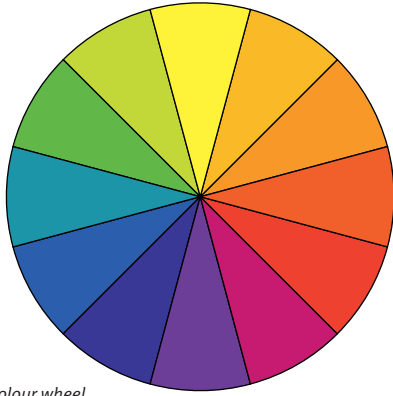


Colour theory

Describing colour



The 12 hues of the colour wheel

Hue

A wedge of colour on the colour wheel. Can be called Hue Family or Colour Family. Can be any variation within that family.

Saturation

Intensity/vibrancy of a colour.

Value

Lightness or darkness of a colour.

Colour harmonies

Primary colours

Red, yellow and blue are the three primary colours from which all other colours are made.

Secondary colours

When two primary colours are mixed together they form a secondary colour:

Yellow + blue	= green
Blue + red	= violet
Red + yellow	= orange

Tertiary colours

When one primary colour and its adjacent secondary colour are mixed together they form a tertiary colour:

Yellow + orange	= yellow-orange
Yellow + green	= yellow-green
Blue + green	= blue-green
Blue + violet	= blue-violet
Red + violet	= red-violet
Red + orange	= red-orange

Complementary colours

Lie directly opposite each other on the colour wheel.

Analogous colours

Found close together on the colour wheel, usually within one quarter of the wheel.

Warm/cool colours

One half of the colour wheel has warm colours and the other half cool:

Warm: Yellow-green through orange to red inclusive

Cool: Red-violet through blue to green inclusive

Tints, tones and shades

White + colour	= tint
Grey + colour	= tone
Black + colour	= shade

Neutrals

Black, white, greys and browns.

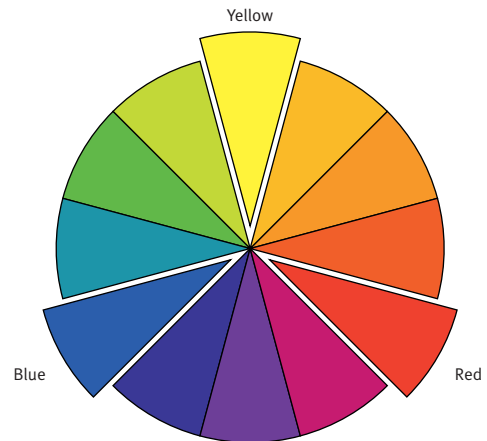
Monochromatic colours

Mono = one, chroma = colour

Monochromatic colours are the various tints, tones and shades of a particular hue.

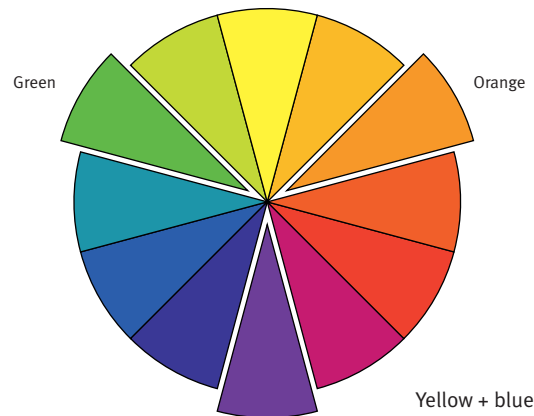
Primary colours

The colour wheel has three primary colours – yellow, red, blue – from which all other colours are mixed.



Secondary colours

When two primary colours are mixed together, they create a secondary colour:



Yellow + blue = green
Blue + red = violet
Red + yellow = orange

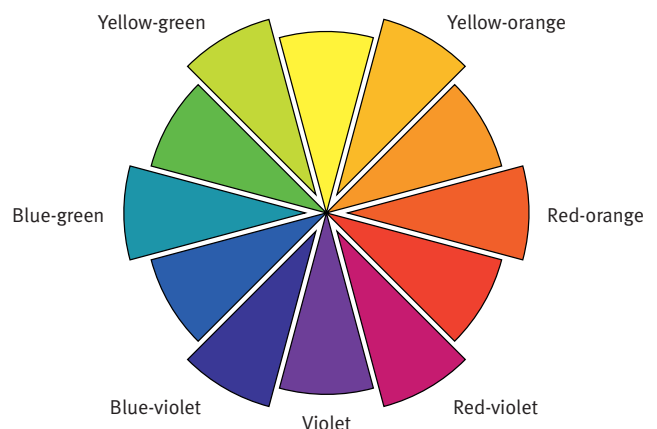
Tertiary colours

When a secondary colour and its adjacent primary are mixed, they create a tertiary colour. You can make exciting and rich blends because you get to use a minimum of six colours, every second colour on the wheel.

Primary + Secondary = Tertiary

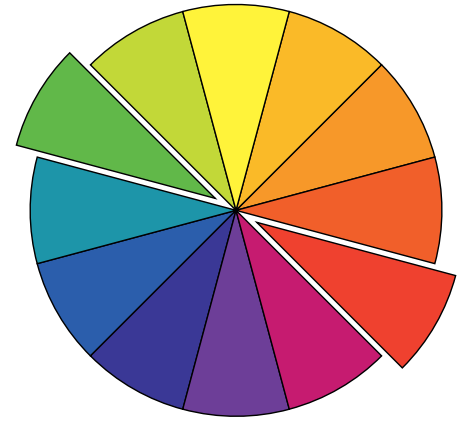
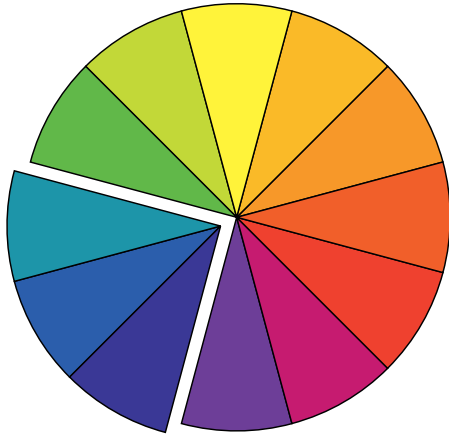
Blue + violet	= blue-violet
Blue + green	= blue-green
Yellow + green	= yellow-green
Yellow + orange	= yellow-orange
Red + orange	= red-orange
Red + violet	= red-violet

In multi-coloured dyeings, cool colours recede and warm colours come forward.



Complementary colours

A complementary blend uses two hues that lie directly opposite. You only have to step out into the garden to be inspired by nature's perfection at using this harmony.



Analogous colours

Analogous colours are those which are close to each other on the colour wheel, usually including three hues.