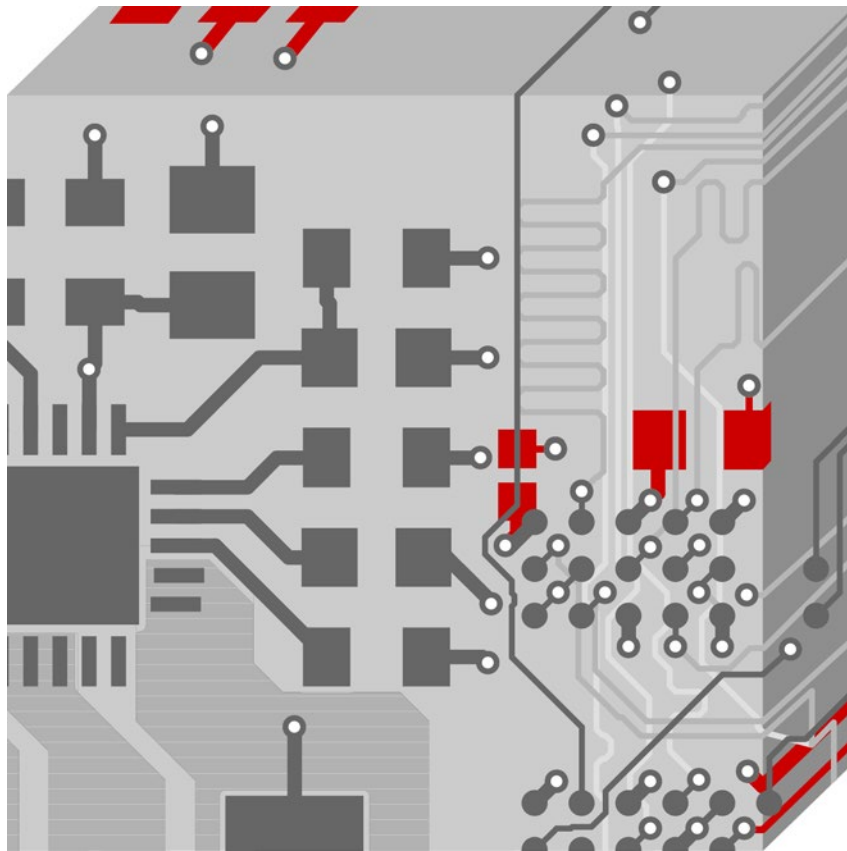


Color and Visibility



OrCAD / Allegro PCB Editor
Application Note | V2.0

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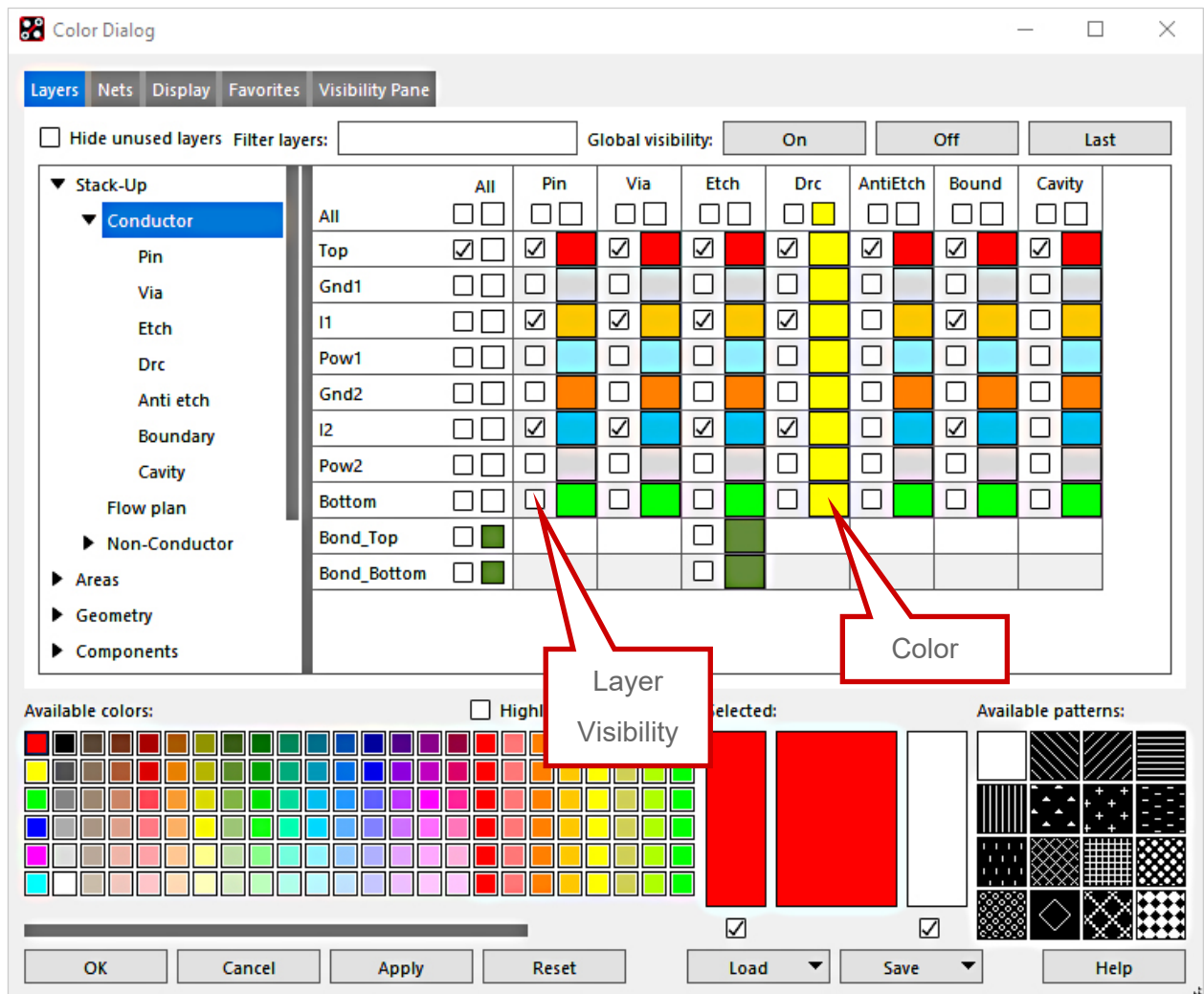
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1 Define Colors and Patterns

With **Display > Color / Visibility** or this button

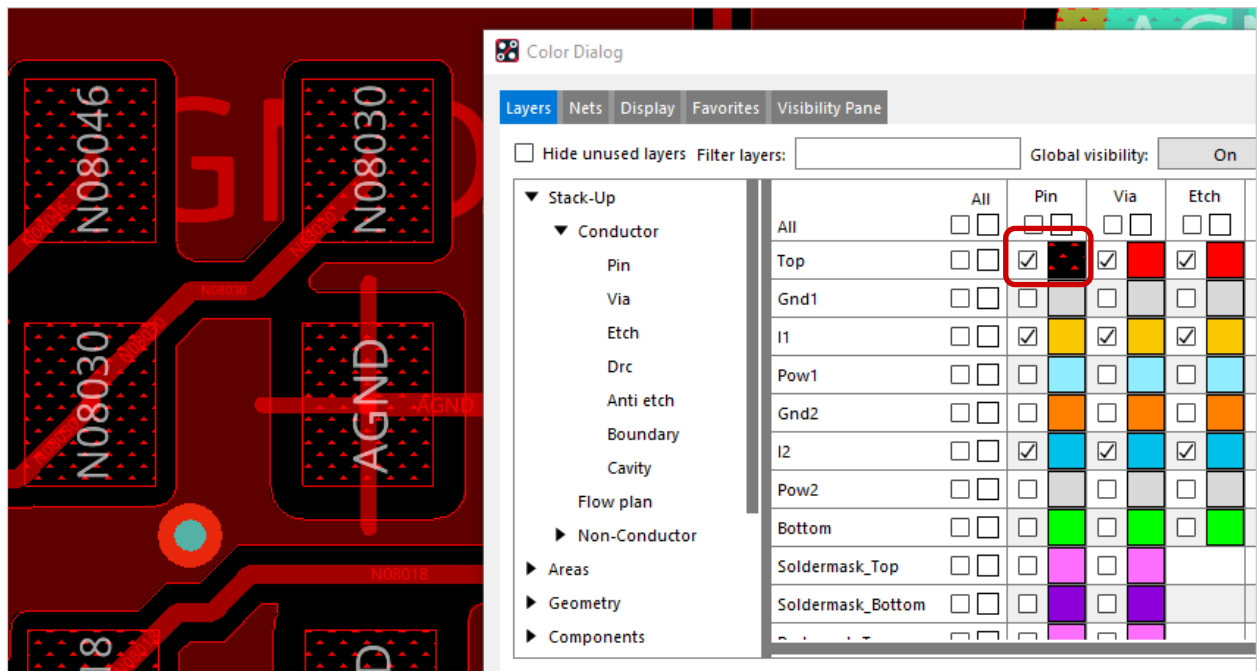


you can launch the Color Dialog.



In this window you can define the color and visibility for each layer separately. Additionally, to the colors, you can also define a pattern for each layer. With the patterns you have more flexibility when coloring layers.

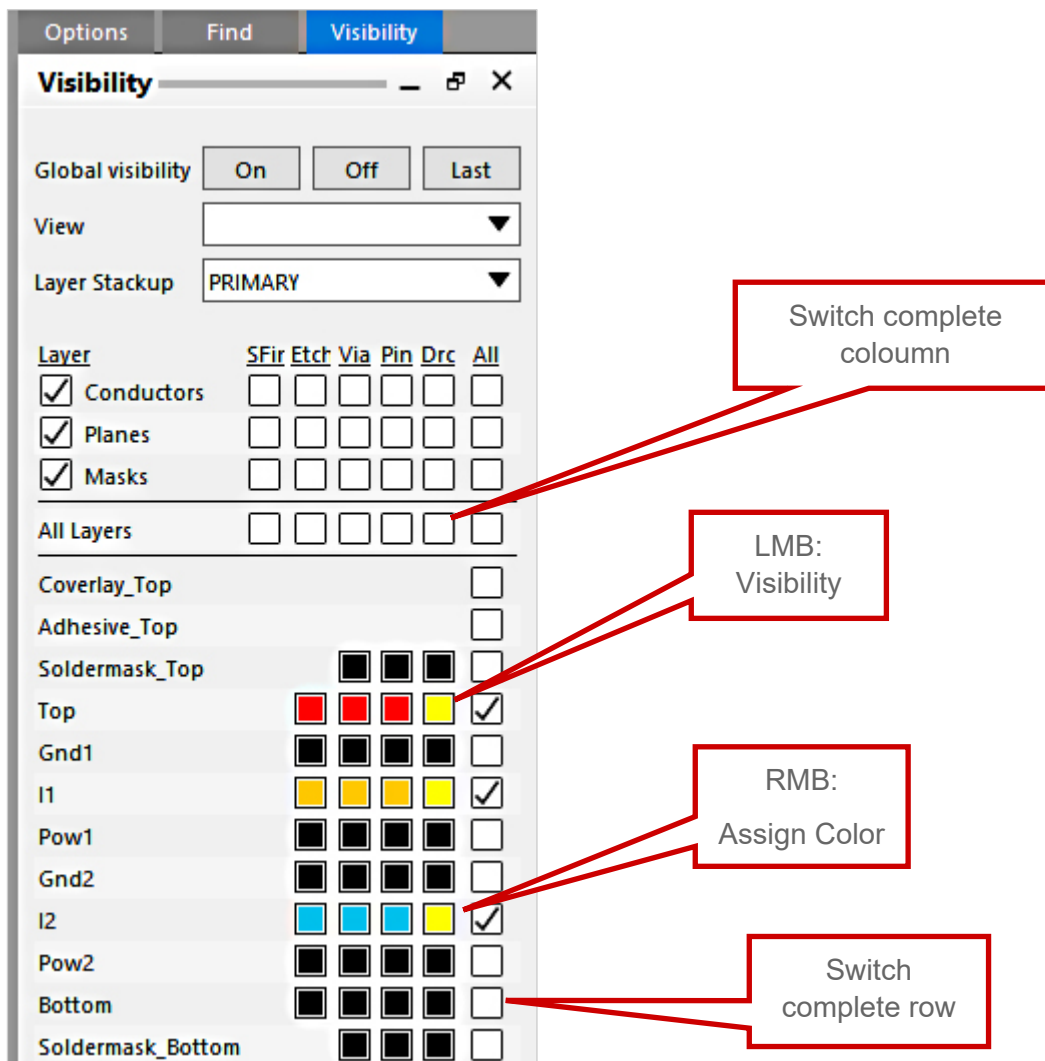
In following example, the Top / Pin layer has associated a pattern:



1.1 Visibility Pane

The Visibility Pane allows you to easily activate or deactivate a layer in the canvas during working. When selecting one of the little rectangles, the visibility can be modified. The black square means the layer is invisible, the colored rectangle means that this layer is visible. The color matches the settings which were made in the color window.

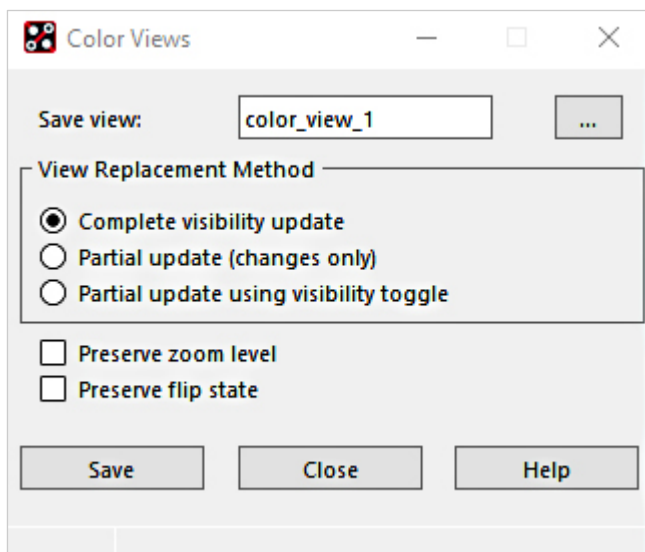
Visibility Pane as well as Color Dialog are organized in a matrix fashion. Switching on / off of complete rows and columns is possible.



2 Color Views

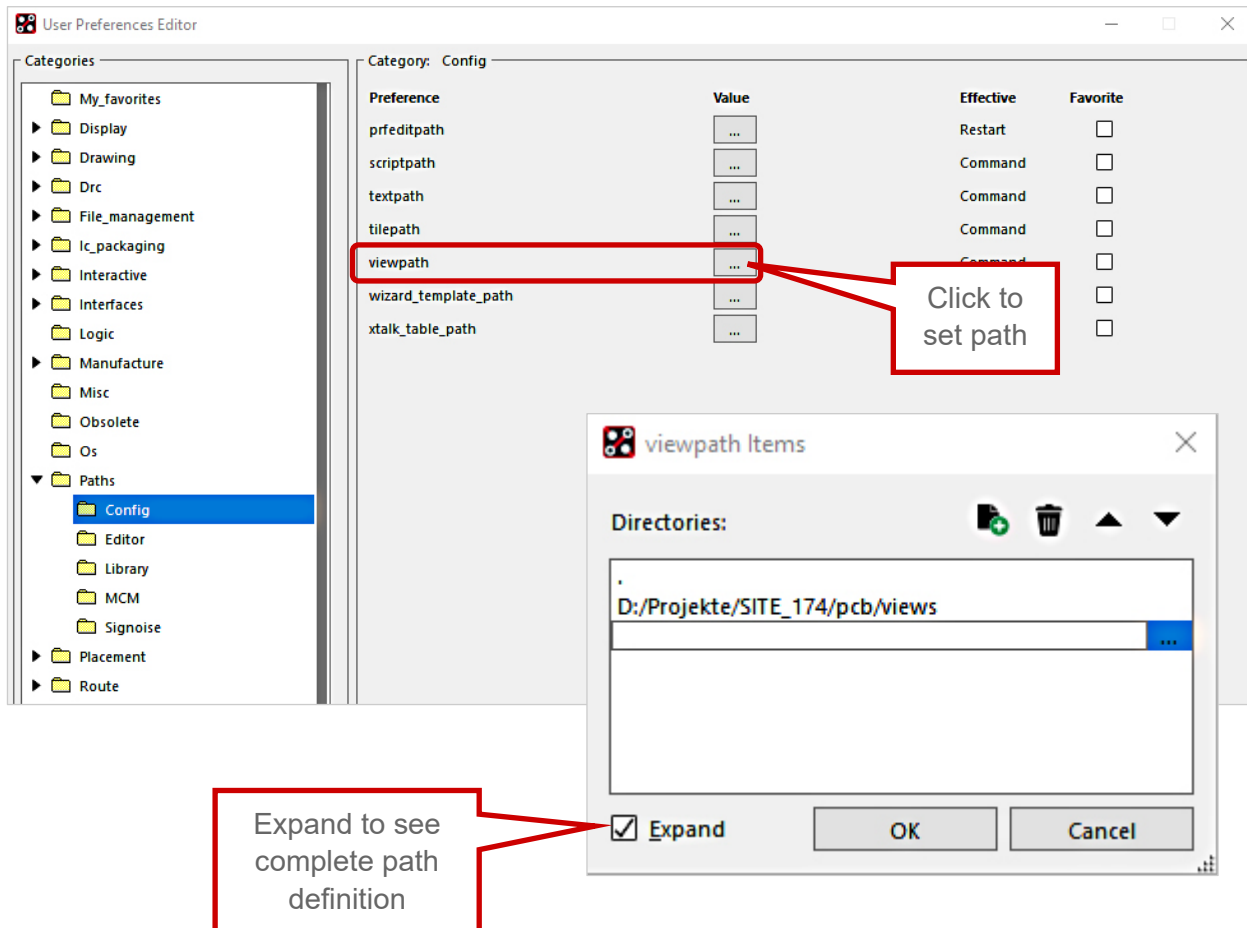
Color views give the opportunity to change the display in the canvas easily. First of all, the color views have to be created with the command **View > Color View Save**.

A new window appears. In the **save view** field, a name has to be specified for the view. Different options can be set which are explained below. With the save command, a color view file (example: color_viw_1) is created in the current working directory.

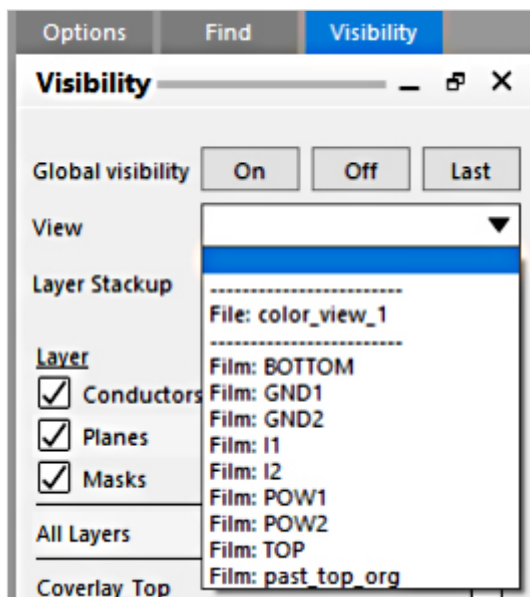


Complete	Saves the current layer visibility settings to a color view file. When you load the file later, it completely replaces the design's visibility settings, analogous to how the film option to color views works.
Partial	Allows a color view file to be created that stores only changes to visibility settings. A partial color view does not replace all of a design's visibility settings when loaded. It only replaces the items you changed when you created the color view file. For example, if you changed the color for all DRCs to visible, when you loaded that color view file into a design, only the DRCs would be affected, all changing to visible. All other visibility settings would remain unchanged.
Partial with toggle	Functions the same as the partial view replacement method because the color view file only stores changes. However, settings that you change toggle when you load the color view file. Toggle means that if the visibility for a layer is on in a design, when you load the color view file, it is turned off. If off, it is turned on.
Preserve Zoom Level	Includes the zoom points of the current design with the color view.
Preserve flip state	Includes the flip state of the current design with the color view.

Create the desired views. Afterwards you can store all the *.color file on a network drive (ex.: in the SITE environment <SITE>/settings/views). In the next step you can define the path in the PCB Editor, where the color-views are saved. Under **setup > User preferences > Paths > Config > Viewpath** add the path to the list.



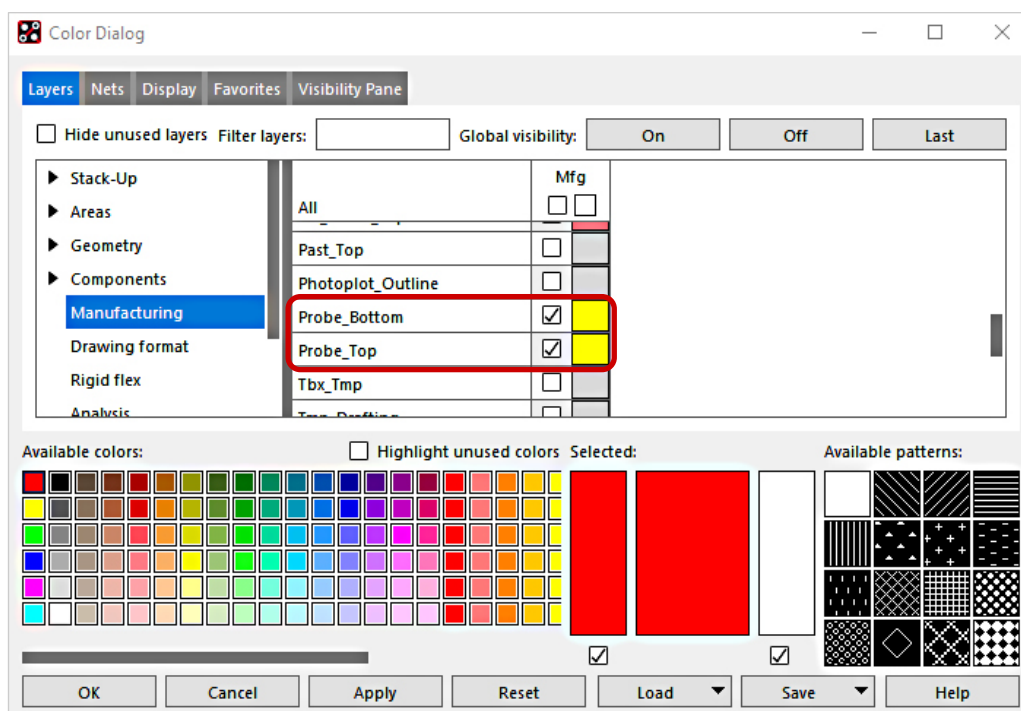
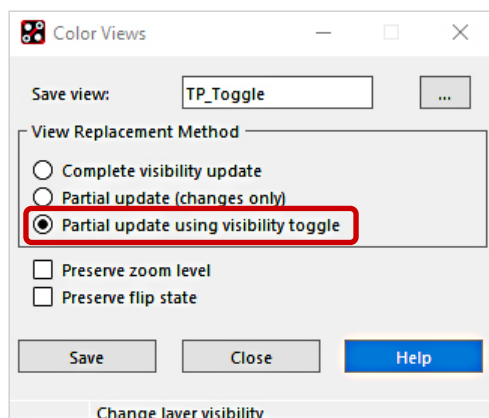
Color view can be selected in Visibility Pane:



2.1 Color View: Partial with Toggle

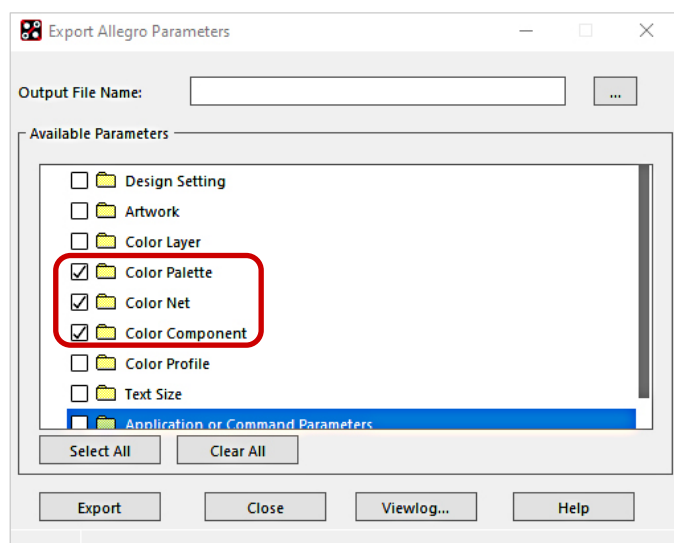
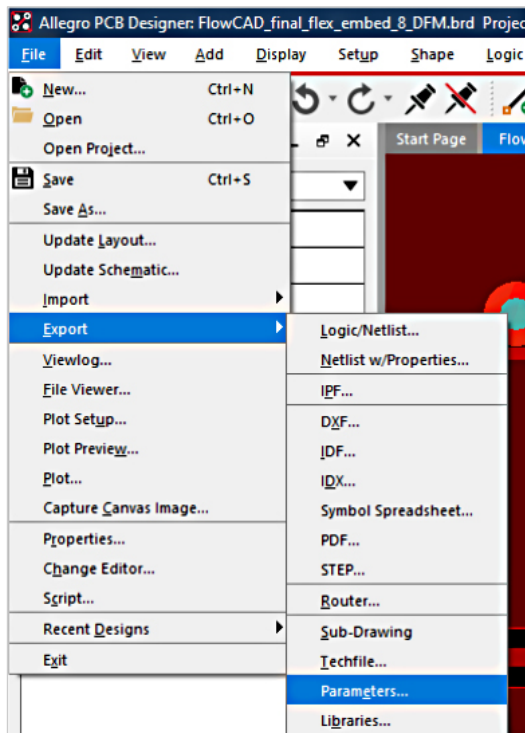
This chapter describes the **Partial with toggle** view more detailed. Imagine you've defined test points on your board. Then you desire that the TP layer can be toggled with a color view function. Here's the description how to create such a view:

- Open the **view > Color view** window
- In the **Save view** field open the directory where you stored all the other *.color files
- Enter a name in the filename label, for example: TP_Toggle
- Chose the Option **Partial with toggle** option
- Open the **color / visibility dialog**
- Enable the Probe_Bottom and Probe_Top class in the **Manufacturing** folder.
- Close the color / visibility dialog
- Select **Save** in the Color Views window and close the window afterwards
- In the visibility window you can now select the TP_Toggle view, which makes the TP visible or invisible on the active canvas



3 Export / Import Color Settings

It is also possible to export or import the color settings. So, you can easily reuse your predefined color settings. In the **Export > Parameters** dialog you can chose, which settings you want to export.



Color Layer	Priority in which layers are drawn
Color Palette	Color parameters and color table
Color Net	Net custom color and states. When a file containing net color, data is imported into any design, only the nets that exist in that design are read; the rest are ignored. Net color assignments are not overwritten, but rather incremented. To completely replace net color assignments, click Clear All Nets in the Nets section of the Color dialog box before importing a file containing net color data.