

The Double Primary System

Why it is best to use a palette with **two reds**, **two blues** and **two yellows**.

Dan China



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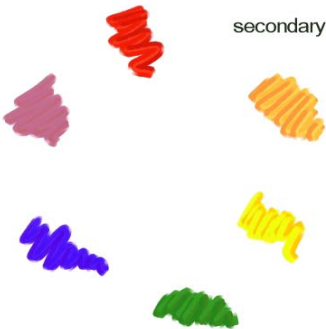
primary colours



Everyone knows the three primary colours

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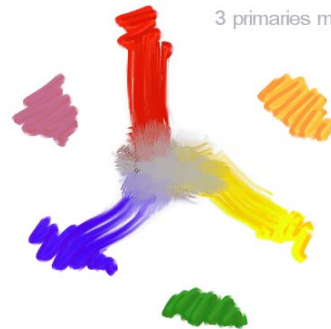
secondary colours



It is helpful to use the colour circle as the basis for looking at colour

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3 primaries make grey



If you mix the three primaries you get grey

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grey = red + green

green = yellow + blue

Therefore mixing complementary colours is the same as mixing three primaries.

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Complementary colours are opposites in the colour circle

Mixing yellow + (blue and red) = grey

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Tertiary colours

These greys and browns mixed with complementary colours are tertiary colours (they contain the 3 primary colours)

Mixing blue + (red and yellow) = grey (good for skies)

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complementary colours

Looking at colour

- red = green = grey
- yellow = magenta = grey
- blue = orange = grey

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School paints

Brilliant Red

Brilliant Yellow

Brilliant Blue

These standard school colours are part of a continuum. For instance, red moves from a reddish purple through to a deep reddish orange

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school paint ?

Brilliant Red

Brilliant Yellow

Brilliant Blue

Some yellow in the red makes the purple slightly dull

Some red in the yellow makes the green slightly dull

Brilliant red is close to orange and contains some yellow
Brilliant yellow is close to orange and contains some red
Brilliant blue is close to purple and contains some red

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Crimson

Brilliant Red

Brilliant Yellow

Lemon Yellow

Cobalt

Brilliant Blue

Crimson and brilliant blue contains no yellow and will mix brilliant
Pure magenta/purple

Brilliant red and brilliant yellow will mix good orange

We need two reds, two yellows, two blues
to mix clear secondary colours. This is the
double primary system.

Lemon yellow and cobalt has no red at all and will mix
brilliant acid lemon greens

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Double Primary System

Brilliant Red
(scarlet, strawberry, tomato, pillar box)

Crimson
(raspberry, wine)

Brilliant Yellow
(sunflower, buttercup)

Lemon Yellow
(lemons)

Brilliant Blue
(Ultramarine, Bluebells)

Cobalt
(sky, Cornflowers)

+ white + black or prussian blue

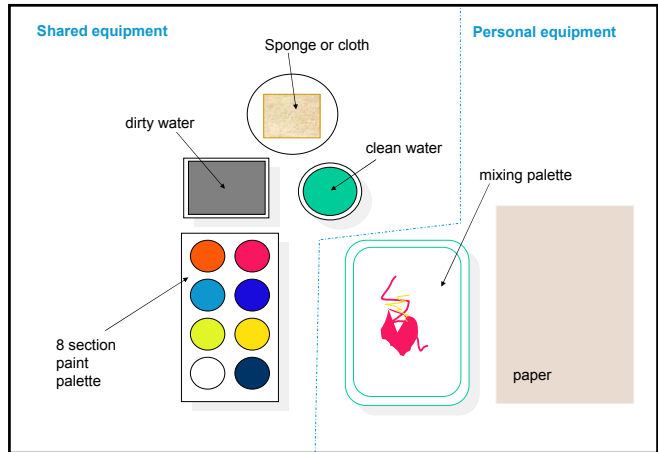
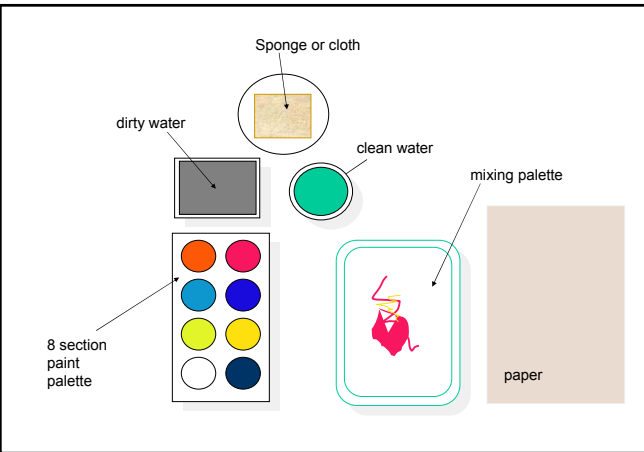
This means we need an eight well
colour palette



Note use of complementary colours here
 Look at Seurat, Cezanne etc – greys and complemetaries



Using equipment
 Being in control





The End