7 Best Mobile Color Picker Apps for UI Designers (2026)

We tested every popular color picker app to find the best ones for UI/UX designers. From camera picking to palette export, here are the 7 tools worth your time.

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Why UI Designers Need a Color Picker on Their Phone

Figma has an eyedropper. So does Sketch, Adobe XD, and every design tool on the planet. So why would you need a separate color picker app on your phone?

Because your phone goes where your laptop does not. You see a perfect gradient on a building facade during your commute. A client shows you a fabric sample at lunch. You spot a competitor's retail display with a palette you want to study. Your design tool's eyedropper works on pixels — but the real world is not made of pixels.

A good mobile color picker bridges the gap between physical inspiration and digital design. It captures exact HEX, RGB, and HSL values from your camera, lets you build palettes on the go, and gives you values you can paste directly into your design tool.

We tested the most popular options to find which ones actually fit a UI designer's workflow — not just which ones look good in the App Store.

What We Tested For

We evaluated each app on criteria that matter specifically for UI/UX design work:

- **Color format support** — HEX is baseline. RGB and HSL are essential. CMYK is a bonus for cross-discipline work.
- **Camera accuracy** — real-time picking with a usable viewfinder, not a laggy mess.
- **Photo extraction** — can you pull colors from screenshots, mood boards, and reference images?
- **Palette management** — creating, naming, organizing, and exporting palettes.
- **Export/workflow** — how easily do colors get from the app into Figma, CSS, or a design system?
- **Speed** — a color picker should take seconds, not minutes. If it is slower than screenshotting and using Figma's eyedropper, it is not worth installing.
- **Price and ads** — designers have enough subscriptions. Ads break flow.

1. Color Picker Camera: HEX RGB — Best Overall

Price: Free | **Ads:** None | **Platforms:** iOS, Android | **Size:** 24.9 MB

This is the app that checks every box without asking for anything in return. No account, no subscription, no ads, no data collection.

What makes it the best for UI designers:

- **Real-time camera picker** with a precise crosshair — point at any surface and see HEX/RGB/HSL/CMYK update live.
- **Photo extraction** — open any image from your library and tap to pick colors. Perfect for extracting palettes from screenshots, competitor apps, or mood board images.
- **One-tap copy** — tap any color value (HEX, RGB, HSL, CMYK) and it copies to your clipboard. Paste directly into Figma, CSS, Tailwind config, or SwiftUI.
- **Custom palettes** — save colors to named palettes. Export as text or JSON — useful for importing into design tokens or sharing with developers.
- **Color harmonies** — generate complementary, triadic, and analogous colors from any picked color. Instant palette expansion.
- **RAL matching** — useful when a UI project extends to physical products or signage.
- **24.9 MB** — lighter than a Slack notification sound pack.

The UI designer workflow: See a color → open app → point camera → tap → copied to clipboard → paste into Figma. Total time: 8 seconds.

Available on iPhone and Android.

2. Coolors — Best for Palette Generation

Price: Free / $3.99/mo Pro | **Ads:** Banner ads (free) | **Platforms:** iOS, Android, Web

Coolors is the go-to palette generator for many designers. Shake your phone (or tap the spacebar on web) to generate random harmonious palettes. Lock colors you like, keep generating the rest.

Strengths:

- Excellent random palette generation algorithm
- Camera color extraction
- Huge community palette library for browsing inspiration
- Figma and Adobe plugins available
- Color blindness simulator

Weaknesses for UI designers:

- Banner ads in the free version disrupt the visual experience — ironic for a color tool
- Pro subscription ($3.99/mo) to remove ads and unlock full features
- Camera picker is secondary — the app is really about generation, not capture
- No RAL matching

Best for: Designers who need palette inspiration and generation more than real-world color capture.

3. Adobe Capture — Best for Adobe Ecosystem

Price: Free (requires Creative Cloud account) | **Ads:** None | **Platforms:** iOS, Android

Adobe Capture does three things: color palettes from camera/photos, font identification, and vector shape creation. The color feature extracts up to 5 colors from any image and saves them directly to your Creative Cloud Libraries.

Strengths:

- Direct sync to Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign via CC Libraries
- Pattern, shape, and font capture beyond just colors
- Good image-to-palette extraction

Weaknesses for UI designers:

- Requires Creative Cloud account (free, but still an account)
- No standalone HEX copy — designed for Adobe ecosystem, awkward outside it
- Limited to 5 colors per extraction
- No color harmonies
- Heavier app (~150 MB)

Best for: Designers already deep in the Adobe ecosystem who want seamless CC Libraries integration.

4. ColorSlurp — Best Desktop-Mobile Combo (Apple)

Price: Free / $7.99 Pro one-time | **Ads:** None | **Platforms:** iOS, macOS only

ColorSlurp is a favorite among Mac-centric designers. The macOS app is a system-wide color picker that works across any application. The iOS companion syncs palettes via iCloud.

Strengths:

- System-wide color picking on macOS (works in any app, any pixel)
- Extremely precise with magnifier loupe
- iCloud sync between Mac and iPhone
- Supports 30+ color formats (HEX, RGB, HSL, Swift UIColor, CSS, Kotlin, and more)
- One-time purchase, no subscription

Weaknesses for UI designers:

- Apple-only — no Android, no Windows
- Camera picking on iOS is basic compared to dedicated camera picker apps
- Free version is limited (3 saved colors)
- Primarily a desktop tool — mobile is secondary

Best for: Mac-first designers who want a desktop system picker with iOS sync.

5. Pastel — Best for Palette Organization

Price: Free / $4.99 Pro | **Ads:** None | **Platforms:** iOS, macOS

Pastel is less about picking and more about organizing. If you have hundreds of colors across dozens of projects and need a way to manage them, Pastel is the Notion of color management.

Strengths:

- Beautiful UI for organizing color collections
- Group colors by project, client, or theme
- Share palettes as beautiful visual previews
- macOS menu bar widget for quick access

Weaknesses for UI designers:

- No camera color picker
- Apple-only
- More of a library tool than a capture tool
- Free version is very limited

Best for: Designers managing large color libraries across multiple projects.

6. Picular — Best for Quick Web Inspiration

Price: Free | **Ads:** None | **Platforms:** Web only

Picular is not a mobile app — it is a web tool that works like "Google, but for colors." Type a word ("sunset", "ocean", "coffee") and it returns a palette of colors associated with that concept, sourced from Google Images.

Strengths:

- Uniquely creative approach to color discovery
- Completely free, no account
- Great for brainstorming when you know the mood but not the color

Weaknesses for UI designers:

- Web-only, no mobile app
- No camera or photo picker
- No palette saving or export
- Results can be unpredictable

Best for: Early-stage creative exploration when you need color inspiration from a concept.

7. Pantone Connect — Best for Print Crossover

Price: $59.99/year | **Ads:** None | **Platforms:** iOS, Android, Web, Adobe plugin

We covered Pantone Connect in depth in our Pantone vs HEX/RGB comparison. It is the only way to access official Pantone colors digitally — essential when your UI design extends to physical brand deliverables.

Strengths:

- 15,000+ official Pantone colors
- Direct Adobe integration
- Camera matching via Color Match Card
- Industry standard for print specification

Weaknesses for UI designers:

- $60/year for something you may rarely need
- Camera matching requires a separate $15 accessory
- Overkill for purely digital design
- Limited color harmonies

Best for: Designers doing brand work that includes both digital and print deliverables.

The Comparison Table

App	Camera Pick	Photo Pick	Formats	Palettes	Harmonies	Export	Price	Platforms
Color Picker Camera	Real-time	Yes	HEX/RGB/HSL/CMYK	Yes + JSON	Yes	Copy + JSON	Free	iOS, Android
Coolors	Yes	Yes	HEX/RGB/HSL	Yes	Generator	Multiple	Free/$3.99 mo	iOS, Android, Web

App	Camera Pick	Photo Pick	Formats	Palettes	Harmonies	Export	Price	Platforms
Adobe Capture	Yes	Yes	HEX/RGB/HSB	CC Libraries	Limited	Adobe sync	Free (CC acct)	iOS, Android
ColorSlurp	Basic	No	30+ formats	Yes + iCloud	Yes	Copy	Free/$7.99	iOS, macOS
Pastel	No	No	HEX/RGB/HSL	Yes (advanced)	No	Share link	Free/$4.99	iOS, macOS
Picular	No	No	HEX	No	No	Copy	Free	Web
Pantone Connect	Card only	Yes (5 max)	Pantone/HEX/RGB	Yes	Limited	Adobe sync	$59.99/yr	iOS, Android, Web

Our Recommendation

If you had to pick just one color app as a UI designer, **Color Picker Camera: HEX RGB** is the clear winner. It is the only app that combines real-time camera picking, photo extraction, all major color formats, palette management with export, and color harmonies — all for free, with no ads and no account.

Add Coolors if you want random palette generation. Add ColorSlurp if you live in the Apple ecosystem and want a desktop system picker. Add Pantone Connect only when a project specifically requires Pantone numbers.

But for the daily workflow of capturing real-world colors and getting them into your design tool, nothing beats pointing your camera, tapping once, and pasting the HEX into Figma.

Download for iPhone | Download for Android

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