

Colour Schemes



When designing your website, one of the most important factors to consider is colour.

But how do you select a colour palette that's right for your site? In this tutorial, we'll demystify the process and show you a few different ways to choose a colour scheme for your projects. You'll learn how to:

- Apply a preset colour scheme from the Colour Scheme Designer.
- Modify an existing colour scheme.
- Create your own colour scheme from scratch.

Colour Schemes

In the first section of this tutorial, we'll apply scheme colours to individual elements on a site. We'll then show you how you can edit and modify scheme colours. Finally, we'll create a custom colour scheme from scratch.

Applying scheme colours to objects

You can apply a colour scheme at any point during the design process. Each publication can have just one colour scheme at a time and can easily switch from one to another.

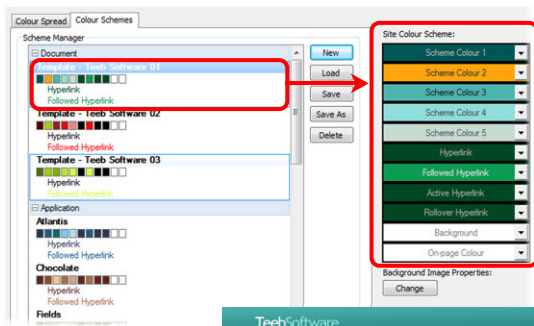
To apply a colour scheme

- 1 From the WebPlus Startup Wizard, select **Create > Use Design Template** and select a template of your choice. Click **Open**.
- 2 On the Page context toolbar, click **Colour Scheme Designer** (or click **Tools**, then **Colour Scheme Designer**).

In the **Colour Scheme Designer** dialog, click the **Colour Schemes** tab.

You'll see an assortment of named schemes, each consisting of a few basic colours.

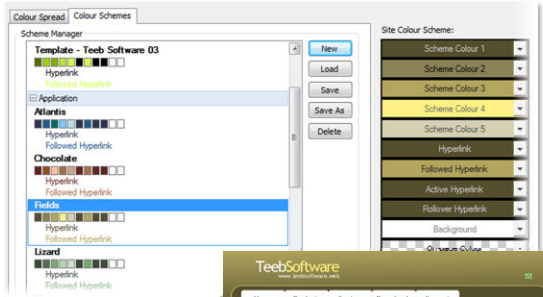
The **Scheme Manager** pane contains a library of the available colour schemes. The highlighted scheme and its colours are loaded in the **Site Colour Scheme** pane.



- 3 Select a different scheme and click **Load** or double-click the colour scheme.



When you load a new scheme, the **Site Colour Scheme** pane also updates with the newly loaded colours. If you look at the page, you'll see various elements change colour.



Try a few different colour schemes.

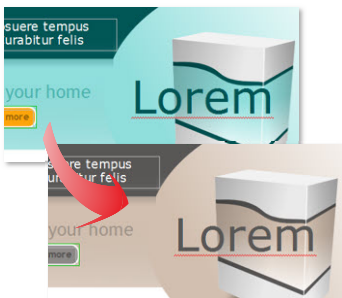
- 4 When you've found the colour scheme you want to apply to your site, click **Ok**. Your entire site is modified with the new colour scheme.



So what exactly is happening here?

The scheme colours work like a paint-by-numbers system, where regions and elements of a page are coded with numbers. In each scheme, a specific colour is assigned to each number.

When you switch to a different scheme, any elements that have been assigned one of the scheme colour numbers are updated with the corresponding colour from the new scheme. Let's see this in action...




- 5 On the Tools toolbar, click the **Artistic Text** tool and create a large text object on your page.

By default, new text objects are assigned to Scheme Colour 1.

- 6 Click **Tools**, then **Colour Scheme Designer** and switch to a different colour scheme.

Notice that the colour of your new text object changes.

Let's try the same experiment with a QuickShape.

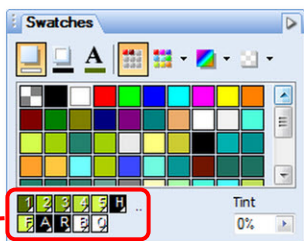
- 7 On the Tools toolbar, click the  **Quick Rectangle** and draw a shape on your page.

By default, the shape will have a white fill with a black outline.

- 8 Open the **Colour Scheme Designer** and switch to a different scheme.



This time, the object does not update with the new scheme colours.

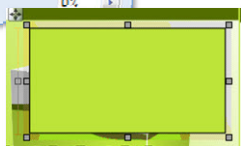
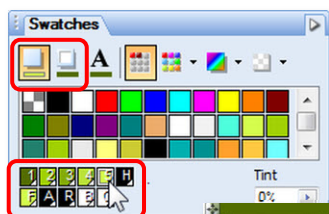
- 9 Click to display the **Swatches** tab. At the bottom of the tab, the five basic colours in the current colour scheme appear as numbered swatches.




The colours for **Hyperlink**, **Followed Hyperlink**, **Active Hyperlink**, **Rollover Hyperlink**, **Background** and **On-page colour** display with the labels H, F, A, R, B and O.

- 10 Select your shape, then on the **Swatches** tab:

- Click the  **Fill** button and then click the scheme colour you want to apply.
- Click the  **Line** button and then apply a different scheme colour to the shape's outline.

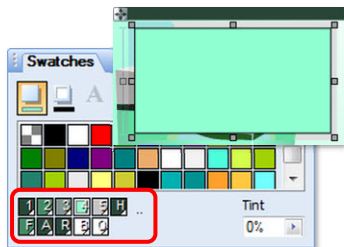


Now let's see what happens when we switch colour schemes...

- 11 Click  **Colour Scheme Designer**, and choose a different colour scheme.

In the WebPlus workspace, your shape is updated with the new scheme colour.

Notice too that the colour scheme swatches at the bottom of the **Swatches** tab have been replaced with the new colours.



As you can see, when you create new elements in a web template site, or start a site from scratch, you can extend a colour scheme to the new objects using the process just described.




If you copy an object that uses scheme colours to another site, the object will take on the new site's colour scheme.

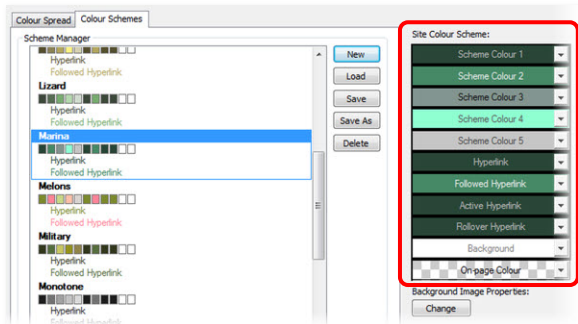
You'll need to spend some time working out which colour combinations look best, but the mechanics of the process are simple.

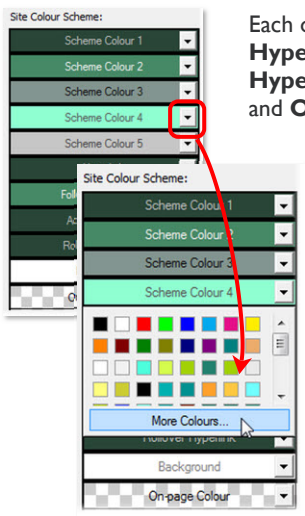
Custom colour schemes

If you've tried various colour schemes but haven't found one that's quite right for your site, you can modify any of the colours in an existing scheme to create a new one.

To modify a pre-defined colour scheme

- 1 Click  **Colour Scheme Designer** and then, click the **Colour Schemes** tab.
- 2 In the **Site Colour Scheme** pane, the current scheme colours are displayed.



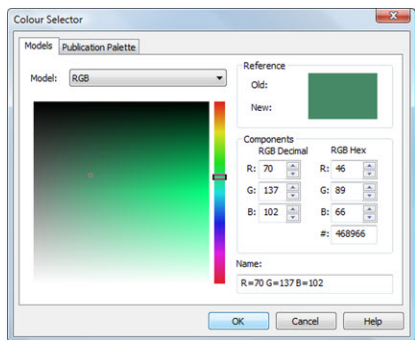


Each of the five scheme colour numbers (plus the **Hyperlink**, **Followed Hyperlink**, **Active Hyperlink**, **Rollover Hyperlink**, **Background** and **On-page Colour**) has its own drop-down list, showing available colours in the WebPlus palette.

- 3 To set or change a scheme colour, click to expand the drop-down list, and then select a new colour.
- 4 **Optional:** If the drop-down palette doesn't contain the colour you want to use, click **More Colours** to display the **Colour Selector**.

5 In the **Colour Selector** dialog, you can choose a colour to apply or mix your own custom colours.

- The **Models** tab displays the colour space of the currently selected colour model.
- The **Publication Palette** tab lets you modify the set of colours associated with the current site.




You can extend the Colour Selector's **Publication Palette** tab using the **Palette Manager**, which lets you modify the site's current palette and also load and save named palettes.

For more information, see *Managing Colours and Palettes* in online Help.

- 6 When you have modified your scheme, click **OK** to apply it to your document.

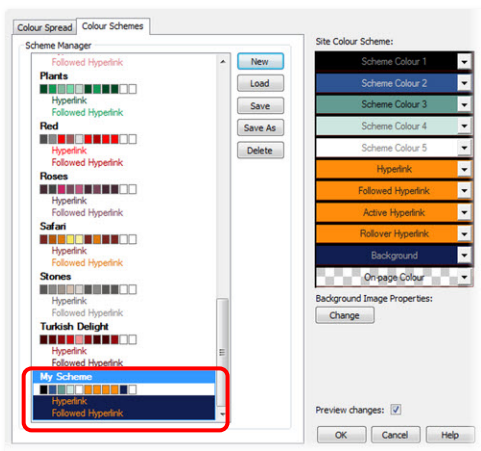
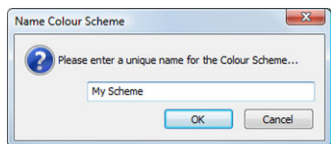
When you save your site, its current colour scheme is saved with the project file. However, if you want to use the scheme in other projects, you need to save it to the library.

To save a scheme to the Scheme Manager library

- 1 Click  **Colour Scheme Designer** and click the **Colour Schemes** tab.
- 2 In the **Site Colour Scheme** pane, the current document scheme colours are displayed.
- 3 To create a new scheme, click **Save As** and type in a new name.

- or -

To overwrite an existing scheme, click to select it and then, click **Save**.



- 4 The scheme library is updated to reflect the changes. If you have created a new scheme, it will appear at the bottom of the list in **Scheme Manager** pane.

In future, you will be able to load your saved scheme from within any project.



Each site stores a locally defined scheme, which may or may not correspond to a named scheme. The **Scheme Manager** pane displays a library of saved scheme colours that can be applied to any project file. When you modify a scheme in the library, it does not change any project files that were using the original scheme colours, they are preserved with the site. If you want to update the site to a modified scheme, you need to load it from the **Scheme Manager** pane and click **OK**.


Creating colour schemes from images

There may be times when you want to create a new colour scheme from scratch, perhaps using colours from your company logo or an image on your website.

To complete this section, you can use our sample photograph or any image of your choice. You'll find the sample photograph, **Cocktail.jpg**, in the **Workspace** folder of your WebPlus installation directory. In a standard installation, this folder is copied to the following location:

C:\Program Files\Serif\WebPlus\X4\Tutorials

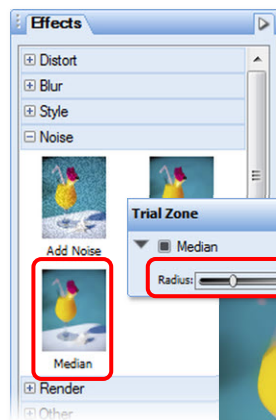
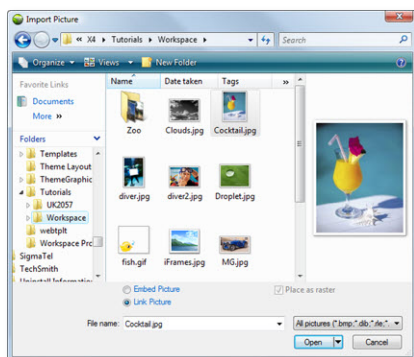
To create a custom colour scheme from an image

- 1 On the **Tools** toolbar, click  **Import Picture** and browse to locate the image you want to use.

Click **Open**, and then click and drag to place the image on your page.

- 2 Select the image and then on the Picture context toolbar, click


 **PhotoLab**.





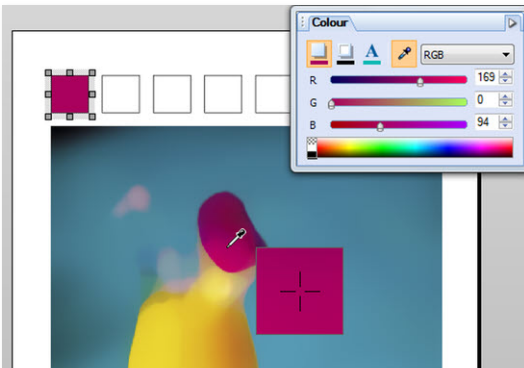
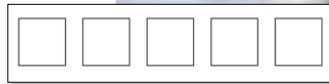
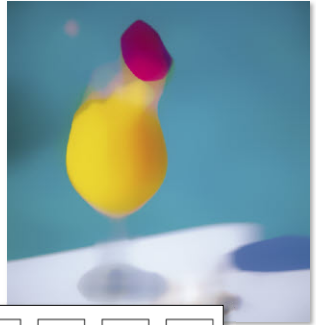
In **PhotoLab**, click the **Effects** tab and then expand the **Noise** category. Click the **Median** thumbnail.

In the lower right **Trial Zone**, the **Median** control displays,

- 3 Drag the **Radius** slider, to the right so that colours making up the image blend into colour 'blocks,' as illustrated.

Click  **Commit** when you are happy with the result.

- 4 To close **PhotoLab** and return to the WebPlus workspace, click **OK**.
- 5 Back in the WebPlus workspace, on the Tools toolbar, select the  **Quick Rectangle** and draw a small square on your page (ours was about 60 x 60 pixels).
- 6 Select the shape, hold down the **Ctrl** key, and then drag to the right to create a copy.
- 7 Repeat the previous step to create five identical squares.
- 8 Select the first square, click the **Colour** tab, and then click the  **Colour Picker**.
- 9 On the image, click and drag to select the first colour you want to add to your new colour scheme.

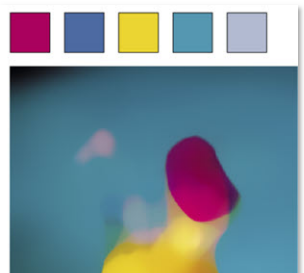


The popup colour sample updates as you drag to different areas of the image.

When you are happy with the colour displayed in the sample, release the mouse button.

The selected colour is applied to the square and added to the **Swatches** tab.

- 10 Selecting each of the remaining squares in turn, repeat the previous step to fill the shapes with four additional colours from your image.





You don't have to use QuickShapes to display your selected colours, but we think it's useful to see the colour swatches next to each other and the image on the page.

This allows you to determine if the colours work together with the image, and when isolated from the image. You can quickly and easily adjust the colours, pick new ones, or change the colour order, before deciding on your final scheme colours.

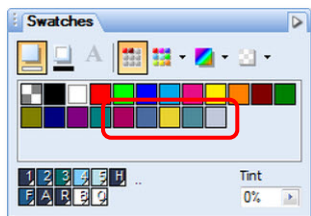
We used five squares—one for each main scheme colour—but you can create more than this to begin with. Once you've filled your squares with a selection of colours you can then decide on your final palette.

- 11** On the **Swatches** tab, scroll to the end of the palette swatches to find your new custom colours displayed.

We're now ready to create our new colour scheme.

- 12** Open the **Colour Scheme Designer** and click the arrow next to **Scheme Colour 1** to expand the drop-down palette, then click **More Colours**.

In the **Colour Selector** dialog, click the **Publication Palette** tab and scroll to the end of the palette list to find your custom colours.

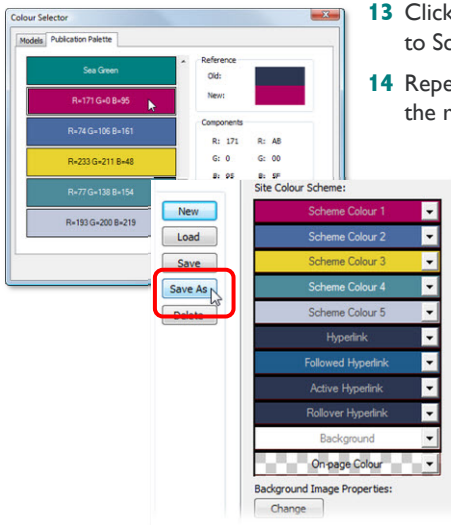


- 13** Click the colour you want to assign to Scheme Colour 1 and click **OK**.

- 14** Repeat the previous step to assign the remaining scheme colours.

- 15** Click **Save As** and type a name for your colour scheme.

- 16** Click **OK** to exit the dialog.



When you save a colour scheme, it becomes available to all WebPlus publications.




The WebPlus colour schemes are designed with colours arranged from left to right, darkest to lightest, starting with Scheme Colour 1. The templates, theme objects, and samples are designed with this in mind so you'll notice that backgrounds are generally assigned the lightest of the scheme colours.

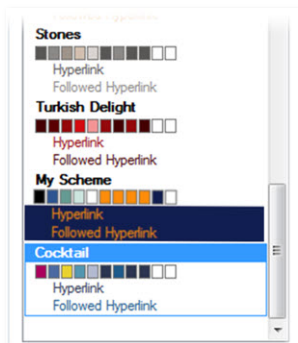
When creating your schemes, you'll get the best results if you follow this standard:

- 1 Start with the darkest colour and assign it to Scheme Colour 1.
- 2 Choose the next darkest colour for Scheme Colour 2.

Continue like this until you finish by assigning the lightest colour to Scheme Colour 5, or to the Background colour if you are using this.

To load a custom colour scheme

- 1 Click  **Colour Scheme Designer** and then, click the **Colour Schemes** tab.
- 2 On the **Colour Schemes** tab, select your new colour scheme and click **Load**. Click **OK**.
- 3 Click the **Swatches** tab. Note that the swatches at the bottom of the tab now display your custom scheme colours.

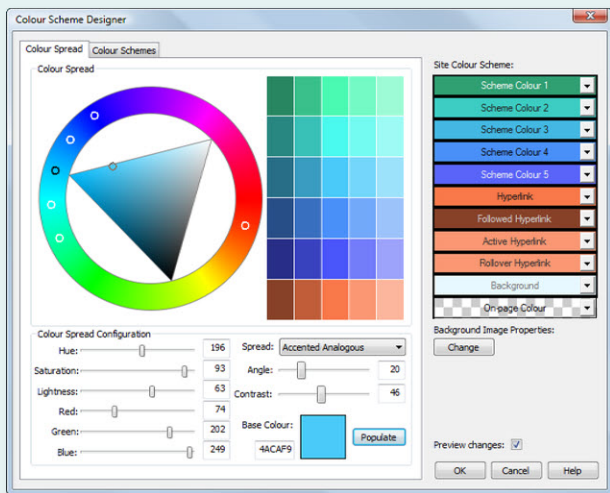


You can use these swatches to apply scheme colours to objects on your web pages.



Colour theory

If you have a basic colour in mind for your site, but you're not sure which colours to use with it, try the **Colour Spread** tab. Here you can create a complete colour scheme in minutes—choose your base colour, select a **Spread type**, and click **Populate**. WebPlus does the rest for you based on colour theory principles! For more information on how to use the **Colour Spread** pane, see online Help. To learn more about colour theory, see the *Designing With Colour* tutorial (available from the Learning Zone in PDF format).



Congratulations, you've created a custom colour scheme from scratch! It's a relatively simple process, but one which we hope you'll find useful in your future website designs.