

Package ‘colourpicker’

July 22, 2025

Title A Colour Picker Tool for Shiny and for Selecting Colours in Plots

Version 1.3.0

Description A colour picker that can be used as an input in 'Shiny' apps or Rmarkdown documents. The colour picker supports alpha opacity, custom colour palettes, and many more options. A Plot Colour Helper tool is available as an 'RStudio' Addin, which helps you pick colours to use in your plots. A more generic Colour Picker 'RStudio' Addin is also provided to let you select colours to use in your R code.

URL <https://github.com/daattali/colourpicker>,
<https://daattali.com/shiny/colourInput/>

BugReports <https://github.com/daattali/colourpicker/issues>

Depends R (>= 3.1.0)

Imports ggplot2, htmltools, htmlwidgets (>= 0.7), jsonlite, miniUI (>= 0.1.1), shiny (>= 0.11.1), shinyjs (>= 2.0.0), utils

Suggests knitr (>= 1.7), rmarkdown, rstudioapi (>= 0.5), shinydisconnect

License MIT + file LICENSE

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

NeedsCompilation no

Author Dean Attali [aut, cre] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5645-3493>>),
David Griswold [ctb]

Maintainer Dean Attali <daattali@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2023-08-21 08:12:46 UTC

Contents

colourInput	2
colourPicker	4
colourWidget	5
plotHelper	6
runExample	7
updateColourInput	8
Index	10

colourInput	<i>Create a colour input control</i>
-------------	--------------------------------------

Description

Create an input control to select a colour.

Usage

```
colourInput(  
  inputId,  
  label,  
  value = "white",  
  showColour = c("both", "text", "background"),  
  palette = c("square", "limited"),  
  allowedCols = NULL,  
  allowTransparent = FALSE,  
  returnName = FALSE,  
  closeOnClick = FALSE,  
  width = NULL  
)
```

Arguments

inputId	The input slot that will be used to access the value.
label	Display label for the control, or 'NULL for no label.
value	Initial value (can be a colour name or HEX code)
showColour	Whether to show the chosen colour as text inside the input, as the background colour of the input, or both (default).
palette	The type of colour palette to allow the user to select colours from. square (default) shows a square colour palette that allows the user to choose any colour, while limited only gives the user a predefined list of colours to choose from.
allowedCols	A list of colours that the user can choose from. Only applicable when palette == "limited". The limited palette uses a default list of 40 colours if allowedCols is not defined. If the colour specified in value is not in the list, the default colour will revert to black.

allowTransparent	If TRUE, enables a slider to choose an alpha (transparency) value for the colour. When a colour with opacity is chosen, the return value is an 8-digit HEX code.
returnName	If TRUE, then return the name of an R colour instead of a HEX value when possible.
closeOnClick	If TRUE, then the colour selection panel will close immediately after selecting a colour.
width	The width of the input, e.g. "400px" or "100%"

Details

A colour input allows users to select a colour by clicking on the desired colour, or by entering a valid colour in the input box. Colours can be specified as either names ("blue"), HEX codes ("#0000FF"), RGB codes ("rgb(0, 0, 255)"), or HSL codes ("hsl(240, 100, 50)"). Use `allowTransparent = TRUE` to allow selecting semi-transparent colours. The return value is a HEX value by default, but you can use the `returnName = TRUE` parameter to get an R colour name instead (only when an R colour exists for the selected colour).

When `allowTransparent = TRUE`, the user can type into the input field any RGBA value, HSLA value, or 8-digit HEX with alpha channel. You can also use any of these values as the `value` argument as the initial value of the input.

Note

See <https://daattali.com/shiny/colourInput/> for a live demo.

See Also

[updateColourInput](#) [colourPicker](#)

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {
  # Example 1
  library(shiny)
  shinyApp(
    ui = fluidPage(
      colourInput("col", "Choose colour", "red"),
      plotOutput("plot")
    ),
    server = function(input, output, session) {
      output$plot <- renderPlot({
        plot(1:10, col = input$col)
      })
    }
  )

  # Example 2
  library(shiny)
  shinyApp(
    ui = fluidPage(
```

```

    strong("Selected colour:", textOutput("value", inline = TRUE)),
    colourInput("col", "Choose colour", "red"),
    h3("Update colour input"),
    textInput("text", "New colour: (colour name or HEX value)",
    selectInput("showColour", "Show colour",
      c("both", "text", "background")),
    selectInput("palette", "Colour palette",
      c("square", "limited")),
    checkboxInput("allowTransparent", "Allow transparent", FALSE),
    checkboxInput("returnName", "Return R colour name", FALSE),
    actionButton("btn", "Update")
  ),
  server = function(input, output, session) {
    observeEvent(input$btn, {
      updateColourInput(session, "col",
        value = input$text, showColour = input$showColour,
        allowTransparent = input$allowTransparent,
        palette = input$palette,
        returnName = input$returnName)
    })
    output$value <- renderText(input$col)
  }
}

```

 colourPicker

Colour picker gadget

Description

This gadget lets you choose colours easily. You can select multiple colours, and you can either choose any RGB colour, or browse through R colours.

Usage

```
colourPicker(numCols = 3)
```

Arguments

numCols	The number of colours to select when the gadget launches (you can add and remove more colours from the app itself too)
---------	--

Value

Vector of selected colours

Note

This gadget returns a vector of colours that can be assigned to a variable. If instead you want to get a text representation of the colours that can be embedded into code, use the addin from the RStudio Addins menu.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {
  cols <- colourPicker(5)
}
```

 colourWidget

Create a colour picker htmlwidget

Description

Create a colour picker htmlwidget. This is not terribly useful right now since you can use the more powerful [colourInput](#) in Shiny apps and Rmarkdown documents, but this gives you an htmlwidget version of that colour picker.

Usage

```
colourWidget(
  value = "white",
  showColour = c("both", "text", "background"),
  palette = c("square", "limited"),
  allowedCols = NULL,
  allowTransparent = FALSE,
  returnName = FALSE,
  closeOnClick = FALSE,
  width = "300px",
  height = "35px",
  elementId = NULL
)
```

Arguments

value	Initial value (can be a colour name or HEX code)
showColour	Whether to show the chosen colour as text inside the input, as the background colour of the input, or both (default).
palette	The type of colour palette to allow the user to select colours from. <code>square</code> (default) shows a square colour palette that allows the user to choose any colour, while <code>limited</code> only gives the user a predefined list of colours to choose from.
allowedCols	A list of colours that the user can choose from. Only applicable when <code>palette == "limited"</code> . The <code>limited</code> palette uses a default list of 40 colours if <code>allowedCols</code> is not defined. If the colour specified in <code>value</code> is not in the list, the default colour will revert to black.
allowTransparent	If <code>TRUE</code> , enables a slider to choose an alpha (transparency) value for the colour. When a colour with opacity is chosen, the return value is an 8-digit HEX code.
returnName	If <code>TRUE</code> , then return the name of an R colour instead of a HEX value when possible.

closeOnClick	If TRUE, then the colour selection panel will close immediately after selecting a colour.
width	Custom width for the input field.
height	Custom height for the input field.
elementId	Use an explicit element ID for the widget (rather than an automatically generated one).

Examples

```
colourWidget()
colourWidget("red", palette = "limited", allowedCols = c("yellow", "red", "#123ABC"))
```

plotHelper	<i>Plot colour helper</i>
------------	---------------------------

Description

Allows you to interactively pick combinations of colours, to help you choose colours to use in your plots. The plot updates in real-time as you pick colours.

If you often find yourself spending a lot of time re-creating the same plot over and over with different colours to try to find the best colours, then the Plot Colour Helper can help you immensely.

Important: The colours you pick will be available as a variable called CPCOLS, so you can use CPCOLS in your plot code. See the example below.

Usage

```
plotHelper(code = "", colours = NULL, returnCode = FALSE)
```

Arguments

code	Code for a plot. You can use the variable CPCOLS in this code to refer to the colours that you will pick. If you do not provide any code, the plot helper will initialize with sample code. The code can be provided as text or as R code.
colours	A vector of colours to use as the initial colours in the tool, or an integer. If an integer is provided instead of colours, the tool will load with that number of colours, and default colours will be used initially. If you do not provide this parameter, the tool will attempt to guess how many colours are needed in the code and initialize that many colours.
returnCode	If TRUE, return the plot code and the CPCOLS variable as text. If FALSE (default), return the vector of selected colours.

Details

There are many keyboard shortcuts to help you be more efficient. For example, pressing *spacebar* adds a new colour, *left/right* keys let you navigate between the selected colours, *1-9* let you select any of the first 9 colours. For a full list of keyboard shortcuts, click on *Show keyboard shortcuts*.

Value

When this function is called using `plotHelper()`, the chosen colours are returned as a vector of colours. When this is run as an RStudio addin (through the *Addins* menu), the resulting code that includes the colour vector gets inserted into the R document. As a side effect, `CPCOLS` gets assigned in the global environment to the value of the selected colours.

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {
  cols <- plotHelper()
  cols <- plotHelper(colours = c("red", "blue"))
  cols <- plotHelper(colours = 5)

  library(ggplot2)
  cols <- plotHelper(ggplot(mtcars, aes(mpg,wt)) +
                    geom_point(aes(col = as.factor(cyl)))+
                    scale_colour_manual(values = CPCOLS))
}
```

runExample

Run a colourpicker example

Description

Launch a colourpicker example Shiny app that shows how to use the `colourInput` control. The example is also [available online](#).

Usage

```
runExample()
```

Examples

```
## Only run this example in interactive R sessions
if (interactive()) {
  runExample()
}
```

updateColourInput	<i>Change the value of a colour input</i>
-------------------	---

Description

Change the value of a colour input on the client.

Usage

```
updateColourInput(
  session,
  inputId,
  label = NULL,
  value = NULL,
  showColour = NULL,
  palette = NULL,
  allowedCols = NULL,
  allowTransparent = NULL,
  returnName = NULL,
  closeOnClick = NULL
)
```

Arguments

session	The session object passed to function given to shinyServer.
inputId	The id of the colour input object.
label	The label to set for the input object.
value	The value to set for the input object.
showColour	Whether to show the chosen colour as text inside the input, as the background colour of the input, or both (default).
palette	The type of colour palette to allow the user to select colours from. <code>square</code> (default) shows a square colour palette that allows the user to choose any colour, while <code>limited</code> only gives the user a predefined list of colours to choose from.
allowedCols	A list of colours that the user can choose from. Only applicable when <code>palette == "limited"</code> . The <code>limited</code> palette uses a default list of 40 colours if <code>allowedCols</code> is not defined. If the colour specified in <code>value</code> is not in the list, the default colour will revert to black.
allowTransparent	If <code>TRUE</code> , enables a slider to choose an alpha (transparency) value for the colour. When a colour with opacity is chosen, the return value is an 8-digit HEX code.
returnName	If <code>TRUE</code> , then return the name of an R colour instead of a HEX value when possible.
closeOnClick	If <code>TRUE</code> , then the colour selection panel will close immediately after selecting a colour.

Details

The update function sends a message to the client, telling it to change the settings of a colour input object.

This function works similarly to the update functions provided by shiny.

Any argument with NULL values will be ignored.

Note

See <https://daattali.com/shiny/colourInput/> for a live demo.

See Also

[colourInput](#)

Examples

```
if (interactive()) {
  library(shiny)
  shinyApp(
    ui = fluidPage(
      div("Selected colour:", textOutput("value", inline = TRUE)),
      colourInput("col", "Choose colour", "red"),
      h3("Update colour input"),
      textInput("text", "New colour: (colour name or HEX value)",
        selectInput("showColour", "Show colour",
          c("both", "text", "background")),
      checkboxInput("allowTransparent", "Allow transparent", FALSE),
      checkboxInput("returnName", "Return R colour name", FALSE),
      actionButton("btn", "Update")
    ),
    server = function(input, output, session) {
      observeEvent(input$btn, {
        updateColourInput(session, "col",
          value = input$text, showColour = input$showColour,
          allowTransparent = input$allowTransparent,
          returnName = input$returnName)
      })
      output$value <- renderText(input$col)
    }
  )
}
```

Index

colourInput, [2](#), [5](#), [9](#)

colourPicker, [3](#), [4](#)

colourWidget, [5](#)

plotHelper, [6](#)

runExample, [7](#)

updateColourInput, [3](#), [8](#)