



The background color of a control area or embedded panel can be set by clicking the background to exit any subwindow layout mode, then Control-clicking (*Macintosh*) or right-clicking (*Windows*) in the background, and then selecting a color from the contextual menu's pop-up color palette. See **Control Background Color** on page III-437 for details.

The contextual menu adjusts the style of the frame around the panel.

You can use the same contextual menu to remove an embedded panel, leaving only the bare control area underneath. Remove the control area by dragging the inside edge back to the outside edge of the graph.

### Drawing Limitations

The drawing tools can not be used in bare control areas of a graph. If you want to create a fancy set of controls with drawing tools, you have to embed a panel subwindow into the graph.

### Updating Problems

You may occasionally run into certain updating problems when you use controls in graphs. One class of update problems occurs when the action procedure for one control changes a variable used by a ValDisplay control in the same graph and also forces the graph to update while the action procedure is being executed. This short-circuits the normal chain of events and results in the ValDisplay not being updated.

You can force the ValDisplay to update using the **ControlUpdate** operation (page V-94). Another solution is to use a control panel instead of a graph.

The ControlUpdate operation can also solve problems in updating pop-up menus. This is described above under **Creating PopupMenu Controls** on page III-426.

## Control Panels

Control panels are windows designed to contain controls. The **NewPanel** creates a control panel.

Drawing tools can be used in panel windows to decorate control panels. Control panels have two drawing layers, UserBack and ProgBack, behind the controls and one layer, Overlay, in front of the controls. See **Drawing Layers** on page III-68 for details.