



Lesson 2: Basic Color Theory Manual © Syndee Rogers

In this lesson we are going to touch on basic color theory with the help of the color wheel.

The Primary colors, Red, Yellow, and Blue are the base colors of any color wheel. These three colors are pure colors and which means they cannot be mixed or created by combining colors. All other colors are created by mixing these three primary colors.

Helpful basic color terminology:

- The color wheel is a circle usually divided into 12 sections, and shows the relationship between colors.
- The 12 main colors on the color wheel are known as Hues
- Color mixed with white to lighten the color are Tints
- Color mixed with grey, are usually used to dull or desaturate the color are called Tones.
- Color mixed with black to darken the color are Shades.

Using the color wheel helps us choose harmonious color combinations. Colors that are pleasing to the eye.

These combinations are called color schemes or are also known as color palettes or swatches.

Color Schemes

Monochromatic: is a color scheme or palette that is made up of tints, tones, and shades of one color.

Analogous: an Analogous color scheme is three (or more) colors side by side on the color wheel. Such as yellow, yellow-orange, and orange.

Complementary: a complementary color scheme consists of two high-contrast colors that are directly opposite each other on the color wheel. This is one of the easiest color schemes to use and build upon.

Even though there are several more color schemes, we'll just touch on the next three to give you an idea of how many color options there are.

Split Complementary: this is a variation of Complementary and is made from 2 colors adjacent to it's complement. It forms a long triangle on the color wheel.

Triadic: color scheme which are three colors that are evenly spaced apart on the color wheel. This forms a triangle on the color wheel.

Tetradic: this color scheme is made up of 4 colors in two complementary pairs. This forms a rectangle on the color wheel.

Using the color wheel can help you have more confidence and give you a direction when you first set out to create a set of papers.

What happens when we don't have a harmonious color palette?

Color schemes that are not harmonious, can fail to engage or at the opposite end of the spectrum, overstimulate and make something hard to look at.

Refer to video for examples of color palettes that are not harmonious.

Using warm and cool colors together can be tricky, but can be used if done correctly. This article even though geared towards home decor, gives us some very helpful tips on balancing cool and warm colors. <http://providenthomedesign.com/2014/08/04/design-101-balancing-cool-warm-colors/>



