Coloring

Your

Designs

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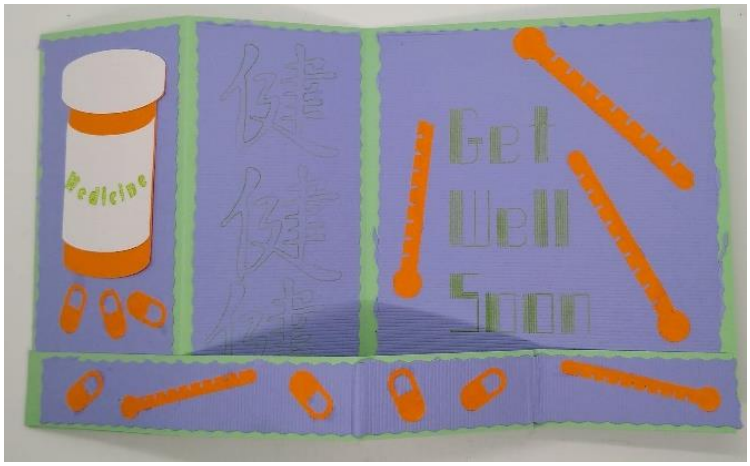
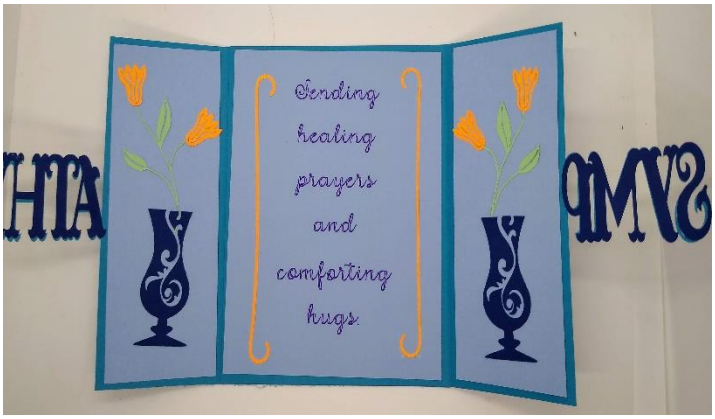
Coloring Your Designs

Have you ever downloaded a beautiful design and make it with your own color choices and it looks off? I have many times. Some of the examples of wrong color choices can make even the prettiest design suddenly look very wrong. Look at these cards. Something seems off.

Now look at these color choices. They look much better, don't they? But why?



Get Well Z Fold Card



Gatefold Cut Out Sympathy Card

The second set was done using a color wheel to select colors. So what is a Color Wheel? And how do I use it?

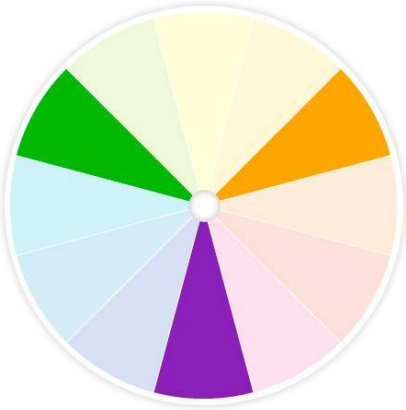
When doing a project, color choice is very important. Let's get some basics and then we will see the methods for choosing colors.

The Basic Wheel

We will start with the colors of the Color Wheel. In 1666, Sir Isaac Newton discovered that light when shined through a prism breaks up into all different shades of color. I have a color wheel that sits right next to my cricut whenever I am designing a project. Newton's wheel had 12 basic colors, which are divided into three categories:

Primary Colors

Secondary Colors



Tertiary Colors

Primary Colors are Red, Blue and Yellow. Theoretically all colors can be made from mixing these three colors.

Secondary colors are Green Orange and Purple. Secondary colors are made by mixing primary colors.

Tertiary colors are a combination of a secondary color and a primary color next to it. They include yellow-orange, red-orange, red-violet, blue-violet, blue-green and yellow-green.

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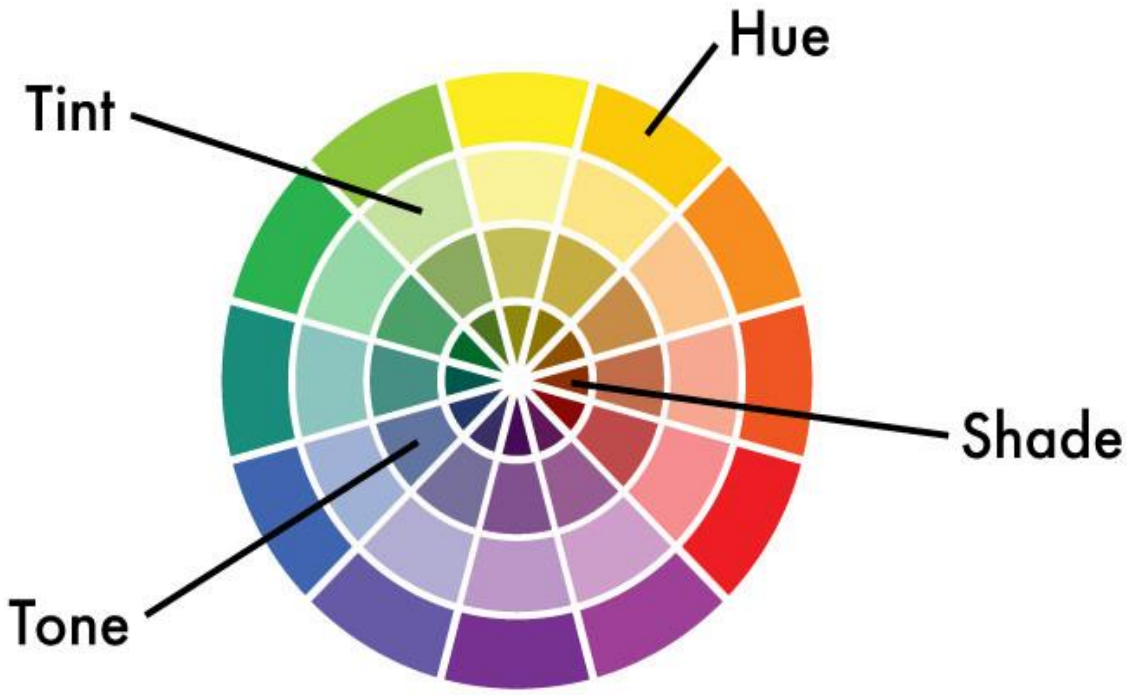
Color Dimensions

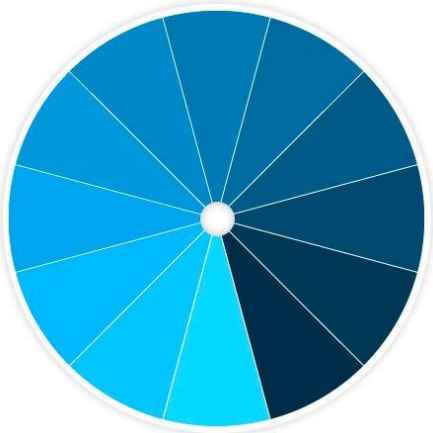


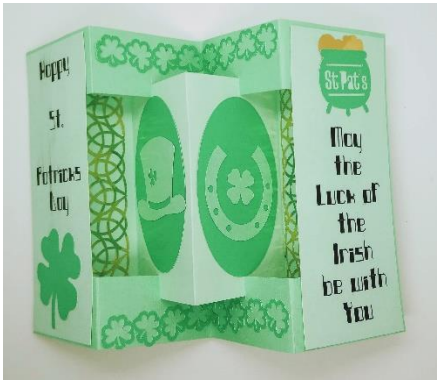
- **Hue** is the pure color seen on the color wheel.
- **Tints** are made by adding white to brighten a hue. Tints of a color are much lighter than their hue counterparts.
- **Tones** are made by adding gray to a hue. The tones are duller than the original hue.
- **Shades** are made by adding black to a hue, creating a darker color.
- **Saturation** measures the overall intensity in a color. A pure hue is more saturated than its tint or tone.
- **Value** refers to the general lightness or darkness of a color. A lighter hue has more value than a darker hue.

Color Schemes

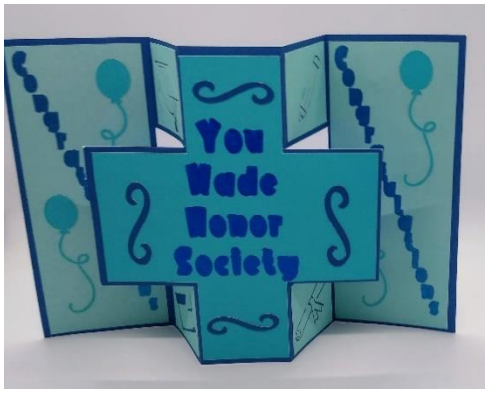
Now that you know the colors here are four common ways to use them in your project

One Color — Monochromatic





St Patrick's Day Concertina Card

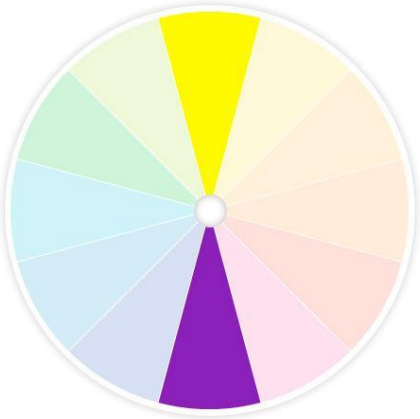


Congratulations Card

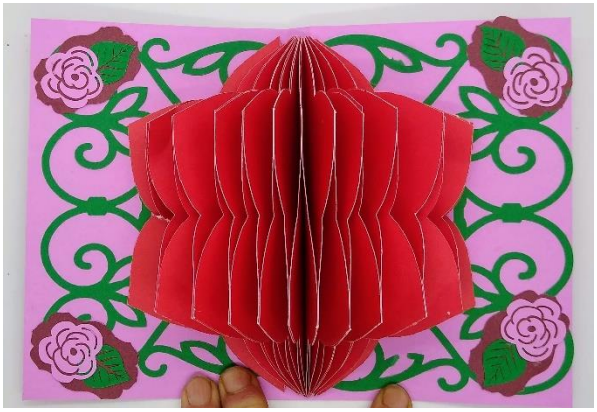
Thanksgiving Easel Card

Most of my cards and projects are done monochromatic. This is the easiest way to color your project since all the colors are shades of the same color. And Cricut makes that easier by lining them up together in the color choices.

Two Colors — Complementary



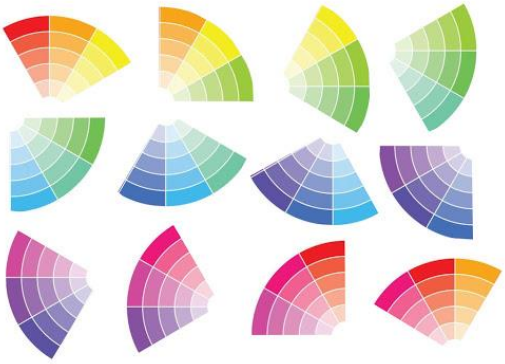
3-D Flower Card



Harlequin Flower Birthday Card

Complementary means that the colors are directly opposite each other across the wheel. Christmas Colors are a wonderful classic example of complementary colors. Some other examples are purple and yellow or blue and orange. I love doing yellow and purple projects.

Two or Three Colors - Analogous Colors



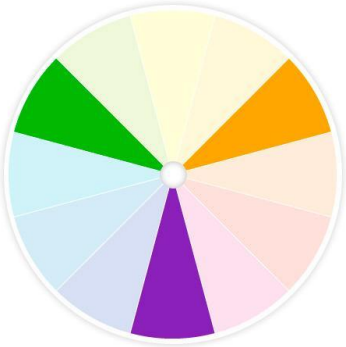
Gatefold Friendshiip Card

Daisy Mother's Day Card

Mother's Day Box Card

Analogous colors are right next to each other on the color wheel. I don't do much of this buTt you can see that the pink (red) and purple work together nicely.

Three Colors — Triad



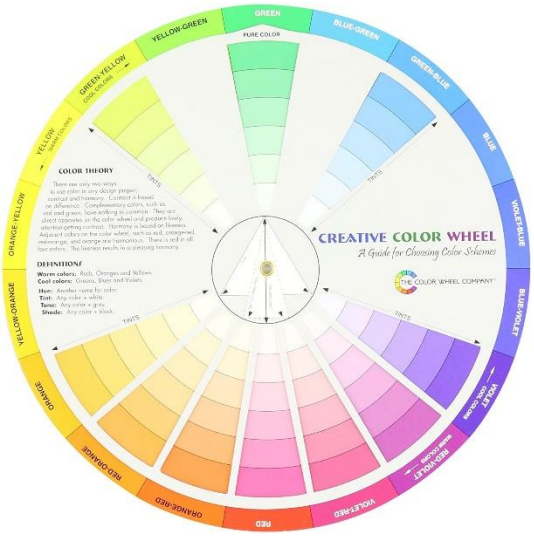
Essential Workers Pop Out Thank You Card

I actually don't do a lot of Triad pieces, but I created this project to show how the colors can balance. The card follows the Triad principle. The blue, yellow and red work well together.

In Conclusion

Now you will be better prepared to choose your colors for your next project. This theory called Color Theory can be applied to painting, decorating, choosing your clothes or anywhere color is and that is everywhere.

Download or buy a good color wheel to help choose the colors and it will make your projects pop! This is mine:



I know it looks complicated, but as you use the color wheel, it will make more sense. The wheel turns and the monochrome, complementary, analogous, and triad color sets are all marked. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at blog@crazycricutlady.com.

And have a colorful day!!

Tutorials and download files for all of these projects are available my website for free. My website is www.crazycricutlady.com and my goal is for everyone to take their cricut out of the box and make something. Come see what us crazy cricut people are making today.