

# How to mix or separate three color channels

## QUESTION

I need to send a picture to 3 separate monochrome monitors in an embedded application I am writing. I could simply allow only one monitor to work at a time but thought it might be possible to drive the RGB outputs separately. This could be achieved by creating 3 pictures, one with red shades, one with green shades and one with blue shades and blending them together. I could do this by mixing the pictures pixel by pixel but suspect this would be extremely slow.

But it's the only way (all other ways I can think of go back to the same). Use scanline and it is not that "extremely slow":

```
{ ... }  
var  
  Ptr1, Ptr2, Ptr3: ^Byte;  
  PtrMix: ^Byte;  
  X, Y: Integer;  
begin  
  for Y := 0 to Height-1 do  
    begin  
      Ptr1 := RedBitmap.ScanLine[Y];  
      Ptr2 := GreenBitmap.ScanLine[Y];  
      Ptr3 := BlueBitmap.ScanLine[Y];  
      PtrMix := MixBitmap.ScanLine[Y];  
      for X := 0 to Width-1 do  
        begin  
          PtrMix^ := Ptr1^;  
          Inc (Ptr1);  
          Inc (PtrMix);  
          PtrMix^ := Ptr2^;  
          Inc (Ptr2);  
          Inc (PtrMix);  
          PtrMix^ := Ptr3^;  
          Inc (Ptr3);  
          Inc (PtrMix);  
        end;  
      end;  
    end;  
  end;
```

Make sure *MixBitmap* has 24 bit format, *RedBitmap*, *GreenBitmap* and *BlueBitmap* have 8 bit format (or change the code for other formats). All bitmaps should have the same size (or use the smallest size for *WidthM* and *Height*).

Separating 3 color channels (instead of mixing) is very similar. Simply change `PtrMix^ := Ptr1^;` to `Ptr1^ := PtrMix^;` (and for the other channels, too).

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