Color Groups in *JacqCAD* MASTER

Special menu: **Color Group** #1...#8

The Color Group function allows you to define a group of colors and manipulate them in any way that you might manipulate an individual color. A Color Group may contain up to 256 colors. The Color Groups function is extemely useful, especially in working with images that have a lot of colors.

Defining a color group:
select an area of the image that includes the colors you want to define in the color group. Any selection tool can be used.

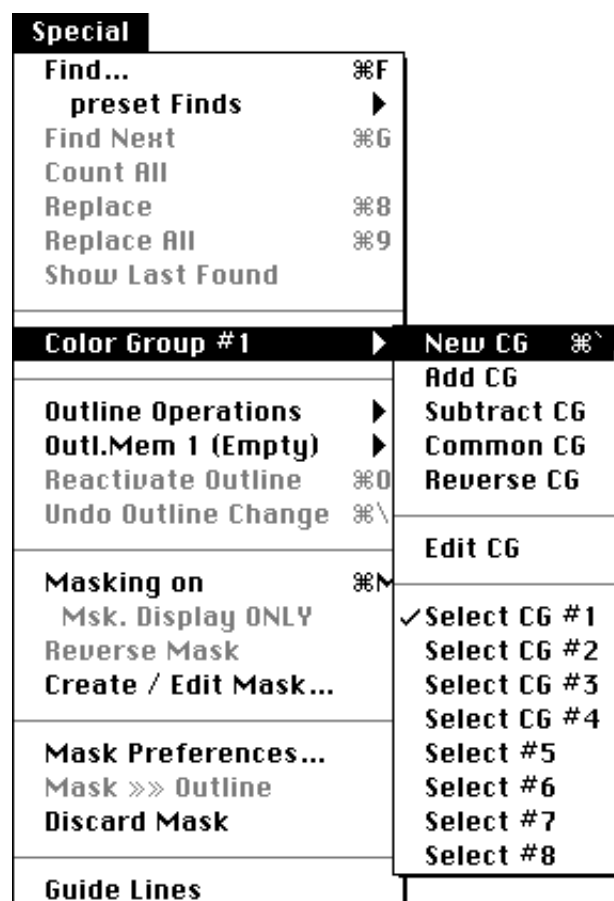Click on the **Special** menu:
pull down to **Color Group** #1:
pull down in the pop up menu to
New CG (Color Group). The colors in your selection are now in CG #1.

If you want to alter the colors within an already defined color group:
Click on the **Special** menu:
pull down to **Color Group #1***:

pull down in the pop up menu to choose:

Add: Adds the colors currently selected in the image to the currently selected color group.

Subtract: Subtracts the colors currently selected in the image from the currently selected color group.
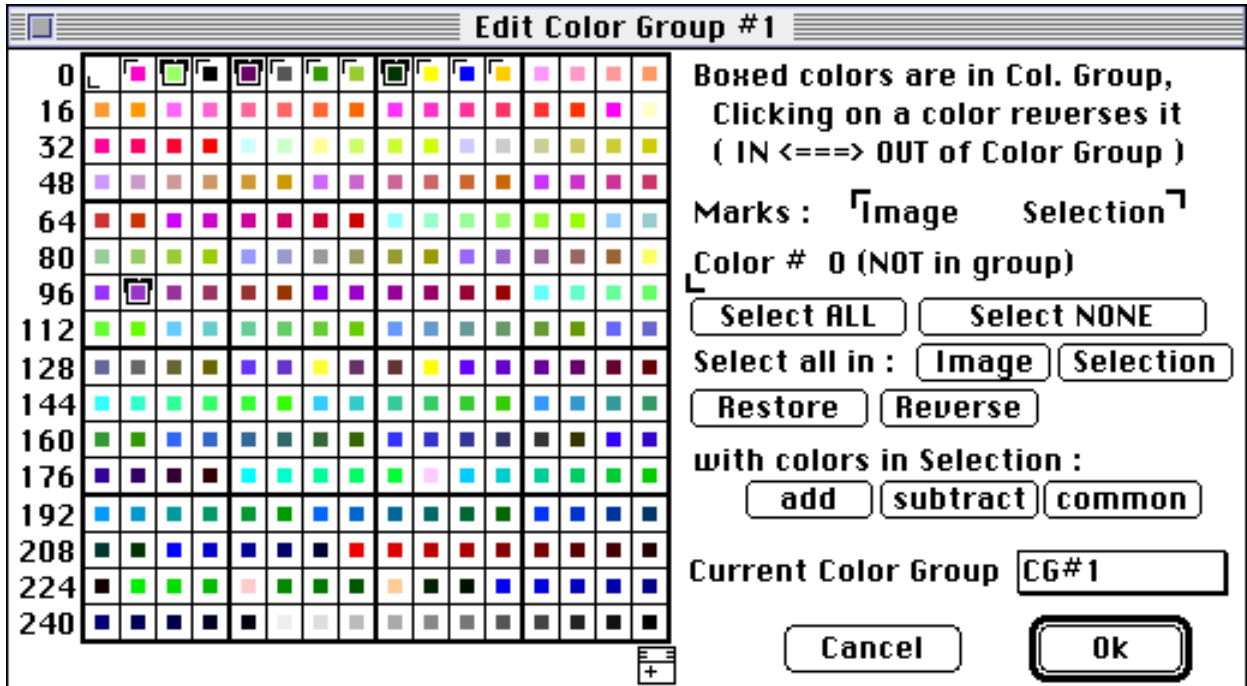
Common: Retains only those colors in common with the current selection and the currently chosen color group.

Reverse: All colors not previously included are now included and all colors previously included are no longer included. (This function is not influenced by the current selection.)

*If the color color group you want to change is not the current color group shown in the menu, pull down in the pop up menu to Select CG and choose which color group you want to edit.

Edit: allows you to make changes to the current color group. In the Edit function you make changes while viewing the entire palette and the colors in the current color group graphically.

All colors used in the image are framed by an outline.

Colors in the <u>current</u> color group are marked with <u>brackets</u>:
color group colors that occur in the <u>image</u> have a <u>left</u> <u>side</u> <u>bracket</u>, color group colors that occur in the active <u>selection</u> in the image (if there is one) are marked by a <u>right</u> <u>side</u> <u>bracket</u>.

<u>Clicking</u> on a color <u>reverses</u> its' status:
if it is in the color group clicking will subtract it;
if it is not in the color group clicking on it will add it.

You can **Select ALL** or **Select NONE**.

At times it is faster, with a large number of colors to add or subtract, to **Select ALL** and then adjust from there the one or more you do not want to include in the action.

Sometimes it is faster to **Select NONE** (as a means of deselecting all or clearing the slate) and then adjust from there the one or more you want to include in the action.

You can **Select ALL** or **Select NONE** in either the
Image or within the active **Selection** in the image (if there is one)

You can **Restore**: to undo all changes made while in the Edit dialogue or

Reverse: all colors not previously included are now included and all colors previously included are no longer included.
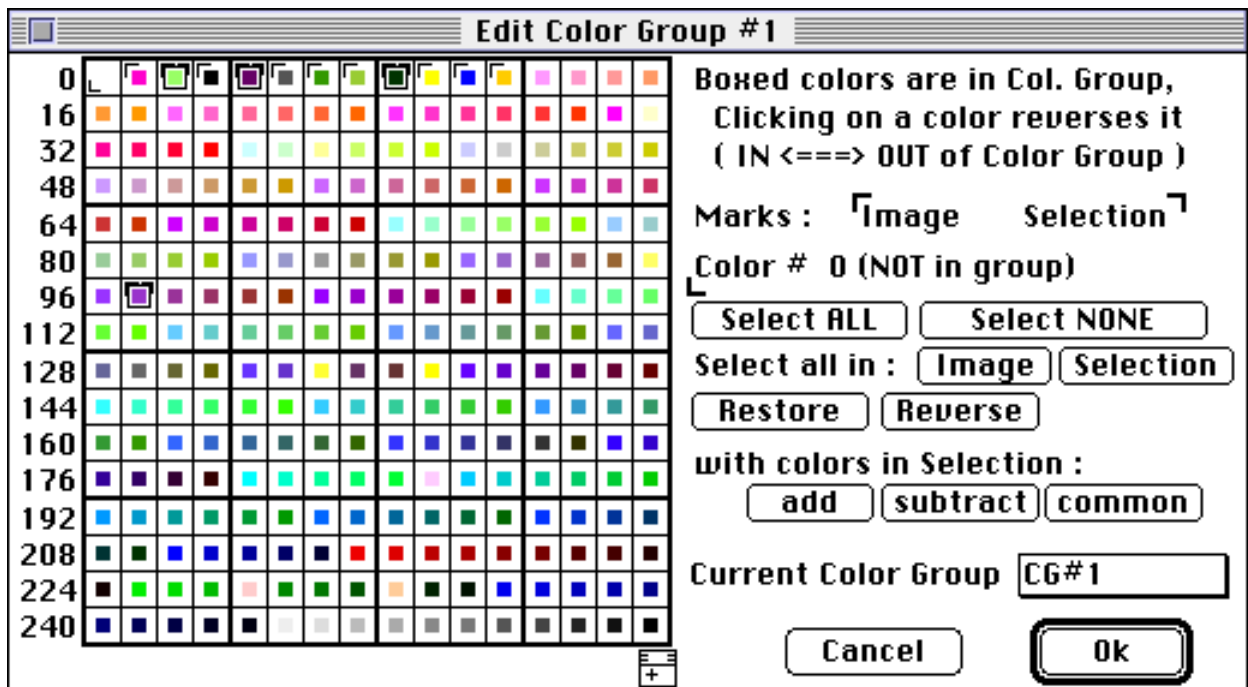
The colors you select in the display area of the **Edit Color Group** dialogue can be used in conjunction with the active Selection colors.

You can choose to
Add to the active Selection colors,
Subtract from the active Selection colors, or choose
Common which will allow you to keep only what is common between colors chosen in the display area of the dialogue and   the active selection in the image.

When you have made changes for one color group, select which color group # under which you want the current choices saved. Go to the bottom of the dialogue box where it says **Current Color Group**. Click in the box next to Current Color Group and pull down to the desired group in the pop up menu CG #1...CG #8.

If you want to exit the Edit Color Group dialogue box without making any changes, click on **Cancel** at the very bottom of the dialogue box.

If you want to exit the Edit Color Group dialogue box and implement changes, click on **Ok** at the very bottom of the dialogue box.

What are the most common uses of a color group?
Selecting multiple colors in order to:
Edit: Cut
Edit: Copy
Edit: Paint Fill
Edit: Create Boundary

Adjust colors by Hue, Saturation, Value, all simultaneously:
Options: Posterize
Options: Reduce Colors
Options: Change Colors
File: Save as palette
Special: Create/Edit Mask

Where do color groups occur in the dialogues?
Posterize: Save selection to Color Group, used to create color groups.

Change colors: Color Group to; all except color group, used to create color groups or load previously created color groups.

Wand Tool: with the Shift key will select current color group colors;
with Shift and Command keys will select color group globally

Magic Wand (also known as proximity wand): with the Shift key will select current color group colors; with Shift and Command keys will select color group globally

Magic Wand preferences: double click on magic wand tool: selected colors (designated by their framed outline) will replace the colors in the current color group when you click on the box **->Col Grp** (to color Group) located in the top left of the dialogue.

When JacqCAD is launched all color groups are empty. If you work with more than one image window at a time bear in mind that different windows may have differently ordered palettes. This is important when working with any function that calls on the color numbers. The color number is the position of the color in the palette. For example, color number 3 in one palette may be yellow, in another window, with a different ordered palette, color number 3 may be blue.

If it is critical to keep color groups between sessions of working in JacqCAD, save the color groups as small .PICT files. A small window, with at least one pixel of each color present, is enough to hold those colors for use later. Save them as you would any .PICT file. It is a good idea to include with a saved color group, a number in the name and the pattern name when you name the file in order to make it easy to recall them later.

(Remember, if you have any white left in the small image window that you are using to create and save a color group, the white will be included in the color group. To remove the white when you make these colors into a color group, go to the Special menu: pull down to Color Group # Edit: deselect the white while in the Edit color group dialogue.)