

Category Colors

About this plugin

type: Wordpress Plugin

languages: PHP, HTML, CSS, MySQL and jQuery javascript, and Colorpicker library

version nr: version 1.0

release date: 12/09/2013

This plugin is compatible with all newer versions of Wordpress, tested up to Wordpress version 3.6.1

Plugin documentation URL: <http://www.atypisch.nl/plugins/category-colors/>

This plugin is entirely written by Marten Timan, owner and founder of [Atypisch](http://www.atypisch.nl) Webdesign & Webdevelopment currently based in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

How to install

Just copy this plugin (the entire 'category-colors' folder) into your Wordpress plugins directory. Then go to your plugin section in the Wordpress CMS and click 'Activate'.

How to change a Category Color

In your Wordpress CMS, go to Posts -> Categories and click on a Category you have already created. You cannot choose a color directly when creating a category, because we want to keep creating categories sweet and simple :-)

The screenshot shows the WordPress 'Add New Category' interface. On the left is the standard WordPress sidebar with menu items like Dashboard, Posts, Media, Links, Pages, Comments, Appearance, Plugins (6), Users, Tools, and Settings. The main content area is titled 'Categories' and contains a form for adding a new category. The form fields include: 'Name' (with a text input and a note: 'The name is how it appears on your site.'), 'Slug' (with a text input and a note: 'The "slug" is the URL-friendly version of the name. It is usually all lowercase and contains only letters, numbers, and hyphens.'), 'Parent' (a dropdown menu set to 'None' with a note: 'Categories, unlike tags, can have a hierarchy. You might have a Jazz category, and under that have children categories for Bebop and Big Band. Totally optional.'), and 'Description' (a large text area with a note: 'The description is not prominent by default; however, some themes may show it.'). At the bottom of the form is a blue 'Add New Category' button. On the right side of the screen, there are two panels. The top panel shows a list of existing categories: 'Name', 'downloads', 'projects', 'test-category' (highlighted in orange with links for 'Edit', 'Quick Edit', 'Delete', and 'View'), and 'weblog'. The bottom panel shows another list with 'Name' and a 'Bulk Actions' dropdown menu. A 'Note' at the bottom right states: 'Deleting a category does not delete the posts in that category. Categories can be selectively converted to tags using the'.

In your Edit Category section, in the bottom you will see a new option called 'Choose your Category Color'. Click on the textfield with the colorcode in it, then a jQuery colorpicker will appear.

Slug

test-category

The "slug" is the URL-friendly version of the name. It is usually all lowercase and contains only letters, numbers, and hyphens.

Parent

None

Categories, unlike tags, can have a hierarchy. You might have a Jazz category, and under that have children categories for Bebop and Big Ban

Description

this is a test category

The description is not prominent by default; however, some themes may show it.

Choose your Category Color

current color:



Click on the textfield below for the Colorpicker.

After choosing a color click on the select icon  to change your color, then click on Update below.

new color: #

c7de18

Update



Move your mouse in the color-area or change the RGB values. To select a color, click on the ball-shaped colored icons in the lower right corner of the colorpicker. The value will then also change in the textfield. After that, click on the blue 'Update' button on the left.

Choose your Category Color

current color:



Click on the textfield below for the Colorpicker.

After choosing a color click on the select icon  to change your color, then click on Update below.

new color: #

00bfa6

Update



after you selected the color, click on this icon. the color will also change in the text-box. Afterwards, click on the 'Update' button on the left.

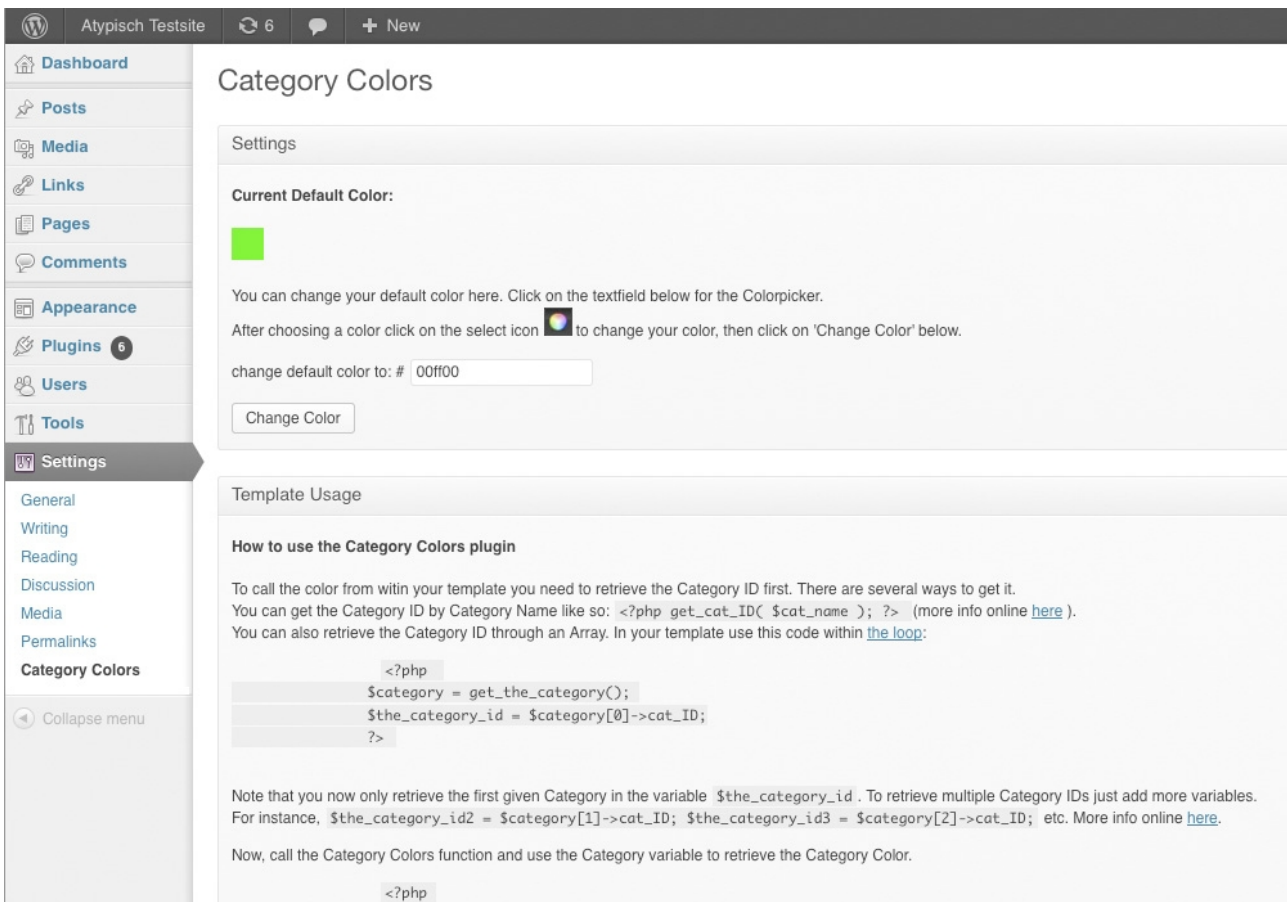
After you have clicked the Update button you will be send to the Category overview section. In the top of the page you will see the message 'Item updated'.

Categories

Item updated.

How to change a Default Color

In your Wordpress CMS, go Settings -> Category Colors. Note: you will have to be logged in as an Administrator to be able to view this page. Here you will see a brief overview of the plugin and Template usage. The default Category color will be used when a new category is created. Afterwards, you can change the color per Category ofcourse.




The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard with the 'Category Colors' settings page. The left sidebar contains the standard WordPress menu items, with 'Settings' expanded to show 'Category Colors'. The main content area is titled 'Category Colors' and is divided into two sections: 'Settings' and 'Template Usage'.

Settings

Current Default Color:

A green color swatch is displayed.

You can change your default color here. Click on the textfield below for the Colorpicker.

After choosing a color click on the select icon  to change your color, then click on 'Change Color' below.

change default color to: # 00ff00

Template Usage

How to use the Category Colors plugin

To call the color from within your template you need to retrieve the Category ID first. There are several ways to get it. You can get the Category ID by Category Name like so: `<?php get_cat_ID($cat_name); ?>` (more info online [here](#)). You can also retrieve the Category ID through an Array. In your template use this code within [the loop](#):

```
<?php
$category = get_the_category();
$the_category_id = $category[0]->cat_ID;
?>
```

Note that you now only retrieve the first given Category in the variable `$the_category_id` . To retrieve multiple Category IDs just add more variables. For instance, `$the_category_id2 = $category[1]->cat_ID; $the_category_id3 = $category[2]->cat_ID;` etc. More info online [here](#).

Now, call the Category Colors function and use the Category variable to retrieve the Category Color.


```
<?php
```

To change the default color, click on the textfield with the colorcode in it, then a jQuery colorpicker will appear.


Category Colors

Settings

Current Default Color:



You can change your default color here. Click on the textfield below for the Colorpicker.

After choosing a color click on the select icon  to change your color, then click on 'Change Color' below.

change default color to: # 00ff00


Template Usage

How to use the Category

To call the color from within your template use the following code:

You can get the Category ID by Category Name like so: `<?php get_cat_id($cat_name); ?>` (more info online [here](#)).

You can also retrieve the Category ID through an Array. In your template use this code within [the loop](#):




Change your color by moving your mouse, then click on this icon. After that, click on the 'Change Color' button.

Move your mouse in the color-area or change the RGB values. To select a color, click on the ball-shaped colored icons in the lower right corner of the colorpicker. The value will then also change in the textfield. After that, click on the blue 'Change Color' button on the left.

Category Colors


Settings

Current Default Color:



the default color has changed to your selected color

You can change your default color here. Click on the textfield below for the Colorpicker.

After choosing a color click on the select icon  to change your color, then click on 'Change Color' below.

change default color to: # 0ca2cf

After the default color is updated, the new color will appear in the square below 'Current Default Color' and in the textfield.

Template Usage

To call the color from within your template you need to retrieve the Category ID first. There are several ways to get it.

You can get the Category ID by Category Name like so: `<?php get_cat_ID($cat_name); ?>` ([more info online here](#)).

You can also retrieve the Category ID through an Array. In your template use this code within [the loop](#):

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Note that you now only retrieve the first given Category in the variable `$the_category_id`. To retrieve multiple Category IDs just add more variables.

For instance, `$the_category_id2 = $category[1]->cat_ID; $the_category_id3 = $category[2]->cat_ID; etc.` More info online here.

Now, call the Category Colors function and use the Category variable to retrieve the Category Color.

```
<?php
if(function_exists('cc_get_color')) {
    $category_color = cc_get_color($the_category_id);
}
?>
```

You can use the variable `<?php echo $category_color; ?>` anywhere in your template file after the call. Now you can spice up your Posts and Categories with your own custom colors, have fun!

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