

Montrose

PRODUCTS COMPANY

X3T9.2/90-138

To: X3T9.2 Working Group

Date: August 31, 1990

From: Dick Wagner

Re: SCSI-3 Color Code

It is very unusual for a system standard to include a cable color code scheme. The SCSI-3 standard, however, will be the first standard, that I am aware of, which will identify specific cable pairs for specific functions. As such, inclusion of a standard color code has considerable merit.

A standard code will facilitate vendor independence and essentially guarantee that the required circuit isolation will be achieved regardless of the cable supplier or assembly manufacturer.

Montrose and Astro agreed to develop a color code proposal at the Rochester meeting. The need for a standard color code was reviewed and it was concluded that a standard color code should be established. It was also determined that the color code should possess the following attributes:

- * Each conductor color is unique within the cable
- * Colors utilized for both the base color and the tracer must offer a high contrast for easy recognition.
- * No more than one tracer per conductor.
- * The "special" circuit pairs (REQ, ACK, TERMPWR) are easily identified
- * The 34 pair P cable is an extension of the 25 pair A cable. ie. the first 25 pairs of the P cable are the same color and perform the same function as the A cable.
- * Bare no resemblance to the IPI color code since the cables themselves are very different in performance and are NOT interchangeable.

Peter Blackford has submitted to you four specialized color codes with pin assignments: single-ended "A" (Rev.B 8/27/90), differential "A" (Rev.C 8/29/90), single-ended "P" (Rev.A 8/27/90), and differential "P" (Rev.A 8/27/90). Montrose Products highly recommends the adoption of these color codes and their inclusion in the standard.

Sincerely,
MONTROSE PRODUCTS CO.



Richard H. Wagner
Director of Engineering

c/c: P. Blackford

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MANUFACTURER OF WIRE AND CABLE