

Re: Emoji Colors

From: ESC

Date: 2018-05-01

Proposal

Add a number of colored emoji characters for decorative and/or descriptive uses. These may be used to indicate that an emoji has a different color, for instance:

  or   for “white bear”

  or   for “green ribbon”

While it would be possible to use these in ZWJ sequences, no RGI ZWJ sequences are requested or planned for at this time.

Proposed characters

The following 14 characters are proposed for inclusion in 2019:

















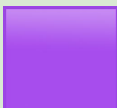


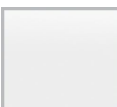







- WHITE HEART
- BROWN HEART
- ORANGE CIRCLE
- YELLOW CIRCLE
- GREEN CIRCLE
- PURPLE CIRCLE
- BROWN CIRCLE
- RED SQUARE
- ORANGE SQUARE
- YELLOW SQUARE
- GREEN SQUARE
- BLUE SQUARE
- PURPLE SQUARE
- BROWN SQUARE

These 14 new characters (when paired with existing hearts, circles, and square emoji characters) will create a consistent set of nine emoji colors:

- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Green
- Blue
- Purple
- White
- Black
- Brown

Chart of existing and proposed characters

Proposed additions are marked with green background, existing characters are shown with a white background.

	CIRCLE	SQUARE	HEART
RED			
ORANGE			
YELLOW			
GREEN			
BLUE			
PURPLE			
WHITE			
BLACK			
BROWN			

Background

A very common request is for emoji of different colors. A polar bear, or a glass of white wine, or particular color of ribbon, etc. We don't foresee encoding all the characters for these, or even ZWJ sequences, but having basic "adjectives" for color — some of the most frequent descriptive adjectives — will go a long way towards improving expressiveness.

Note: these proposal from the ESC is for structural components, and thus doesn't follow the normal submission form.

The ESC has considered different models for accommodating this request. (Paul Hunt did some earlier work on colors in [L2/16-318](#).) Since the domain is emoji, and "cartoonish", the range of new colors can be limited.

Additions

This proposal recommends the addition of new characters which provide a consistent set of colors for hearts, circles, and squares.

When assessing the possibility of adding new colors, there were various factors that differed for each shape.

Hearts

Hearts require the fewest additions, and "White Heart" is already a popular request as a standalone character. Hearts are less useful for describing the color of another emoji, due to the positive inference of the shape.

Circles

Circles that are encoded today (particularly red and blue) already see high use. Red circle is in the top 10% on EmojiTracker. These are used both decoratively, as well as descriptively.

Squares

Squares are potentially more flexible for use as swatches. These may be considered the most neutral shape when it comes to specifying color.

An earlier version of this document favored circles or squares as the preferred implementation for colors. This revision seeks to add 14 new characters which allows a consistent set of colors for each of these shapes.