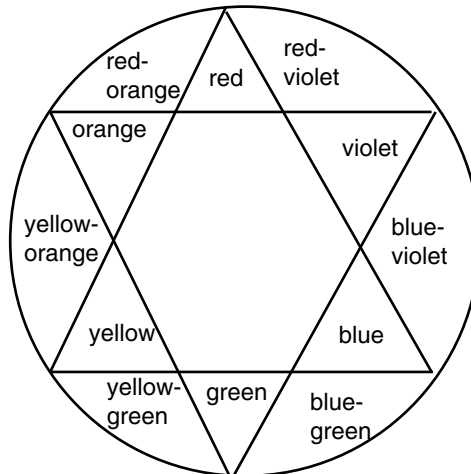


Coil pot color scheme

Choosing a color scheme based on **CONTRAST**

A **color scheme** is a “plan” for using color. Whether in a painting, decorating your bedroom or ceramic pottery, the artist has the responsibility of using a group of colors that work with the piece of art. When you begin your color selection, the first step is to come up with the plan - or the color scheme, you **DO NOT** choose the colors first. A common mistake someone can make is to choose colors for a piece of art based on personal preference. You choose purple because that’s your favorite color. If you make selections like that, you’re basing your choices on past reactions to things you’ve seen and not on the piece of art before you. Do not try and choose your colors based on what you think would “look good” in your bedroom. Instead, devise a color scheme that best fits the artwork and then the piece will stand out anywhere.

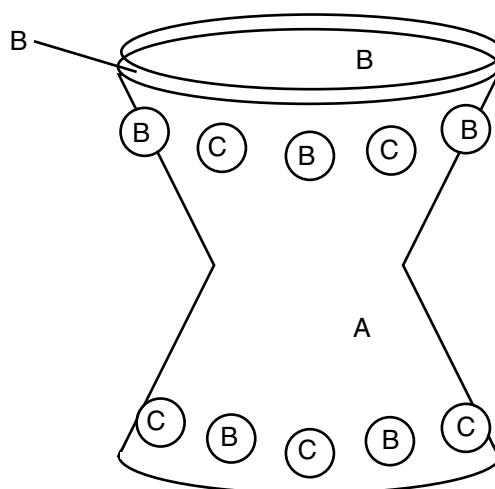
For this project, you are going to base your color scheme on **contrast**. There are two basic ways color have contrast: **value and hue**. *Value* refers to the lightness or darkness of a color. You create contrast by placing a light color next to a darker one. *Hue* refers to a color’s name: red, blue, etc. Color (or hue) has contrast based on **complimentary colors**. Complimentary colors are colors that are “opposed” or opposite one another. To determine a color’s opposite, you need to look at a **color wheel**.



A color wheel is an artist’s tool that organizes colors. Each color has a specific place on the color wheel in relationship to the other colors. For example, the color green is between the colors blue and yellow because you mix blue and yellow together to make green. To discover a color’s opposite, or compliment, you simply look to the color directly across from it, (or opposite it,) on the color wheel. The compliment to red is green and the compliment to yellow-orange is blue-violet.

For your coil pot you are to choose a color scheme based on contrast. To do this you must first decide where the different glazes will go. Divide your pot into two or three color areas. Don’t worry what colors you’re going to use, just think about how you can logically divide the pot into sections for glazing. Consider where there are logical places to stop one color and begin another. Because of the nature of the glazes, it is seldom a good idea to try and glaze a “stripe” on the wall of the pot if there isn’t a physical change in the surface of the pot. While firing, the glaze can run and there would no longer be a straight line.

Look at this drawing of a pot for example:



The pot has been divided into three color areas. Area “A” is the outside of the pot except where the top coil has not smoothed. Area “B” is the inside of the pot, the top coil, and every-other “bump” of clay that circles the top and bottom. Area “C” is the rest of the bumps that circle the outside of the pot.

Now glaze choices can be made. Below is a list of glaze colors that you can choose from for this project. The colors have been loosely divided into categories of light, medium and dark value:

Light Values

Autumn Leaf
Aurora
Bluebell
Clear Transparent
Coral
Dalmatian
Dusty Rose
Emerald Green
Frosted Jade
Golden Yellow
Lilac
Mauve
Moss Agate
Mottled Orange
Petal Pink
Robin’s Egg
Sand
Sandstone
Tawny
Tiger’s Eye
Tobacco Brown

Medium Values

Aquamarine
Carmel
Dark Blue
Dark Yellow
Freckled Brown
Granite
Green Blend
Leaf Green
Pinkish Brown
Rose
Sapphire Blue
Turquoise
Watermelon

Dark Values

Amber
Black Magic
Cinnamon
Fantasia
Maroon
Metallic Brown
Moss Green
Mulberry Red
Oasis
Olive Green
Purple
Red Brown

Because a hand-built, coil pot is usually somewhat primitive in structure, we're going to choose a main color that has a natural look. For the main part of the pot, (or in my example, the "A" area,) you should choose one of the glazes that is in **BOLD** in the lists above. These are more natural or "earthy" colors that work well with a coil pot. Basically, you should consider the "main part" of your pot to be the largest, visible area. So, in this example, even though Area "B" will be the largest, area "A" is considered the main area because it is outside of the pot and you will normally see most of it. So, we'll make area "A" Autumn Leaf. To choose your other glazes, you must choose from the other values. Since Autumn Leaf is a light value, I'll go to a darker value for my area "B". To choose which color, we need to think about **split-compliments**. A split-compliment is one color away from the compliment on the color wheel. Autumn Leaf is a brown, but there are some green specks to the glaze. So I can think about that glaze as a sort-of greenish color. If I look at the color wheel, I see that the opposite (or compliment) to green is red, and the split-compliments would be red-orange and red-violet. This tells me to choose a darker value glaze with a reddish quality. When I look over my choices, I see that I could probably choose Pinkish Brown, Mulberry Red or Red Brown. For this example, I'll pick Pinkish Brown. Finally, I need a color for the "C" area. Since I already chose a light and a medium value, I'll now choose a dark value. For the "C" areas I'll try and choose a color that is the other split-compliment. Since my "B" color is sort-of red-orange, I'll look for a red-violet in the dark values. I'll choose Mulberry Red.

So my final pot will be glazed on the outside with Autumn Leaf, the inside, top coil, and every other dot Pinksih Brown, and the remaining dots Mulberry Red.

In the space below, do a simple sketch of your finished coil pot. Follow the directions just given to choose a split-complimentary color scheme with contrasting values, then label your sketch with your glaze choices.

Coil Pot

Color Scheme: Split-Complimentary
with contrasting values

Name: _____

Main Glaze Color "A"

Split-Complimentary Color "B"

Split-Complimentary Third Color "C"

Instructor
Approval