



Thank you for subscribing to the newsletter

In this article you will get a free Color Wheel as my thank you gift , along with instructions on how to use it.

Of all the tools that artists have to use, I think color is one of the most profound. And I don't think just artists think in color - everyone does! Color is deeply embedded in our language; "that stove is red hot," "I got a great deal on Black Friday," or "I'm just green with envy over your new dress!"

If you are just starting out with color, I've got three words for you; less is more. In my book, ["Acrylic Painting with Passion"](#) I talk a lot about how to use less color, but do more with it.

Below you will find instructions and suggested products to use with your color wheel. These are suggestions only and by all means comparison shop and use what works for you and your budget.

Before you start, you may want to watch this video I have made on this topic:

[Streaming Online Color Class](#)



Instructions on how to use this color wheel

1. Print it out on heavy weight paper. I like to use bright white, heavy weight cover stock of about 80 lb. Most office supply stores have this available.
2. You can also draw it onto watercolor paper or bristol paper. The wheel itself does not have to be perfect.
3. Don't get discouraged if it takes you several tries to get it right. I've taught many, many people over the years and very few people get it right the first time.
4. For more help on completing the color wheel, **check out this video** I made especially for folks who joined the free webinar.

Materials you will need ([visit the materials list on my site here](#))

1. **Brushes.** 1-2 small sized brushed. I like to use soft brushes but use whatever you have handy. And don't spend a lot of money on brushes, you don't need to.
2. **Palette.** You can use styrofoam plates (don't use paper plates, they absorb the paint too quickly), an artist's palette or an old china plate (don't use melamine or plastic plates).
3. **Paper.** Heavy weight cover stock from the office supply store (see above), watercolor paper or bristol paper, 8-1/2 x 11 or larger. Your preference, just make sure it's bright white.
4. **Paint.** I would love it if you get these exact colors from Golden, but if for some reason you can't, get the closet possible match. You can use either Fluids or Heavy Body.
 1. Quinacridone Magenta
 2. Phthalo Blue Green Shade
 3. Hansa Yellow Medium

That's it! You only need these three colors to create every other color. Cool, huh? This entire setup shouldn't cost more than \$20-25.00.

Now on to the color wheel!



Mixing the colors

- 1. Start by filling in the Color Wheel with the three mixing primaries:** Quinacridone Magenta, Hansa Yellow Medium and Phthalo Blue Green Shade. Paint the colors down thinly on your paper. Be sure you can see some of the white paper behind the paint. Don't make solid opaque colors.
- 2. Next make Green, Orange and Violet** and fill in those spots on the Color Wheel. Make plenty of these secondary mixtures, you'll need them for step three.

When mixing color, always start with the least powerful color and mix the stronger color into it in very small steps. For instance. Hansa Yellow Medium is less powerful than Quinacridone Magenta. To make Orange, start with 10 parts Hansa Yellow Medium and mix 1 part of Quinacridone Magenta into it. Did you get it right? It should look like a true orange, not too yellow, not too magenta.

If you are using the Fluids from Golden you can even measure drops. Ten drops of Hansa Yellow Medium and one drop of Quinacridone Magenta will get you a nice Orange.

Try to get your secondary mixtures to land *visually* between the primaries. The secondary mixtures are never just a 50/50 mix of the primaries.

How many different steps (colors) can you make between Hansa Yellow Medium and Quinacridone Magenta? If you take it slow, and add color in very tiny increments, you will be amazed at the number of colors you can make with just these two pigments.

- 3. Finally, mix all of the six colors above together.** You should get a nice deep Black. Paint that in the middle square.



Now admire your handiwork. Trust your eyes and really decide; is my Orange too yellow? Is my Violet too Magenta? How about the Green, is it too blue? When It's all said and done, you have to trust your gut. For more exercises on color, check out my book "Acrylic Painting With Passion" or "Color" by Betty Edwards. Also see the "Suggested Reading" list I've added for books about color and creativity.

Color Terminology

Primary colors – Red, yellow, blue. These colors cannot be created from any other color.

Secondary colors – Orange, green, purple. These colors are created by mixing the primary colors.

Analogous colors – next to each other on the color wheel, i.e. orange and red are analogous.

Complementary colors – across from each other on the color wheel, i.e. red and green are complements.

Hue – the name of the color, red is a hue.

Tint – color mixed with white.

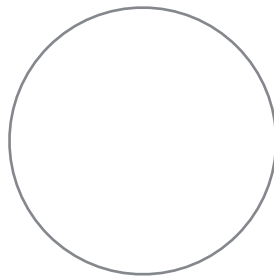
Shade – color mixed with black.

Value – the relative lightness or darkness of a color. Hansa Yellow Medium is light in value. Burnt Umber is dark in value.

Muted color – color mixed with its complement.

Modern pigments – Organic pigments created in a laboratory within the last fifty years. Typically these pigments are very intense and vibrant and make clean mixtures when mixed together. Hansa Yellow, Quinacridone Magenta and Phthalo blue are all modern.

Mineral pigments – Inorganic pigments created using natural materials and ores. These pigments tend to make muddy mixtures and are less intense and vibrant than the Modern Pigments.



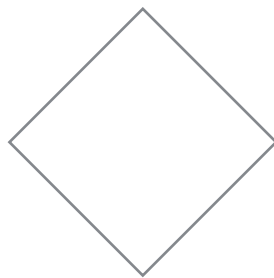
Quinacridone Magenta



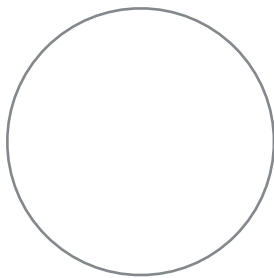
Orange



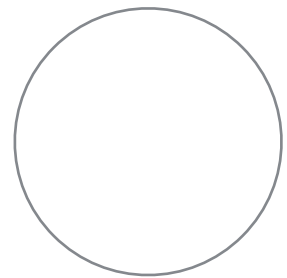
Violet



Black



Hansa Yellow Medium



Phthalo Blue G/S

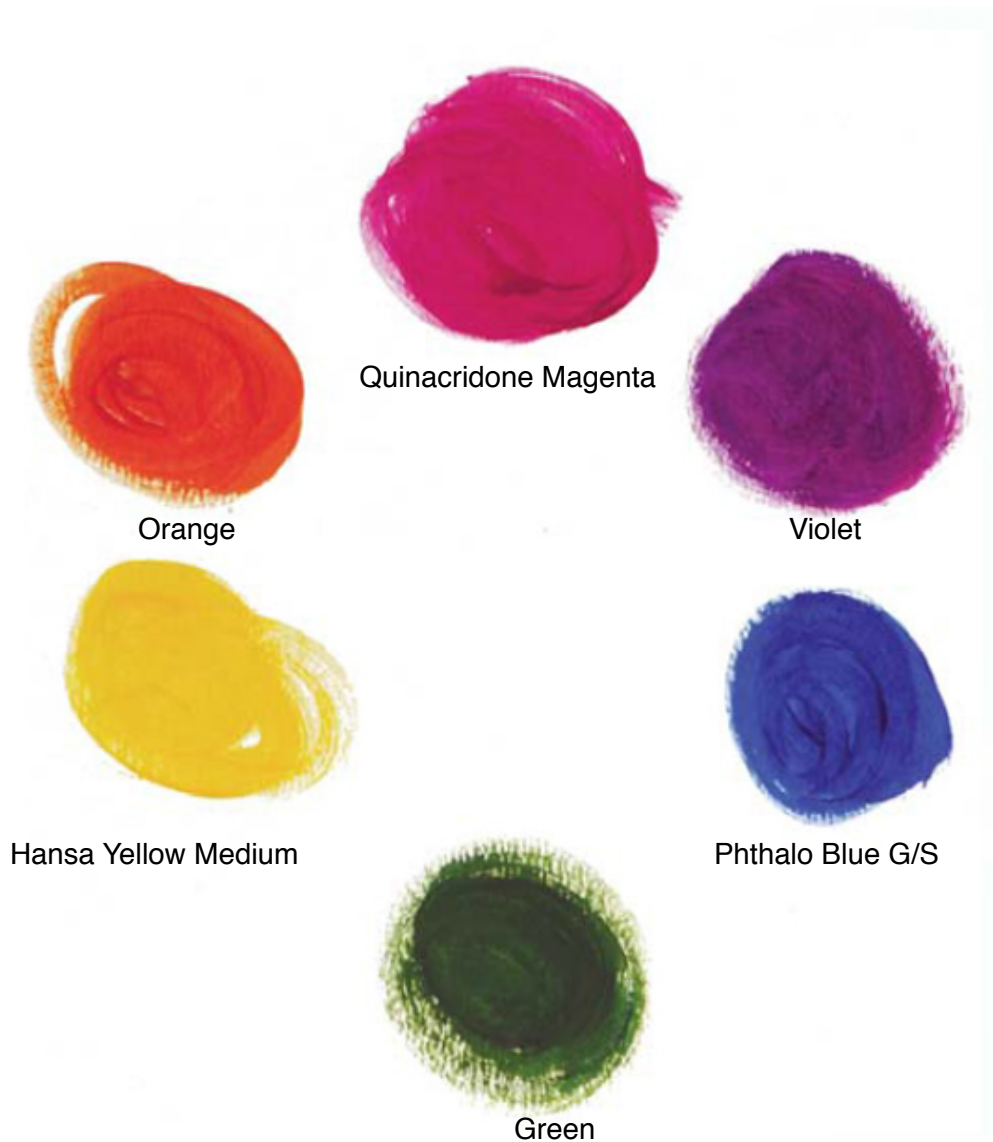


Green



Here's a sample of a handpainted color wheel that I made.

You can see that the three secondary colors land visually between the three primary mixing colors. What? There's no primary red here! Yep, that's right. If we are using the three mixing primaries of Quinacridone Magenta, Hansa Yellow Medium and Phthalo Blue Green Shade, your color wheel will not have primary red. You could add it if you like, by making a mixture that fits between Magenta and Orange. This color wheel gives you a lot of flexibility. I think you'll be astonished at how useful it is.





FURTHER READING:

Golden Artist Colors:

http://www.goldenpaints.com/artist_mixguide

http://www.goldenpaints.com/technicalinfo_faq_xv_colorwheel

http://www.goldenpaints.com/technicalinfo_mixguide

The links below are affiliate links. I make a small fee when you purchase through these links.
Your cost is never increased.

Betty Edwards “Color”

Tesia Blackburn “Acrylic Painting with Passion”

Michael Wilcox “Blue and Yellow Don’t Make Green”

Austin Kleon “Steal Like An Artist”

Anna Held Audette “The Blank Canvas”

“Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.”

Vincent Van Gogh