

# PaintShop Pro Tutorials

by Maureen Eves-Lavis

## TITLE: CUSTOM COLOUR SWATCHES FROM IMAGES

**Software:** PaintShop Pro X7

**Web Site:** [Creative-Designs](#)

**Materials Required:** [Script Download](#)



### DESCRIPTION

Create custom swatch palettes from photographs or your own creative colours you place on the mixer palette.

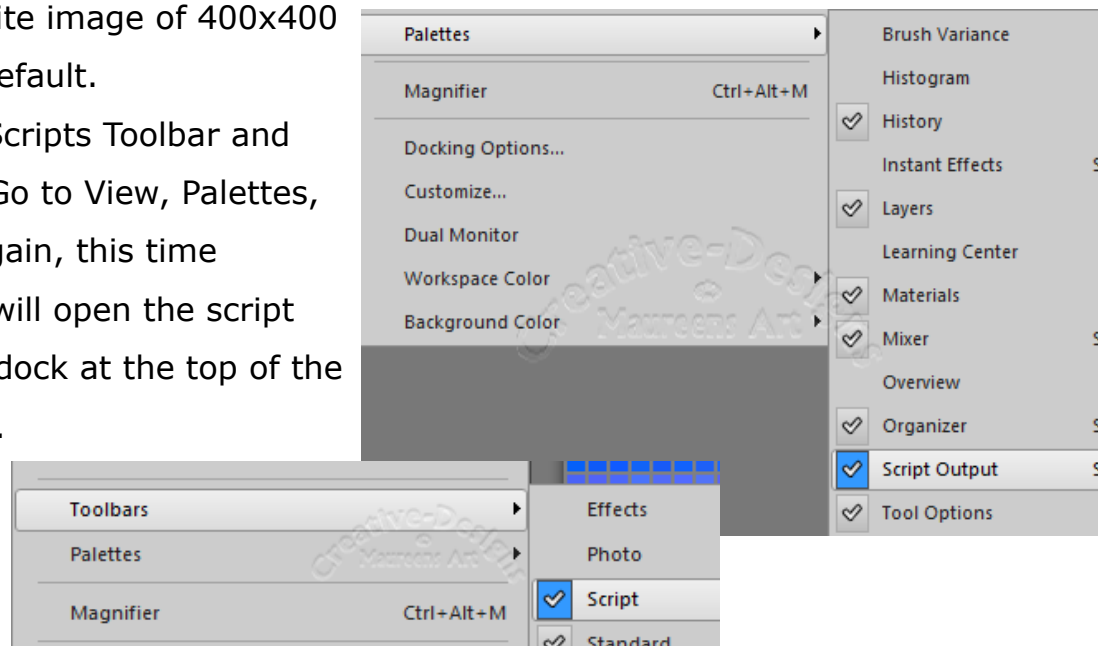
### NEW SCRIPT

Download the new script (Thanks to Levifiction for creating this script) from above and place in the Trusted Scripts folder.

### TOOLBARS AND PALETTES

Open a new, raster white image of 400x400 pixels. Resolution at default.

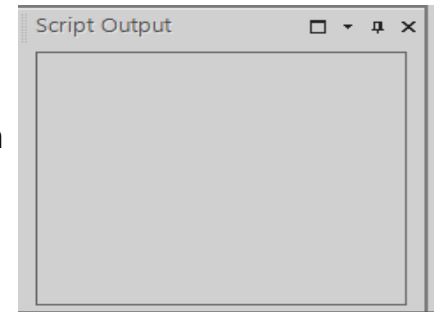
You need to have the Scripts Toolbar and Scripts Output open. Go to View, Palettes, Script Output. View again, this time Toolbars, Script. This will open the script toolbar which you can dock at the top of the workspace, if you wish.



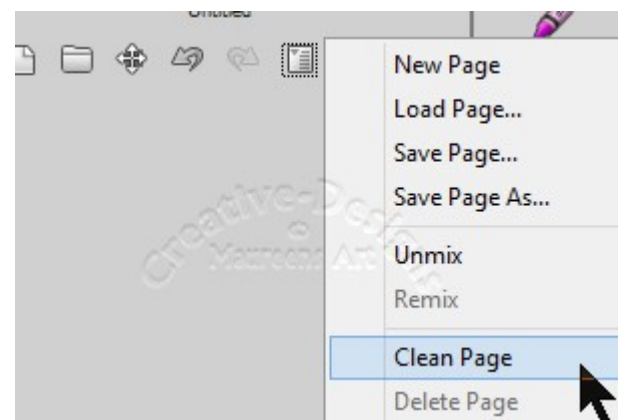
If you don't have the Script Toolbar open, go to View, Toolbars, Script. Click the arrow to find ImageToSwatch2 script.



Go back to View, and open the Script Output (SOP) provides information of previously used commands, Python syntax errors or runtime errors. Most often when running a script information is provided in SOP for manual commands.



Again from View, open the Mixer Palette. It should have a blank, white page. If not, open Mixer Menu (bottom right) and select Clean Page.



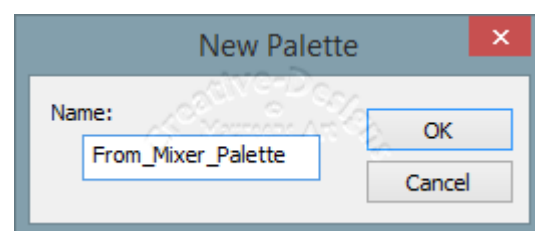
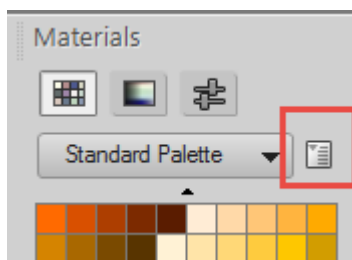
### SWATCHES PALETTE FROM MIXER PALETTE COLOURS

Open a new, white raster image 400x400 pixels.

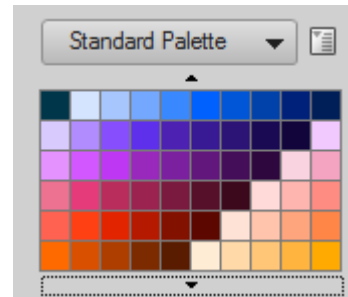
Go to the Materials Palette, select More Options.

Select New Palette. For the purpose of this tutorial, name the palette *From Mixer Palette*.

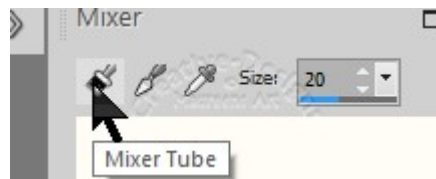
A new folder has been created in PaintShop Pro / 17 / Palettes folder.



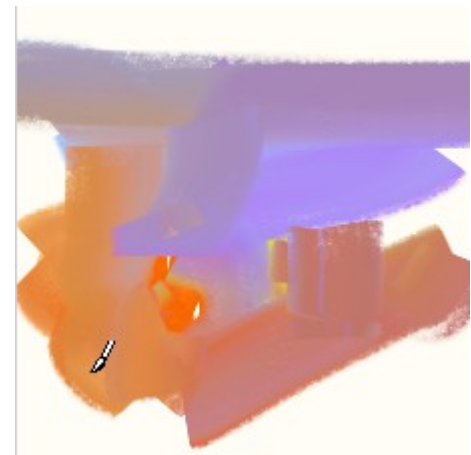
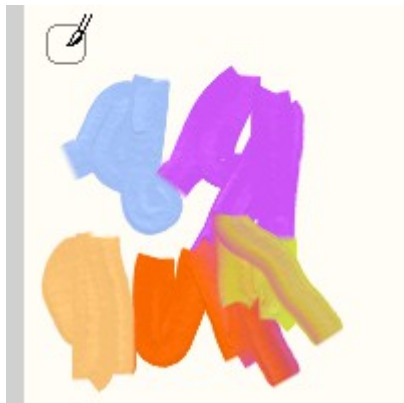
Change the Swatches drop list to Standard Palette.



At the top of the palette is a small toolbar containing a Mixer Tube, Mixer Knife and Mixer Dropper.



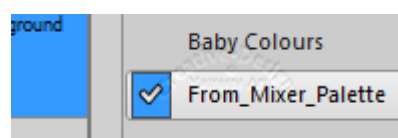
Select the Mixer Tube on the Mixer palette, pick about five different colours from the Standard Palette and dab a few strokes on the Mixer palette. With the Mixer Knife, mix the colours.



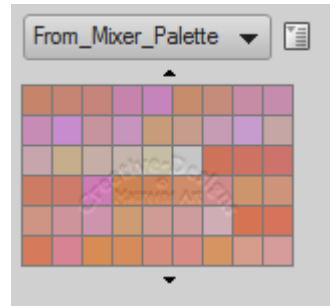
Take a snapshot of the Mixer Palette. Copy/Paste into the workspace. Crop close to the colours.



Go back to the Materials Palette, open the drop list and select the newly named palette.



Go to the Script Toolbar, and run the script by clicking the blue arrow. The new set of swatches will be created in the new palette of the colours painted on the mixer palette. You will have to scroll up or down to see all the colours.

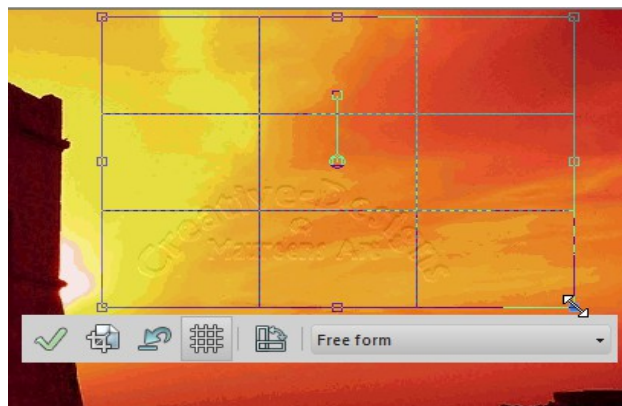


The same principle applies when using a photograph to make a Swatch Palette.

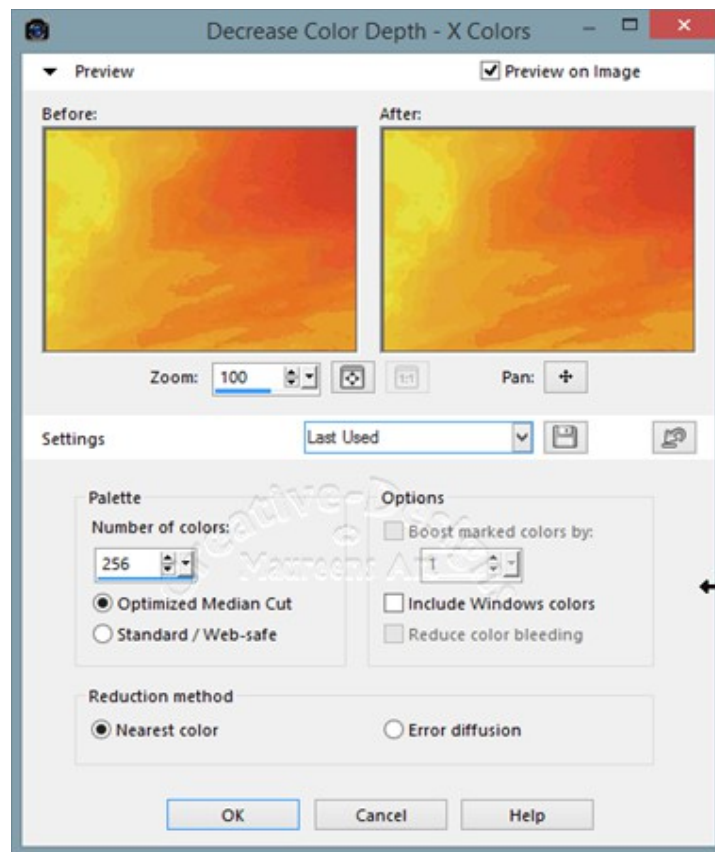
I have this photograph below and would like to select some of those lovely fiery colours for a palette.



I cropped a portion from the sky. Saved the image as a jpg to the desktop.



Reopen the image. A new dialogue window opened, Decrease Colour Depth-X Colours.



Corel PaintShop Pro includes a Web-safe, 256-colour palette, the Safety palette. Images using this palette can be viewed without colour distortion on most computer monitors. There are three ways to use this palette on an image:

You can load the Safety palette into your image. For 16 million colour (24-bit) images, this flattens the layers and reduces the image's colour depth to 256 colours (8-bit), which limits the available commands.

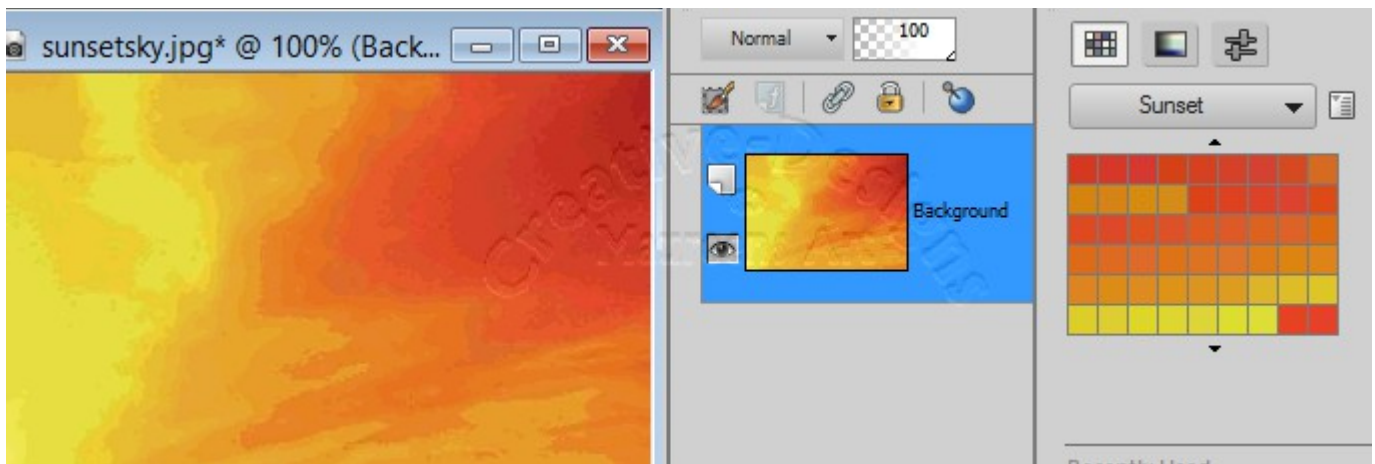
You can decrease the image's colour depth to 256 colours and select the Standard/Web-Safe Palette option. Decreasing the colour depth also flattens layers and makes some commands unavailable.

You can edit the image in 16 million colours (saving it to the PspImage file format), then use the GIF Optimiser or PNG Optimiser to export a copy of the image. These optimisers use the Web-safe palette by default and decrease the colour depth in the saved image. This is recommended because it does not change the colour depth or flatten the layers of your original PspImage file.

*Courtesy Corel PaintShop Pro*



Accept the settings, click OK.



That's how easy it is to create your very own custom Swatch Palettes from photographs or a selection of your own painted colours.



*PaintShop Pro Tutorials for Free*