



Color Story

Lesson 1: Color Study (Adobe Photoshop)

Welcome to class! We'll begin this first lesson by getting to know a bit about color.

© Syndee Rogers

[Terms of Use](#)

Import the Class Brushes

- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker, then open the flyout menu and choose Import Brushes. Navigate to the CLR-Class-Brushes.abr file in the CLR-Class-Files folder. Click Open. If you don't see the names of the class brushes, click on the flyout menu and choose Brush Name.

Install the Class Patterns

- In the Patterns panel (Window > Patterns), open the flyout menu and choose Import Patterns. Navigate to the CLR-Class-Patterns.pat file in the CLR-Class-Files folder. Click Open. If you don't see the names of the class patterns, click on the flyout menu and choose Large List.

Import the Class Layer Styles

- In the Styles panel (Window > Styles), open the flyout menu and choose Import Styles. Navigate to the CLR-Class-Styles-Bonus.asl file in the CLR-Class-Files folder. Click Open. If you don't see the names of the class swatches, click on the flyout menu and choose Large List.

Import the Class Swatches

- In the Swatches panel (Window > Swatches), open the flyout menu and choose Import Swatches. Navigate to the CLR-Class-Swatches.aco file in the CLR-Class-Files folder. Click Open. If you don't see the names of the class swatches, click on the flyout menu and choose Large List.

Did you know



is a Science?

Did you know that color theory is a science? It's actually called color science and is the scientific study of color including lighting, optics, the measurement of light and color, and more! And color theory combines both the science and art of using color.

We won't be getting into the nitty gritty of color science in this class. We are all about playing with color and exploring all the fun ways we can use it. We will learn about choosing colors and creating our own palettes in the next class.

Over the next three classes, we will explore color theory in creative ways to help make fabulous color choices all while learning new techniques. And in the final class in this series, we'll learn and play and then take what we've learned to create a custom mini kit!



SERIES OF THREE
COLOR
CLASSES!

CLASS 1: COLOR THEORY & PLAY
CLASS 2: COLOR HARMONY, COLOR SCHEMES, & PLAY
CLASS 3: MORE COLOR SCHEMES & PLAY.
PLUS WE'LL CREATE OUR OWN CUSTOM MINI KIT!

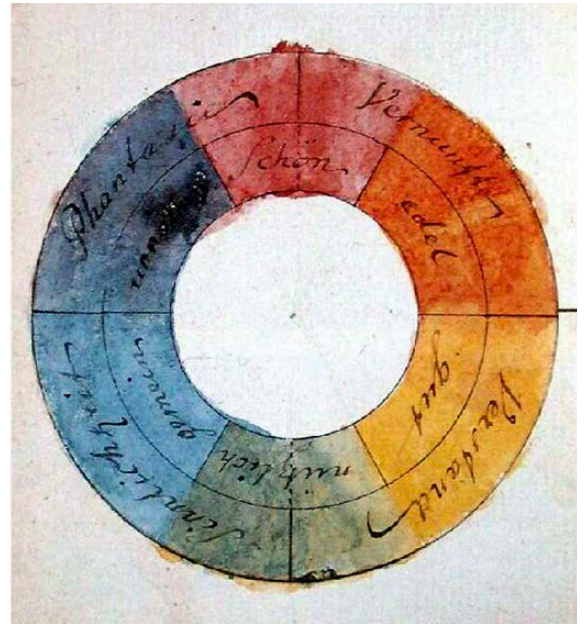
Whether we realize it or not, we are making color choices all the time. And most of the time we are choosing harmonious combinations without even thinking about it. But sometimes our color game can be thrown off. We may have a very discordant or chaotic photo, or perhaps we are trying to match colors in our home to a piece of artwork or a pillow, and nothing seems to work. That's where the art of using color comes in.

But don't fret; you don't have to adhere to rigid color rules. There are no color police looking over your shoulder when you are shopping for pillows. These classes are about having fun with color while keeping our colors harmonious and learning fun techniques along the way!

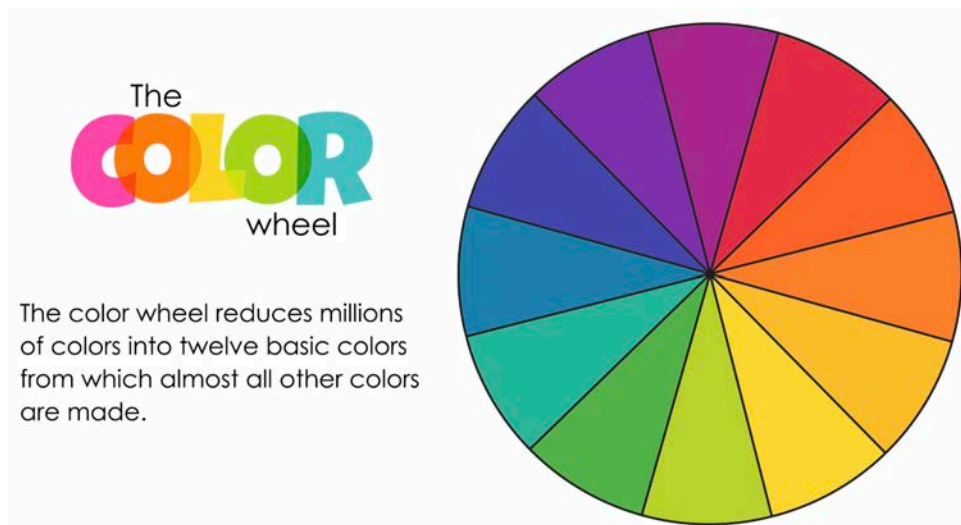


To create pleasing color combinations for our pages, cards, and craft projects, it's helpful to understand color relationships. This is also known as color harmony.

An excellent reference tool to see the relationships between colors is the basic color wheel. The color wheel was developed in the early 19th century by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

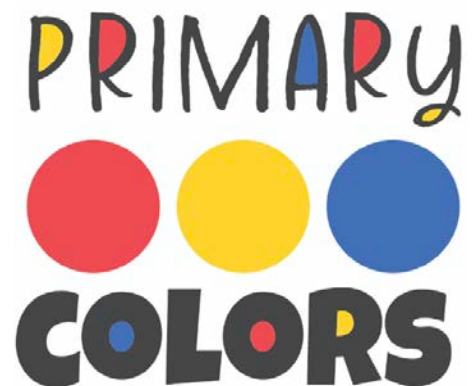


The color wheel can help us by reducing millions of colors into twelve basic colors from which almost all other colors are made.



And believe it or not, it all starts with just three colors! Can you guess what those are?

If you guessed primary colors, you are correct. You probably learned about these in elementary school.



You will see the word **Hue** used a lot in color theory. It is used interchangeably with the word color, and refers to the family to which the color belongs. For example, the red color family includes rose, cherry, burgundy, magenta, scarlet, and more. So it's basically just a fancy name for color.

Hue = FANCY NAME FOR COLOR

Refers to the color family the color belongs to.

The red color family includes:

rose
cherry
burgundy
magenta
scarlet
& many more!



The Color wheel is organized into 3 main groups of color.



Primary Colors

Primary colors are considered the building blocks for creating the colors on the color wheel and a wide range of other hues/colors.

The traditional and most widely known primary colors are red, blue, and yellow. But did you know that there are actually 3 sets of primary colors? Stay tuned to find out why and for fun projects focused on the primary colors in the Primary Colors lessons.



Secondary Colors

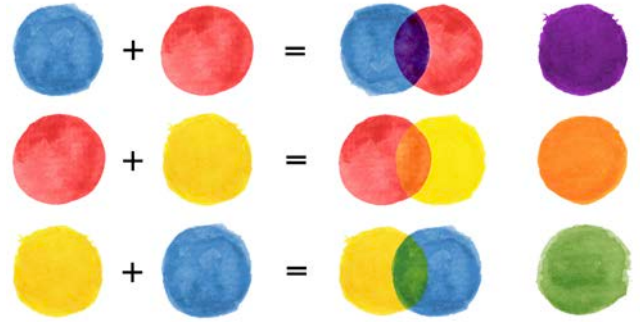
Secondary colors are created by mixing two primary colors in equal proportions.

There are three secondary colors:

Purple which is created by mixing red and blue.

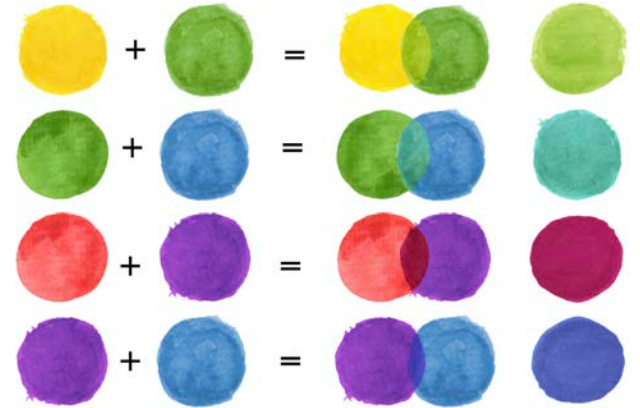
Orange, created by mixing red and yellow.

Green is achieved by mixing blue and yellow.



Tertiary Colors

Tertiary colors are created by mixing a primary color with a secondary color, which creates colors such as blue-green and yellow-orange.



Neutral Colors

As you may have noticed, neutral colors such as brown, black, and gray do not appear on the color wheel. And believe it or not, browns, grays, and even blacks are created by mixing all three primary colors together in varying proportions. Neutral colors are frequently found in nature and can help keep your projects balanced and add definition and depth. I like to think of these as the freebie colors, because they can work well with pretty much any color combination.



Properties of Color

There are three main properties to each color.

Saturation or Intensity: Refers to the vibrancy or dullness of the color. It's best to only use one highly saturated color in any project and then also include a dull or neutral color to create a balance.

NOTE: If you mainly create digital projects, highly saturated colors should be used sparingly.



Value: Value refers to how light or dark the color is. The red on the left would be considered a low or dark-value color, while the pink on the right would be a high or light-value color. Within each hue on the color wheel, you can create a range of values from light to dark. We'll play with this in the Color Value lesson.



Temperature: Colors have either warm or cool undertones, also referred to as color bias. Within each color family, there are warm and cool versions, depending on the color bias (undertone).



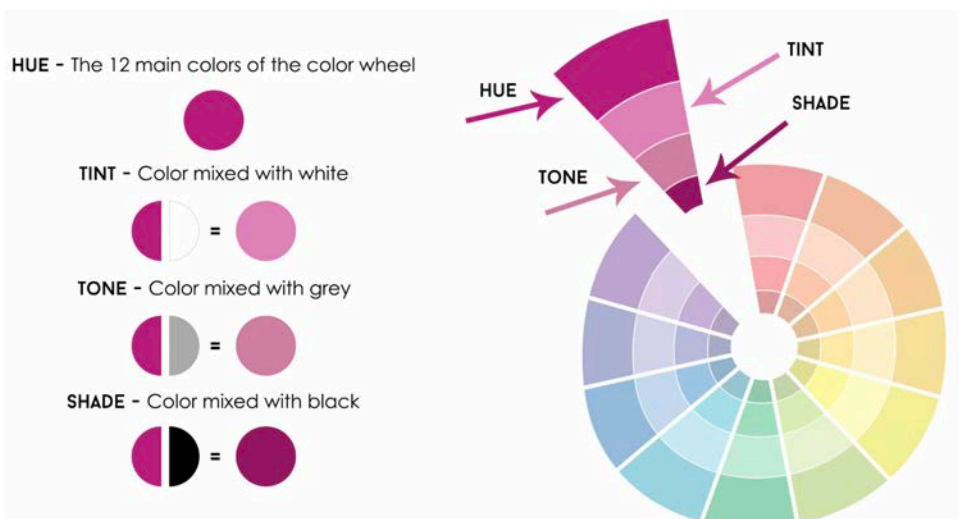
COLOR SCHEMES

Color Schemes

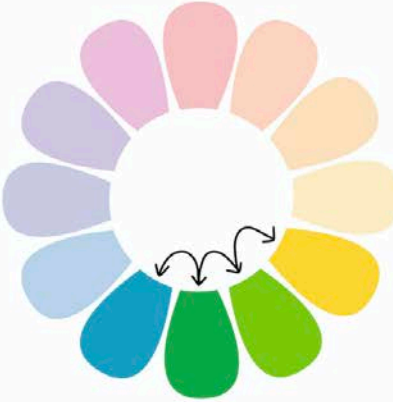

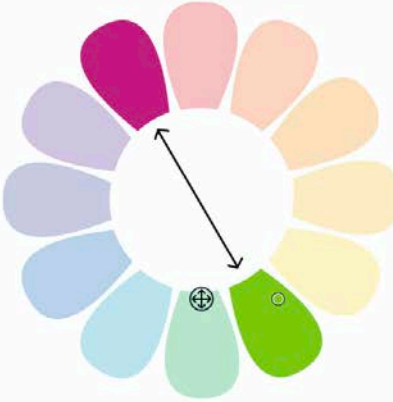

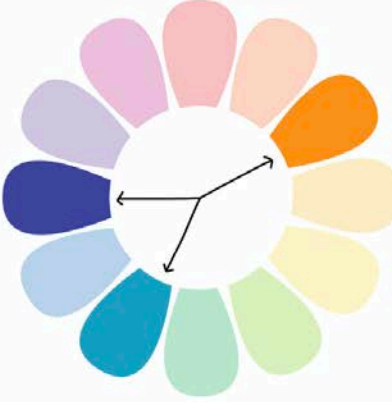

Using the color wheel, we can make any color scheme or combination. Some will look better than others. Lucky for us we don't have to spend hours testing out every combination of colors to find one that works. We can use tried and true color harmonies (schemes) to find combinations that work.

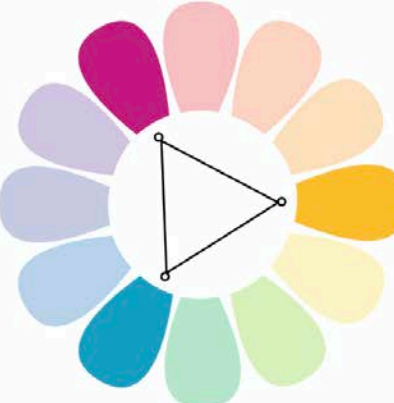

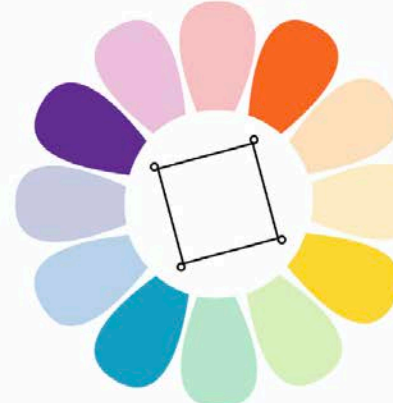

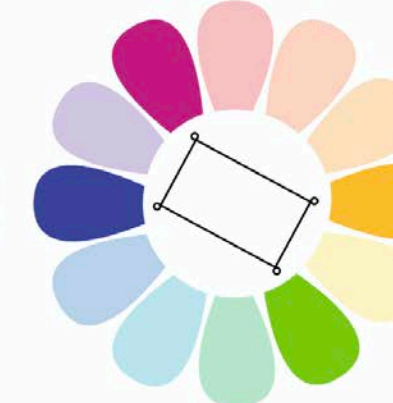

Monochromatic

The monochromatic color scheme focuses on one single color and includes variations of that hue using tints, tones, and shades.



There are several other color schemes that we'll be covering in the next two color classes. Keep your eye on the newsletter for these future classes!

<p style="text-align: center;">Analogous</p>  <p>Three to five colors next to each other on the color wheel.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Complementary</p>  <p>Two colors directly across from each other on the color wheel.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Split-Complementary</p>  <p>A color and the two colors on either side of the color's complementary color.</p> 
---	---	---

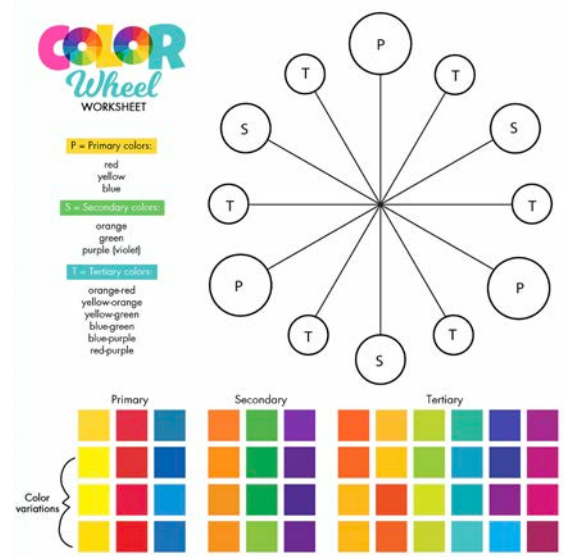
<p style="text-align: center;">Triadic</p>  <p>Three colors of equal distance from each other on the color wheel that form a triangle.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Tetradic (Square)</p>  <p>Four colors which include two sets of complementary colors. Forms a square on the color wheel.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Tetradic (Rectangle)</p>  <p>Four colors which include two sets of complementary colors. Forms a rectangle on the color wheel.</p> 
---	--	--

** Also known as double-complementary

Create your own color wheel using the Color Wheel Worksheet in the class files folder. I've included several different brushes in the class brush set that mimic art media such as watercolor, marker, and acrylic paint. You can use any of those brushes to color in your color wheel.

- Begin in Adobe Photoshop.
- Open the CLR-Color-Wheel-Worksheet.psd (File > Open) from the CLR-Class-Files folder.
- Make a duplicate copy (Image > Duplicate).
- Close the original (File > Close).

You will find that this document has two groups:
 1- Color Wheel group: Includes the Primary, secondary, and tertiary placeholder layer. You can hide this layer once you have added your colors. The circles and lines each have their own layers so they can be turned on and off.
 2- Color Swatches group: At the top of this group are the color swatches that I used for this exercise. The other three sets of swatches are variations that you can use instead.



- In the Layers panel, activate the Background layer.
- Click on the Create a New Layer icon to create a new layer.
- Get the Brush tool.
- In the Tool Options, open the Brush Picker and choose a brush from the class brushes. Leave the settings as is.

NOTE: I've included several different brushes that mimic art media such as watercolor, marker, and acrylic paint. You can use any of the brushes you would like. I used the Rough - SR brush to give my colors a bit of texture. The class brushes have built-in settings so you don't need to adjust them.

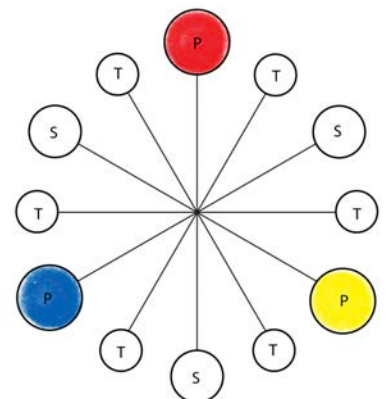
Add the Primary Colors

The primary color circles are marked with a letter P.



- Hold down the Alt key (Mac: Opt) key to temporarily switch to the Eyedropper tool.
- Click on the red swatch under Primary. Once you let go of the Alt/Opt key, your Brush tool will still be active.

- On the document, click and drag with the brush to fill in the big circle on the top-middle of the color wheel marked with the letter P.
- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper tool, and click on the yellow swatch under Primary on the document.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the big circle marked with the letter P on the bottom-right side of the color wheel.
- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper tool, and click on the blue swatch under Primary.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the big circle marked with a letter P on the bottom-left side of the color wheel.



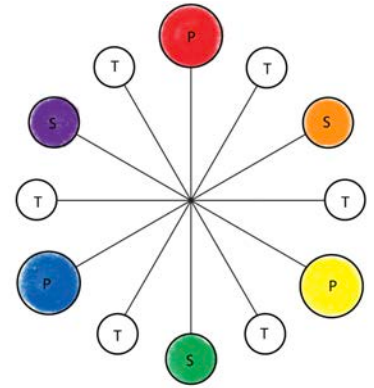
Add the Secondary Colors

The secondary colors are the medium-sized circles marked with the letter S.

Secondary



- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper tool, and click on the orange swatch under Secondary.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the circle marked with a letter S on the top-right side of the color wheel.
- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper tool, and click on the green swatch under Secondary.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the circle marked with a letter S on the bottom-middle of the color wheel.
- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper tool, and click on the purple swatch under Secondary.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the circle marked with a letter S on the top-left of the color wheel.



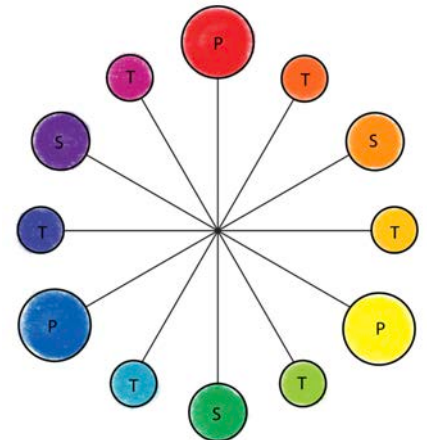
Add the Tertiary Colors

The Tertiary colors are the small circles marked with the letter T.

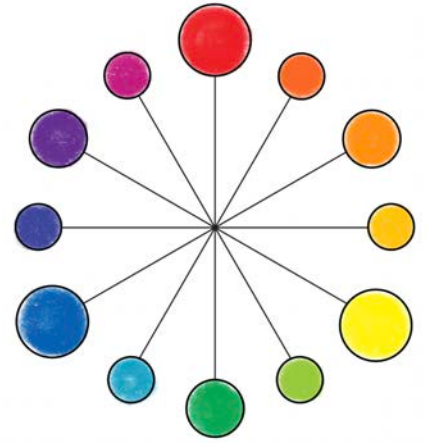
Tertiary



- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper tool, and click on the dark orange swatch under Tertiary.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the circle marked with a letter T on the top-right of the color wheel.
- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper tool, and click on the yellow-orange swatch under Tertiary.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the circle marked with a letter T on the middle-right side of the color wheel.
- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper and click on the yellow-green swatch under Tertiary.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the circle marked with a letter T on the bottom-right side of the color wheel.
- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper tool, and click on the blue-green swatch under Tertiary.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the circle marked with a letter T on the bottom-left side of the color wheel.
- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper tool, and click on the dark blue swatch under Tertiary.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the circle marked with a letter T on the middle-left side of the color wheel.
- Hold down the Alt/Opt key to switch to the Eyedropper tool, and click on the purple-red swatch under Tertiary.
- Click and drag with the brush to fill in the circle marked with a letter T on the top-left side of the color wheel.



- In the Layers panel, click on the arrow on the left side of the Color Wheel group to open the group.
- Click on the Visibility icon of the placeholder layer to hide it.



This color wheel is fun to use on a page or card. You can turn off the circles or lines layers, or both, for other variations. Here's a super quick card I made using the color wheel!



Save the Document

- Save your document (File > Save As) as a layered PSD file.
- Give the file a name.
- Save the document in the class folder for this lesson. Click Save.