

SPINNING THE COLOR WHEEL
Jolene Shaffer/RayneScraps Designs © 2007

When doing any scrapbooking pages, whether it is paper or digital, **color** plays an important part in what we do. The colors we choose set the tone and feel of the layout. Understanding color basics can make choosing your colors easier than you think it is.

A Basic Color Wheel starting point



There are 4 basic color combinations that I use and think most other scrappers use too.

Monochromatic
Analogous
Complementary
Triadic

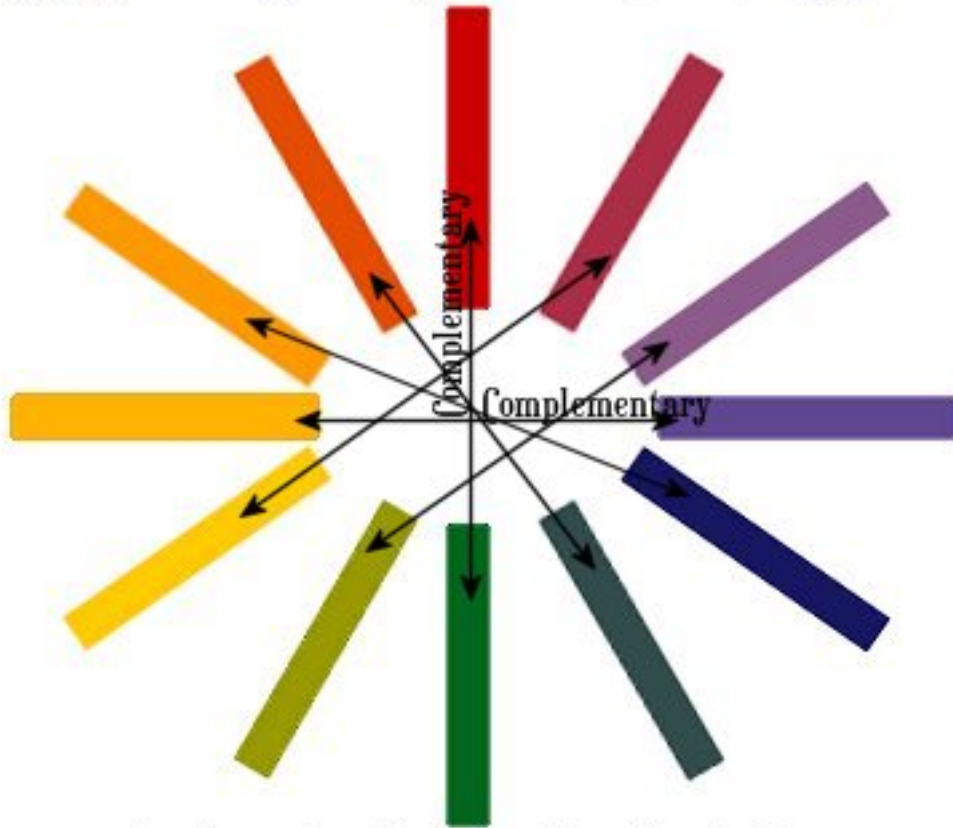
MONCHROMATIC – Simple colors are made up of the same hue in different shades or hues of that color. You can vary almost every color in shade and hue from the deep dark colors to the palest of pale shades. Just don't get too happy with using too many different ones or it can overpower your photos!

This example is done in shades of blues-Products used by [Me](#) 😊



COMPLEMENTARY -- These are colors that complement each other on the color wheel. In other words they are colors directly across from each other on the color wheel. Examples are red/green, yellow/violet, blue/orange. They can give a great contrast to the eyes.

A Basic ColorWheel starting point



Complementary-direct opposites of each other

This example I chose red/green as the color scheme-Product used by Tony Renz and LCP



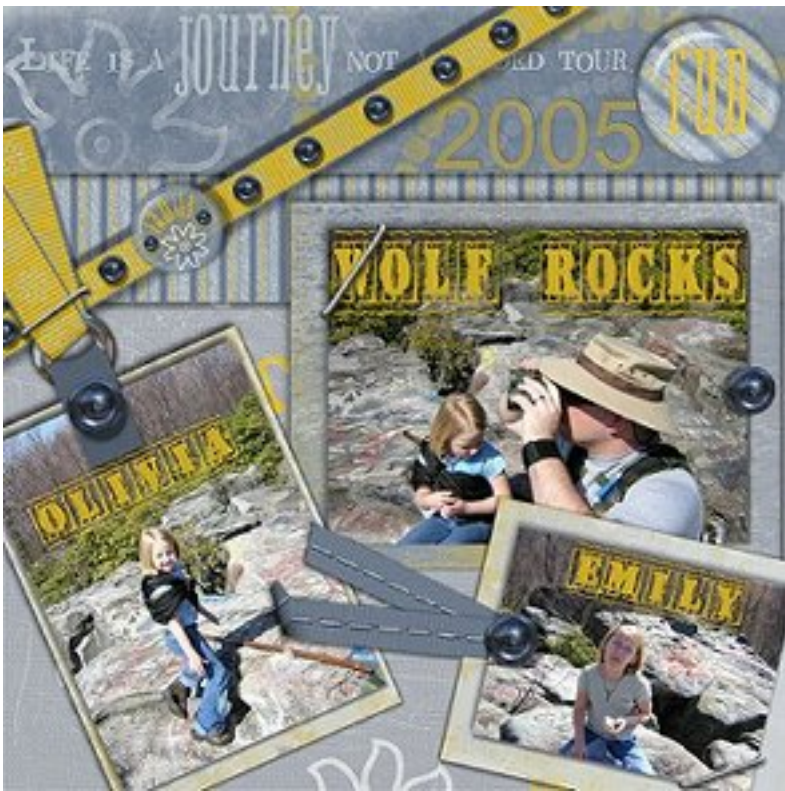
ANALOGOUS -- This scheme is when two to four colors next to each other on the color wheel are used.

Examples of this would be orange/yellow/green, yellow/blue/green, red/yellow/orange. Thinking on these combinations you can pretty much figure out the type of photos you would want to use with them.

A Basic Color Wheel starting point

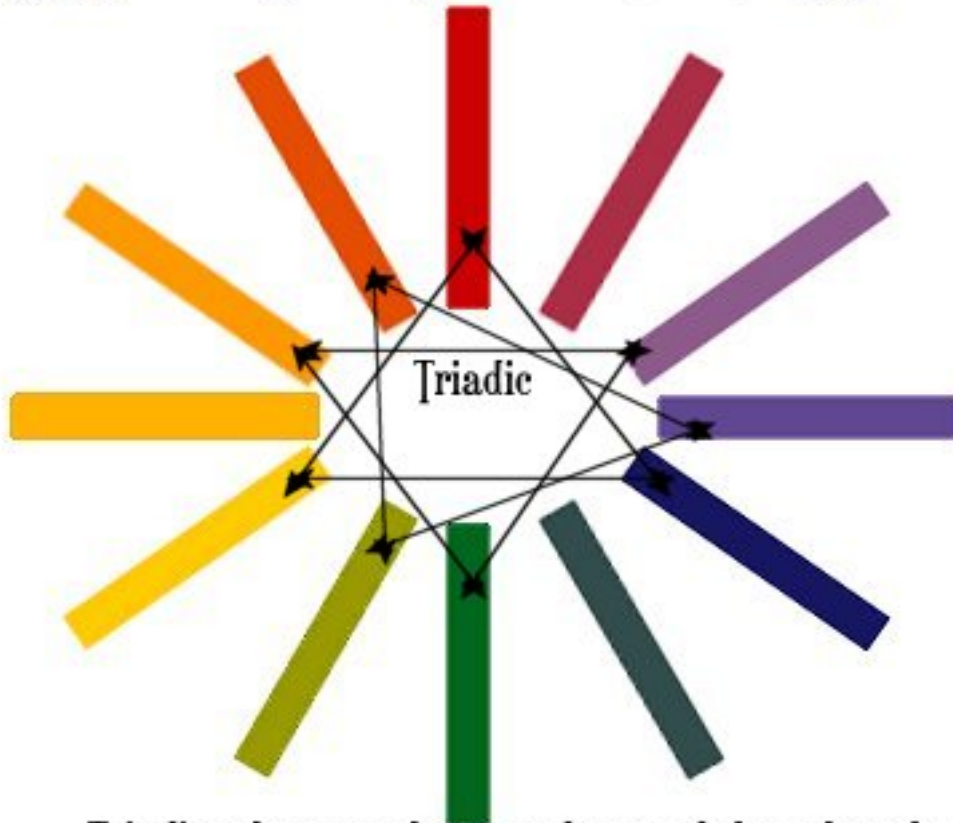


My example I used blue and yellow—Product used by Angie Svoboda



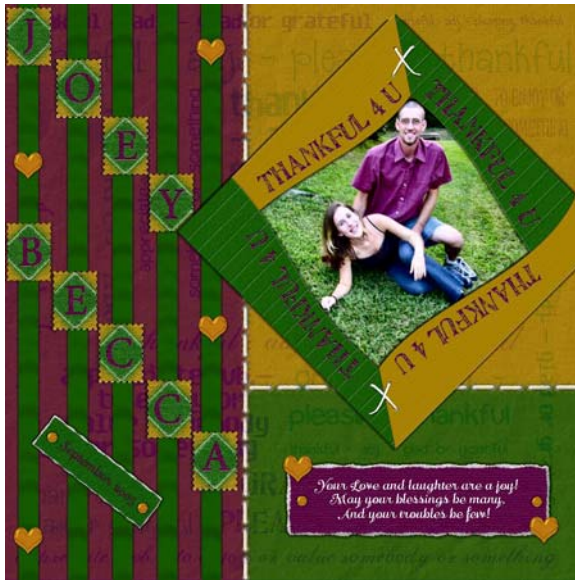
TRIADIC --color schemes made up of 3 colors equally spaced around the color wheel forming a triangle when you are looking at the wheel. Examples such as yellow/blue/red, green/orange/purple are places to start. The colors are more varied than other schemes on the wheel. Generally you do not use equal amounts of each other color. Some will be more predominant than others, while some will be only accented.

A Basic Color Wheel starting point



Triadic-colors evenly spaced around the color wheel

My example of this one from a product by [Scrap4Brains](#)



These of course are not the only colors...there is a huge variety you can play with! The suggested colors are just a starting point. So grab a color wheel and plan it out or just play till you find what makes you happy either in a layout or in your designing!

Some good links for online color wheels or color wheel programs:

[4096 Color Wheel](#)

[Color Scheme Generator](#)

[Color Wheel Pro](#) --this is one I use a lot!

[Color Impact](#)

[Behr Color Smart](#) --another I use a lot as got it when I was painting my home ☺

If you are a traditional paper scrapper you can also find color wheels you can pick up to carry around or keep at your desk in most scrapping supply stores.

Remember colors are your voice in many cases! See what they can or can't mean and see what your choices reflect many times. It's not clear-cut by any means but once you get the idea of it sometimes it makes a huge difference not only in your scrapping and even in your home décor or clothing choices. Have fun with it!

Here are some of the most recent meanings for colors that I have found:

YELLOW: Positive—Caution, brightness, joy, intelligence, organization, childlike, innocence
Creative, or Spring! In Paler shades -- light and airy, floaty and delicate.
Negative—Critical, lazy, cynical, cowardly, fearful, unstable and annoying

ORANGE: Positive—Steadfast, courageous, confidant, friendly, cheerful, warm, exciting,
Energetic, Vibrant, Sunny, Tropical, Spicy, Engaging, Sporty, Happy
Negative—Ignorance, inferiority, sluggish, superiority

BLUE: Positive—Tranquil, loving, accepting, patience, understanding, cooperative
Comfortable, spiritual, aristocratic, intellectual, loyal, and trustworthy(true blue?) or even somewhat businesslike when the cooler shades of it are used. Summer—think

pools and beaches with the ocean! Masculine—the old Blue for Boys thing(which can be a negative or a positive depending on how you look at it).

Negative—Fearful, cold, passive and depressed (feeling blue?), gloomy, moldy

GREEN: Positive—Money, food, natural, healthy, fresh, growth, soothing, sharing, hopeful, Responsive, relaxing, --depending on the shade it can also be velvety and shimmering

Negative—Greed, envy, guilt, disorderly, jealous(green eyed monster?), constricting Nauseating and Inexperienced.

PURPLE: Positive—Royal, religious, sophisticated—Easter! Powerful and reflective yet Lighthearted. It can become almost dollish when the hue goes to the pinker Shades of it. Brave (As in a purple heart!), Noble, Ambitious or Luxurious.

Negative—bruised or foreboding, mysterious. moody

WHITE: Positive—Easy, Fresh, Pure, Clean and Good

Negative—Cold, distant, bland, winter, blinding,sterile

BLACK: Positive—Dramatic, Classy, serious, committed. Formal

Negative—Evil or Bad, coldness, death, ignorant, terror and secretive

RED: It's a love hate color! Sometimes it Love and sometimes its Hate! Kind of even on the Negative and Positive in that area

Positive--Strong, Passionate, Brave, Sexy,

Negative—Danger, Aggression, Domineering, Bawdy, and Rage

BROWN: Positive—Earthy, Mature, Warmth

Negative—sad, dirty, cheap

TURQUOISE: Positive—Spiritual, Healing, Protection, Sophisticated

Negative—Envy

SILVER: Positive—Glamorous, Sleek, High Tech, Graceful

Negative—Insincere, Dreamer

PINK: Positive—Happy, Healthy, Sweet, Playful, Compassionate, Clean, Fresh, Bright Feminine (again the Pink for Girls thing but again it can be a positive or negative Depending on how it's used)

Negative—Immature, weak

GOLD: Positive—Wealth, Value, Prosperous, Traditional

Negative—Greed or Dreamy (hmmm negative or positive on the later?)

You will never please everyone no matter what color/colors you choose. Do what is right for YOU and for your viewer or customer or family! Everyone does not have the same tastes nor can everyone see the same shade you may be seeing whether it is on the web or in your real life— there are people who are totally color blind, partially color blind or who just plain love colors you don't and vice versa! Certain cultures also have specific meanings on colors and some businesses

know that color can affect the mood of their clients/customers—(restaurants and hospitals for a great example!). Color will always be a long discussion with most of us for that reason alone. It's emotional as well as visual! Many of us may also be influenced by current color trends or even by colors we loved as children or that reminds us of a special time in our lives. Whatever your reasons for choosing colors make it mean something to you! It can make you stand out or blend in depending on what you are looking for. Don't make a snap decision all the time..take the time to plan out what you want to project in your page, layout or design. Remember that some shades can make you just scream when mixed with the wrong one...test it together before you finish your final pages! Whether digital or paper you can undo it until you either flatten it or glue it down ☺

Any resemblance to other tutorials is unintentional. I hope this helps you in some way with your scrapping!

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