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Macintosh AV: Video Depth Set In Applications (2/95)

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TOPIC ---

When recording video on both a Power Macintosh AV or Quadra AV, with the monitor set to 256 gray levels, the recording is actually in 16 gray levels. Why?

This problem does not appear to be software related since I have tried this with two different applications and had both with the same results.

DISCUSSION --

The color settings for the main monitor do not necessarily influence the way video recording applications, such as Fusion Recorder, capture QuickTime movies. The color depth used for recording movies can be adjusted separately, using the video settings window.

To adjust the color level video applications use to record QuickTime movies, open the video settings dialog box. In Fusion Recorder, this is accessed by choosing "Video Settings..." from the "Record" menu.

Choose "Compression" from the pop-up menu in the upper-left corner of this window. Then choose a compression option from the "Compressor" pop-up menu. If no compression is desired, choose "None".

Depending on which compressor was chosen, the available color depth options appear in the "Depth" pop-up menu. The video compressors "Component Video", "Component Video -- YUV", and "Video" only work in color.

After adjusting these settings, the video application should record movies at the chosen color depth. If the compressor's color depth was set to "256 grays", the video application will record an 8-bit grayscale movie, regardless of the settings in the monitor control panel. Even if the monitor was set to "Black & White", the video application can record in 8-bit grayscale as long as the options in the video settings window were set correctly.

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