

In This Issue
**Spot & Color Swatch
Issues in Illustrator**

Restoring Pantone Swatch Libraries in Illustrator

Near the end of 2023, The remaining Pantone Color Books were no longer included in Illustrator updates. Many of the Color Books had been slowly removed prior to that date but the final books are now gone. The final 3 were the most commonly used by designers and illustrators and included CMYK Coated, CMYK Uncoated and Metallic Coated.

The Pantone color swatches have been part of the library of all Adobe Programs (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign) since their inception and most users have come to rely on the ease of accessibility. In 2022, Pantone changed it's licensing agreement with Adobe and here we are in 2024 without Pantone Color Book access as we knew it. Pantone proposes accessing the Color Books via their new Pantone Connect plugin and a Pantone license, available on the Adobe Exchange. While this option brings with it many new features, it may also be overkill for many users.

There are alternatives to the Pantone Color Books, and many are widely used currently in a range of creative work-flows. Color book sets are available and already accessible in your Creative Cloud apps such as ANPA, DIC, FOCOLTONE, HKS, TOYO and TRUMATCH. These color systems have no relationship to Pantone and will remain accessible as they have always been.

Typical Issues in Current Illustrator Versions:

- Illustrator files using swatches from Pantone will function as before when opened or placed in Illustrator.
- Illustrator files in app versions released February 2023 and later with place-linked Photoshop files that use spot channels work as expected even when Color Books are no longer available.
- Illustrator files in app versions released before February 2023 with place-linked files that use spot channels will render in gray in Illustrator when Color Books is no longer available.
- New Illustrator files created after October 2023 will require a Pantone License to access Color Books.

A Simpler Fix

If you have the Color Book files from an old version of Illustrator, or know someone who does, It is possible to load them in a current AI version and get the benefits of easy access with little to no missing features, at least fro the time being. This is not supported by either Adobe or Pantone but its an easy fix. The main issue is that these colors will not be updated as they have been.

Follow the instructions provided:

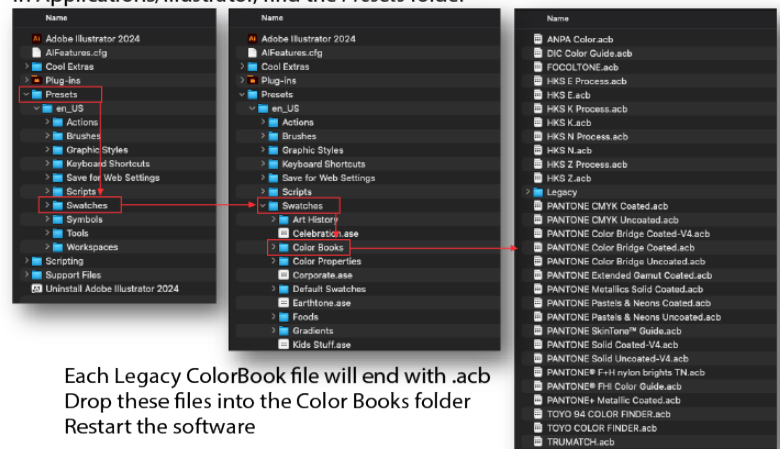
Locate the Color Books files you need, the file ending is .acb

Following the path shown to the right, locate the ColorBooks folder and copy the files into this folder.

Restart the software

Save the .acb files in a safe place for future use

In Applications/Illustrator, find the *Presets* folder



Each Legacy ColorBook file will end with .acb
Drop these files into the Color Books folder
Restart the software

Quick Tips

There are other systems that may be worth exploring and they are already in your Color Books library.

Trumatch

4 Color match system, it uses a logical approach to color organization based on Hue/Saturation/Brightness (HSB)

HKS

120 spot colors & 3520 tints for coated /uncoated papers

FOCOLTONE

FOur COLOur TONE Approaches colors as tones (Hues)