# Beginning Watercolor Color 



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## Primaries -



## Primaries - a new version



## Color wheel tools -



## Complementary colors -

## Complementary colors are opposite each other on the color wheel.

Compliments mix to neutrals.

Compliments brighten each other optically.
Do not use compliments in equal amounts usually.


## Complimentary colors in a sketch -



## Complimentary colors in a painting -



## Warmon colors advance, cool colors recede.



## Color temperature

- Warm colors
, cool
colors
- Ultramarine blue and burnt sienna.



## Mixing colors - the basics.

- Colors are not pure.
- They lean in one direction or another on the color wheel.
- To mix clean, bright color, choose paints that lean toward each other.
- To mix desaturated colors, choose paints that lean away from each other.
- Avoid mixing more than 2 colors usually. Let's try this!



## Choosing and comparing colors -



## Ultramarine Blue

Series 1284600106
$\mathrm{I} \cdot 3 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{O}$


Cobalt Blue
Series 3284600025 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 2 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{C}$

COLOR INFORMATION from left to right
$(\mathrm{I} \cdot 2 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot(\mathbb{)})$ 999001009

## LR - ASTM LIGHTFASTNESS RATING

$\mathrm{I}=$ Excellent $\mathrm{II}=$ Very Good $\mathrm{III}=$ Fair $\mathrm{IV}=$ Fugitive $(\mathrm{NR})=$ Not rated. Independent Rating

## NON-STAINING/STAINING

1=Non-Staining 2=Low Staining
$3=$ Medium Staining $4=$ High Staining

GRANULATION
$\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{No} \quad \mathrm{Y}=\mathrm{Yes}$, in varying degrees

TRANSPARENCY
O=Transparent
© $=$ Semi- $-=0$ paque

## Choosing a palette of color - Blues

- A warm and a cool of each of the primaries.
- Common choices are:


## Warm Blues

(lean to the red)


Ultramarine Blue Series 1284600106 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 3 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{O}$


## Cool Blues (lean

to the yellow)


## Choosing a palette of color - Reds

Warm Reds
(leans to the yellow)
 Series 3284600085 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 3 \cdot \mathrm{~N} \cdot \mathrm{C}$


## Cool Reds(lean to the blue)



## Choosing a palette of color - Yellow

Warm Yellows
(lean to the red)


New Gamboge Series 1284600060 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 2 \cdot \mathrm{~N} \cdot \mathrm{O}$

Cool Yellows
(lean to the blue)


## Choosing a palette of color - Greens

## Warm Greens

(lean to the yellow)


Cool Greens
(lean to the blue)


## Choosing a palette of color - Purples

- Purple is easily mixed but sometimes it is convenient to have in the palette.
- A dark purple and a blueish green can make a cool black or dark grey.
- Reddish violet makes a quick cloud shadow over blue sky.

Warm Purples (lean to the red)



Imperial Purple Series 2284600174 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 2 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{O}$

## Choosing a palette of color - earth tones



## Choosing a palette of color - earth tones



## Choosing a palette of color - Greys and blacks



Payne's Blue Gray
Series 1284600235
$\mathrm{I} \cdot 2 \cdot \mathrm{~N} \cdot \mathrm{C}$


## Choosing a palette of color - Whites

## Chinese White

Series 1284600023
$\mathrm{I} \cdot 1 \cdot \mathrm{~N} \cdot \mathrm{C}$

## Titanium White Series 1284600118 <br> $\mathrm{I} \cdot 1 \cdot \mathrm{~N} \cdot \mathrm{C}$

Zinc white (Chinese white) Use for mixing pastel colors or very soft high lights. Usually comes in watercolor kits.

Purchase these paints in Gouache form. Same as watercolor but often less expensive.

Titanium white. Much more opaque than zinc white. Good covering power. Use for highlights and for corrections. Can be mixed with other watercolors.

## Useful colors choices -



## More useful colors choices-



Indanthrone Blue
Series 2284600043
$\mathrm{I}(\mathrm{NR}) \cdot 3 \cdot \mathrm{~N} \cdot \mathrm{O}$


Prussian Blue
Series 1284600082
$\mathrm{I} \cdot 3 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{O}$


Imperial Purple Series 2284600174 $1 \cdot 2 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{C}$


Buff Titanium Series 1284600009 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 1 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{C}$


Series 1284600109 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 3 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot($


Phthalo Green (YS)
Series 2284600079
$\mathrm{I} \cdot 4 \cdot \mathrm{~N} \cdot \mathrm{O}$
 Series 1284600114 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 1 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{O}$


Payne's Gray Series 1284600065

$$
\mathrm{I} \cdot 2 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{O}
$$

$\qquad$


Viridian Series 2284600112 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 1 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{O}$


Deep Sap Green Series 2284600175 $\mathrm{II} \cdot 3 \cdot \mathrm{~N} \cdot \mathrm{O}$
 Series 1284600011 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 2 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{C}$

## Color choice -

- Whether traveling or sketching about town, make color choices in your palette based on what you are likely to encounter.
- In Scotland I use a lot of grey mixes so I need colors that do that for me.
- Arkansas trees tend to have more yellowish greens than trees in the northern U.S.



## Mixing two colors



## Use complimentary colors to mix greys -

Possible combinations : Ultramarine + burnt sienna or burnt umber or any other orange-ish color.

Reds and Greens
Alizarin crimson + phthalo green.
Indian red + cerulean blue.
Yellows and purples.


## Mixing Greys

## Grey mixes -




## Mixing and working with greens -

- Most greens out of the tube are not useful.
- Blue and yellow mixes do not always make realistic greens.
- Soooo- where does that leave us??



## Blue/Yellow mixes-

Blues<br>Ultramarine blue Cerulean blue<br>Prussian blue

Prussian blue mixes with yellow to produce some beautiful greens.


## Useful greens -

- Sap green
- Perylene green
- Deep sap
- Phthalo or veridian greens


Perylene Green Series 2284600194 $\mathrm{I}(\mathrm{NR}) \cdot 3 \cdot \mathrm{~N} \cdot$ (


## Mixing Greens -

- Start with a suggested green.
- Add other paints such as:
- Quinacridone gold

Raw sienna
Yellow ochre
Yellows
Blues
Purples
Reds
Burnt sienna, Burnt umber and other earth tones.

Quinacridone Gold Series 2284600089 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 2 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{O}$


Ultramarine Blue Series 1284600106 $\mathrm{I} \cdot 3 \cdot \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{O}$

Mixing greens


Making greens more interesting 1 -


# Making greens more interesting 2 - 



## Mixing greens-

- Let's try this!
- The painting is only a quick example.
- Make up any kind of foliage that please you.
- Mix as many greens as you can.
- Try blue and yellow mixes as well as green+ mixes.
- Much of the foliage was mixed on the paper.



## Quick flesh tones -

- Naples yellow + Alizarin crimson
- Yellow ochre
- Yellow ochre + burnt sienna
- Potter's pink
- Burnt sienna
- Raw umber (DS)

- Blues, greens or browns for shadows.




## Limited palette-

- Triads



## Full spectrum triad -

- Mid-yellow (Winsor yellow WN), Hansa light
- Greenish-blue (Winsor blue WN), Phthlo blue
- Magenta or a Blueish-red (Perm. Rose WN) Quin rose



Full-Spectrum Triad

## Earth triad -

- Mid-green (hookers gr. WN)
- Reddish- blue (French ultramarine or a blue violet)
- Yellowish- red (Cad. Red light or Pyrrol scarlet DS or WN)



Earth Triad

## Sun triad -

- Orangeish-yellow (new gamboge)
- Bluish- green/greenish-blue, (Cerulean or aquamarine blue)
- Bluish-red/ red violet, perm. magenta (WN or DS)



Sun Triad

## Water triad -

- Bluish green, Veridian or phthalo green.
- Bluish violet, (WN or DS ultramarine violet
- Red orange, (DS transparent pyrrol orange or mayan orange



## Choose your own triad and make a

Pick any variation of red, yellow and blue.

This painting uses:

- Ultramarine blue
- Indian red
- Quinacridone gold.


Cut your watercolor paper to printer size and print the " 3

## Outline

 picture template" directly onto your paper to save time transferring the image.

