



26.15 Editors - Properties Editor - Material Properties Tab

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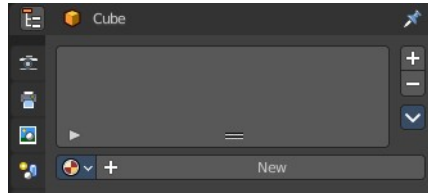
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Preface

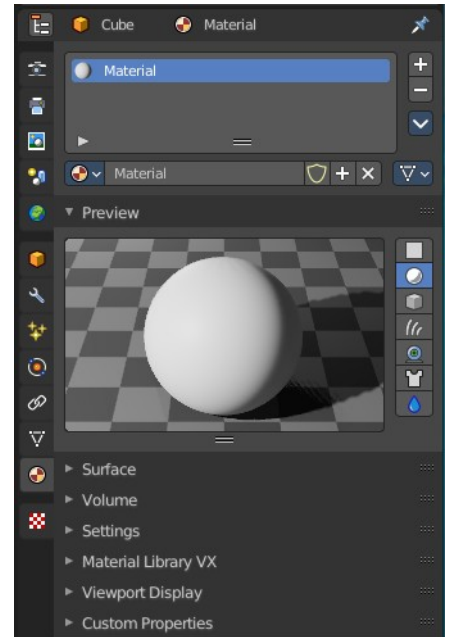
Materials controls the appearance of meshes, curves, volumes and other objects.



A material is the container that contains all the necessary data to define the look of an object. It is made of a code part, the shaders. They control how the surface reacts. And color data like textures. A black and white texture can also control what areas of a shader reacts in what way. Like a gloss map.

Materials can be created in either the Material properties, or in the Shader Editor. The content that is displayed is the same. But the way how it is represented is different.

Materials can be assigned to one or more objects, and different materials can be assigned to different parts of meshes.



The material system is built with physically-based rendering in mind. But can also be used to create toon style materials.

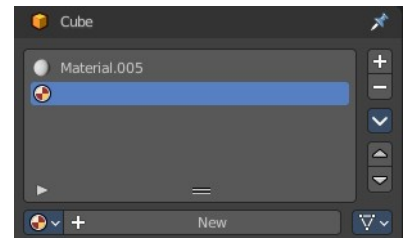
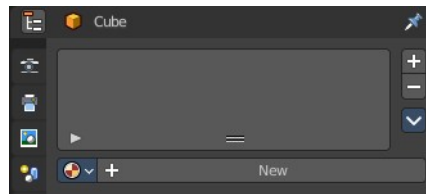
Affected Renderer

The material system is for Eevee and Cycles. Workbench renderer is meant for fast preview display. It does not use materials like Eevee or Cycles. All you can choose is a color.

Eevee and Cycles have nearly the same nodes available. But some nodes differ. Eevee is a realtime renderer. Cycles is a physically based render. That's two different approaches. So you should take that into account when creating the materials.

Material header

The header area contains the list of materials and the functionality to create new materials and to remove them.

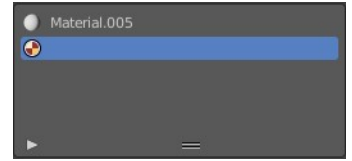


Note that a material for a grease pencil object differs from the rest. It is basically the same. But grease pencil objects have other icons in the material browser.



Material List

The list of assigned materials to this object. The list shows the material slots. A material slot that has the red material icon assigned has no material content yet. It is just an empty slot. You have to create it first by clicking at the New button below, in the material property.

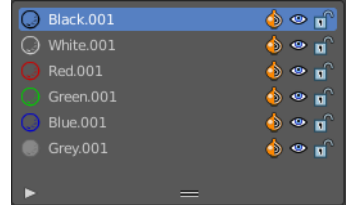


Clicking at the name allows renaming of the material.

Grease pencil materials have additional functionality in the list.

Show in ghosts

Turn on onion skinning for this material. Onion skinning displays strokes before and after the current frame.



Hide

Show or hide the material.

Locked

Protect color from further editing.

Drag Handler

The two vertical lines at the end is a handler with which you can expand the list.

Search Field

You can expand a search field at the bottom of the list. Type in your term and hit enter to filter for your term.



Sort by Name

Sort the List by name.

Reverse

Exclude the search term instead of searching for it.

Add Material Slot

Add a new material slot

Remove Material Slot

Remove the selected material slot.

Materials Specials menu

With a mesh or curve or other object type

Copy Material

Copy the material settings and nodes.



Copy Material to selected

Copy material to selected objects. First select the object without material. Hold down shift and select the object with material. Perform Copy material to selected.

Paste Material

Pastes a copied material.

Remove Unused Slots

Remove material slots that does not contain a material.

With a grease pencil stroke object

Show All

Show all materials.

Hide Others

Hide unselected materials.

Lock All

Lock all materials from editing.

Unlock All

Unlock all materials.

Lock Unused

Lock unused materials from editing.

Remove Unused Slots

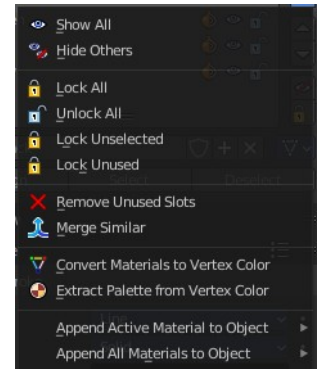
Remove material slots that does not contain a material.

Merge Similar

Merge similar materials in stroke.

Convert Materials to Vertex Colors

Grease pencil strokes can have either vertex colors or material colors. This feature converts the selected materials to a vertex color palette.



Extract Palette from Vertex Color

Grease pencil strokes can have either vertex colors or material colors. This feature converts a vertex color palette to materials.

Append Active Layer to Object

Appends the active layer to an object.

Append all Layers to Object

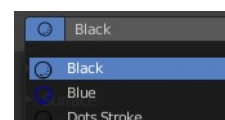
Appends all layer to an object.

Material data property



Material Browser

A list of the available materials in the scene where you can choose a material from.



New

When the object has no material yet. Creates a new default material and adds a first material slot to the list.



Name

The name of the active material. Double clicking allows to rename it.

Fake User

Keep this data even when it has no user in the scene.

New

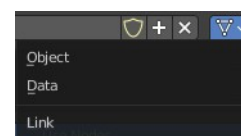
Creates a new default material, and assigns it to the active material slot.

Remove

Link

Specifies whether the material is to be linked to the Object or to the Object Data.

Different objects may share the same mesh data. And if the material is linked to the mesh, every object will share it. If the material is linked directly to the object data, the objects can have different materials and still share the same mesh. Default is Data.



Edit Mode

In Edit mode you can assign different materials at different mesh or curve parts.

Workflow

Enter Edit Mode. Select the material that you want to assign. Select the mesh or curve part. Click at the assign button.

Assign

Assign active material slot and material to the selected faces in the mesh, strokes in a Grease Pencil, and similar for other object types.

Select

Select faces assigned to the active material slot.

Deselect

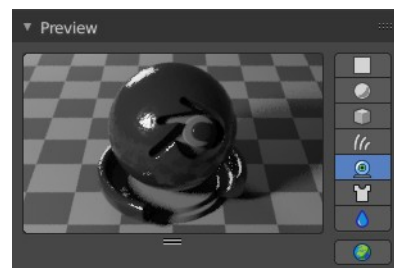
Deselect faces assigned to the active material slot.

Preview Panel

A preview window to judge the material.

Flat, Sphere, Cube, etc.

Different shaped preview objects.

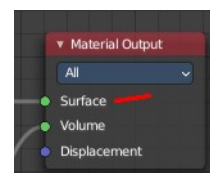


Preview World

Include the world settings into the preview rendering.

Surface Panel

This panel displays the Surface part of the material as a list. And allows you to edit its values.



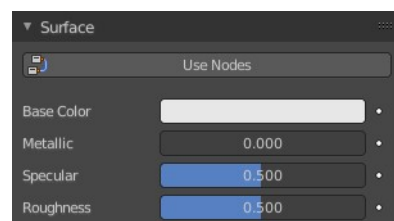
Use Nodes

Choose if you want to use nodes or not. Unticked it will use a default material with just basic values. Ticked it will use the material as defined in the shader editor in the Shading workspace. And display its values.

The values with unticked Use Nodes will not appear in the material node editor.

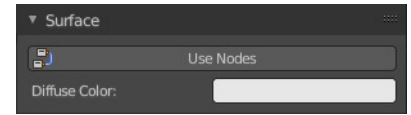
Use Nodes unticked with Eevee

Gives you the values for a very basic PBR realtime shader.



Use Nodes unticked with Cycles

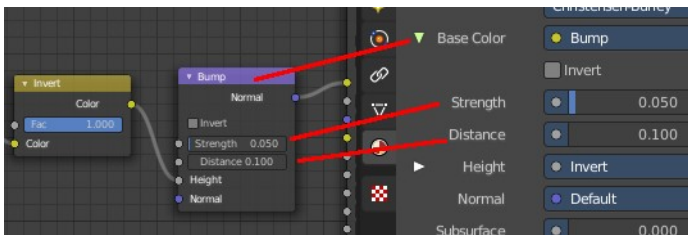
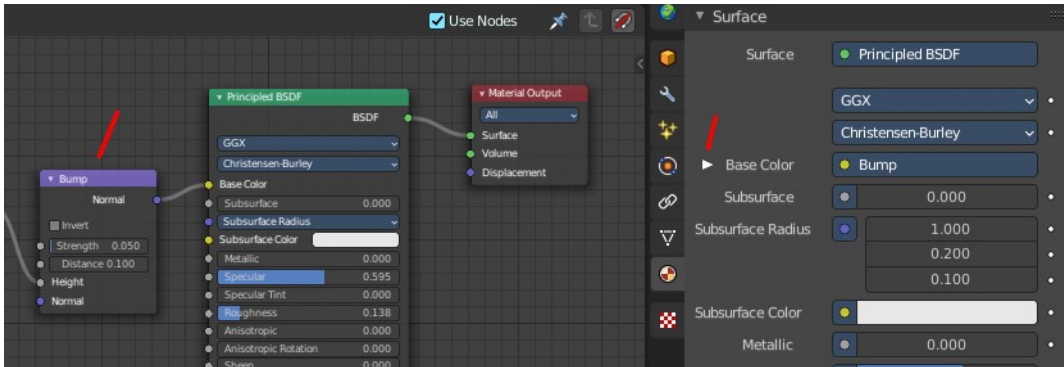
Gives you a base color.



Use Nodes ticked

Displays the content of the material in the shader editor as a list.

Triangle buttons indicates that there is a node connected to this input. You can expand this triangle to access the values of the connected node.



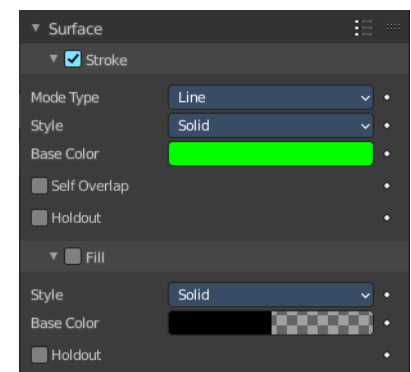
For the nodes and the values please have a look in the shader editor.

Surface Panel - Grease Pencil Object

The content of the surface panel with a grease pencil object is a bit different from other object types since Grease pencil objects uses materials for the drawing color.

Presets

The presets in the header allows you to use and store presets.

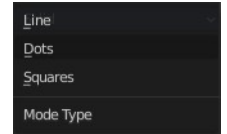


Stroke Subpanel

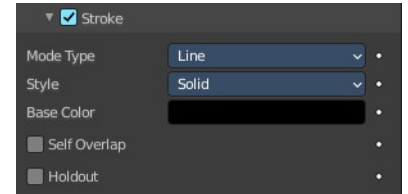
Stroke related settings.

Mode Type

The draw mode for the stroke. The modes should be self explaining. Most settings are the same in all modes.

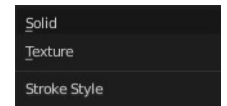


Mode Type Line



Style

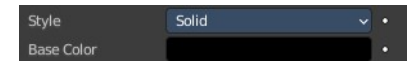
The draw style.



Solid

Base Color

The color of the stroke.



Texture

Base Color

The base color of the stroke. You can blend the texture with this color.

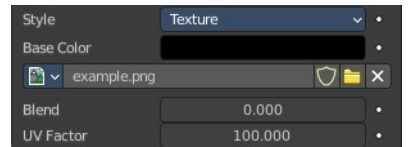
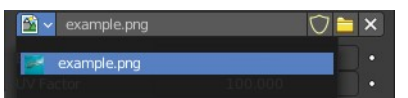


Image Prop

This property contains the list of loaded images. When no image is loaded then it displays the Open Buttons. When an image exists then it displays the name of the currently selected image.



From left to right ...

Image browser

This is a list of the images in the scene. This list allows you to switch to other images.

Search form

Search for specific images.

Image Edit Box

Read the name of the currently selected image. And you can rename the image here too.

Number of Fake Users

In case this file has a fake user assigned, then this number displays the number of fake users.

Fake User

With this button you assign a fake user to this selected image.

Data, like images, that is not longer linked to anything else gets removed when you save and reload a scene. Bforartists has the concept of fake users to go around this behavior. An image with a fake user is in fact linked to something. And so it is not lost when you save and reload the scene.

Open

Open a new image.

Remove

Removes the image.

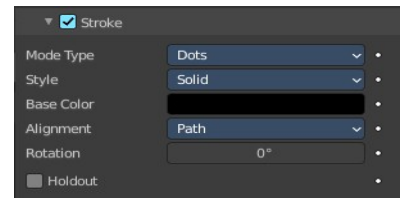
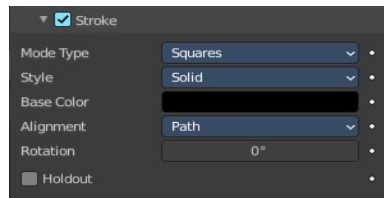
Self Overlap

Disable stencil and allow self intersections with alpha materials.

Holdout

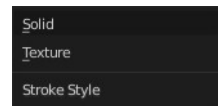
Remove the color from underneath this stroke by using the stroke as a mask.

Mode Type Dots + Squares



Style

The draw style.



Solid

Base Color

The color of the stroke.



Texture

Base Color

The base color of the stroke. You can blend the texture with this color.

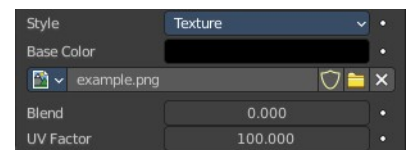
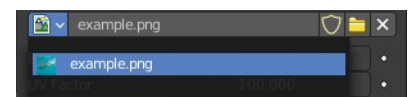


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Search for specific images.

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Open

Open a new image.

Remove

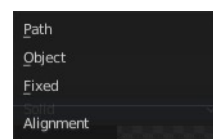
Removes the image.

Alignment

Dots and Squares mode.

Path

Alignment follows stroke drawing path and object rotation.



Object

Alignment follows object rotation only.

Fixed

Keeps aligned with viewport.

Self Overlap

Disable stencil and allow self intersections with alpha materials.

Rotation

Additional rotation applied to dot and square strokes.



Holdout

Remove the color from underneath this stroke by using the stroke as a mask.

Fill Subpanel

Fill color related settings.

Style

Solid

Base Color

The color of the stroke.



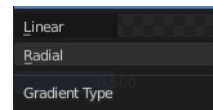
Holdout

Remove the color from underneath this stroke by using the stroke as a mask.

Gradient

Gradient Type

Draw a linear or a radial gradient.



Base Color

The first color of the gradient.

Secondary Color

The second color of the gradient.

Blend

The mix factor between the first and second gradient color.

Flip Colors

Flip the filling colors.

Location X / Y

The location of the gradient.

Rotation

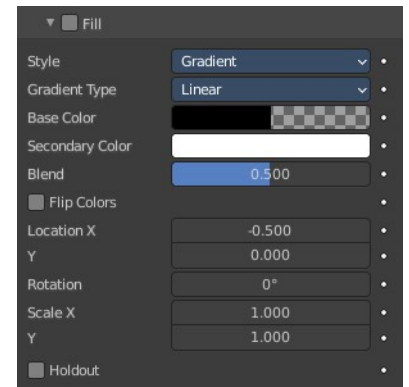
The rotation of the gradient.

Scale X / Y

The scale of the gradient.

Holdout

Remove the color from underneath this stroke by using the stroke as a mask.



Texture

Base Color

The base color of the stroke. You can blend the texture with this color.

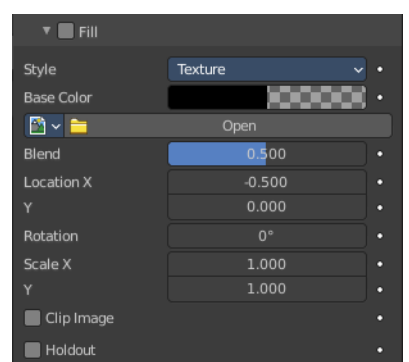
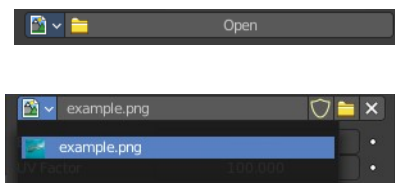


Image Prop

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From left to right ...

Image browser

This is a list of the images in the scene. This list allows you to switch to other images.

Search form

Search for specific images.

Image Edit Box

Read the name of the currently selected image. And you can rename the image here too.

Number of Fake Users

In case this file has a fake user assigned, then this number displays the number of fake users.

Fake User

With this button you assign a fake user to this selected image.

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Open

Open a new image.

Remove

Removes the image.

Location X / Y

The location of the image.

Rotation

The rotation of the image.

Scale X / Y

The scale of the image.

Clip Image

Do not repeat the image, but clamp it to one instance.

Holdout

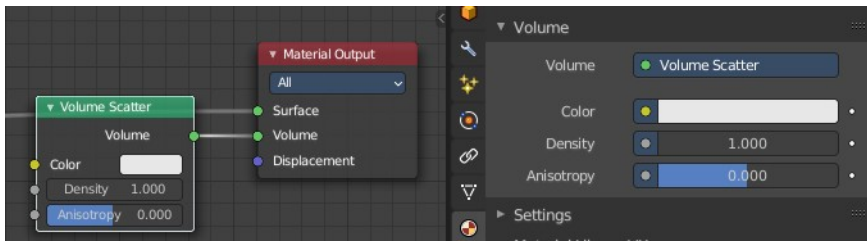
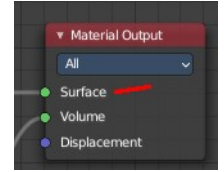
Remove the color from underneath this stroke by using the stroke as a mask.

Volume Panel

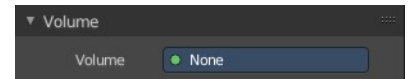
This panel displays the Volume part of the material as a list. And allows you to edit its values.

Use Nodes

Choose if you want to use a volume node or not.



Removing the volume node in the shader editor will clear the volume panel.

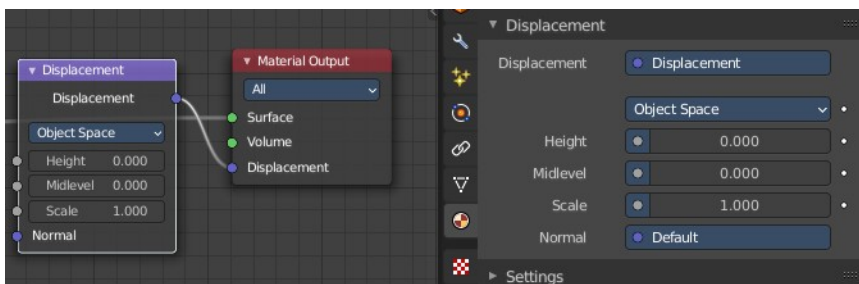
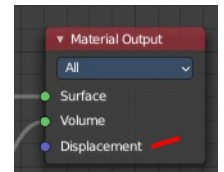


Displacement Panel

This panel displays the Displacement part of the material as a list. And allows you to edit its values.

Use Nodes

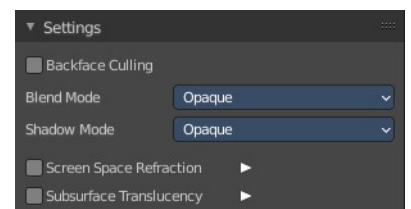
Choose if you want to use a displacement node or not.



Removing the displacement node in the shader editor will clear the panel.



Settings Panel - Eevee renderer



Backface Culling

Use back face culling to hide the back side of faces.

Blend Mode

The blend mode for transparent faces.

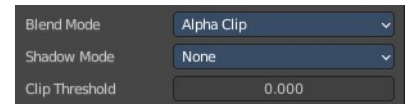


Opaque

Render surface without transparency.

Alpha Clip

Use the alpha threshold to clip the visibility. On or off.



Clip threshold

A pixel is just rendered if the value is higher than this clip threshold. This threshold is the same for blend mode and shadow mode.

Alpha Hashed

Use Noise to dither the binary visibility. Works best with multi samples.

Alpha Blend

Render polygons transparent, dependent of the alpha channel of the texture.

Shadow Mode

None

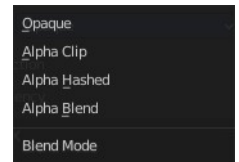
Material will cast no shadow.

Opaque

Material will cast shadow without transparency.

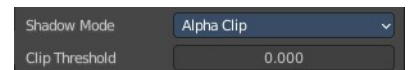
Alpha Clip

Use the alpha threshold to clip the visibility. On or off.



Clip threshold

A pixel is just rendered if the value is higher than this clip threshold. This threshold is the same for blend mode and shadow mode.



Alpha Hashed

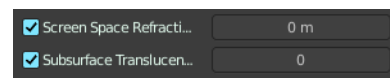
Use Noise to dither the binary visibility.

Show Backface

With Blend Mode Alpha Blend. Limit the transparency to a single layer to avoid transparency layer sort problems.

Screen Space Refraction

Use ray traced screen space refraction.



Refraction depth

The thickness of the object to compute two refraction event. 0 means disabled.

Subsurface Translucency

Add translucency effect to subsurface.

Pass Index

Index number for the material index render pass.

Settings Panel - Cycles renderer

Material settings.

Pass Index

The index number of this material. This material index can be used for masking in post processing for example.

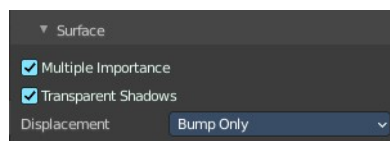


Surface

Surface related settings.

Multiple Importance

By default lights use only direct light sampling. Which can be noisy with sharp glossy reflections. Multiple Importance activates Indirect light sampling to reduce noise.

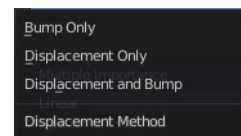


Transparent Shadows

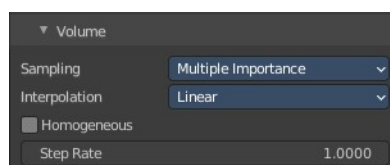
Use transparent shadows if the material contains a transparent bsdf node.

Displacement

What method to use for displacement.



Volume



Sampling

What sampling method to use for volume rendering.

Interpolation

What interpolation method to use for volume rendering.

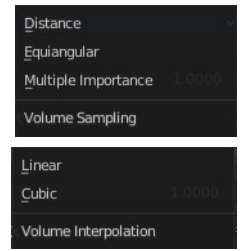
Homogeneous

Assume to have a homogeneous volume to speed up rendering.

Step rate

Scale the distance between volume shader samples when rendering the volume. Lower values increases accuracy and render time.

Step rate becomes dysfunctional when Homogeneous is activated.

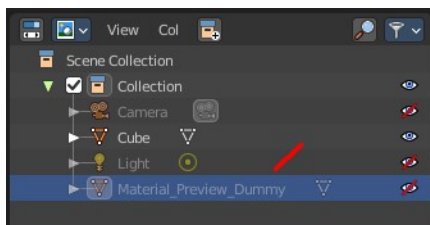


Material Library VX

Materials Library VX is a Blender material library add-on. You can save, load and categorize materials that can be shared across all your projects.

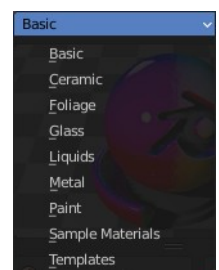
It's advisable to add a Fake User to your materials and to save your blend-file before use.

Note that this add-on creates a material_preview_dummy object to allow the material preview.



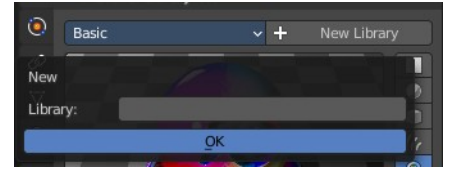
Library Browser

A list of the available libraries. Switching to another library will load it.



New Library

Create a new Library and name it. The new library will have one material to start.



Preview Window

A material preview window.

Apply

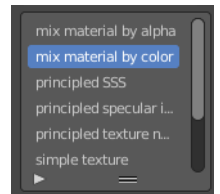
Apply the currently selected material to the object. Note, sometimes the object gets deselected. And then you get a warning. Simply select the object, and try again.

Preview

The material can be previewed before you assign it. Preview will also refresh the material preview window. It is not updated by choosing another material.

Materials List

The list of the available materials in this library. Choose a material, click at the Preview button to preview it in the preview window. Click at the Apply button to assign the material to the selected object.



Add to Library

Add your materials to the library.

Reload Material

Restore the saved version of the material if you want to revert edits.

Remove Preview

Restore the Preview panel.

Remove Material

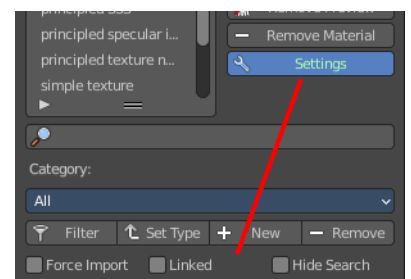
Delete the active material from the Matlib VX list and your library.

Settings

Options. They appear at the end.

Force Import

Use Scene Materials by default.



Linked

Link the material instead of append it.

Hide Search

Hides the search field.

Search

Search the library for a material.

Category Tools:

Here you can make sub categories.

Note, this part is simply broken. Don't even bother.

Filter

Apply the current filter.

Set Type

Apply the current selected category to the current material library.

Add

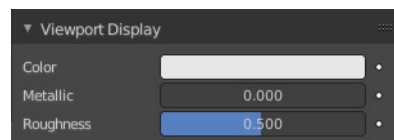
Add a new category.

Remove

Remove the current selected category from the list.

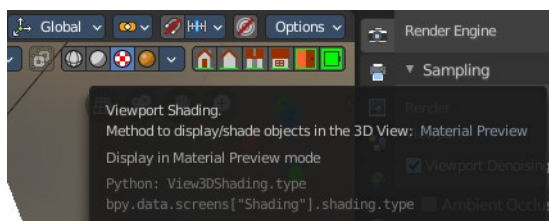
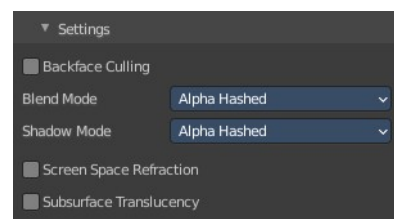
Viewport Display

Display settings for viewport display mode Solid. The items should be self explaining.



Settings

Cycles only. And with Cycles these settings are just relevant for the viewport rendering in Material Preview mode. That's why they are in the viewport display panel.

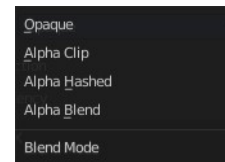


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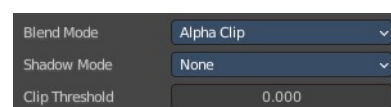


Opaque

Render surface without transparency.

Alpha Clip

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Clip threshold

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Alpha Hashed

Use Noise to dither the binary visibility. Works best with multi samples.

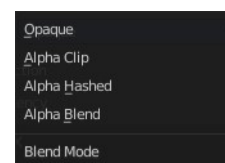
Alpha Blend

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Shadow Mode

None

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Opaque

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Alpha Clip

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Clip threshold

A pixel is just rendered if the value is higher than this clip threshold. This threshold is the same for blend mode and shadow mode.

Alpha Hashed

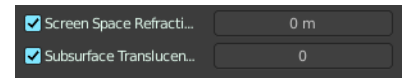
Use Noise to dither the binary visibility.

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