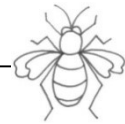


# Free PDF

## Colour theory terminology

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This pdf accompanies our video 'Essential guide to colour for embroidery' and gives definitions of the terminology used in the video. Use as a reminder or a reference when you want to choose some colours for a new project!

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### Colour wheel

This is a tool used in art and design to show colours and their relationship to each other. It contains lots of information about colour including what are warm and cool colours, colour terminology and even some colour schemes; it's worth having one to hand!

**Hue** – The description we give a colour; red, green, blue, orange for example

**Primary colours** – Red, yellow and blue. In paint, these can't be made by mixing any other colours together

**Secondary colours** – Green, violet and orange. These are the colours you get when you mix 2 primary colours together

**Tertiary colours** – The colour you get when you mix one primary colour and one secondary colour together (this is how you start to get your neutral browns and greys).

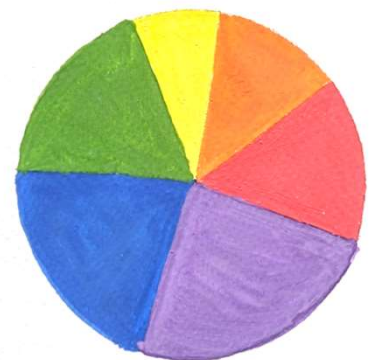
### Some other words used in the language of colour:

**Tint** – A colour with white added to it

**Tone** – This is technically how much grey a colour has in it but think of it as how dark or light a colour is. Black and white are the extremes of the tonal scale nothing else can be darker or lighter.

**Shade** – A colour with black added to it

**Complimentary colours** – Those colours that lie directly opposite each other on the colour wheel: red and green, yellow and purple for example. If used together they will balance and harmonise. The pie chart gives a good indication of how much of a colour you need for a good balance. For example, if you are using yellow and purple in your design, about three times as much purple as yellow will balance nicely.



**Contrasting colours** – Similar to complimentary, the range of colours that are opposite on the colour wheel

**Analogous colours** – A set of colours next to each other on the colour wheel

**Monochromatic colours** – Tones/values of one hue. So the tonal scale of one colour

**Warm colours** – Reds, oranges, yellows. These will come forward visually

**Cool colours** – Blues and greens. This will recede visually.

**Pantone colours** – Pantone was originally a printing company in the US. They devised a system that allows you to match colours precisely by giving each different colour a specific number. This system is standardised and different manufacturers in different locations all over the world can all refer to the Pantone system to make sure colours match.

### **Choosing a colour scheme**

Use the colour wheel – Complimentary colours, split complimentary colours, monochromatic scheme, analogous colour scheme etc.

Get inspiration from nature – What colours are in your garden, what colours can you see on the seashore? What colours are in the sunset tonight?

Take inspiration from a painting you like, or a postcard or photograph. You don't need every colour from it; just pick the ones that immediately speak to you.

Look at the Pantone website for colour combination ideas

The seasons! Spring colours, Autumnal colours...

Start simply with a few colours while you build your colour confidence and sample your thread colours on fabric to see what you like and what works for you. Remember, there is no right or wrong, you can use what you like so have fun experimenting!

**See the video on Sarah's YouTube channel here:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/c/SarahHomfrayEmbroidery>**