

# Introduction to Watercolours 2025



# COLOUR

Why do you want to be able to mix your own colours?



# COLOUR

## Colour chart



# COLOUR - Label

Watercolour paint  
Pigment + binder (gum arabic)  
Pigment : PB28  
Transparency  
Lightfastness  
Staining property  
Hue  
Single Pigment

**Cobalt Blue**  
Bleu de Cobalt  
Kobaltblau  
Azul de cobalto  
Blu di Cobalto

**DANIEL SMITH  
EXTRA FINE™  
WATERCOLORS**

 15 ml / 5 fl. oz.

**Pigment:** Cobalt Blue/Bleu de Cobalt  
**PB 28** CI# 77368  
**Vehicle:** Gum Arabic Solution  
Liant: Solution de gomme arabique  
Conforms to **ASTM D 4236 & ASTM D 5067**

  7 43162 02913 6 

P.O. Box 84268 Seattle, WA 98124 • [www.danielsmith.com](http://www.danielsmith.com)  
Made in USA • Premium Artist Grade • 800-426-6740

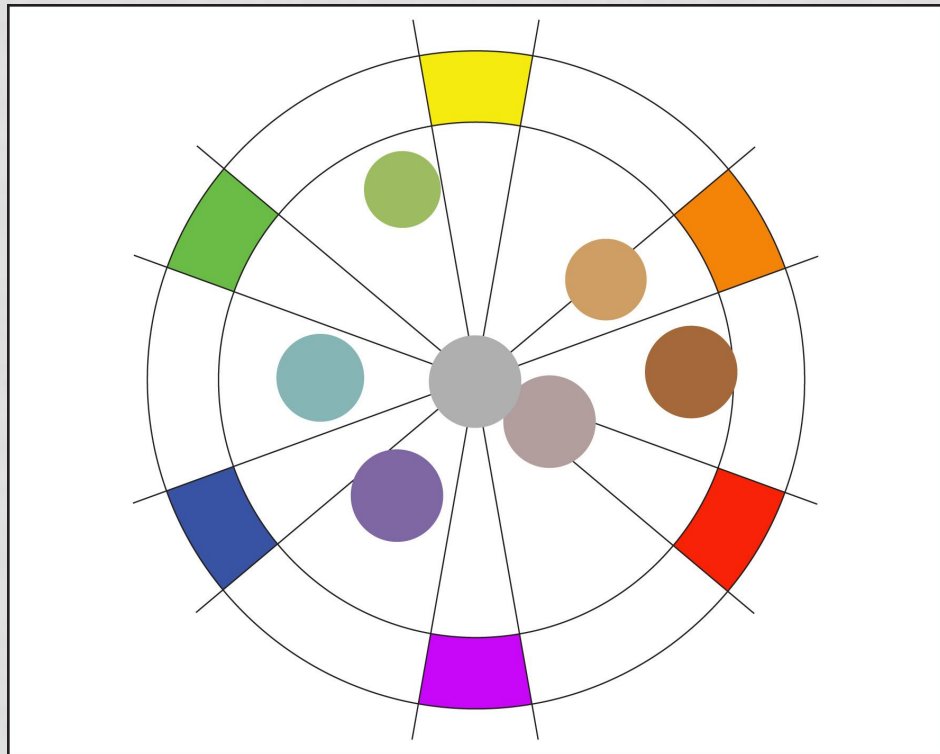
**284 600 206 Series: 3 Lightfastness: I**  
Série: 3 Résistance à la lumière: I

| NON-STAINING/STAINING             | TRANSPARENCY       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1=Non-Staining 2=Low Staining     | ○=Transparent      |
| 3=Medium Staining 4=High Staining | ◐=Semi-Transparent |
|                                   | ●=Opaque           |

**LR - ASTM LIGHTFASTNESS RATING**  
I=Excellent (100+ years) II=Very Good (100 years)  
III=Fair (50-70 years) IV=Fugitive (15-20 years)  
(NR)=Not rated by ASTM. Rating based on DS independent testing.

# COLOUR - HSV

Colours  
“Three Dimensions”



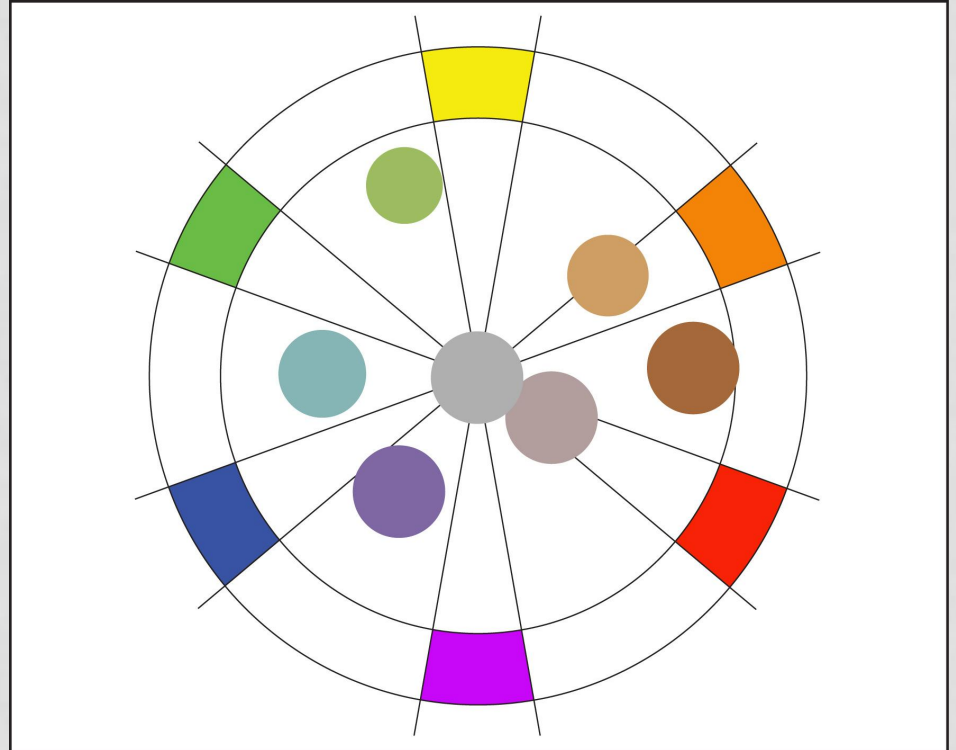


# COLOUR - HSV

## Colours

### “Three Dimension”

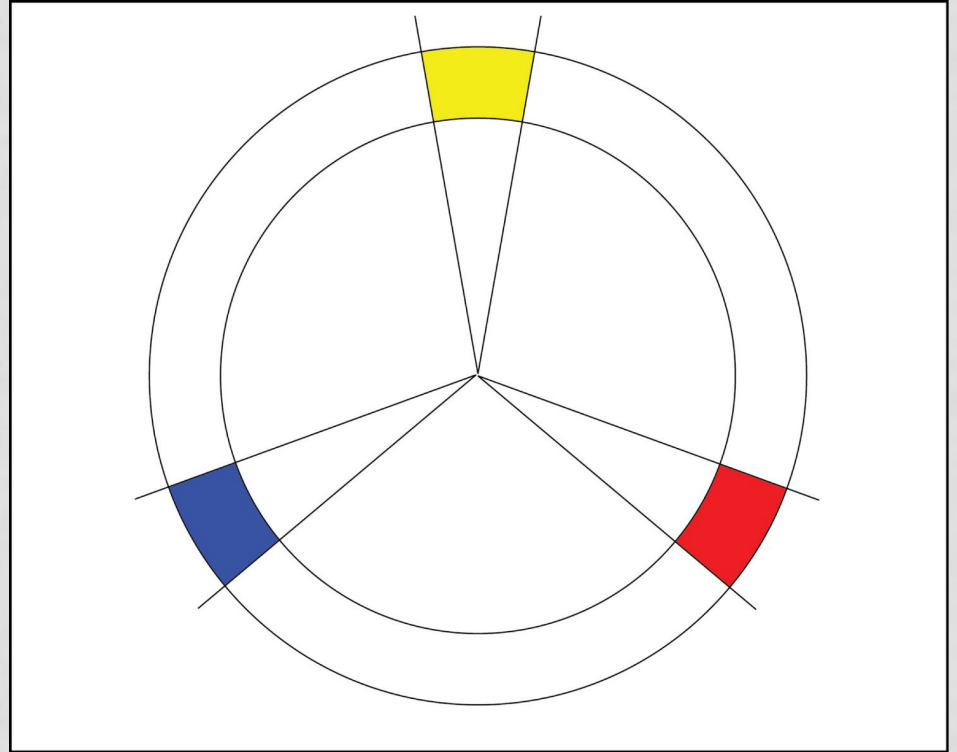
- Hue
- Saturation
- Value



# COLOUR - HUE

## Primary Colours

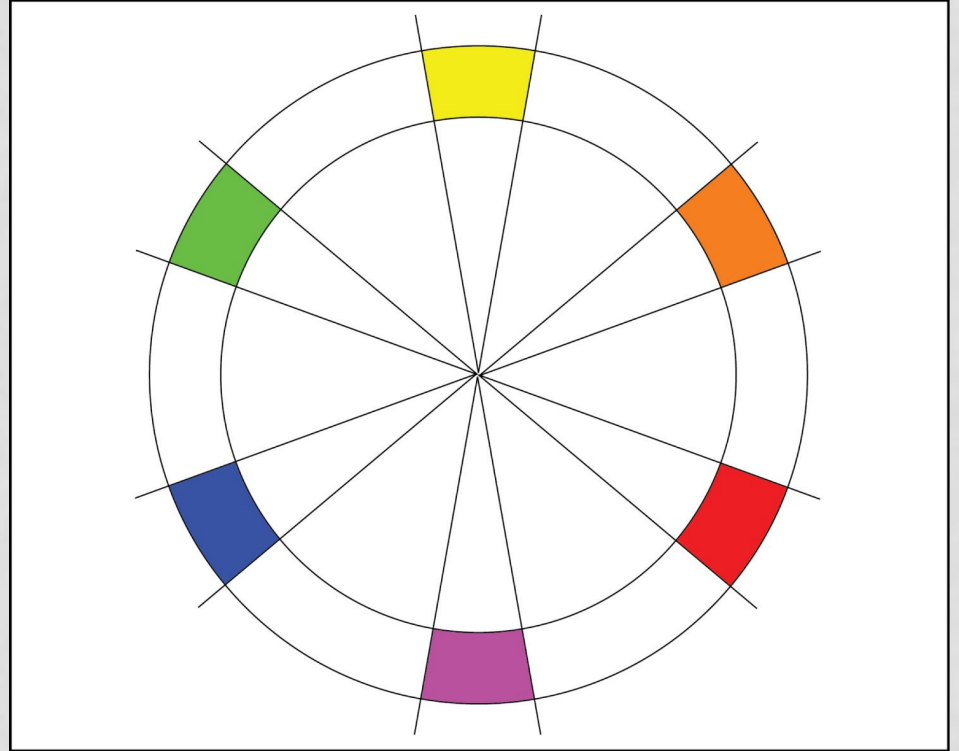
- Yellow
- Red
- Blue



# COLOUR - HUE

## Added Secondary Colours

- Orange
- Purple
- Green





# COLOUR - HUE

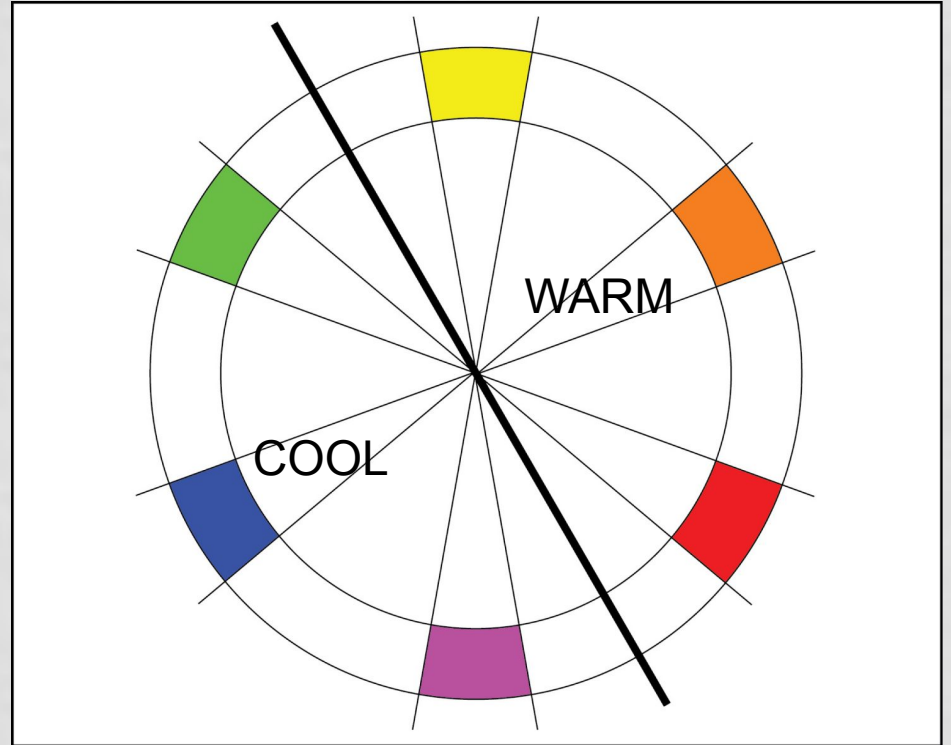
Absolute Temperature:

WARM:

- Yellow, Orange, Red

COOL:

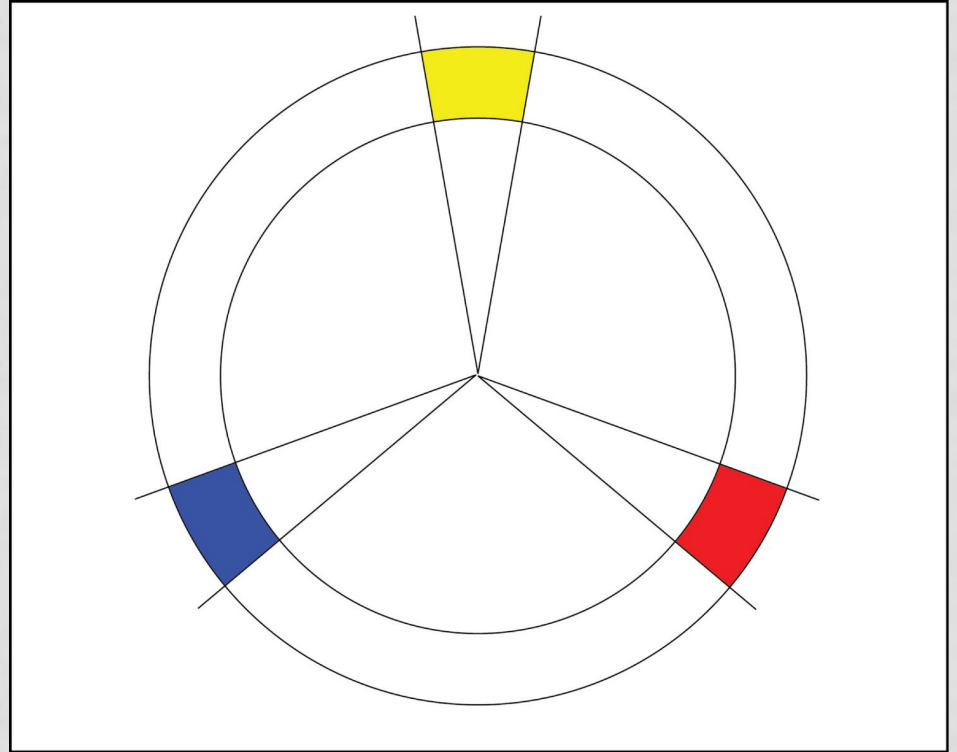
- Purple, Blue, Green



# COLOUR - HUE

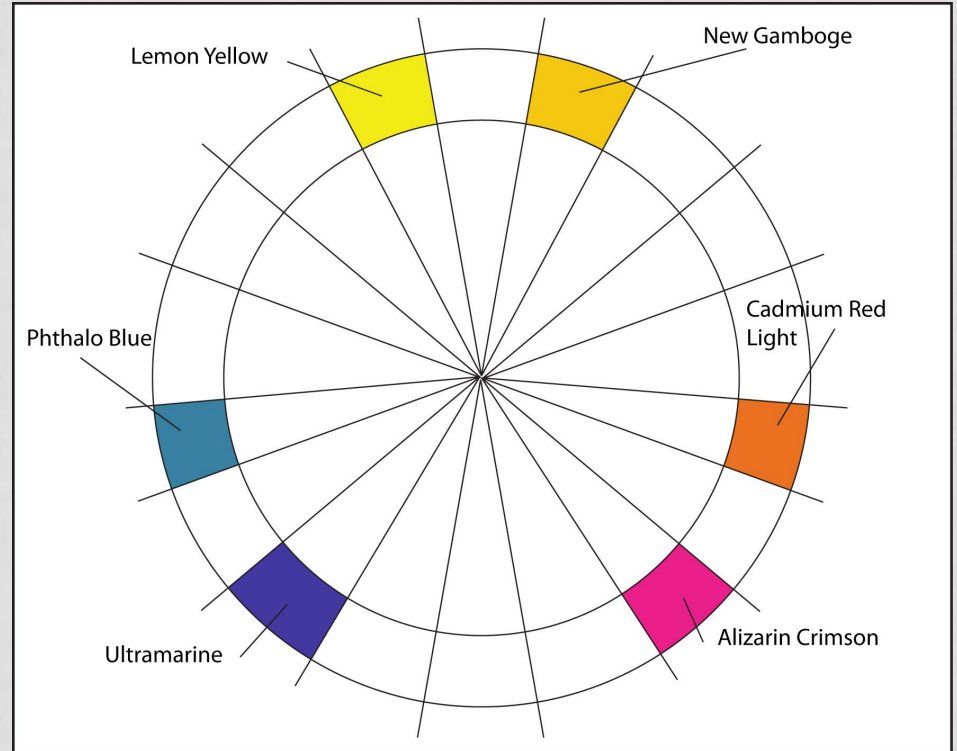
## Primary Colours

- Are three colours enough?



# COLOUR - MIXING

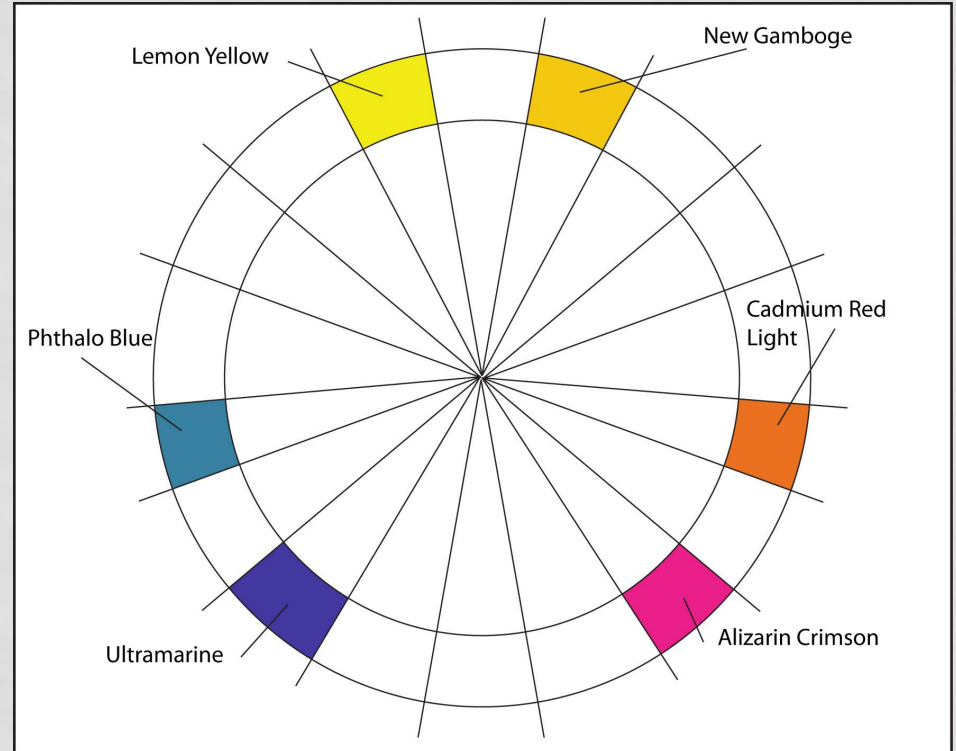
Split Primary Palette  
Relative Temperature  
Warm / Cold Red  
Warm / Cold Yellow etc.



# COLOUR - MIXING

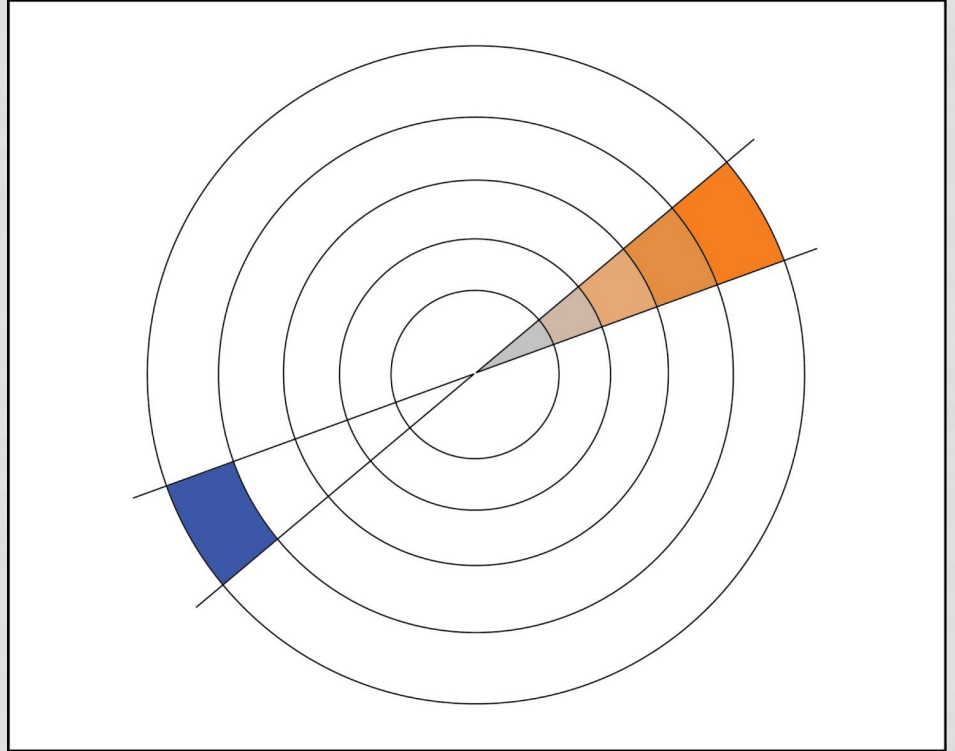
Exercise: Get to know your own colours

- Create a colour wheel with fully saturated colours
- Fill in desaturated “convenience colours” ( e.g. burnt sienna)



# COLOUR - SATURATION

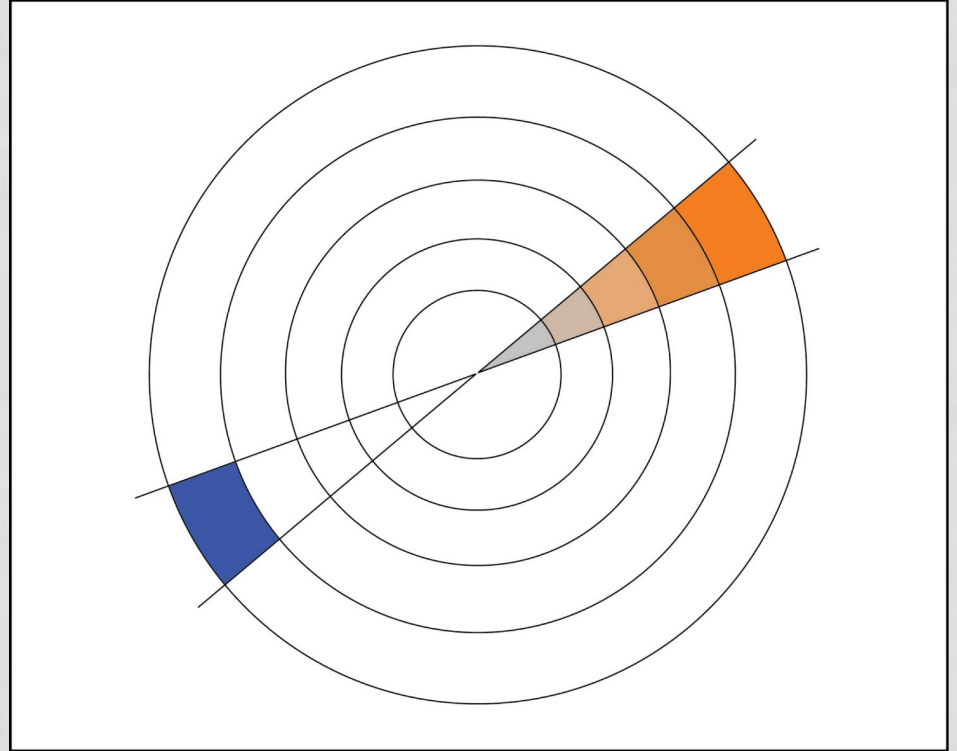
Saturation:



# COLOUR - SATURATION

## Saturation:

- Same Hue
- Same Value
- Reduced Saturation by mixing with complimentary colour

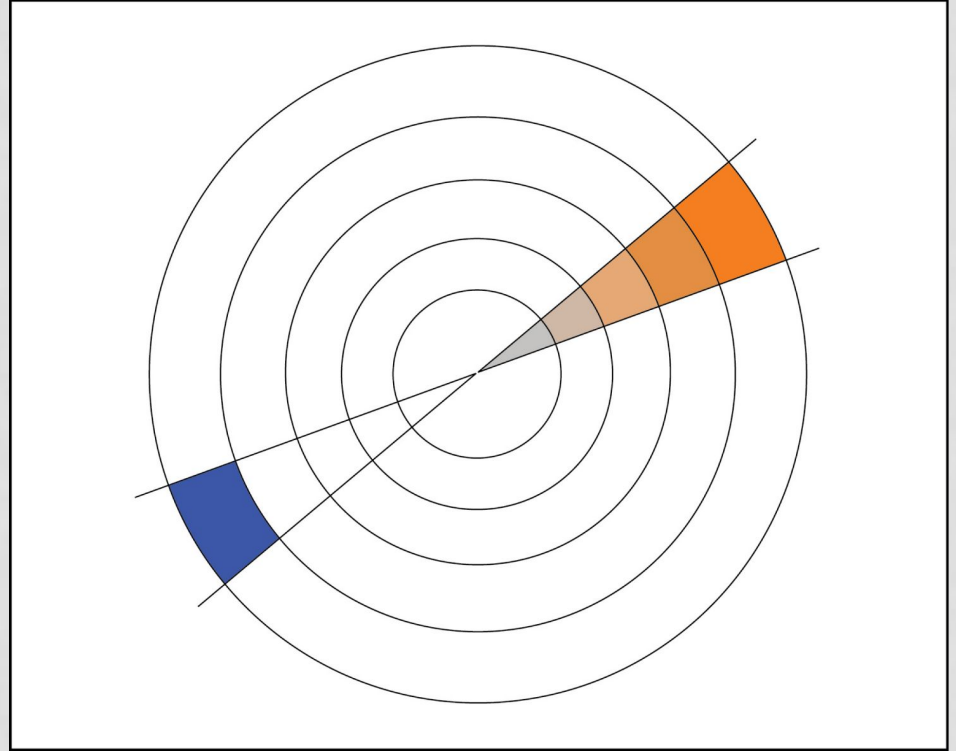




# COLOUR - SATURATION

## Exercise:

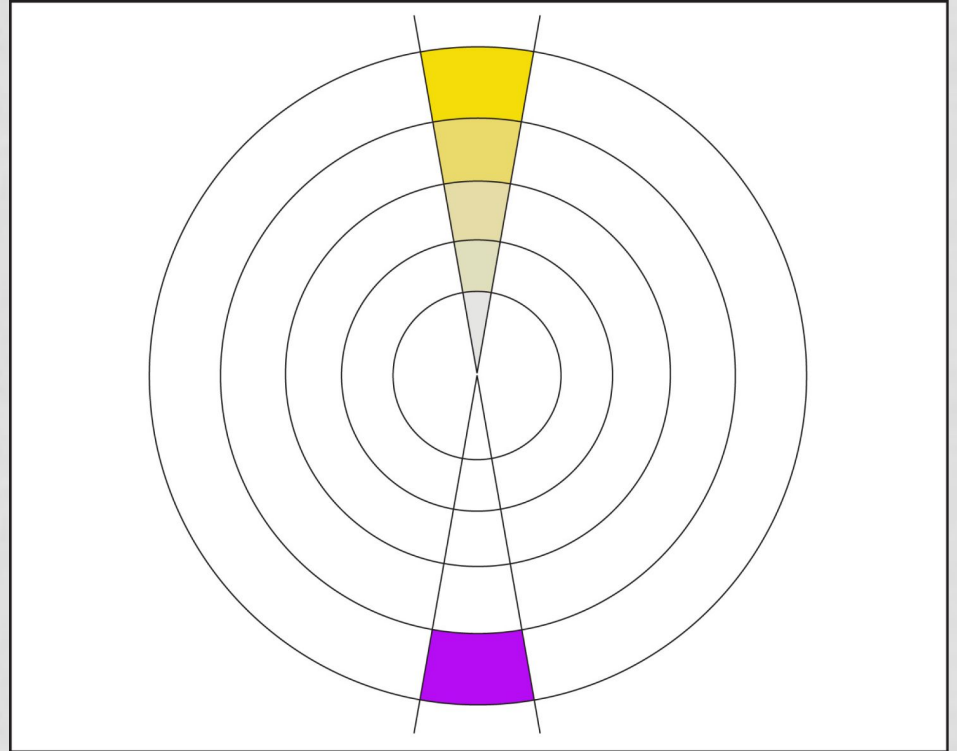
- Desaturate Orange (Burnt Sienna) with Ultramarine Blue and ...
- Vice versa



# COLOUR - SATURATION

## Exercise:

- Desaturate Yellow with Ultramarine Purple (Mix Ultramarine Blue with Alizarin) and ...
- Vice versa



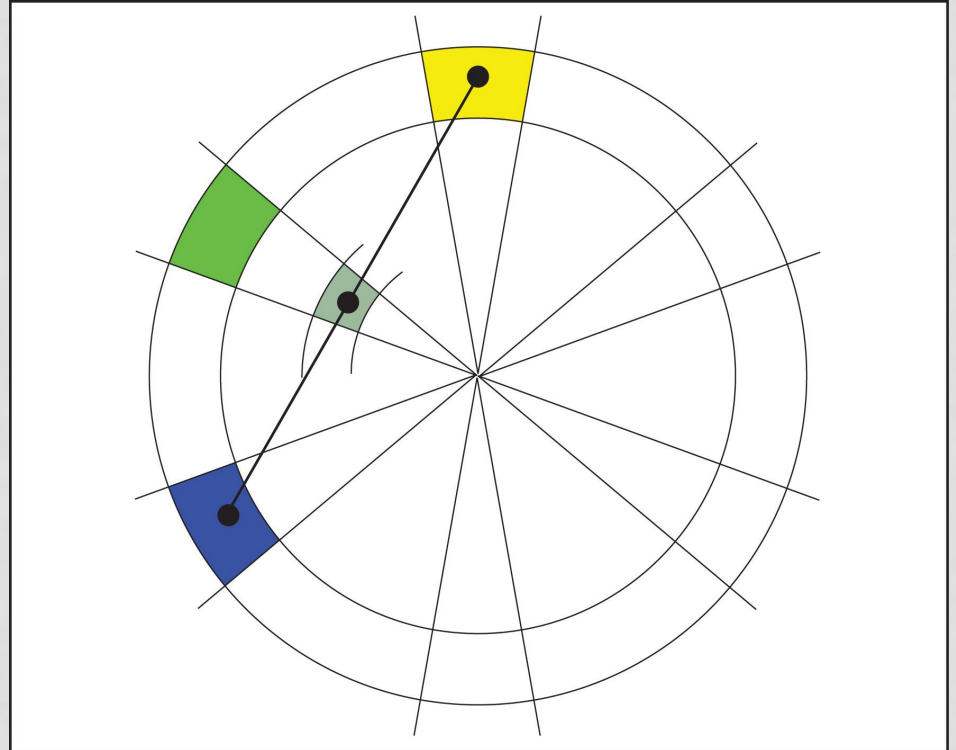
# COLOUR - MIXING

Mix from Primary Colours:

- Mix Green from Primary Blue and Yellow

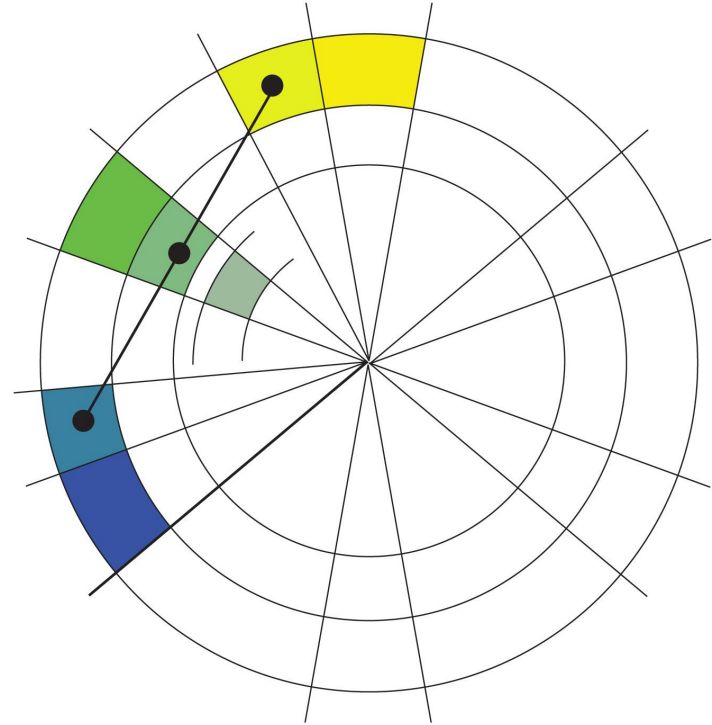
Result:

- Desaturated Green



# COLOUR - MIXING

Mix from a colder yellow and a warmer blue results in a more saturated, more vibrant green

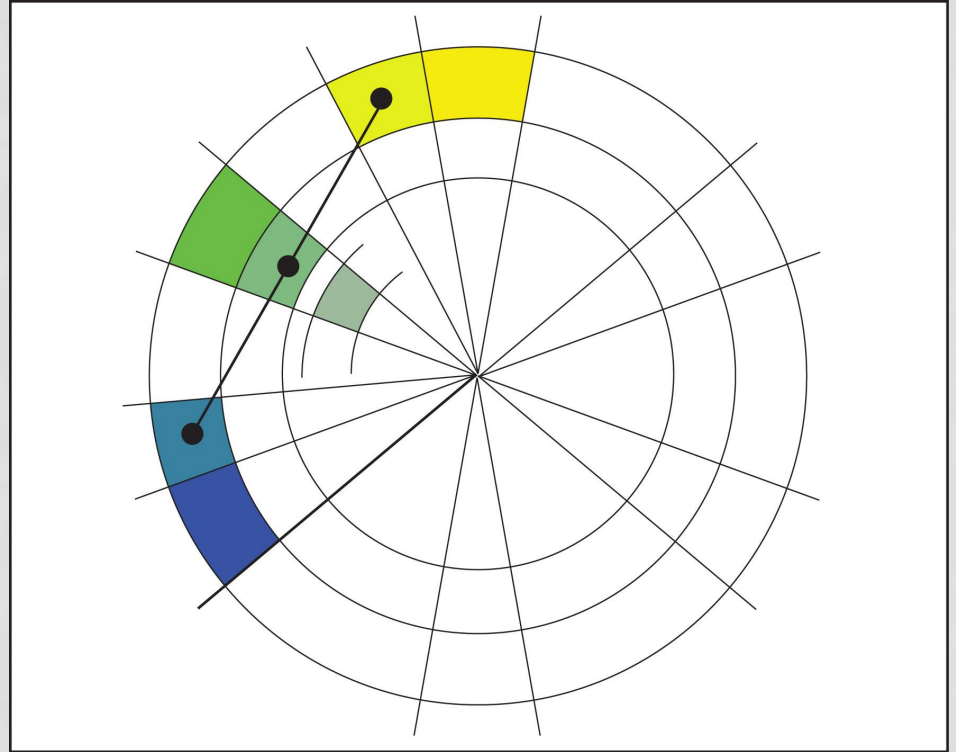


# COLOUR - MIXING

## Exercise:

### Mixing Blue - Yellow

- Ultramarine - New Gamboge
- Phthalo - Lemon Yellow

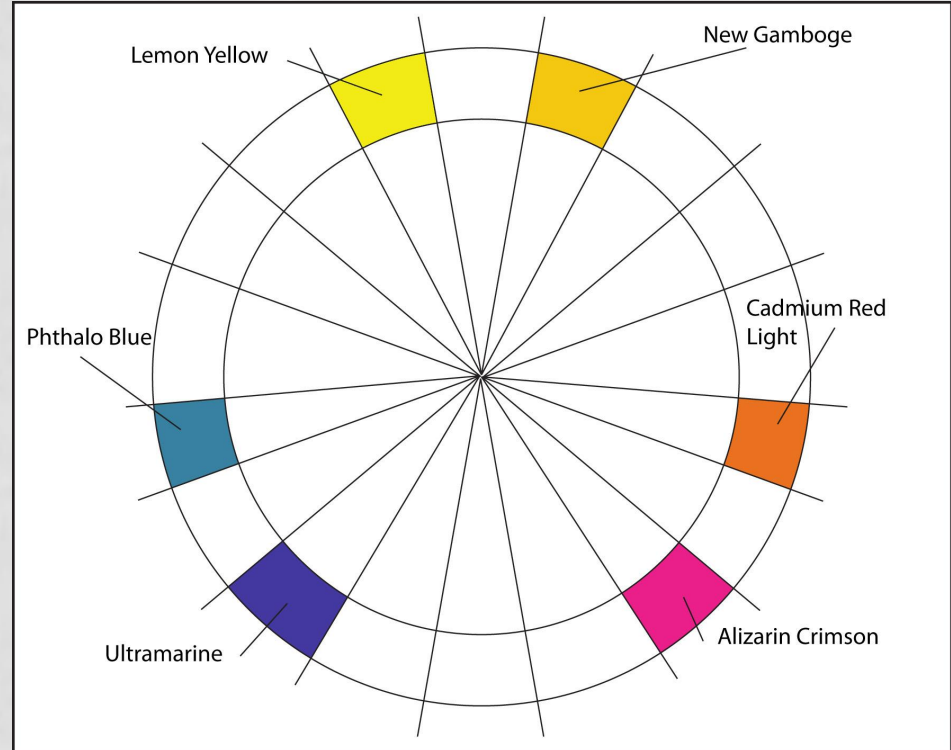


# COLOUR - MIXING

Many artists choose a basic set of 6 colours.  
(Split Primary Colours)

Note:

- Every manufacturer has its own definition of colours



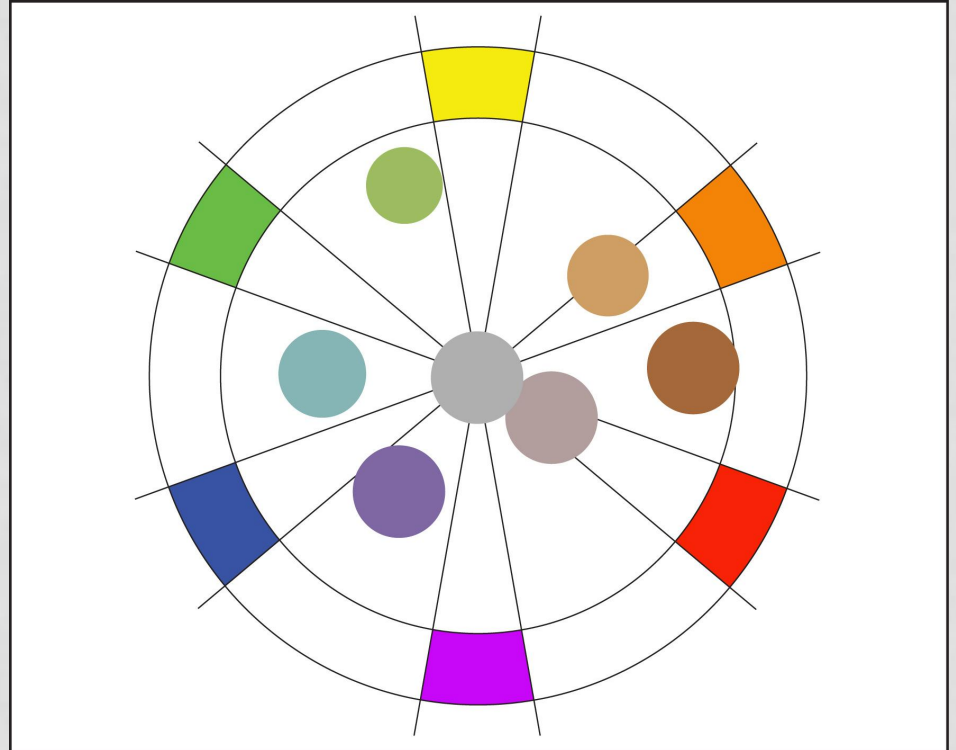


# COLOUR - HSV

## Colour Exercise

“Colour matching”

- Match the colour of samples



# COLOUR TIPS

## Limited Colour Palette



# COLOUR TIPS

Connect shapes through continuous washes



# COLOUR

## Direct Painting Technique

- Start with a rough drawing

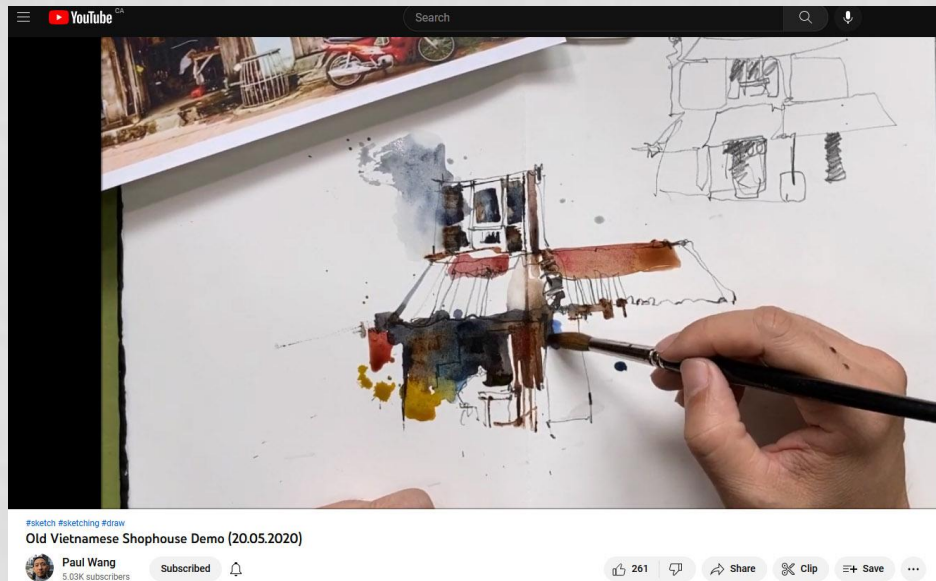


Paul Wang

# COLOUR

## Direct Painting Technique

- Start with a rough drawing
- Pre-mix colours (Try for a match)
- Fill in colours with correct hue, value and saturation



Paul Wang