

## Color Vocabulary

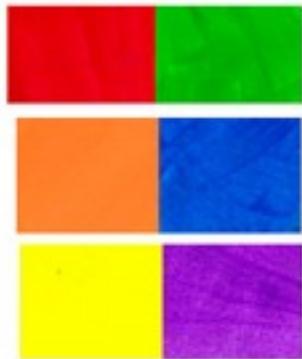
### The Color Wheel

The color wheel is a device for illustrating relationships among colors. Though there are infinite variations of hue, we commonly refer to twelve of them around the color wheel: red, red-orange, orange, yellow-orange, yellow, yellow-green, green, blue-green, blue, blue-violet, violet (purple), red-violet, and back to red.

**Primary colors** – red, yellow, and blue – are the building blocks of other hues. They are equidistant on the color wheel.

**Secondary colors** are those made by mixing two primaries. Orange (red+yellow), Green (yellow+blue) and purple or violet (blue+red) are secondary colors.

**Tertiary colors** are those in between the secondaries and primaries: red-orange, yellow-orange, yellow-green, blue-green, blue-violet, and red-violet.



Complimentary Colors

**Complimentary colors** are pairs that are opposite on the color wheel and have the highest contrast in terms of hue: red/green, purple/yellow, orange/blue, red-orange/blue-green, and so forth, are all pairs of complimentary colors.



Analogous Colors

**Analogous colors** are those next to each other. Red, orange, yellow, for example; violet, blue-violet, and blue; green, blue-green, and blue, for example.

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**Hue** refers to what color a color is. Blue, green, red, pinkish-orange, yellow-green, etc. These are examples of hue.

**Value** refers to the lightness or darkness of a color.

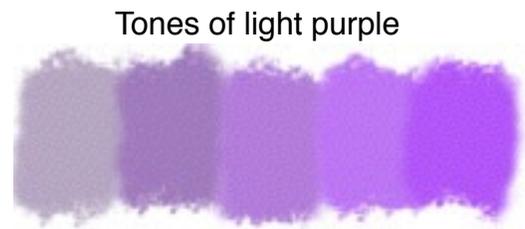
**Saturation** or **Intensity** refers to the brightness or dullness of a color.

**Tints** are made by adding white to a color, so they are of lighter value than the color at full strength.

**Shades** are made by adding black to a color, so they are of darker value.

**Tones** are made by adding grey to a color.

**Tints, shades, and tones** are of lesser **saturation** than a color at full strength.



### Recommended Palette of Artists' Paints

#### Red

- Cadmium Red Medium, Naphthol Red Light, or Pyrrole Red
- Quinacridone red or magenta, or some other Magenta

#### Orange

- Cadmium Orange or Pyrrole Orange
- Quinacridone Gold is sort of in the orange range. I can't make art without it, but maybe you can. Golden is the company that makes the best version of this, and now they call it "Quinacradone Nickel Azo Gold".

#### Yellow

- Cadmium Yellow Medium, or Hansa Yellow Light or Medium - good primary yellow.
- Indian Yellow Hue is a gorgeous transparent yellow-gold.
- Naples Yellow is opaque and muted.

#### Green

- Hooker Green, Sap Green, or Jenkins Green
- Pthalo Green, which is an intense bluish green
- Green Gold, a unique olive/yellow green, very transparent

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### Blue-Green

- Phthalo Turquoise (transparent), or Cobalt Teal (opaque), or any turquoise that appeals

### Blue

- Ultramarine (cool blue)
- Phthalo Blue, either shade (warm blue)

### Purple

- Permanent Violet Dark, though you can usually get a successful purple by mixing your magenta with either of your blues.

### Black

- Carbon Black, or use Blick Matte Acrylics black

### White

- Titanium White, or use Blick Matte Acrylics white

### Budget Palette – the bare minimum

Primary red (like Cadmium, etc.)

Magenta (much better for mixing)

Orange

Yellow

Green (light or permanent)

Turquoise

Warm Blue (pthalo)

Black

White

**Get as many basic colors as you can afford in a professional quality paint.** My favorite printmakers are Golden, Sennelier, and Holbein, but there are a lot of good brands available, and you should find what suits you in terms of consistency and availability. **Supplement your professional quality paints with student grade paints.** I use Blick Matte Acrylics for white and some neutrals. I recommend Nova Paints (available only at [novacolorpaint.com](http://novacolorpaint.com)) and Liquitex Basics for less pigment-rich paints of decent quality.