

Colour Schemes

Art & Design

The standard wheel relationships, and what each one actually buys you.

Positions on a twelve-step wheel.

Scheme	Positions	Effect
Monochrome	One hue	Calm; value does the work
Analogous	Three neighbours	Harmonious, low tension
Complementary	An opposite pair	Maximum hue contrast
Split complement	Hue plus two either side	Contrast, less strident
Triadic	Three, evenly spaced	Lively, hard to balance
Tetradic	Two complement pairs	Rich; needs a dominant

Every scheme still needs one dominant hue and a clear value structure. A balanced wheel makes an unbalanced picture.