

# Why can't you use WM\_CTLCOLORSTATIC to change the color of a SS\_BLACKRECT?

 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20100409-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20100409-00)

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If you specify one of the static control styles which draw a frame or rectangle

`SS_BLACKRECT`   `SS_BLACKFRAME`

`SS_GRAYRECT`   `SS_GRAYFRAME`

`SS_WHITERECT`   `SS_WHITEFRAME`

the control will be drawn with the corresponding color (which, as we saw last time, isn't actually black, gray, or white). If you try to customize the color by handling the `WM_CTL-COLORSTATIC` message, you'll find that it has no effect. Well, yeah, because you said you wanted a black rectangle.

If you want some other color, you could set the style to `SS_OWNERDRAW` then draw the solid color in your `WM_DRAWITEM` handler. Or you can just use a text static control with no text. In that case, you can respond to `WM_CTLCOLORSTATIC` in the usual way. Since you specified no text, all that will be drawn is the background color.

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