

# The dvipscol package

Heiko Oberdiek  
<oberdiek@uni-freiburg.de>

2006/02/20 v1.1

## Abstract

Color support for dvips in `dvips.def` involves the color stack of dvips. The package tries to remove unnecessary uses of the stack to avoid the error “out of color stack space”.

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Documentation</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Introduction . . . . .	1
1.2	Usage . . . . .	2
1.2.1	With $\epsilon$ -TeX . . . . .	2
1.2.2	Without $\epsilon$ -TeX . . . . .	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Installation</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Some details for the interested . . . . .	3
<b>4</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>4</b>
[2000/08/31 v1.0]	. . . . .	4
[2006/02/20 v1.1]	. . . . .	4
<b>5</b>	<b>Index</b>	<b>4</b>

## 1 Documentation

### 1.1 Introduction

This package tries a solution, if the program dvips complains:

```
! out of color stack space
```

The driver file `dvips.def` contains the low level color commands for the package `color`. Each time a color is set, the current color is pushed on the color stack before and after the current group the old color is popped from the stack and set again (via `\aftergroup`). But the color stack size of dvips is limited, so a stack overflow can occur, if there are too many color setting operations in a group.

Only at the bottom group level (no group), the color can be set directly without pushing the current color on the stack before, because there is no group at bottom level that can end.

With  $\epsilon$ -TeX the group level can easily be detected (`\currentgrouplevel`). Alone with TeX this is not possible.

## 1.2 Usage

### 1.2.1 With $\epsilon$ -TeX

With  $\epsilon$ -TeX the package fixes `\set@color`, therefore no interaction with the user is required. Just load the package:

```
\usepackage[dvips]{color}
\usepackage{dvipscol}
```

### 1.2.2 Without $\epsilon$ -TeX

```
\usepackage[dvips]{color}
\usepackage{dvipscol}
```

Without  $\epsilon$ -TeX the package does not know, which `\color` do not need the stack. Therefore it defines `\nogroupcolor`, that the user can use manually instead of `\color`. But caution: it should only be used outside of all groups, for example the following will not work:

```
\textcolor{black}{\nogroupcolor{blue}...}
```

The use of  $\epsilon$ -TeX is strongly recommended.

## 2 Implementation

```
1 (*package)
Package identification.
2 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
3 \ProvidesPackage{dvipscol}%
4   [2006/02/20 v1.1 Fix for dvips.def (HO)]
5 \ifundefined{ver@dvips.def}{%
6   \PackageWarningNoLine{dvipscol}{%
7     Nothing to fix, because \string'dvips.def\string' not loaded%
8   }%
9   \endinput
10 }
11 \CheckCommand*{\set@color}{%
12   \special{color push \current@color}%
13   \aftergroup\reset@color
14 }
\nogroupcolor
15 \newcommand*{\nogroupcolor}{%
16   \let\saved@org@set@color\set@color
17   \def\set@color{%
18     \let\set@color\saved@org@set@color
19     \special{color \current@color}%
20   }%
21   \color
22 }
Patch for  $\epsilon$ -TeX users.
23 \ifx\currentgrouplevel\@undefined
24   \PackageWarningNoLine{dvipscol}{%
25     \string\set@color\space cannot be fixed, %
26     because the\MessageBreak
27     e-TeX extensions are not available%
28   }%
29   \expandafter\endinput
30 \fi
```

```

31 \def\set@color{%
32   \ifcase\currentgrouplevel
33     \special{color \current@color}%
34   \else
35     \special{color push \current@color}%
36     \aftergroup\reset@color
37   \fi
38 }
39 \</package>

```

## 3 Installation

**CTAN.** This package is available on CTAN<sup>1</sup>:

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/dvipscol.dtx](#) The source file.

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/dvipscol.pdf](#) Documentation.

**Unpacking.** The `.dtx` file is a self-extracting `docstrip` archive. The files are extracted by running the `.dtx` through plain- $\text{\TeX}$ :

```
tex dvipscol.dtx
```

**TDS.** Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree):

```

dvipscol.sty → tex/latex/oberdiek/dvipscol.sty
dvipscol.pdf → doc/latex/oberdiek/dvipscol.pdf
dvipscol.dtx → source/latex/oberdiek/dvipscol.dtx

```

If you have a `docstrip.cfg` that configures and enables `docstrip`'s TDS installing feature, then some files can already be in the right place, see the documentation of `docstrip`.

**Refresh file databases.** If your  $\text{\TeX}$  distribution (`te $\text{\TeX}$` , `mik $\text{\TeX}$` , ...) rely on file databases, you must refresh these. For example, `te $\text{\TeX}$`  users run `texhash` or `mktexlsr`.

### 3.1 Some details for the interested

**Attached source.** The PDF documentation on CTAN also includes the `.dtx` source file. It can be extracted by AcrobatReader 6 or higher. Another option is `pdftk`, e.g. unpack the file into the current directory:

```
pdftk dvipscol.pdf unpack_files output .
```

**Unpacking with  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .** The `.dtx` chooses its action depending on the format:

**plain- $\text{\TeX}$ :** Run `docstrip` and extract the files.

**$\text{\LaTeX}$ :** Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using  $\text{\LaTeX}$  for `docstrip` (really, `docstrip` does not need  $\text{\LaTeX}$ ), then inform the autodetect routine about your intension:

```
latex \install=y\input{dvipscol.dtx}
```

Do not forget to quote the argument according to the demands of your shell.

---

<sup>1</sup><http://ftp.ctan.org/tex-archive/>

**Generating the documentation.** You can use both the `.dtx` or the `.drv` to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by the configuration file `ltxdoc.cfg`. For instance, put this line into this file, if you want to have A4 as paper format:

```
\PassOptionsToClass{a4paper}{article}
```

An example follows how to generate the documentation with pdfL<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X:

```
pdflatex dvipscol.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist dvipscol.idx
pdflatex dvipscol.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist dvipscol.idx
pdflatex dvipscol.dtx
```

## 4 History

[2000/08/31 v1.0]

- First public release created as answer to a question of Deepak Goel in `comp.text.tex`:  
`\color{}` problems.. :Out of stack space..

[2006/02/20 v1.1]

- DTX framework.
- Code is not changed.
- LPPL 1.3

## 5 Index

Numbers written in *italic* refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

Symbols		M	
<code>\ifundefined</code> .....	5	<code>\MessageBreak</code> .....	26
<code>\@undefined</code> .....	23		
A		N	
<code>\aftergroup</code> .....	13, 36	<code>\NeedsTeXFormat</code> .....	2
		<code>\newcommand</code> .....	15
		<code>\nogroupcolor</code> .....	<u>15</u>
C		P	
<code>\CheckCommand</code> .....	11	<code>\PackageWarningNoLine</code> .....	6, 24
<code>\color</code> .....	21	<code>\ProvidesPackage</code> .....	3
<code>\current@color</code> .....	12, 19, 33, 35		
<code>\currentgrouplevel</code> .....	23, 32	R	
		<code>\reset@color</code> .....	13, 36
E		S	
<code>\endinput</code> .....	9, 29	<code>\saved@org@set@color</code> .....	16, 18
I		<code>\set@color</code> .....	11, 16, 17, 18, 25, 31
<code>\ifcase</code> .....	32	<code>\space</code> .....	25
<code>\ifx</code> .....	23	<code>\special</code> .....	12, 19, 33, 35