

Color Mixing Primary Colors

Color mixing is not an exact science. Artists have different formulas and methods for mixing and applying paint. Color mixing is generally the first stumbling block for the artist after realizing, that painting is really about colors and light. A certain color can be daunting for those painters exploring color. How do you get a certain unique hue of a color? What are the best secrets to color mixing? What general rules of thumb will help me master the basics of handling color? Just knowing how is not enough. You need to know where and why to take control.

Primary Colors

Many of you have been told that “all colors can be mixed from the three primary colors.” **This is false.** What is true, however, is that the three

primary colors, yellow, red, and blue, when mixed together, neutralize each other to make a light gray, brown or black: depending on the amount you thin out your colors. You are also able to adjust the Hue (the many variations of a color.) For example, there are many different reds, blues etc. depending on the amount of each color you mix. The highest saturation of any color usually is right out of the tube.

See plate #1

Usually the first primary colors you will be introduced to in starter sets are cadmium red, ultramarine blue and lemon yellow. But be careful. Most manufacturers make these colors using the same names; however, they use different formulas giving many hues and variables in the color.

Mix all three primaries together to make black

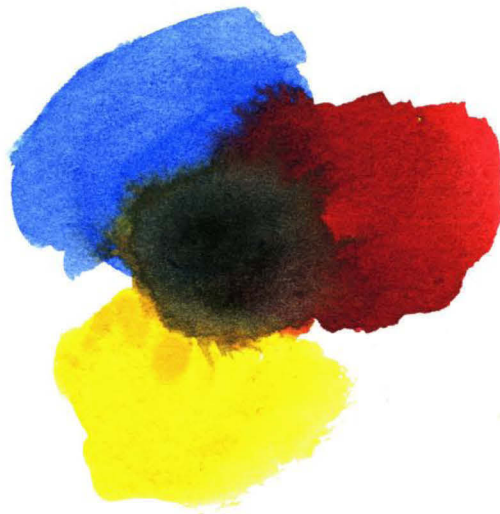


Plate #1