

# Weavers, Know Your Color Wheel



**A better way of choosing colors.  
Brought to you by: The Loom Merchant**

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# Weavers, Know Your Color Wheel

Having a good eye for colors when it comes to weaving is a rare asset. Most of us need help in choosing the best colors, that feel a piece should bring. The color wheel is the perfect solution for such needed assistance. *Weavers, know your color wheel* to bring out the statements in you designs. Simple to understand it's make-up and simple to apply the functions. Let's get started...

## What is a Color Wheel?



The color wheel is a circular chart of colors presenting a visual representation of color theory. All of which has it's beginnings in the study of the color spectrum, the rainbow, colors of visible light.

There are three basic sets of colors represented:

- primary colors
- secondary colors
- tertiary colors

These sets of colors are placed around the wheel in a relational order which is specified by the color spectrum.

## How do you make a Basic Color Wheel?

You start out with the three primary colors which are *red*, *yellow*, and *blue*.

Note: *You cannot make primary colors by combining any other colors. Primary colors are the basic building blocks.*

There are three secondary colors. These secondary colors are made by combining two primary colors:

- red + yellow = orange
- yellow + blue = green
- blue + red = violet

Tertiary colors are made by combining primary colors with *adjacent* secondary colors:

- red + orange = red-orange
- orange + yellow = orange-yellow
- yellow + green = yellow-green
- green + blue = blue-green
- blue + violet = blue-violet
- violet + red = red-violet

These three sets of colors are what you see around the outer edge of the Pocket Color Wheel, both on front and on the back.

## **Hidden Colors**

There are other colors that are hidden under the front wheel cover, or spinner, the part that spins around on the color wheel. There are five of the hidden colors associated with each color on the front of the color wheel. These five colors are made by mixing a color wheel color with one of these colors: red, yellow, blue, white, and black.

Several windows are cut out in the front wheel cover, or spinner. These windows are to reveal the hidden colors underneath that will be produced based on what colors you select to mix. Since you have twelve colors on the color wheel, and five mixing colors, there are sixty colors under the wheel cover. Add that to the color wheel's basic set of twelve colors and you have seventy two colors just on the front. That is the beauty of the color wheel. It make things easier to look at and understand.

## **A Little Information About Color**

Color can be referred to as a hue. A hue is a distinct color of the visible light spectrum. The color value refers to the lightness or darkness of the hue. And intensity refers to the brightness of a color. A color is at full intensity when not mixed with black or white.

## **Tint, Tone, And What?**

Tint is adding white to a color. Tone is adding gray to a color. And shade is adding black to a color.

## Colors Emotional Values

Colors have been found to have emotional values. Marked on the Pocket Color Wheel as “WARM COLORS” and “COOL COLORS”. Those are good labels for the respected colors, but you can re-label them. Warm colors as a warm mood, quiet mood, minus, weakness, and unsettled. And cool colors as a cool mood, coolness, plus, excitement, and cheerful.

### **The Warm Colors are:**

- red-violet
- red
- red-orange
- orange
- orange-yellow
- yellow

### **The Cool Colors are:**

- yellow-green
- green
- blue-green
- blue
- blue-violet
- violet

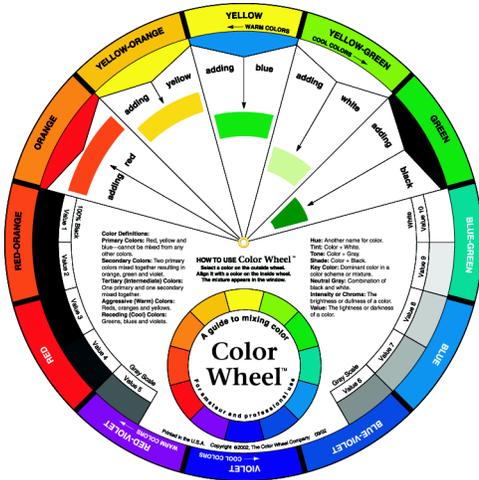
Thinking in these terms you can make your work speak, as if the piece is telling a story. Inviting you on a cool day saying, “I will keep you warm”.

As a weaver you are not creating new colors but looking for colors that will work in your piece. So what good is the front of the Pocket Color Wheel? Suppose you are making something special for a friend. Your friend's favorite colors are orange and blue. They are complement of each other and you are looking for a color to bring them together smoothly. By mixing the colors you will have a color that is associated with each and would make a great transitional color between the two.

As you start using the color wheel you will soon see possibilities that were not there before.

# Using The Front Of The Pocket Color Wheel

The Front of the Pocket Color Wheel is basically used for mixing, tinting and shading colors. To mix colors just select one of the three primary colors on the spinner and point it to one of the twelve colors on the wheel. The arrow below the selected primary color points to the result.



If you want to tint a color, point the white color on the spinner to one of the twelve colors on the wheel. The arrow below the white points to the tinting result in the window.

If you want to shade a color, point the black color on the spinner to one of the twelve colors on the wheel. The arrow below the black points to the result in the window.

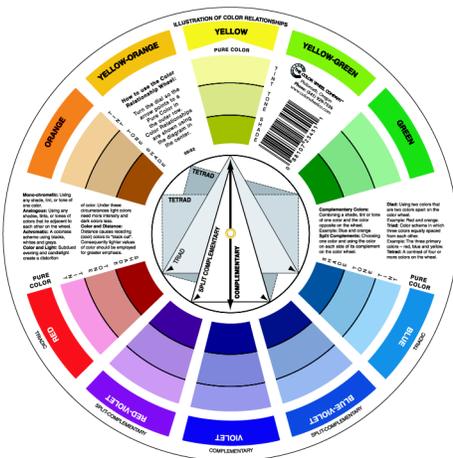
## Examples, pulled from the picture above, and there are five:

1. The red on the spinner is pointing to the orange on the wheel. The window under the red shows the two colors mixed.
2. The yellow on the spinner is pointing to the yellow-orange on the wheel. The window under the yellow shows the two colors mixed.
3. The blue on the spinner is pointing to the yellow on the wheel. The window under the blue shows the two colors mixed.
4. The white on the spinner is pointing to the yellow-green on the wheel. The window under the white shows the yellow-green tinted.
5. The black on the spinner is pointing to the green on the wheel. The window under the black shows the green shaded.

# Using The Back Of The Pocket Color Wheel

The back is where you, the weaver, will spend most of your time. There is a wealth of information on designing color rich pieces of art. There is only a few new things to know in order to unlock a vast world of color.

First you will notice there is a spinner on the back of the Pocket Color Wheel and the same twelve wheel colors that were on the front. That is where the similarities end. There are large windows exposing 36 additional colors while rotating the wheel. What you are looking at is the tint, tone and shade of each of the twelve colors on the color wheel. The tint, tone, and shade is clearly marked at several places for fast reference.



What is of the most importance is the color relationships that this part of the wheel will illustrate. Look on the center hub of the spinner. You will see two triangles, a square, and a rectangle. The corners of these figures will point to a multitude of color schemes.

**Examples, using the picture above, the main arrow is pointing at yellow, using the center hub, there are five:**

1. Yellow's complement is violet.
2. The split complementary of yellow is red-violet and blue violet.
3. Shows yellow, red, and blue as triad colors.
4. Red, orange, blue, and green as a tetrad of colors.
5. Yellow-orange, green, blue-violet, and red as a tetrad of colors.

## **Conclusion**

Opening up new worlds for the weaver can be accomplished by using a color wheel. New beginnings is colors that express, and not just color the art.

Easy to understand and easy to apply, the color wheel will solve most all the color issues you may encounter.

Please take the time to share this information with other weavers so they can realize the benefits of the color wheel.

Thank you for taking the time in reviewing our two cents on the color wheel, and it's importance to the weaver. We are so strong on using a color wheel that we searched for one on the best. One that will satisfy the weavers needs. That is why we include the Pocket Color Wheel with every loom.

## **The Loom Merchant**

**Manufacturer of Quality Table-Top Weaving Looms  
Our Signature Design, the “Heritage Inkle Loom”.**

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