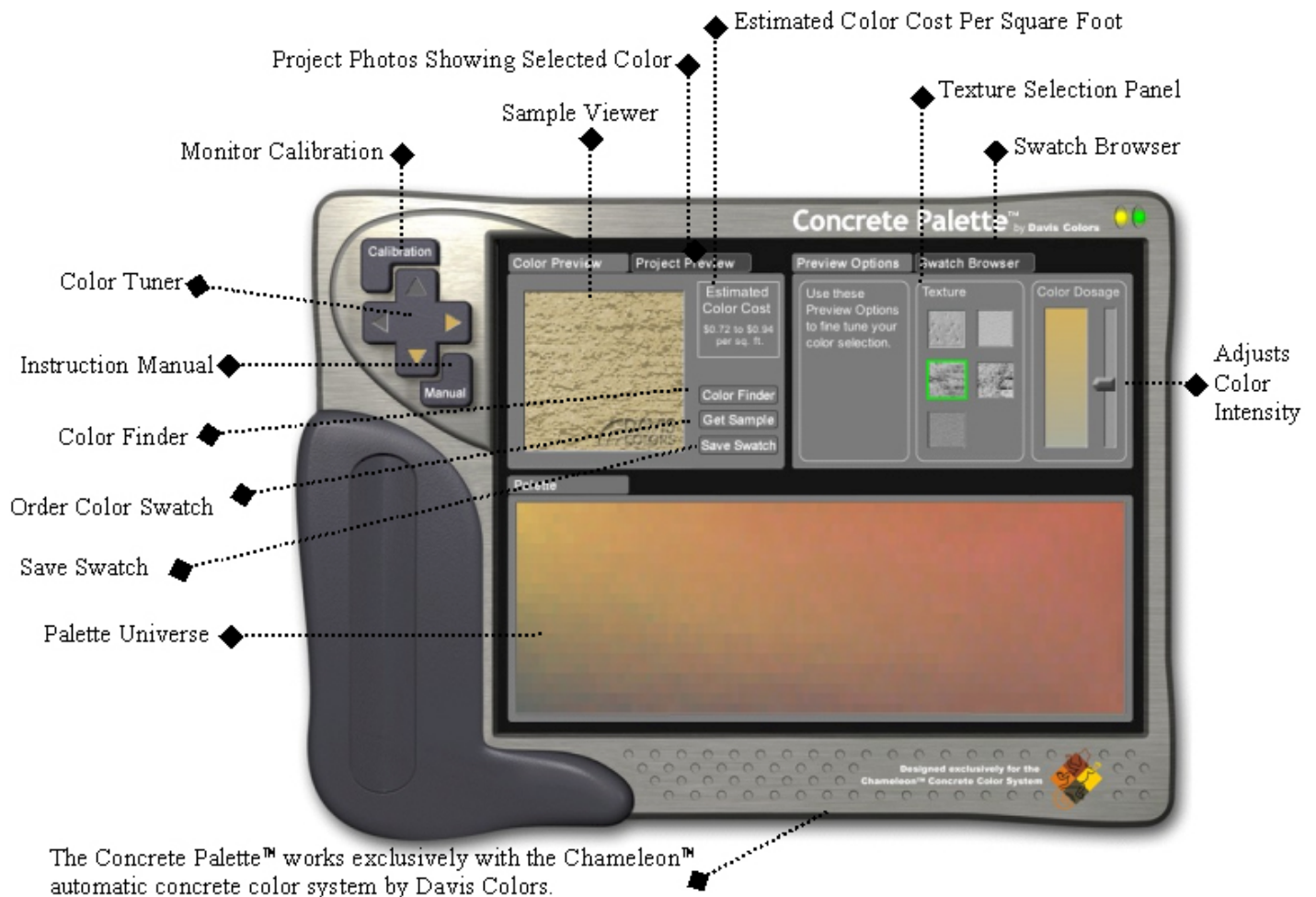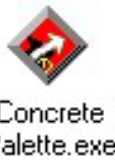# Concrete Palette™
User Manual

The Concrete Palette™ by Davis Colors changes the way you look at concrete. Concrete Palette™ is the first computer-visualizing software that turns colors viewed on a PC monitor into colors cast in concrete. With over 17,000 color and shade combinations and the ability to add textures and view changes instantly, Concrete Palette™ turns concrete into your personal design canvass. View and experiment with different colors in a series of project photos or enlarge the photo and see the impact of small color changes. Save "color swatches" or share them with colleagues. After selecting a color, you can request a sample or order a custom-made concrete tile sample with a few clicks. The Concrete Palette™ assigns your selection a unique color number or "swatch code" that can be converted into a recipe by a Chameleon™ automatic color dosing system. Concrete producers, equipped with Chameleon™ systems, use the swatch code to determine the precise combination and amount of color additives required for the batch and inject them directly into the concrete mixing process. Architects incorporate the swatch code into project specifications to ensure the colored concrete on their project is supplied by a Chameleon™ powered concrete producer.

In addition to working with Concrete Palette™, authorized ready-mix or precast concrete producers equipped with Chameleon™ systems can provide a certificate of conformance for any color batch, supply hundreds of different colors at a moment's notice and adjust or customize colors for special projects.

For Chameleon™ locations call Davis Colors at 800-356-4848 Ext. 123 or visit www.concretepalette.com.

Concrete Palette™ Navigation

The Concrete Palette™ works exclusively with the Chameleon™ automatic concrete color system by Davis Colors.

Software Installation	
Click the Concrete Palette™ Button to start the program.	 Concrete Palette.exe
Monitor Calibration	
There are thousands of different brands and styles of monitors and each monitor can be setup completely different from the next. This fact makes it impossible to view colors accurately without calibrating the monitor first. The Concrete Palette™ has not been tested or calibrated for use on plasma or LCD type displays such as flat-screen displays or laptop computers. In order to standardize the monitor settings we have created the Color Calibration Wizard to help you calibrate your monitor. After installing the Concrete Palette™ software the Color Calibration Wizard will prompt you to calibrate your monitor. Please follow the instructions. Important: We recommend to calibrate your monitor every time you use the Concrete Palette™ especially if more than one person uses the monitor and could have changed the monitor settings.	
Step 1. – Screen Depth – The Calibration Wizard will check your monitor settings. If your monitor's color depth is less than "Million Colors" or "True Color", the Calibration Wizard will tell you to change the setting before you can use the Concrete Palette™. To change your screen depth settings, go to "Start" – Settings – Control Panel. Click on "Display" and then the "Settings" tab. Find the "Color Palette" located at the bottom left hand side of the window. Pull down the dropdown window and select "True Color, Millions Color or 1677726 Colors. If your display only offers 256 or 65536 colors the Concrete Palette™ will not be activated because the monitor will not represent the concrete colors properly. Read the red/green/blue calibration disclaimer and check the box if you accept this limitation.	

Step 2: Lighting- The lighting in your room impacts the way you see color. When calibrating your monitor, turn your room lights on before proceeding with the next step. Always view your monitor under similar lighting conditions for color consistency. **Lighting Facts -** Colors appear different when viewed under different light sources like incandescent or fluorescent lighting or daylight. Generally, incandescent light will enhance warm colors and weaken cool colors. Fluorescent light tends to enhance blues and greens and dulls reds, yellows and oranges. Because fluorescent lighting is economical to use, especially in commercial environments, the industry has developed numerous types of fluorescent lamps, ranging from cool to warm and also "full spectrum" lighting, which attempts to replicate natural daylight, which is the most evenly balanced light.	**Color Calibration Wizard** ① ❷ ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ **Step 2:** Room Lighting Turn on normal ambient room lights while viewing monitor. Position monitor to reduce reflections or glare and turn screen away from windows or sunlight. Please click the **"Next"** ▶ button to continue to the next step. Previous Next
Step 3: Monitor Brightness and Contrast. Locate the monitor's brightness and contrast controls. Adjust your monitor's brightness and contrast control to the monitor's highest setting (100%). Then click Next on Color Calibration Wizard.	**Color Calibration Wizard** ⊠ ① ② ❸ ④ ⑤ **Step 3:** Monitor Brightness and Contrast Control Find the brightness and contrast control on your computer monitor. These can be individual dials (fig. 1), a set of buttons (fig. 2), or a single button which puts a control menu on the screen (fig. 3). figure 1 figure 2 figure 3 **Use these controls to set the brightness and contrast to their highest settings.** Please click the **"Next"** ▶ button to continue to the next step. Previous Next
Step 4: Adjusting the brightness. Adjust the brightness control so the diamond shape at the far right barely disappears (shown here circled in red). Then click next.	**Color Calibration Wizard** ① ② ③ ❹ ⑤ ⑥ **Step 4:** Adjusting the Brightness Gradually decrease brightness until the last diamond shape to the far right of your screen just barely disappears. ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Please click the **"Next"** ▶ button to continue to the next step. Previous Next
Step 5: Calibration Complete. You have successfully completed calibrating your monitor. Even though your monitor is calibrated, you should always request a test pour from your ready mix concrete producer or receive a sample tile of your color before you proceed with your project. Important: Read the monitor simulation accuracy disclaimers and check the boxes if you accept these conditions.	**Color Calibration Wizard** ① ② ③ ④ ❺ ⑥ **Step 5:** Calibration Complete You have successfully completed the Calibration Wizard. Please calibrate your monitor every month and take steps to ensure calibration settings are maintained if more than one person uses this monitor. Due to monitor limitations, it is NOT recommended to rely solely on this video simulation for final color selection. Always review a sample or test pour of your color before finalizing color selection. Actual concrete color is influenced by its lighting conditions, surface texture, cement color, sand color, the amount of water added to the mix, placement conditions and contractor finishing methods. ☒ I understand this monitor-simulation of colored concrete may not accurately correlate to actual concrete. ☒ I understand this monitor-simulation of colored concrete does not guarantee resulting color of concrete Please click the **"Next"** ▶ button to continue to the next step. Previous Next

|	
Step 6: Viewing Samples. It is important that you always make your final color selection from an actual concrete tile sample or actual job-site pour. Please read sample agreement and check the box only if you agree to these conditions. In order to compare a sample swatch or tile to the monitor display, view the sample against a neutral, medium to medium-dark gray background and look back and forth between the sample and the image displayed on the monitor in the sample viewer window. If you view the sample tile against a different colored or light background, the tile will look different from the color represented on your monitor. If you hold the tile sample up next to the monitor display, it also will look different from the color sample on your monitor.	

Color Selection

The Concrete Palette™ has over 17,000 colors with 10 different dosage (intensity) rates. To select a color, use your mouse to click on the Concrete Palette™ Universe. Your selection will be highlighted by a flashing green square. As you click different points within the Concrete Palette™ Universe, the "virtual tile" in the color sample preview screen changes color. You can also use this method to change the color within the sample project photos.	
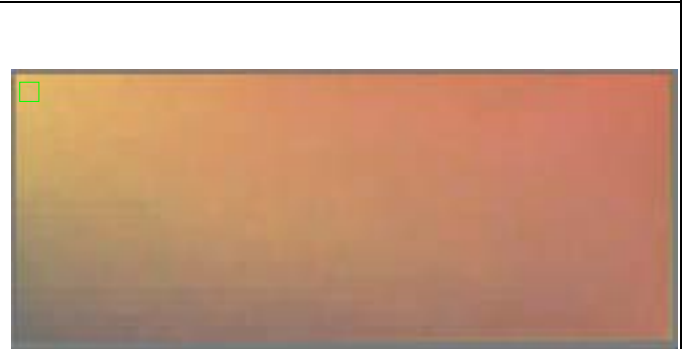
## Color Preview Window

The Color Preview is an enlargement of your color selection point from the Concrete Palette™ Universe. The Color Preview combines your color selection with the settings you choose for surface texture and dosage rate (color intensity) settings. Use Color Preview to experiment with different colors, textures and dosage rates to create your own virtual concrete tile sample.	
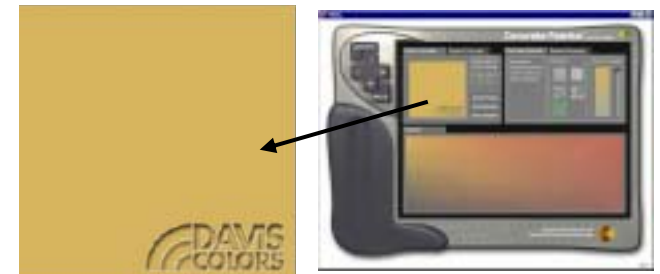
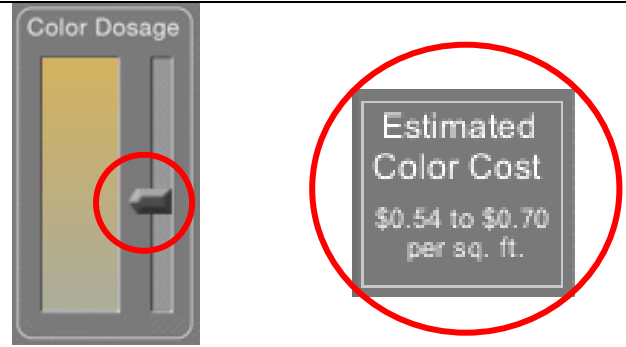## Textures- Finishes

There are five different surface finish textures you can select. Choose from Salt-Finish, Medium Sandblast, Broom, Trowel, and No Texture. This feature shows how surface appearance can differ even though the base concrete color is the same. Differences in the surface texture of concrete cause you to see more or less of the light reflected to your eye. This is why sections of the same concrete surface can appear darker or lighter than other sections. Exposed aggregates also impact color appearance. Notice how the medium sandblasted texture looks lighter. This is because more of the light colored sand and aggregate is visible from the exposure process.	 Salted Medium Sandblast Broom Trowel
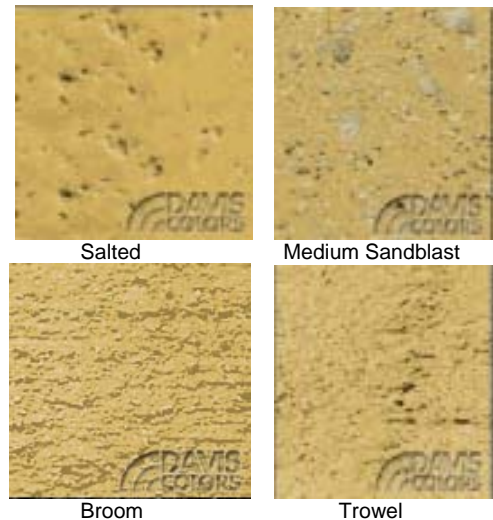
Dosage Rate – Cost Estimates	
Use the Color Dosage slide bar to increase or decrease color intensity. The higher the intensity, the greater amount of pigment added and more intense the color of concrete becomes. The cost per square foot will increase or decrease depending on the intensity. Refer to the Color Cost calculator to see the approximate retail cost to add color to concrete. This estimate is based on added cost of color materials only for a typical paving project. It does not include costs for the concrete, delivery, contractor installation or special finishes.	
Projects Preview	
View your color selection in a virtual project by clicking on the Project Preview button (shown here circled in red). Enlarge the photo by clicking on the enlarge icon (circled in green). Click on the Previous and Next buttons (circled in blue) to select different project types. Move the Color Dosage bar (circled in black) up and down to adjust the colors intensity.	
You can adjust the project color instantaneously by using the color tuner located at the upper left-hand corner of the Concrete Palette™ (circled in red). The color tuner makes slight adjustments with each click. Use the Color Tuner arrow buttons to make fine changes and see the effect instantly in the photo.

To return to the color preview section click on the "Color Preview" Tab (circled in green). | |

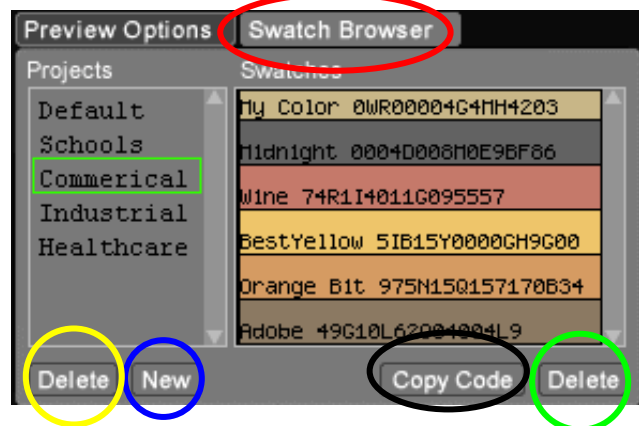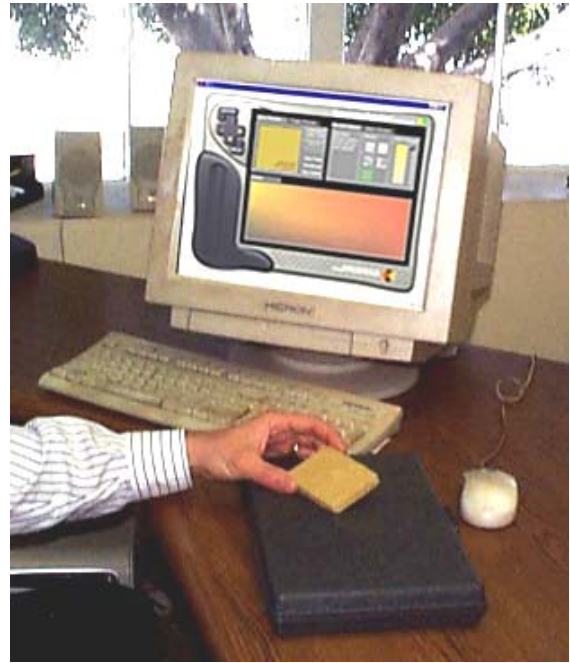|	
Save Color Swatch	
Once you have chosen a color, click the "Save Swatch" button to save it for future reference. Select a project folder from the dropdown menu. Give your color swatch a name and then click the "Save" button. Your color selection will be saved into the project folder you specified. To move a swatch from one folder to another, find the swatch in the Swatch Browser, click Save Swatch and choose the new folder to save it to. To create a new project folder, close this window and open the Swatch Browser window (see below for more information).	
Swatch Browser	
Create new project folders by clicking on the "New" button (circled in blue). Give the folder a name and then click Save. Delete a folder by highlighting the folder and then clicking the "Delete" button (circled in yellow). *Beware: deleting a folder permanently removes all color swatches in that folder.* Read the Save Color Swatch directions above to learn how to save a color swatch in a project folder. A swatch can be viewed by clicking on the Swatch Browser tab and looking into the appropriate project folder. To copy the 16 digit swatch code, highlight the swatch and then click the "Copy Code" button (circled in black). This saves the swatch code to your computer's clipboard. You can then paste the swatch code into any text document using the standard Edit/Paste command (Windows: Control+P). To delete a swatch, highlight the swatch and then click the delete button (circled in green).	
Request A Color Sample	
Even though we have done everything possible to assure the Concrete Palette™ represents colors accurately, monitor technology still has its limits. This is why an actual colored concrete sample should be ordered before specifying your color. To order a sample, click the "Get Sample" button. Complete the sample form and e-mail it or fax it to 323-269-1053. A sample will be made and sent to you within 12 working days. There may be a handling charge for this service. **Note: If your monitor has not been calibrated, the request you email will indicate this. If so, we cannot make the requested samples.**	
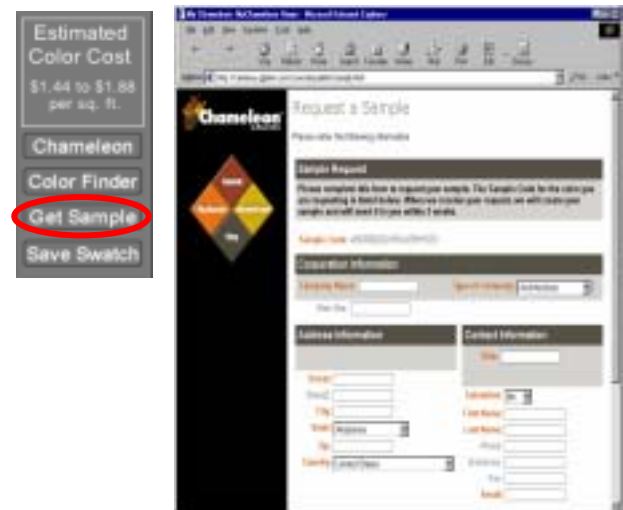
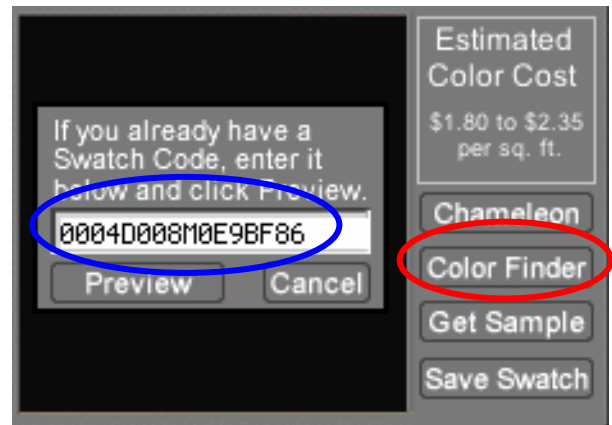|	
Viewing Custom Tile Samples	
Once you have received your custom tile sample make sure you turn your room lights on before comparing your color on the Concrete Palette™ sample to the actual concrete tile. Always view your monitor and sample tile under similar lighting conditions for color consistency. In order to compare a sample concrete tile to the monitor display, view the sample against a neutral, medium to medium-dark gray background (the shade of gray that boarders the Color Preview window on the Concrete Palette™) and look back and forth between the sample and the image displayed on the monitor in the Color Preview window. • If you view the sample tile against a different colored or light background, the tile will look different from the color represented on your monitor. • If you hold the tile sample up next to the monitor display, it also will look different from the color sample on your monitor because the tile is not receiving the same amount of light as the sample on the monitor.	
Color Finder	
To find or view a color using a swatch code, click on the "Color Finder" button (circled in red). Type in or paste the 16 digit swatch code into the field (example circled in blue) and then click the "Preview" button. The color will appear on the Color Preview window. **Share colors –** Use the "Color Finder" to view a color swatch created by a colleague. **Swatch Code Info –** In order to incorporate the recipe and dosage rate the swatch code is 16 digits long. Each swatch code is unique. For easy reference, make sure you save the swatch code into a project folder.	
Troubleshooting	
If you have any problems with the Concrete Palette™ go to www.concretepalette.com/FAQs or call Davis Colors 800-356-4848 ext. 132 for assistance.	