index folder (active only for indexes in that folder). The colours will be saved in a file called default8.col. To save a colour scheme in a named file (for later use) press F8 and use the [file selector](#) screen to choose the name.

To load a pre-existing colour scheme press <CTRL>L from the [Macrex Colour Setting Menu](#) and use the [file selector](#) screen to locate the file.

Loading a colour scheme from MACREX Version 7

In MACREX version 7 and earlier, colours were saved with all the other option settings. If you want to load the colour scheme from a MACREX version 7, first load the version 7.opt file using Macrex Options Menu 1, [Option D](#) - Load Version 7 options file then go to the [MACREX Colour Setting Menu](#) and [save](#) the colour scheme.

Structure of the .col file

MACREX colour settings are saved in a text file with the extension .col. The first line is for a description of the colours but does not affect the colours scheme. In the subsequent lines the number identifies the number of the colour and the text describes to which feature it will be applied. You can edit this file with a text editor to change the numbers, but you can't change the order of the colour features. A sample file with the default colours is shown below.

```
; Default colours
243      ; Centred menus, feint
241      ; Centred menus, bold
224      ; Centred menus, inverted
176      ; Text being edited
244      ; Prompts
244      ; Two-column menus
247      ; Screen clear
242      ; Information messages
79       ; Error messages
244      ; Questions and requests
241      ; Screen list
203      ; Screen list ~~
```

```
232      ; Screen list {}
15      ; Screen list \\
180     ; Screen list underline
112     ; Screen list heading separator
143     ; Screen list page separator
252     ; Option settings
232     ; Yank text
0       ; Screen border
143     ; Flashing text
143     ; Background colour for popup menus
138     ; Colour for slection character on popup menus
10      ; Colour for selected item on menus
10      ; Background colour for auto-complete window
112     ; List colour for auto-complete window
143     ; Colour selected auto-complete text
245     ; Colour for popup windows to enter information
15      ; Colour for selected character when highlightedend of colours
```

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