

# The pagecolor package

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## Abstract

This L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X package provides the command `\thepagecolor`, which gives the current page (background) color, i.e. the argument used with the most recent call of `\pagecolor{...}`. The command `\thepagecolornone` gives the same color as `\thepagecolor`, except when the page background color is “none”. In that case `\thepagecolor` is `white` and `\thepagecolornone` is `none`.

When `\nopagecolor` is unknown or in case of the `crop` package broken, this package provides a replacement.

Similar to `\newgeometry` and `\restoregeometry` of the `geometry` package `\newpagecolor{<some color>}` and `\restorepagecolor` are provided.

For use with the `crop` package `\backgroundpagecolor{<some color>}` as well as `\newbackgroundpagecolor{<some color>}` and `\restorebackgroundpagecolor` are provided.

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## 1 Introduction

This L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X package provides the command `\thepagecolor`, which gives the current page (background) color, i. e. the argument used with the most recent call of `\pagecolor{...}`. (`\pagecolor` needs to be defined before by the `xcolor` or `color` package.) The `pagecolor` package should be loaded before any package sets a page (background) color, but obviously after the `xcolor` or `color` package. Its option `pagecolor={...}` is used to set the initial `\pagecolor{...}`.

The command `\thepagecolornone` gives the same color as `\thepagecolor`, except when the page background color is “none” (e. g. result of using the `\nopagecolor` command). In that case `\thepagecolor` is white and `\thepagecolornone` is none. When `\nopagecolor` is unknown or in case of the `crop` package broken, this package provides a replacement depending on option `nopagecolor`. Commands to change the background/outer/physical page color when using `crop` are provided. Similar to `\newgeometry` and `\restoregeometry` of the `geometry` package `\newpagecolor{<some color>}` and `\restorepagecolor` are provided.

For use with the `crop` package `\backgroundpagecolor{<some color>}` as well as `\newbackgroundpagecolor{<some color>}` and `\restorebackgroundpagecolor` are provided.

## 2 Usage

Just load the package placing

```
\usepackage[<options>]{pagecolor}
```

in the preamble of your L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> source file. This should be done before another package uses `\pagecolor`. Afterwards `\pagecolor{...}` can be used to change the page (background) color as usual. Then `\thepagecolor` gives the current page (background) color (in the same format as given with `\pagecolor{...}`).

Similar to `\newgeometry` and `\restoregeometry` of the `geometry` package

`\newpagecolor{<some color>}` and `\restorepagecolor` are provided:

`\newpagecolor{<some color>}` will execute `\pagecolor{<some color>}` and remember the page color used before. `\restorecolor` (without argument) restores the page color to the one used before use of the `\newpagecolor{...}` command.

When you want to change the color for just one page and do not want to (or cannot) manually determine where that page ends,

```
\newpagecolor{<some color>}\afterpage{\restorepagecolor}
```

does the trick (and requires a `\usepackage{afterpage}` in the document's preamble), or for short

```
\newcommand{\onepagecolor}[1]{%  
  \newpagecolor{#1}\afterpage{\restorepagecolor}}
```

in the preamble and `\onepagecolor{<some color>}` in the document.

When the `crop` package is used, `\backgroundpagecolor{<some color>}` can be used to change the background/outer/physical page color and

```
\newbackgroundpagecolor{<some color>}%  
\afterpage{\restorebackgroundpagecolor}%
```

for changing just one background/outer/physical page color. There is **no** special command `\nobackgroundpagecolor`, but `\backgroundpagecolor{none}` and `\backgroundpagecolor{white}` can be used.

## 2.1 Options

`options`     The `pagecolor` package takes the following options:

### 2.1.1 `pagecolor`

`pagecolor`     The option `pagecolor={...}` takes as value a color. This could be as simple as `black` or `white`, but when e.g. the `xcolor` package is used (loaded before `pagecolor!`), also colors like `red!50!green!20!blue` are possible. The default is `pagecolor={none}`. A `\pagecolor{...}` command with the given color is used to initialise the `pagecolor`.

### 2.1.2 `nopagecolor`

`nopagecolor`     The option `nopagecolor={...}` takes as value a color. This could be as simple as `white` or `black`, but when e.g. the `xcolor` package is used (loaded before `pagecolor!`), also colors like `red!50!green!20!blue` are possible. The default is `nopagecolor={none}`. When `\nopagecolor` is unknown or broken (e.g. `crop` package) `\nopagecolor` is replaced by a `\pagecolor` command using the color defined with the `nopagecolor` option. If `\nopagecolor` is not available and `nopagecolor` is `none`, it is used `white` instead of `none`.

## 3 Alternatives

As I neither know what exactly you want to accomplish when using this package (e.g. hiding text), nor what resources you have (e.g. pdfTeX version), here is a list of possible alternatives:

- transparent package: With it some object can be made (fully or partially) transparent, <https://ctan.org/pkg/transparent>.
- OCG (Optional Content Groups): It allows for example to “hide” something when printing the document while keeping the layout, <https://ctan.org/search?phrase=ocg>.

You programmed or found another alternative, which is available at <https://www.CTAN.org/>? OK, send an e-mail to me with the name, location at CTAN, and a short notice, and I will probably include it in the list above.

## 4 Example

```
1 (*example)
2 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}[2024-11-01]
3 \documentclass[british]{article}[2024/06/29]% v1.4n Standard LaTeX document class
4 \usepackage[extension=pdf,%
5 plainpages=false,%
6 pdfpagelabels=true,%
7 hyperindex=false,%
8 pdflang={en},%
9 pdftitle={pagecolor package example},%
10 pdfauthor={H.-Martin Muench},%
11 pdfsubject={Example for the pagecolor package},%
12 pdfkeywords={LaTeX, pagecolor, thepagecolor, page color, page colour},%
13 pdfview=Fit,pdfstartview=Fit,%
14 pdfpagelayout=SinglePage%
15 ]{hyperref}[2024-11-05]% v7.011 Hypertext links for LaTeX
16
17 \usepackage[x11names]{xcolor}[2024/09/29]% v3.02 LaTeX color extensions (UK)
18 % The xcolor package would not be needed for just using the base colors.
19 % The color package would be sufficient for that.
20
21 % \usepackage[cam,center,a3]{crop}[2017/11/19]% v1.10
22
23 \usepackage[pagecolor={LightGoldenrod1},%
24 nopagecolor={none}]{pagecolor}[2025-01-28]% v1.2d Provides thepagecolor (HMM)
25
26 \usepackage{afterpage}[2023/07/04]% v1.08 After-Page Package (DPC)
27 % The afterpage package is generally not needed,
28 % but the |\newpagecolor{somecolor}\afterpage{\restorepagecolor}|
29 % construct shall be demonstrated.
30
31 \usepackage{lipsum}[2021-09-20]% v2.7 150 paragraphs of Lorem Ipsum dummy text
32 % The lipsum package is generally not needed,
33 % but some blind text is needed for the example.
34
35 \listfiles
36 \begin{document}
37 \pagenumbering{arabic}
38 \section*{Example for pagecolor}
39
40 This example demonstrates the use of package\newline
41 \textsf{pagecolor}, v1.2d as of 2025-01-28 (HMM).\newline
42 The used options were\newline
43 \verb|pagecolor={LightGoldenrod1}|\newline
44 (\verb|pagecolor={none}| would be the default), and\newline
45 \verb|nopagecolor={none}| (which is the default).
46
47 \noindent For more details please see the documentation!
48
49 \noindent The current page (background) color is\newline
50 \verb|\thepagecolor|\ =\ \thepagecolor \newline
51 (and \verb|\thepagecolornone|\ =\ \thepagecolornone ,
52 which would only be different from \verb|\thepagecolor|,
53 when the page color would be \verb|none|).
54
55 \newpage
56 \pagecolor{rgb:-green!40!yellow,3;green!40!yellow,2;red,1}
57
58 {\color{white} The current page (background) color is\newline
59 \verb|\thepagecolor|\ =\ \thepagecolor .}
60
61 {\color{\thepagecolor} And that makes this text practically invisible.}
```

```

62
63 {\color{white} Which made the preceding line of text practically
64 invisible, but it can be copied and pasted.}
65
66 \newpage
67 \newpagecolor{red}
68
69 This page uses \verb|\newpagecolor{red}|.
70
71 \newpage
72 \restorepagecolor
73
74 {\color{white}And this page uses \verb|\restorepagecolor| to restore
75 the page color to the value it had before the red page.}
76
77 \newpage
78 \pagecolor{none}
79
80 This page uses \verb|\pagecolor{none}|. If the \verb|\nopagecolor|
81 command is known, the page color is now
82 \verb|none| (because option \verb|nopagecolor={none}|), otherwise
83 \verb|white| (or the color given with option \verb|nopagecolor={...}|):
84 \newline
85 \verb|\thepagecolor|\ =\ \thepagecolor\ and
86 \verb|\thepagecolornone|\ =\ \thepagecolornone .
87
88 \newpage
89 \restorepagecolor
90
91 {\color{white}\verb|\restorepagecolor| restored the page color again.}
92
93 \newpage
94 \pagecolor{green}
95
96 This page is green due to \verb|\pagecolor{green}|.
97
98 \newpage
99 \newpagecolor{blue}\afterpage{\restorepagecolor}
100
101 {\color{white}\verb|\newpagecolor{blue}\afterpage{\restorepagecolor}|%
102 \newline
103 was used here, i.\,e.\~this page is blue, and the next one will
104 automatically have the same page color before it was changed to blue
105 here (i.\,e. green).}
106
107 \smallskip
108 {\color{red}\textbf{\lipsum[1-11]}}
109 \bigskip
110
111 The page color was changed back at the end of the page --
112 in mid-sentence!
113
114 \newpage
115 \backgroundpagecolor{pink}
116
117 When activating the loading of the crop package in the preamble of this
118 document, \verb|\backgroundpagecolor{<|\textit{some color}\verb|>}|
119 changes the color of the background/outer/physical page.
120
121 \newpage
122 \newbackgroundpagecolor{blue}
123

```

```

124 Analogous to \verb|\newpagecolor{...}| and \verb|\restorepagecolor|,
125 for the background/outer/physical page
126 \verb|\newbackgroundpagecolor{<|\textit{some color}\verb|>}| and\linebreak
127 \verb|\restorebackgroundpagecolor| are provided.
128
129 Here \verb|\newbackgroundpagecolor{blue}| colored that
130 background/outer/physical page in blue (if crop is used).
131
132 \newpage
133 \restorebackgroundpagecolor
134
135 And here the pink color of the background/outer/physical page
136 was restored by \verb|\restorebackgroundpagecolor| (if crop is used).
137
138 \end{document}
139 \end{example}

```

## 5 The implementation

We start off by checking that we are loading into L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> and announcing the name and version of this package.

```

140 (*package)
141 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}[2024-11-01]
142 \ProvidesPackage{pagecolor}[2025-01-28 v1.2d Provides thepagecolor (HMM)]

```

A short description of the pagecolor package:

```

143 %% Provides the \thepagecolor, \thepagecolornone, \newpagecolor{...},
144 %% \restorepagecolor, \backgroundpagecolor, \newbackgroundpagecolor{...},
145 %% and \restorebackgroundpagecolor commands and a replacement for the
146 %% \nopagecolor command, if this is not available.
147
148 \providecommand\IfFormatAtLeastTF{\@ifl@t@r\fmtversion}
149
150 \IfFormatAtLeastTF{2024/11/01}{-}{%
151   \PackageError{pagecolor}{Newer LaTeX format needed or older pagecolor package%
152     }{Needed LaTeX format version: 2024-11-01 or newer.\MessageBreak%
153     Found\space\space LaTeX format version: \fmtversion.\MessageBreak%
154     Please update your TeX distribution.%
155   }
156 }
157

```

We need the color or the xcolor package:

```

158 %% \RequirePackage{ either color or xcolor }:
159 \IfPackageLoadedTF{xcolor}{% xcolor loaded
160   \RequirePackage{xcolor}[2024/09/29]% v3.02 LaTeX color extensions (UK)
161 }{% xcolor not loaded
162   \IfPackageLoadedTF{color}{%
163     \RequirePackage{color}[2024-06-23]% v1.3e Standard LaTeX Color (DPC)
164     }{\PackageWarningNoLine{pagecolor}{%
165       The pagecolor package must be loaded after either\MessageBreak%
166       package color or after package xcolor (at your\MessageBreak%
167       option). Neither package was loaded before package\MessageBreak%
168       pagecolor. Loading of package xcolor will now be\MessageBreak%
169       tried automatically.\MessageBreak%
170       When the pagecolor package is used with option\MessageBreak%
171       pagecolor using a color requiring e.g. x11names\MessageBreak%
172       option for xcolor package, this will not work%
173     }
174   }
175   \RequirePackage{xcolor}[2024/09/29]% v3.02 LaTeX color extensions (UK)
176 }

```

177

For the handling of the options we use the kernel commands:

```
178 \DeclareKeys [pagecolor]
179 {pagecolor .store = \pagecolor@pagecolor ,
180 pagecolor .usage = preamble ,
181 nopagecolor .store = \pagecolor@nopagecolor ,
182 nopagecolor .usage = preamble
183 }
184
185 \SetKeys [pagecolor]{pagecolor=white,nopagecolor=none}
186
187 \ProcessKeyOptions [pagecolor]
188
```

`\nopagecolor` `\nopagecolor` is nowadays readily available. Let us test nevertheless:

```
189 \ifdefined\nopagecolor\relax
190 \else
191 \PackageNoteNoLine{pagecolor}{\string\nopagecolor\ is undefined}
192 \def\pagecolortmpb{none}
193 \edef\pagecolortmpa{\pagecolor@nopagecolor}
194 \ifx\pagecolortmpa\pagecolortmpb
195 \PackageWarningNoLine{pagecolor}{%
196 Option nopagecolor=none requested but \string\nopagecolor\space unknown:\MessageBreak%
197 By option nopagecolor the "color" to be used with \string\nopagecolor\MessageBreak%
198 is set. The current value is "none" (maybe by default),\MessageBreak%
199 but command \string\nopagecolor\space is undefined.\MessageBreak%
200 Therefore the color cannot be "none".\MessageBreak%
201 Please change the option accordingly! -\MessageBreak%
202 As first aid nopagecolor is now set to white%
203 }
204 \SetKeys [pagecolor]{nopagecolor=white}
205 \fi
206 \edef\pagecolortmpa{\pagecolor@pagecolor}
207 \ifx\pagecolortmpa\pagecolortmpb\relax
208 \PackageWarningNoLine{pagecolor}{%
209 Option pagecolor=none (maybe by default) used,\MessageBreak%
210 but \string\nopagecolor\ is unknown.\MessageBreak%
211 Please use another option value;\MessageBreak%
212 \pagecolor@nopagecolor\ will be used now%
213 }
214 \SetKeys [pagecolor]{pagecolor={\pagecolor@nopagecolor}}
215 \fi
216 \newcommand{\nopagecolor}{\pagecolor{\pagecolor@nopagecolor}}
217 \fi
218
219
```

`\pagecolor` We save the original `\pagecolor` command,

```
220 \NewCommandCopy{\origpagecolor}{\pagecolor}
221
```

before we redefine it to include a definition of `\thepagecolor` and `\thepagecolornone`:

```
222 \renewcommand{\pagecolor}[1]{\@bsphack%
223   \edef\pagecolortmpa{#1}%
224   \def\pagecolortmpb{none}%
225   \ifx\pagecolortmpa\pagecolortmpb\relax%
226     \ifdefined\nopagecolor\relax%
227       \nopagecolor%
228     \else%
229       \PackageWarning{pagecolor}{%
230         pagecolor=none requested but \string\nopagecolor\space unknown:\MessageBreak%
231         \string\pagecolor{none} was used, but the command\MessageBreak%
232         \string\nopagecolor\space is undefined.\MessageBreak%
233         Please use another color.\MessageBreak%
234         pagecolor=\pagecolor@nopagecolor\MessageBreak%
235         will be used now.\MessageBreak%
236       }%
237       \xdef\thepagecolor{\pagecolor@nopagecolor}%
238       \xdef\thepagecolornone{\pagecolor@nopagecolor}%
239       % although it should be "none"
240       \origpagecolor{\pagecolor@nopagecolor}%
241     \fi%
242   \else%
243     \xdef\thepagecolor{#1}%
244     \xdef\thepagecolornone{#1}%
245     \origpagecolor{\thepagecolornone}%
246   \fi%
247   \@esphack%
248 }
249
```

`\nopagecolor` regularly is defined. If it was not, we already defined a replacement, see page 7. But additionally `\nopagecolor` does not work if the `crop` package is used. A workaround needs to be defined:

```
250 \NewCommandCopy{\orignopagecolor}{\nopagecolor}
251
252 \gdef\pagecolor@cl{0}
253 \IfPackageLoadedTF{crop}{% crop loaded
254   \gdef\pagecolor@cl{1}
255   \PackageNoteNoLine{pagecolor}{%
256     \string\nopagecolor\space did not work with the crop package\MessageBreak%
257     2017/11/19 v1.10. Using\MessageBreak%
258     \pagecolor@nopagecolor\MessageBreak%
259     as nopagecolor now%
260   }
261   \def\pagecolortmpb{none}
262   \edef\pagecolortmpa{\pagecolor@nopagecolor}
263   \ifx\pagecolortmpa\pagecolortmpb\relax
264     \PackageWarningNoLine{pagecolor}{%
265       Option nopagecolor=none requested but this does not work with the\MessageBreak%
266       crop package. By option nopagecolor the "color" to be used with\MessageBreak%
267       \string\nopagecolor\space is set. The current value is "none" (maybe by\MessageBreak%
268       default), but the crop package broke \string\nopagecolor .\MessageBreak%
269       Therefore the color cannot be "none".\MessageBreak%
270       Please change the option accordingly!\MessageBreak%
271       As first aid nopagecolor is now set to white%
272     }
273     \SetKeys [pagecolor] {nopagecolor=white}
```



```

274 \fi
275 \renewcommand{\nopagecolor}{\pagecolor{\pagecolor@nopagecolor}}
276 }{% crop not loaded
277 \ifdefined\nopagecolor\relax
278 \gdef\pagecolortmpa{none}
279 \else
280 \gdef\pagecolortmpa{\pagecolor@nopagecolor}
281 \fi
282 \renewcommand{\nopagecolor}{%
283 \xdef\thepagecolor{white}%
284 \xdef\thepagecolornone{\pagecolortmpa}%
285 \orignopagecolor%
286 }
287 }
288
289

```

The (new) `\pagecolor` is now just carried out.

```

290 \pagecolor{\pagecolor@pagecolor}
291

```

Now the page (background) color as well as `\thepagecolor` are `\pagecolor@pagecolor`. `\thepagecolornone` is `none`, if that color is known, otherwise it is `\pagecolor@nopagecolor`, and if that was `none` (but that unknown), it is `white`. If `\pagecolor@pagecolor` was `none`, the page (background) color is `none`, when known, otherwise `\pagecolor@nopagecolor`, and if that was `none` (but that unknown), it is `white`, and `\thepagecolor` is `\pagecolor@nopagecolor`, and if that was also `none` but `none` unknown, then it is `white`. When the page (background) color is changed, `\thepagecolor` and `\thepagecolornone` are changed accordingly.

`\newpagecolor` There have been requests (via e-mail and at <https://tex.stackexchange.com/q/25137/6865>) to change the color of just one (or two) page(s) only, similar to `\newgeometry` and `\restoregeometry` of the `geometry` package (<https://ctan.org/pkg/geometry>). Therefore `\newpagecolor` and `\restorepagecolor` are introduced (as suggested by HAOYUN\_TEX):

```

292 \newcommand{\newpagecolor}[1]{%
293 \xdef\pagecolortmpc{\thepagecolornone}%
294 \pagecolor{#1}%
295 }
296

```

`\newpagecolor{<some color>}` will execute `\pagecolor{some color}` and remember the page color used before.

`\restorepagecolor`

```

297 \newcommand{\restorepagecolor}{\pagecolor{\pagecolortmpc}}
298

```

`\restorecolor` (without argument) restores the page color to the one used before use of the `\newpagecolor{...}` command.

```

299 \gdef\pagecolortmpc{\thepagecolor}
300

```

is just a precaution for `\restorecolor` being used when no `\newpagecolor{...}` was used before it.

When you want to change the color for just one page and do not want to (or cannot) manually determine where the page ends,

`\newpagecolor{<some color>}\afterpage{\restorepagecolor}` does the trick (and requires an additional `\usepackage{afterpage}` in the document's preamble).

`\backgroundpagecolor` When the crop package has been loaded, the background/outer/physical page color is determined by the last `\pagecolor{...}` in the preamble after `\usepackage[...]{crop}` and cannot be changed in the document. When the `\pagecolor{...}` is given before `\usepackage[...]{crop}`, a `\nopagecolor` works at the background/outer/physical page and not at the inner/foreground/logic page. `\nopagecolor` is fixed above. To change the background/outer/physical page color during the document, `\backgroundpagecolor{<some color>}` is provided:

```

301 \newcommand{\backgroundpagecolor}[1]{%
302   \IfPackageLoadedTF{crop}{%
Remember current inner/foreground/logic page color:
303   \xdef\pagecolortmpd{\thepagecolor}%
Set inner/foreground page color to color wished for background/outer/physical
page color:
304   \pagecolor{#1}%
Get that color, for example, \pagecolor{blue} might result in \CROP@pagecolor
to be 0 0 1 rg 0 0 1 RG:
305   \xdef\pagecolortmpe{\CROP@pagecolor}%
Set the inner/foreground/logic page color back to the color before changing it:
306   \pagecolor{\pagecolortmpd}%
Set the background/outer/physical page color:
307   \xdef\CROP@stockcolor{\pagecolortmpe}%
308   }{\PackageInfo{pagecolor}{\string\backgroundpagecolor\space does not do\MessageBreak%
309     anything when the crop package has not been loaded;\MessageBreak}%
- except giving this information.
310   }%
311 }
312

```

`\newbackgroundpagecolor` Analogous to `\newpagecolor` and `\restorepagecolor`, for the background/outer/physical page we define:

```

313 \newcommand{\newbackgroundpagecolor}[1]{%
314   \IfPackageLoadedTF{crop}{\xdef\CROP@stockcolor{\pagecolortmpf}}{%
315     \xdef\pagecolortmpf{\CROP@stockcolor}%
316     \backgroundpagecolor{#1}%
317   }{\PackageInfo{pagecolor}{\string\newbackgroundpagecolor\space does not do\MessageBreak%
318     anything when the crop package has not been loaded;\MessageBreak}%
319   }%
320 }
321

```

`\restorebackgroundpagecolor`

```

322 \newcommand{\restorebackgroundpagecolor}{%
323   \IfPackageLoadedTF{crop}{\xdef\CROP@stockcolor{\pagecolortmpf}}{%
324     \PackageInfo{pagecolor}{\string\newbackgroundpagecolor\space does not do\MessageBreak%
325       anything when the crop package has not been loaded;\MessageBreak}%
326   }
327

```

We checked whether the crop package had been loaded before the pagecolor package, but maybe it has been loaded afterwards. This is checked at the end of `\begin{document}`:

```

328 \AddToHook{begindocument/end}{%
329   \def\pagecolortmpb{0}%
330   \ifx\pagecolor@cl\pagecolortmpb\relax%
331     % crop not loaded before pagecolor, but maybe afterwards:
332     \IfPackageLoadedT{crop}{% crop indeed loaded afterwards.

```

```

333 \gdef\pagecolor@cl{1}%
334 \PackageInfo{pagecolor}{\string\nopagecolor\space did not work with the crop package\M
335 2017/11/19 v1.10. Using\MessageBreak%
336 \pagecolor@nopagecolor\MessageBreak%
337 as nopagecolor now.\MessageBreak%
338 }%
339 \def\pagecolortmpb{none}%
340 \edef\pagecolortmpa{\pagecolor@nopagecolor}%
341 \ifx\pagecolortmpa\pagecolortmpb\relax%
342 \PackageWarningNoLine{pagecolor}{%
343 Option nopagecolor=none requested but this does not work with\MessageBreak%
344 the crop package. By option nopagecolor the "color" to be used\MessageBreak%
345 with \string\nopagecolor\space is set. The current value is "none"\MessageBreak%
346 (maybe by default), but the crop package broke\MessageBreak%
347 \string\nopagecolor . Therefore the color cannot be "none".\MessageBreak%
348 Please change the option accordingly!\MessageBreak%
349 As first aid nopagecolor is now set to white%
350 }%
351 \SetKeys[pagecolor]{nopagecolor=white}%
352 \fi%
353 \renewcommand{\nopagecolor}{\pagecolor{\pagecolor@nopagecolor}}%
354 }%
355 \fi%
356 }
357
358 </package>

```

## 6 Installation

### 6.1 Downloads

Everything is available at <https://ctan.org>, but may need additional packages themselves.

`pagecolor.dtx` For unpacking the `pagecolor.dtx` file and constructing the documentation it is required:

- T<sub>E</sub>X-format L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> 2024-11-01 or newer: <https://www.CTAN.org/>
- document class ltxdoc, 2024/02/08, v2.1j, <https://ctan.org/pkg/ltxdoc>
- package holtxdoc, 2019/12/09, v0.30, <https://ctan.org/pkg/holtxdoc>

`pagecolor.sty` The `pagecolor.sty` for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> (i. e. each document using the `pagecolor` package) requires:

- T<sub>E</sub>X-format L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> 2024-11-01 or newer, <https://www.CTAN.org>
- package `pagecolor`, 2025-01-28, v1.2d, <https://ctan.org/pkg/pagecolor>  
(Because you are reading the documentation for the `pagecolor` package, it can be assumed that you already have some version of it – is it the current one?)

and either

- package `xcolor`, 2024/09/29, v3.02, <https://ctan.org/pkg/xcolor>

or

- package `color`, 2024-06-23, v1.3e, <https://ctan.org/pkg/color> (from the graphics package bundle).

`pagecolor-example.tex` The `pagecolor-example.tex` requires the same files as all documents using the `pagecolor` package (see preceding paragraph `pagecolor.sty`) and additionally:

- class article, 2024/06/29, v1.4n, from classes:  
<https://ctan.org/pkg/classes>
- package xcolor, 2024/09/29, v3.02, <https://ctan.org/pkg/xcolor>  
This package would not be needed for the use of just base colors only, the color package would be sufficient for that.
- package afterpage, 2023/07/04, v1.08, <https://ctan.org/pkg/afterpage>  
This package is only needed for demonstrating the `\newpagecolor{somecolor}\afterpage{\restorepagecolor}` construct.
- package lipsum, 2021-09-20, v2.7, <https://ctan.org/pkg/lipsum>  
This package is only needed for some blind text.

**Alternatives** As possible alternatives in section 3, Alternatives, there are listed (newer versions might be available):

- transparent**
- package transparent,  
<https://ctan.org/pkg/transparent>
  - OCG (Optional Content Groups),  
<https://ctan.org/search?phrase=ocg>

**Oberdiek** All packages of the ‘oberdiek’ bundle (especially `holtxdoc`) are also available in a TDS compliant ZIP archive:  
<https://mirror.ctan.org/install/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek.tds.zip>.  
It is probably best to download and use this, because the packages in there are quite probably both recent and compatible among themselves.

**hyperref** `hyperref` is not included in that bundle and needs to be downloaded separately,  
<https://mirror.ctan.org/install/macros/latex/contrib/hyperref.tds.zip>.

**Münch** A hyperlinked list of my (other) packages can be found at <https://ctan.org/author/muench-hm>.

## 6.2 Package, unpacking TDS

**Package.** This package is available on <https://www.CTAN.org>.

<https://mirror.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/pagecolor/pagecolor.dtx>  
The source file.

<https://mirror.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/pagecolor/pagecolor.pdf>  
The documentation.

<https://mirror.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/pagecolor/pagecolor-example.pdf>  
The compiled example file, as it should look like.

<https://mirror.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/pagecolor/README>  
The README file.

There is also a `pagecolor.tds.zip` available:

<https://mirror.ctan.org/install/macros/latex/contrib/pagecolor.tds.zip>  
Everything in TDS compliant, compiled format.

which additionally contains

<code>pagecolor.ins</code>	The installation file.
<code>pagecolor.drv</code>	The driver to generate the documentation.
<code>pagecolor.sty</code>	The <code>.sty</code> file.
<code>pagecolor-example.tex</code>	The example file.

For required other packages please see the preceding subsection.

**Unpacking.** The `.dtx` file is a self-extracting `docstrip` archive. The files are extracted by running the `..dtx` through plain `TEX`:

```
tex pagecolor.dtx
```

About generating the documentation see paragraph 6.4 below.

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

```
pagecolor.sty      → tex/latex/pagecolor/pagecolor.sty
pagecolor.pdf      → doc/latex/pagecolor/pagecolor.pdf
pagecolor-example.tex → doc/latex/pagecolor/pagecolor-example.tex
pagecolor-example.pdf → doc/latex/pagecolor/pagecolor-example.pdf
pagecolor.dtx      → source/latex/pagecolor/pagecolor.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`.

### 6.3 Refresh file name databases

If your `TEX` distribution (`TEX Live`, `MiKTEX`, ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, `TEX Live` users run `texhash` or `mktexlsr`.

### 6.4 Some details for the interested

**Unpacking with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.** The `.dtx` chooses its action depending on the format:

**plain T<sub>E</sub>X:** Run `docstrip` and extract the files.

**L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X:** Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X for `docstrip` (really, `docstrip` does not need L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X), then inform the autodetect routine about your intention:

```
latex \let\install=y\input{pagecolor.dtx}
```

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

**Generating the documentation.** You can use both the `.dtx` or the `.drv` to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by a configuration file `ltxdoc.cfg`. For instance, put the following 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 `pdfLATEX`:

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

### 6.5 Compiling the example

The example file, `pagecolor-example.tex`, can be compiled via `(pdf)latex pagecolor-example.tex` and needs at least two compilation runs.

## 7 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank HEIKO OBERDIEK for providing a lot of useful packages (from which I also got everything I know about creating a file in `.dtx` format, ok, say it: copying), and the `news:comp.text.tex` and `news:de.comp.text.tex` newsgroups for their help in all things  $\TeX$ , especially all contributors to the discussion at <https://groups.google.com/g/comp.text.tex/c/UzV26-RNYPY> (H. OBERDIEK & GOUAILLES).

I thank HAOYUN\_TEX for suggesting the `\newpagecolor`/`\restorepagecolor` pair of commands and everyone at <https://tex.stackexchange.com/q/25137> for their contributions there. Thanks go to HEINER RICHTER for finding a bug, to JOHANNES BÖTTCHER for reporting it, and to REUBEN THOMAS for suggestions for improvements of this documentation.

## 8 History

### [2011/07/16 v1.0a]

- First version discussed at `news:comp.text.tex`.

### [2011/08/06 v1.0b]

- Changed version uploaded to the CTAN.

### [2011/08/08 v1.0c]

- Fixed a `\SetKeys`.

### [2012/02/01 v1.0d]

- Bugfix: Obsolete installation path given in the documentation, updated.
- New commands: `\newpagecolor{...}`, `\restorepagecolor`.
- Update of documentation, README, and `dtx` internals.

### [2012/02/23 v1.0e]

- Fixed an error in the documentation.
- Check for loading of `color` or `xcolor` package and their versions has been changed, because `xcolor` sets `\@namedef{ver@color.sty}{1999/02/16}` which gave a warning about old `color` package even if a new version was used.

### [2015/06/21 v1.0f]

- Fixed the urls in the documentation.
- Handle `\nopagecolor` when it is not defined or broken by `crop`, new option `nopagecolor` introduced.
- Update of documentation, README, and `dtx` internals.

### [2015/06/22 v1.0g]

- Replaced all error messages by warnings.

**[2015/08/30 v1.0h]**

- Bugfix: Checking for `crop` package done `\AtBeginDocument`, but some of the related code must already be performed earlier. Bug found by HEINER RICHTER and reported by JOHANNES BÖTTCHER, thanks!

**[2017/05/29 v1.0i]**

- Documentation update following suggestions for improvements by REUBEN THOMAS, thanks!

**[2022-11-20 v1.1a]**

- Replaced all `colour` (with `u`) by `color` (without `u`).
- Converted to UTF-8.
- Updated to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X format 2021-11-15.
- Corrected an error in the example.
- X<sub>g</sub>L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and others now do know `\nopagecolor`.
- Package `crop` has been updated, but `\nopagecolor` still applies to the physical background sheet instead of the logical foreground area.
- Now using the `hardwrap` package. [Removed in v1.2c again.]

**[2022-11-27 v1.2a]**

- Now also handling the background/outer/physical page color, when the `crop` package is used.

**[2023-02-14 v1.2b]**

- Example now also handling `\newbackgroundpagecolor` and `\restorebackgroundpagecolor` when the `crop` package is used.
- Fixed a missing `v` in the version number.

**[2023-04-18 v1.2c]**

- No longer using the `hardwrap` package.
- Bug fix: There was an `undolabl` where a `pagecolor` belongs.
- Documentation and README updates.

**[2025-01-28 v1.2d]**

- No longer uses the `kvoptions` package but kernel methods.
- Documentation update.

When you find a mistake or have a suggestion for an improvement of this package, please send an e-mail to the maintainer, thanks! (Please see BUG REPORTS in the README.)

## 9 Index

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