Preventing background artefacts

Tips and Tricks

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

When the background colour in EFIT-V is set to *pure white*, there is a risk that alterations to the EFIT-V image in your chosen paint program produces a visible halo effect. The example below shows a typical example resulting from softening round the edges of the hair.

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PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

To solve this problem or better, prevent it from occurring in the first place, we need to understand how and why it occurs. It hinges on one very important fact –

The EFIT-V software treats pure white (RGB values [255,255,255]) as transparent.

What this means in practice is that any pixels in a paint layer (referred to as 'additions' within EFIT-V) *which are pure white* will allow the underlying pixels in the EFIT-V image to show through.

To see how this might cause a problem consider the following concrete example. Suppose the exported EFIT-V image has the background set to white and that we use the warp brush to shape the jawline and square up the hairline

The image looks fine in paintshop but when it is imported back into EFIT-V, we get an unsightly artefact appearing.

The explanation is that we have warped some of the pure white background over the underlying EFIT-V and most of the underlying image still shows through. The white lines within the body of the hair and the jaw are not actually pure white (a result of the warping procedure) and thus appear on top of the underlying image. Similar effects can occur using other paint tools such as smoothing, cloning or warping.

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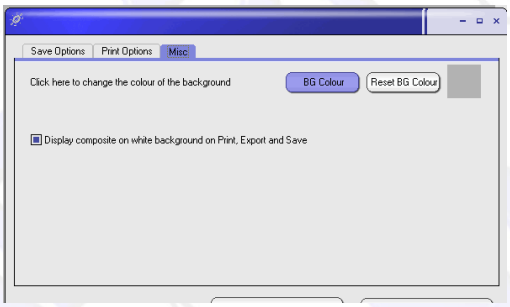
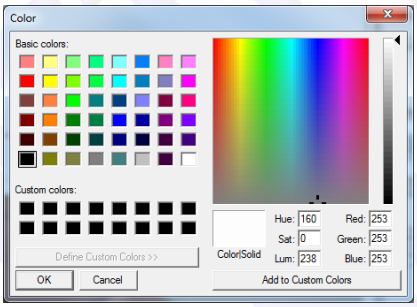
PROBLEM SOLUTION

The simplest way of avoiding this problem is to leave or set EFIT-V with the default grey background or some other acceptable colour.

Paintshop operations which copy background colour over the underlying EFIT-V or copy colour from the EFIT-V over the background region do not then cause any problem.

If for any reason you do want a white background, then set the background to something very close to but not actually pure white (e.g. RBG=[253,253,253]). This is visually indistinguishable but will prevent these artefacts from occurring. Within EFIT-V, click on *Preferences/Misc/BG Colour* and then click on *Define Custom Colors* in the colour palette.





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The result is again satisfactory.

In summary –

- Select a background that is not pure white to avoid these problems.
- Do not switch to or from a pure white background during the construction of the EFIT-V.
- If you must use a pure white background ☺, then be very aware of the issues that might arise when you apply paintwork to your underlying EFIT-V……

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