

Updating Material-Type Icons

The 2009B WebPAC Example Set includes all new material type icons. They feature recognizable icon images over color backgrounds, for rapid recognition on browse and record screens. The colors are selected to group similar materials. For example, print materials are blue, projected media are green, and audio recordings are purple.

The set includes over two dozen icons to meet a wide range of collections. However, if you need to add or change them, Innovative provides a high-resolution Photoshop source file. Here are the steps to use this file.

Overview: the mattype icon source file is a single file for all the individual icons. It has color background layers, icon art layers, and a lighting effect layer to give a hint of dimensionality to each icon. Each time you save an icon, you must select visibility of the appropriate background color and icon art layer. The lighting effects layer is used for all icons. This procedure shows you how to save individual icons just as they are, and then explains how to make changes to the colors or icons themselves.

Steps to save one icon

1. Click off visibility for the currently selected icon layer and color layer.
2. Click visibility on for the background color and icon layer you are using.
3. Make sure the "Lighting Effects" layer is still visible. It is the top-most layer.
4. Merge the visible layers into a new file with a single layer:
 - a. Edit: Select All
 - b. Edit: Copy Merged
 - c. File: New. Accept the default size. Background should be transparent.
 - d. Edit: Paste.
5. Resize the image with Image: Image Size.
 - a. Make sure "Constrain Proportions" and "Resample Image" are checked.
 - b. Set Pixel Dimensions: width 41, height 31
6. Save the file as a GIF. You can choose a different format if you need JPG or PNG for example.
7. Remember to update your IMAGE_MATTYPEEx web options if you are adding icons, or changing names or file types. If you are editing and replacing same-named icons you do not need to edit wwwoptions.

Steps to edit icons.

Changing a background color.

After step 2, above, double-click the "Color Overlay" effect on the color layer. Use the color chip to pick a new color. You can rename the layer or copy a layer to reflect your changes.

Adding or editing an icon graphic.

To change the image that appears on an icon, you can copy an existing icon layer. The colors you choose for the layer should be greyscale. With the layer effect as "screen," black will be transparent, white will remain white, and greys will be more transparent the closer they are to black. You can see how this works by hiding all layers. Then make one icon art layer visible. Next, click visibility on and off for a color layer, and you will see how the color and art layers interact.