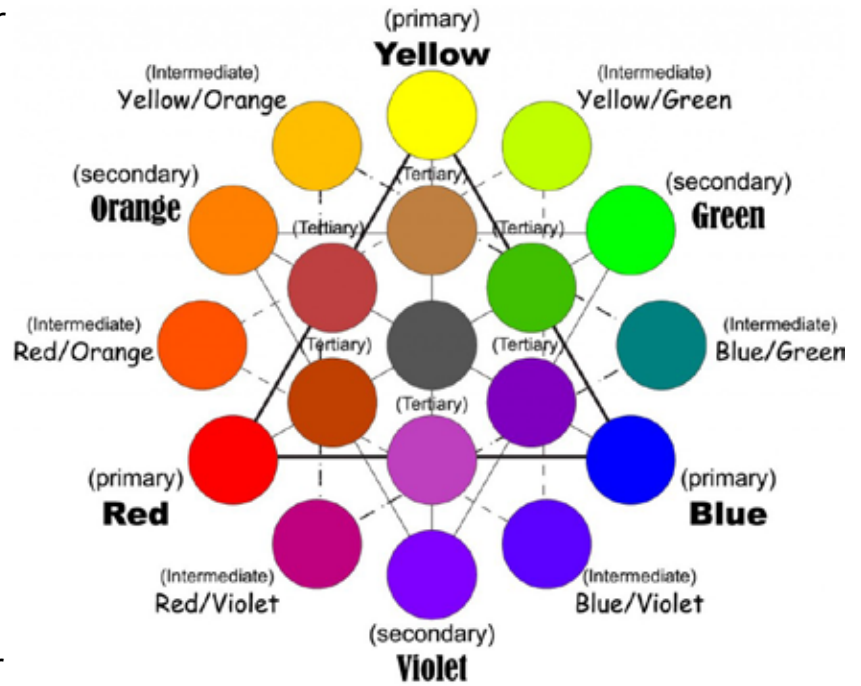


DESIGN; - COLOUR

Colour may not necessarily be your first consideration when designing jewellery, but it is an important part of your overall design. Colour choices can dramatically change the feel and look of a design.

COLOUR

What colours appeal to you most?
What colours do you wear a lot?
Do you want to follow the fashion trends with new colour options with each new collection or season? Do you want the colours in your work to just be beautiful, or to send a message - for example red can be angry, or passionate, or suggest love, blue can be calming.



TIP - Go with what you like most, what is meaningful to you, or what you would like to own or wear. As a designer you need to find your own unique identity and this is one way that can start.

CONTRASTING COLOURS

Contrasting colours are ones that sit opposite each other on the colour wheel. These give a strong contrast and putting two opposite colours together makes each colour seem more vibrant - for example pairing blue and orange, or red and green,

For a more subtle effect, you want to work with colours that are close together on the colour wheel instead - for example blue and purple, or variations of one colour, such as different hues of green.



GRADIENTS / OMBRE

Do you want to work with solid blocks of colour, or are you thinking of something more subtle? A colour gradient is where the colour changes gradually over a surface, giving a smooth transition blending from one colour or shade to another. Also referred to as an Ombre effect. This can be within one colour, with different shades of the same colour (think like a paint sample strip), or transitioning between completely different or contrasting colours.



COLOUR 'SEASONS' / PERSONALITIES

Spring - fun, playful, informal - spring colours have a

bright, fresh feel and are generally warmer colours. Yellows, oranges, reds and greens.

Summer - romantic, elegant, timeless - summer colours have a fresh but less vibrant feel than spring - more muted / pastel - pink, lilac, green, blue

Autumn - earthy, natural and warm - autumn colours are deep, natural colours - browns, greens, oranges

Winter - bold, dramatic, luxurious - winter colours are strong and often darker colours - black, grey, navy, purple



DIGITAL COLOUR

When you're working on a computer / phone etc, you are working with digital colours. These are created in two ways - RGB colours are colours created from a mixture of red, green and blue hues. By changing the amount of each colour in the blend, you create different colours. RGB colours are used for on screen colours; colours used for digital photos and on websites. CMYK colours are the colours used for printed output - printed photos, books, magazines etc. If you are designing or photo editing and intend the document for print, make sure to use CMYK, and do a test print to ensure the colours print as you expected them to, as they will look different on screen! CMYK colours are made from blends of ink colours Cyan (blue), Magenta (pink/red), Yellow, and Black.

HOW TO ADD COLOUR

Colour in jewellery is traditionally done through the choice of metal, and the choice of gemstones. Gemstones are a great way to add pops of colour and sparkle to your jewellery, but there are many more options.

If you work with beads, these are all about colour and texture, so colour choices and the combinations of beads you choose can be great fun to experiment with.

Of course you are not limited to these options. You can add enamels - traditional vitreous enamels are powdered glass, 'cold enamels' are resins, or plastic powders. For the most part with adding fresh colours, you are adding extra or different materials into the mix. You can use wood, ceramic, textiles, glass, gems, and anything else, and these can be dyed, glazed, painted, stained, or used in their natural form.

In some cases you can treat metals to alter their colours too - aluminium can be anodised to give colours and patterns, base metals are great for treating with patinating chemicals, and of course there is also plating - coating one metal with a surface layer of another metal.

COLOUR RESOURCES

www.canva.com/colors/color-palette-generator
www.colors.co - www.colourlovers.com
www.design-seeds.com - www.colorzilla.com

