

# Color for Quilters

RCMQG  
September 2020

# Acknowledgements

Leigh Cotnoir's Art Speak's series

Shannon Brinkley's "Color Confidence for Quilters" Blog series

# Color Components

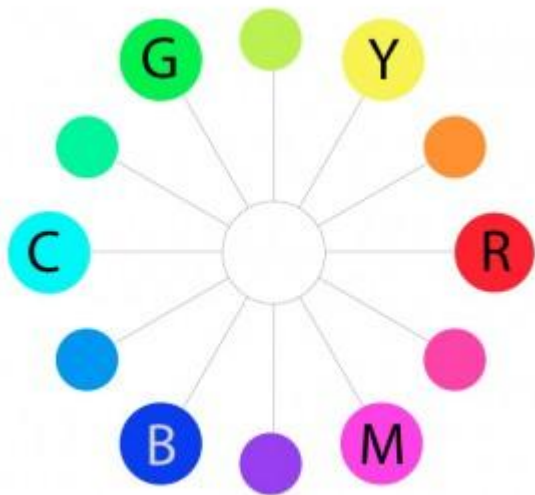
Hue

Value

Saturation

# Hue

- What we commonly call the “color”
- Basic color wheel is an arrangement of hues



**Primary**  
RED, YELLOW, BLUE  
Colors that can not be mixed. All other colors are derived from these 3 hues.



**Secondary**  
GREEN, ORANGE, PURPLE  
Colors formed by mixing the primary colors.



**Tertiary**  
YELLOW-ORANGE, RED-ORANGE, RED-PURPLE, BLUE-PURPLE, BLUE-GREEN, YELLOW-GREEN  
Colors formed by mixing a primary and a secondary color.

# Value

- How much white, black, or both is added to a color
- Tint, tone and shade describe the value
  - Tint= add white
  - Tone = add gray
  - Shade = add black

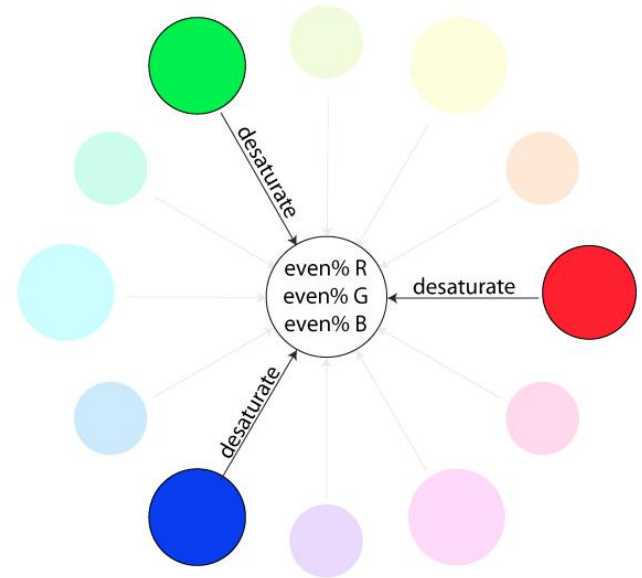


# Saturation

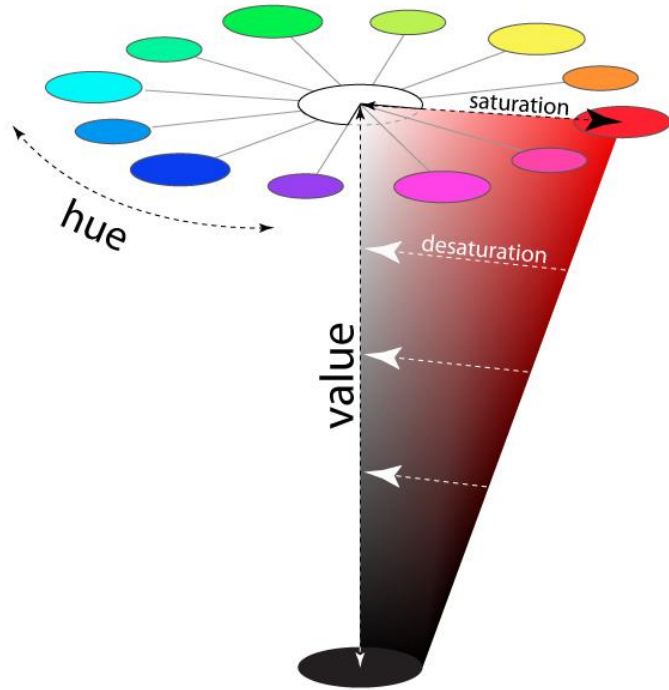
- The intensity of the color (can think of somewhat as the “opacity”)

# Hue AND Value AND Saturation

These concepts all intersect.

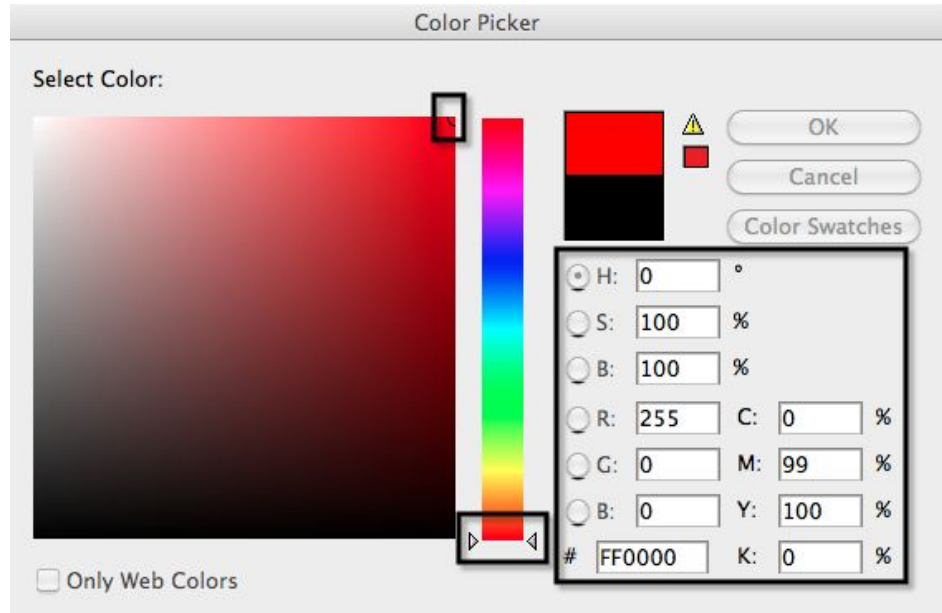
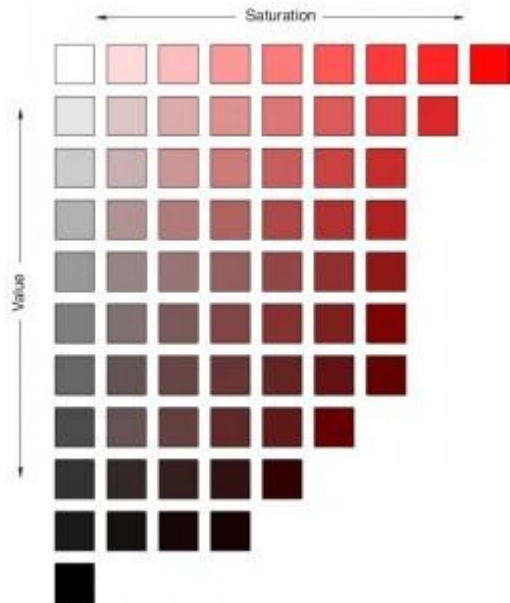


# The Color Cone





# In a More Familiar Form...



# Hue In Quilting

- Monochromatic--all of one hue
- Complementary--across from each other on the color wheel
- Analogous--next to each other on the color wheel
- Triadic

# Monochromatic

- Uses a single hue
- Pair with neutrals
- Play with multicolored fabrics for pops!



# Complementary + Split Complementary

- Foreground/background placement
- Create a monochromatic or analogous palette with pops of the complement



A complementary color palette is made from color opposite one another on the color wheel.



A split-complementary color palette is made from colors opposite one another on the color wheel, along with the 2 colors adjacent one of them.

# Advanced: Double Complementary

Use two pairs of complementary colors!



# Analogous

- Uses hues that are next to each other
- Have analogous pops
- Include multicolored fabrics for pops!



# Triadic

- Uses hues that are equally spaced around the color wheel
- Play with quantity (ie: use one color as the main and others as accents)



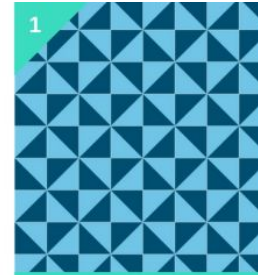
# Value in Quilting

- Adds interest to any of the hue relationships
- Try to have a good mix of lights, mediums, and darks
- Check your placement to avoid “clumps”/unintentioned patterns
- Check values by taking black and white photos of fabric pulls!



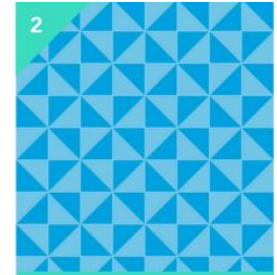
THE PALETTE

One palette can create so many effects-- here are 5 possibilities.



HIGH CONTRAST

Pair a dark and light together for this bold look.



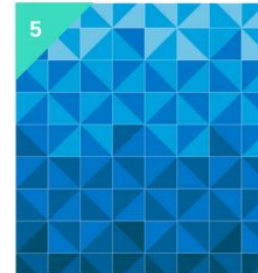
LOW CONTRAST

Pair 2 light fabrics together for this soft, subtle effect.



LOW CONTRAST

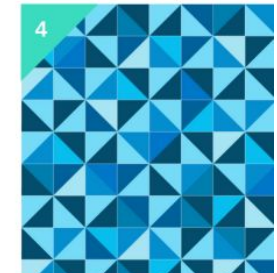
Pair 2 dark fabrics together rich, but still subtle effect.



GRADIENT

Start with lights on one side then gradually move to darks. This popular look is also called *ombre*.

[shannon-brinkley.com](http://shannon-brinkley.com)



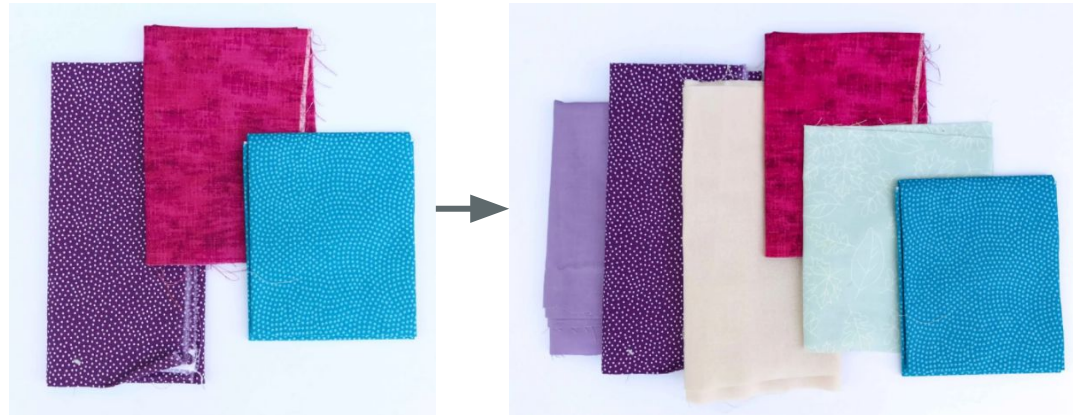
MOSAIC

Distribute lights and darks relatively evenly, but arrange at random for this fun effect.



# Saturation in Quilting

- Use to “dial in” a palette
  - Add less saturated fabrics to soften a bright palette
  - Add more saturated fabrics to brighten up a dull palette
- Pay attention to the tone (something with a lot of gray may look out of place next to something without it, even if the saturation levels work well)



# Learn More

- Fabric pull challenges
  - <https://www.stitchedincolor.com/blog/2017/5/23/30-days-of-fabric-stacks>
  - <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/30daysoffabricstacks/?hl=en>
  - Shannon Brinkley's challenges
- Interaction of Color by Joseph Alber

# Sources

<http://learn.leighcotnoir.com/artspk/elements-color/hue-value-saturation/>

<http://www.beginnersschool.com/2015/05/04/value-and-gesture/>

“Color Confidence for Quilters” blog series by Shannon Brinkley.

Part 1: <https://shannon-brinkley.com/blogs/shannon-brinkley-studio-1/color-confidence-for-quilters-part-1-the-color-wheel/>

Part 2: <https://shannon-brinkley.com/blogs/shannon-brinkley-studio-1/color-confidence-for-quilters-part-2-monochromatic-color-palettes>

Part 3: <https://shannon-brinkley.com/blogs/shannon-brinkley-studio-1/color-confidence-for-quilters-part-3-analogous-color-palettes>

Part 4: <https://shannon-brinkley.com/blogs/shannon-brinkley-studio-1/color-confidence-for-quilters-part-3-complementary-color-palettes>

Part 5: <https://shannon-brinkley.com/blogs/shannon-brinkley-studio-1/color-confidence-for-quilters-part-4-triadic-color-palettes>

Part 6: <https://shannon-brinkley.com/blogs/shannon-brinkley-studio-1/color-confidence-for-quilters-what-is-value>

Part 7: <https://shannon-brinkley.com/blogs/shannon-brinkley-studio-1/color-confidence-for-quilters-what-is-color-saturation>