



COLOR BOOK –WHAT COLOR DOES Study in Harmony

LESSON THREE

In the last lesson we began to collect, study and see **values** in the colors around us. We learned how it is easier to spot the variations in values while viewing an area in direct light or in direct shadow. It is in these areas that we can learn the most about how one color mixed with either white or black can create a unique picture or expression.

In this lesson we will be discovering how **analogous color schemes** are used to create mood and express emotion. Analogous colors are those that are adjacent to one another on the color wheel. By using them together we create harmony, experienced as harmonious feelings.

How could these side-by-side colors not work well together? They are part of the same family and contain a little bit of each other in them.

EXERCISE #1: Pull out six samples of printed fabrics from your fabric collection (non-solid). Cut a small swatch of each and glue them onto a page of their own in your color book.

Using a color wheel as a guide, take a close look at each sample and note each of the colors that are used in the design. Then answer the following questions:

- ★ Are there one, two, three colors, or are there more? Locate them all on the color wheel.
- ★ Do the colors identified lie next to each other on the color wheel?
- ★ Is there any use of a neutral color, such as black, white or gray, as a color in the design?

Note any of the fabrics that use the analogous scheme, and begin to think of how you may use this fabric.

Note any of the fabrics where a neutral color has been added to the analogous scheme and what new effect is created. Think of how you may use this fabric.



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A great example of an analogous color scheme can be seen during sunset where the sky changes through yellow, yellow-orange, orange, pink and red, in various shades and tints.

But not every sunset is a lesson in harmony. How are your feelings and moods affected while viewing a sunset where the sky moves gracefully through analogous, harmonious colors, versus a sunset where there is more contrast of colors? Do you experience this as more disturbing? Exciting? Dramatic?

What do you think causes the feelings you are experiencing?

Drama in an analogous color scheme is caused by the use of neutrals. For example, just using white and black as the neutrals, by adding *low values*, or neutrals from black to mid-gray you can create a very gloomy mood—the sky on an overcast day, perhaps.

Middle values, when added, accomplished by adding mid-grays to analogous colors, create an entirely different feeling.

Finally, by adding *high values* of light-grays through white, the mood again is changed.

EXERCISE #2: Try to find photographs of various scenes that use analogous color schemes and identify instances where drama is created by using low, middle or high neutrals. Note the range of values and also how the mood is changed.

EXERCISE #3: Another fun place to discover analogous color schemes in use with neutrals is in a book of flowers. Here you may find a picture of a red rose, and on closer inspection see that the petals really move from orange-red highlights through reds and red-violets. Find such a book, or flower catalog and note the flowers where analogous colors and their neutrals are found.



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