

Color Essentials

1. Basics

Primary colors

Also called pure colors

- Red (magenta)
- Yellow
- Blue (cyan)

Secondary colors

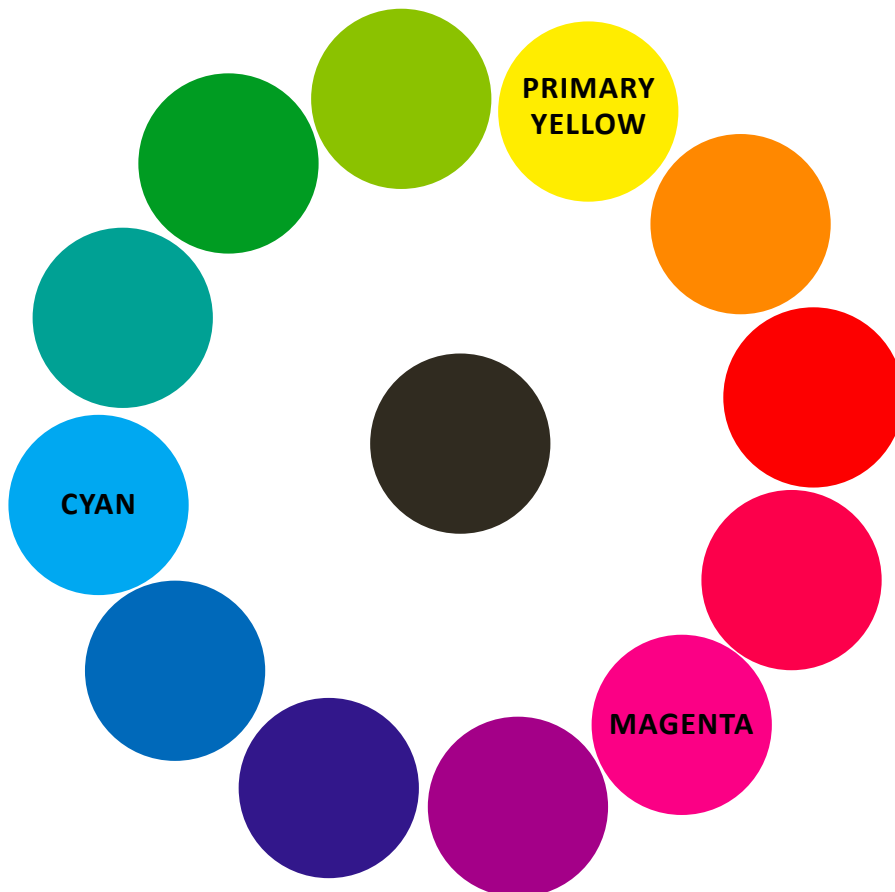
- Green (cyan and yellow)
- Orange (magenta and yellow)
- Purple (magenta and cyan)

By mixing two primary colors, you get the secondary color.

Tertiary colors

They are obtained by mixing two secondary colors together.

For example: brown is obtained by mixing green and orange.



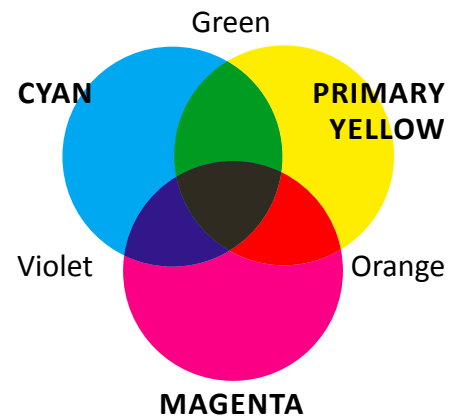
Complementary colors

These are the ones that are in opposition on the color circle.

Which colors do I need to begin?

To start painting silk, a few colors are enough: yellow, blue, red and black.

By mixing different percentages of these dyes together, you can obtain any color possible.



By mixing all three primary colors, we get a dark gray

2. Shades

Shades are the different intensities of one same color.

A monochrome or range: a gradation of tones of the same color.

Pastel shades: range from the chosen color to white.

Dark shades: range starting from the chosen color going to black or adding a complementary color.

3. Colors

Pure colors are called brilliant: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple.

Neutral colors: black, gray.

Warm colors: red, brown, orange, yellow and their derived colors.

Cold colors: green, blue, purple and their derived colors.

Middle color or broken color: is said of a color obtained by the addition of black or a complementary color.

4. How to mix your colors

The color chart

Making a color chart on a silk square is an essential step.

You will need a dropper or pipette to measure the color mixes and dilutions.

When mixing color, always start with the lightest color to which you add the darker color sparingly until you get the desired tone. Use a dropper and change your colors drop by drop.

The dropper, like a paintbrush, should be rinsed before each new color mix.

Always use the same dropper for each primary color.

Rinse them off at the end of your work to prevent the paint from drying and distorting your subsequent mixes.

Use thinner to lighten the colors.

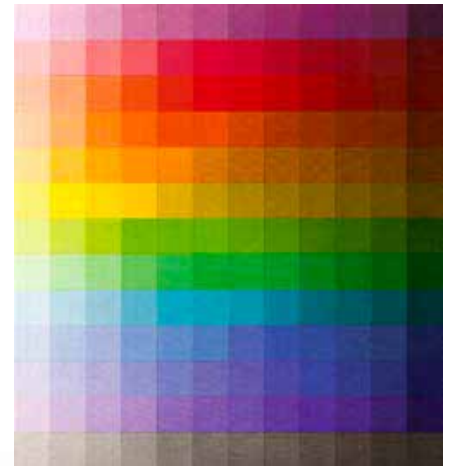
It is also possible to mix colors directly on the silk fabric by superimposing the tones one on top of the other.

Example: to obtain green -> paint a first coat of yellow then a second coat of blue.

How much paint will you need?

To give you an estimate, one teaspoon of paint covers about one 30x30 cm square of Ponge 4.

Naturally, for the same surface, the thicker the silk, the greater the amount of dye.



Important

**Generously plan
the amount of paint
needed to cover
the chosen surface.**

Important

**Use sample silk bands to carry out
tests. Testing is important
to preview effects produced
on the fabric. Don't forget that
the steam fixing process will
strongly revive the hues.**

Choosing The Right Paint

There are two ways of painting silk:

- Using steam-fixed liquid dyes.
- Using water-based heat-fixed paints.



1. H DUPONT CLASSIQUE steam-fixed liquid dyes

These dyes are used to color silk and wool.

The colors are transparent. As liquid as water, these dyes penetrate to the heart of the fabric fibers.

They are fixed by steaming (see Sheet n°13: «Fixing») or by dyeing in a hot bath.

All steam-fixed dyes can be mixed with one-another.

To make a color lighter, add thinner. You can also make your own thinner by mixing one part of water with one part of 90° alcohol.

To remove steam-fixed dyes from silk fabric, use «H DUPONT Pure bleaching agent» - 250ml - DU 081 0250 000.



2. ARASILK Heat-fixed paints

These liquid paints are also used for silk and wool.

Fluid as water, these colors will fuse on the fabric just as steam-fixed dyes. Colors are easily recognisable from one another. They differ in their fixing process. They must be heat fixed by using an iron or hairdryer (see Sheet n°13 «Fixing»).

They can be mixed together or diluted with specific mediums in order to create new tones.

The heat-fixable dyes have a slightly less vivid rendering than the conventional dyes, but they work in the same way (see Sheet n°10: «Wax - Batik technique» - Sheet n°9: «The gutta setting»).

3. Storing dyes and paint.

Pure dyes keep perfectly in a well-capped bottle*.

To keep your paint mixes, use bottles and sort them by tone.

These mixes will serve as a basis for composing new colors and thus enhancing the bright tones.

Store the dye bottles out of the sunlight and in a frost-free place.

* If after a while you notice deposits in your dye, you can filter it with a coffee filter before using it again.

Reminder

It is essential to fix the colors on the fabric (see Sheet n°13: «The fixing»).

Fixing revives colors.