

Mixing, Mixing, Mixing

Naming and Identifying Colors

Artist's colors use the traditional names of the pigments from which the color is made. However, there can be quite considerable differences in quality or range of colors between one manufacturer and another. Sometimes the word 'hue' is used when a cheaper pigment is substituted. 'Cerulean Blue Hue' means a color with approximately the same hue as 'Cerulean Blue,' but possibly made from cheaper pigments. Many modern acrylic colors have names of chemical compounds from which they are made.

Artists need to have a more extensive and accurate system for identifying colors: i.e., as the primary system, Munsell system, or the 'Pantone' system for printing, whereby every different color shade and tint is given a specific number.

Using this system the artist can tell the printer exactly what a particular color should look like, and be able to communicate specifications to the Computer graphics programmers or printers. These usually include 'HLS' - Hue, Luminescence and Saturation, 'CYMK' - the amount of **Cyan**, **Magenta**, **Yellow** and **Black** and the 'Pantone' system.

When painting any other combination of colors, begin each mixing procedure with the warmer of the two colors; in this case red. This is because it's far easier to cool a color than to warm one, because cool colors tend to overpower warm ones. Also, avoid - over mixing the paint. You're not after a flat house-painter's gray here, but a muted yet colorful neutral; so keep your mixtures loose and don't be afraid to leave a few of the unmixed bits of purer paint color intact.

