

CHAPTER 9

Understanding Color

OBJECTIVES

- Describe the impact of color.
- Identify primary, secondary, and intermediate colors on the color wheel.
- Describe color schemes that work well together.
- Choose colors that are flattering to you.

KEY TERMS

color scheme	pigments
complementary color	primary color
hues	secondary color
intensity	color
intermediate color	shade
	tint
	value

EXAMINE THIS ISSUE

Some colors warn of danger, and some colors are a danger.

In areas where gang violence is common, wearing colors that mark the wearer as a gang member, even if unintentional, can bring serious consequences. Some schools have banned certain color combinations on clothing to control violence by students who belong to gangs.

What do you think?

Should public schools forbid students from wearing a color or colors associated with a gang? Explain your point of view.

or away from certain areas of your body, color can help. Color can emphasize a special feature, such as the color of your eyes. Color can also create illusions in height and size. The better you understand color, the easier it will be to use this design element to your advantage when sewing a garment, buying clothes, or putting an outfit together. See Fig. 9-1.

THE IMPACT OF COLOR

Before you work with color, think about how it can work for you. Colors have many impacts. They act as symbols and communicate feelings. Some colors suggest coolness, while others

HOW MANY COLORS DO YOU think people can see? You might be surprised to learn that the human eye sees as many as six to seven million colors. Is it any wonder that color has such high impact?

All the colors around you make life more interesting. Meals are more tempting with colorful foods and dishes. Theater, television, and computer screens entertain with colorful images. Homes and offices blend colors to create special effects. Colors can provide beauty, attract attention, and even affect a person's mood.

COLOR AND CLOTHING

What's the first thing you notice about the clothing in a store display? For many people, it's the color. As one of several elements of design, color is often noticed first. The other elements—line, shape, space, and texture—have impact, but nothing like color.

Learning about color is useful in many ways, especially when making the clothing decisions that shape your wardrobe. With an understanding of color, you can choose clothes that help you look your best. If you want to draw attention to

9-1 By learning about color, you can choose clothing colors that help you look your best.



appear hot. Some fade into the background, while others stand out. Optical tricks can even cause colors to vibrate. As Fig. 9-2 shows, colors also send special messages.

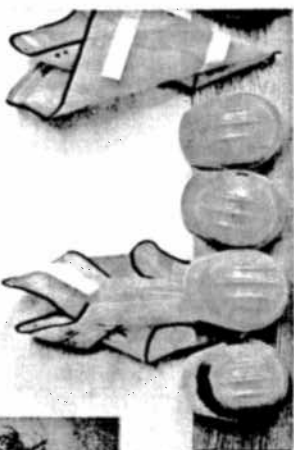
Colors as Symbols

A traffic light at an intersection sends a message without words. The light's colors—red, yellow, and green—are symbols of stop, caution, and go. Anyone who doesn't understand the message can get into serious trouble.

Certain colors symbolize special holidays. Stores are decorated with red for Valentine's Day and green for St. Patrick's Day. Rust, gold, and other harvest colors carry the Thanksgiving theme. Red and green are associated with Christmas; blue and white with Chanukah; and black, red, and green with Kwanzaa.

Colors are also associated with ceremonies and celebrations. In the American culture, baptismal outfits, first communion dresses, and bridal gowns are traditionally white. Mountaineers at timberline usually wear black. Decorations at a baby shower may be pastel pink and blue.

Colors can represent groups and countries, from high school athletic teams to the flags of



Colors can send messages and act as symbols. What messages are conveyed here?



nations. Red, white, and blue make Americans think of the United States; to a Parisian, they are the colors of France. Red and white are the colors of both the Canadian and the Japanese flags. What are your school's colors? What are the colors of your favorite college or professional team? Even in language, colors represent something more than their literal meaning. Suppose you're looking over your finances. You may *feel blue* if you're *in the black*, because you're in debt. If you're *in the black*, on the other hand, others may be *green with envy*. Can you think of other common phrases that use colors?

Colors and Temperature

In a similar way, colors suggest temperatures by their associations with nature. Red, oranges, and yellow look like fire and the sun. These are considered warm colors. Blue is the color of deep waters, clear skies, and the sparkle of snow. Green recalls grassy lawns and shade trees. Violet is seen in the shadows of a cool evening. Such colors are said to be cool colors.

COLORS OF DISTINCTION.

Basic black is considered a classic in fashion colors, but it has a rival in the color purple—specifically, Tyrian purple. Before synthetic dyes were developed, purple dye was extracted from the shells of sea snails living in the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas. Thousands of the tiny animals were needed, making purple garments too costly for all but the wealthiest people—usually the nobility. To this day, the color is associated with royalty, power, and prestige.

Fashion

These associations often make people seek cool, crisp colors on a hot day. Many spring and summer clothes are offered in blues, blue-greens, and greens. In fall, colors turn more to warm colors—red, orange, gold, and brown. These colors may make people feel warmer on a cold morning. The association between color and temperature is sometimes practical as well as psychological. White and light-colored clothes are a more comfortable choice in hot weather because they reflect the sunlight. Since black and dark colors absorb light, they are worn more often in colder weather.

Colors and Movement

The next time you're grocery shopping, scan the shelves of the cereal aisle. While all the cereal boxes compete for your attention, the ones that use bright red, yellow, or orange probably stand out the most. In the competitive world of cereal selling, manufacturers know that warm colors are noticeable. They tend to advance or move toward you. Cool colors, on the other hand, tend to recede or move away from you. See Fig. 9-3.

This is why warm colors are used to attract attention. Red flags and yellow traffic signs are easy to see. At a road construction site, the signs, traffic cones, and safety vests worn by the con-

struction crew are bright orange. A red or yellow fire engine is more visible than a white or green one.

The same is true with clothing. Compare two outfits in the same style, one bright red and the other dark brown. Which would stand out more?

Colors and Mood

Imagine waking on a rainy day after a month-long heat wave. You might say, "I feel like wearing my dark blue sweater." Then after a week of rainy weather, you might reach for your bright yellow sweatshirt.

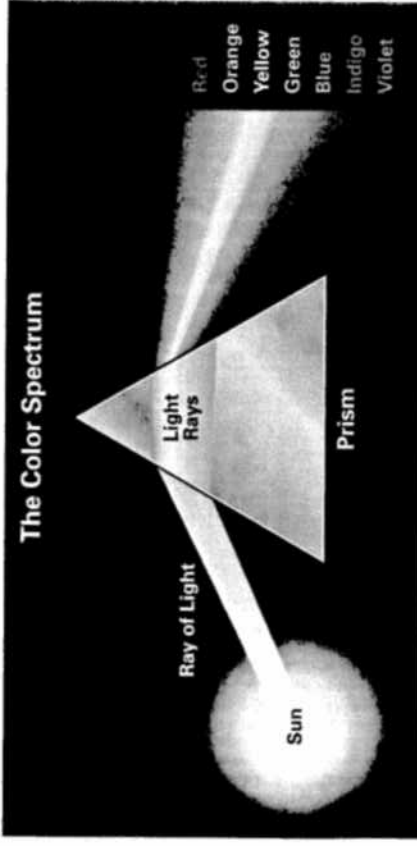
Both responses show color's ability to influence your mood. Blues, greens, and violets have a soothing effect. They give a sense of calm and relaxation, like the relief of a cooling rain. Reds, oranges, and yellows express excitement and stimulate action. They encourage you to be cheerful, which you may need after a week without sunshine.

These feelings and qualities are important when planning a home or business, as well as a wardrobe. The bright, cheerful colors in a restaurant invite you to order the deluxe meal. In the doctor's office and hospital, shades of blue and green evoke feelings of restfulness.

Some colors inspire confidence by implying solidity and level-headedness. Think of the steel-gray business suit of a lawyer or investment broker, for example. On the other hand, what colors would you pick for a children's entertainer?

When you glance quickly at the two circles, which one seems larger? The yellow one appears to "jump out," giving the illusion of greater size. Both circles are actually the same size. Since warm colors tend to advance and cool colors tend to recede, you see the circles differently.





9-4 Sunlight contains energy waves that have different lengths and colors. As light passes through a glass prism, the waves bend and produce a band of blended colors, called a spectrum. Red rays are on one side of the spectrum. These rays are the longest and they bend the least. The shortest rays bend the most, creating violet on the other side of the spectrum. In between are waves that produce the other colors shown in the drawing.

THE LANGUAGE OF COLOR

Have you ever owned a box of crayons that offered more colors than you knew existed, with names that were just as imaginative? A crayon might be cherry, ruby, or flame. A more precise way to describe colors is with the specific names that identify them, such as red, green, and blue. These are called hues.

What Is Color?

Color has amazing versatility, but where does it actually come from? Without light, you wouldn't see the various hues. Sir Isaac Newton determined this fact in the mid-1600s when he showed that light is the source of all color. By passing sunlight through a prism, he produced a rainbow of colors from the bending light rays. See Fig. 9-4.

All objects contain pigments, substances that absorb some light rays and reflect others. When light strikes an object, you see only the colors that

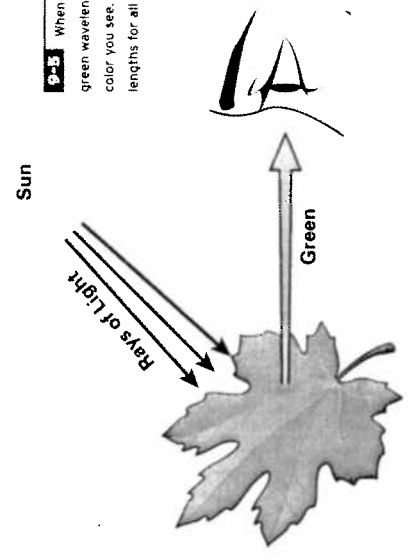
reflect, or bounce back, to your eyes. See Fig. 9-5. When light rays are absorbed, those colors are not seen. If a fabric looks blue, for example, that's because only the blue rays are reflected. The pigment in the fabric dye absorbs the other light rays, along with their colors.

The Color Wheel

To work with color, you need a system that organizes hues into a logical pattern. Such a system can help you manage the many possible color combinations and determine how colors work together. The color wheel is a system that places colors around a circle. Positions on the wheel show how the colors relate to each other. See Fig. 9-6.

Primary colors. Red, yellow, and blue are the three primary colors, the basic colors from which all other colors are made. These three colors are equally spaced from each other on the wheel.

Seeing Color

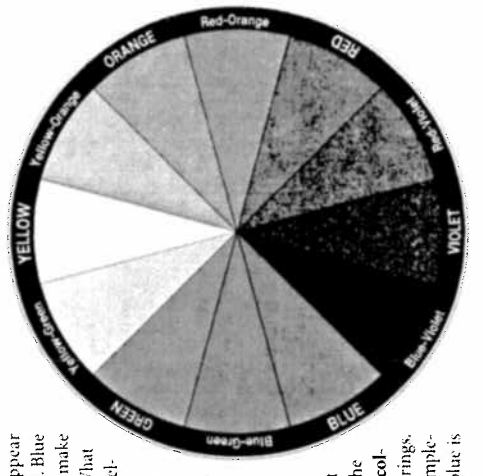


9-5 When light strikes a green leaf, the green wavelength is reflected, so that's the color you see. What happens to the wavelengths for all other colors?

Secondary colors. Combining equal amounts of two primary colors creates a secondary color. These three colors appear halfway between the three primary colors. Blue and yellow make green. Blue and red make violet, which is often called purple. What secondary color is made from red and yellow?

Intermediate colors. If you combine a primary color with a neighboring secondary color, an intermediate color is created. Blue and green combine to make blue-green. Red combines with orange to make red-orange. What are the other intermediate colors on the color wheel?

Complementary colors. Colors that are directly opposite each other on the color wheel are called complementary colors. They include some unexpected pairings. Many people think of blue and red as complementary, but the actual complement of blue is orange. What is red's complement?



9-6 The color wheel shows the colors from which all others are made. The colors are arranged in a specific order, with yellow at the top. Which are the primary, secondary, and complementary colors on the wheel?

Color Variations

(In a color wheel, the colors are very bright and vivid. Most colors that you see around you, however, are lighter, darker, or softer than the hues on the color wheel. These variations differ in two ways—value and intensity.

Value

Adding white or black to a color changes its value. This describes the lightness or darkness of a color. Adding white lightens a color, and adding black darkens a color.

A color that is lightened by adding white is called a tint. The pastels of pink, mint green, and baby blue are tints. A color that is darkened by the addition of black is called a shade. Navy blue is a shade of blue; brown is a shade of orange.

Every color has a wide range of value, from very light to very dark. See Fig. 9-7. Red, for example, can go from a very pale pink to a dark burgundy. How would you describe the value range of the color blue?

Intensity

Intensity is the brightness or dullness of a color. Bright colors are deep and vivid. Because

they contain the most color pigment, they are very color intense. Jewel tones, such as emerald green and ruby red, are examples of high-intensity colors. See Fig. 9-8.

Dull colors, despite the term, are not necessarily boring or drab. Colors like dusty rose and khaki green are softer, muted, or subdued. You can reduce the intensity of a color by adding gray or its complementary color. Adding gray to yellow, for example, creates beige.

Like pure colors, tints and shades can also have different intensities. The pink of a rose petal can be very soft and pale, while pink nail polish may be fluorescent bright.

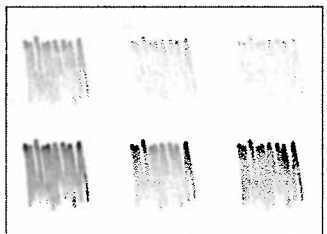
9-8

Have you ever heard that some colors in a room or an outfit are “tiring” to look at? That’s what happens when colors of equal brightness are used together. Look at this shape and the words within for several seconds. As both color fight for attention, your eyes strain to focus on the words. The image almost seems to vibrate.

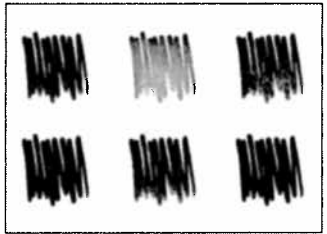


Color Values

Tints



Shades



Neutral Colors

You may wonder why black and white are not on the color wheel. In technical terms, they are not true colors because they don't have color pigment. You see them because of what happens to light. When all light rays are absorbed by a surface, you see the surface as black. When all light rays are reflected from a surface, you see white. Black and white are called neutral colors. Gray, a combination of black and white, is also a neu-

Trends in TECHNOLOGY

“I thought you wanted to buy a blue shirt,” one teen said to his friend. “This is blue,” the friend replied. “Well, it looks green to me,” the first teen responded. Obviously, not everyone sees color the same way.

How does the eye perceive color? The retina contains millions of cells called rods and cones, which are sensitive to light. With rods you see black and white when light is dim. Cones mix colors so you can see them accurately.

If the chemicals in cones aren't correct, a deficiency occurs in the way a person sees color. This condition is called color blindness. About nine percent of humans, usually males, experience color blindness.

>>CORRECTING COLOR BLINDNESS

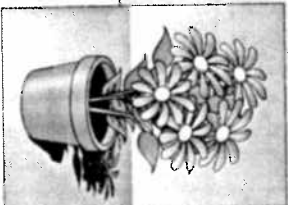
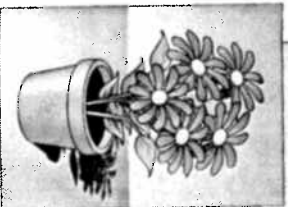
A color-blind person sees some colors but often has trouble distinguishing certain ones. Red-green color blindness is the most common form, and blue-yellow is less common.

Although color blindness can't be cured, a new eyeglass lens helps. The lens is coated with a color filter that changes light waves as they enter the eye. Different coatings match different types of color blindness. Soft contact lenses may soon have similar benefits. When wearing special lenses, a person can distinguish colors more easily, although shades are still difficult to see.

Another innovation is a computer filter that allows those with normal vision to view images as though they were color-blind. Architects, interior designers, engineers, and graphics professionals who work on projects for people who are color-blind find this useful.

INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY

Find and take a test for color blindness. You may be able to locate one on the Internet. How might a color-blind person benefit by knowing of the condition?



CREATING A COLOR SCHEME

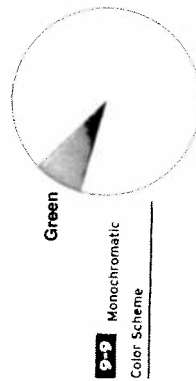
Suppose a young family member puts on an orange and blue shirt with a pair of dark red pants. You might decide to suggest a color combination that is more pleasing to the eye.

Knowing what colors work well together takes an understanding of color and the differences between the many values and intensities. To make it easier, experts have identified several color schemes that can be used as guidelines. A **color scheme** is a plan for using a color or a combination of colors—to decorate a room or put together an outfit.

Monochromatic

“Mono” is a prefix meaning one. “Chromatic” refers to color. Thus, a monochromatic color scheme uses the values and intensities of just one color. See Fig. 9-9.

In a monochromatic color scheme, you can choose values that contrast greatly or very little. For example, wearing a pale blue shirt with navy blue slacks creates strong contrast between the upper and lower halves of the body. The same slacks paired with a darker, indigo blue shirt have little contrast, creating a more continuous look.



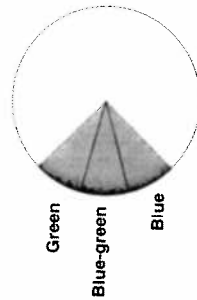
9-9 Monochromatic Color Scheme

Analogous

An analogous (uh-NAL-uh-gus) color scheme uses two or more colors that are next to each other on the color wheel. See Fig. 9-10. Yellow, yellow-orange, and orange are analogous. A blue-green shirt with blue shorts is an outfit based on analogous hues.

When using an analogous color scheme, remember that colors blend better if they are

close in value and intensity. Red and red-violet are more harmonious than pink and red-violet. Pink would mix better with pink-lavender. What other combinations do you like?



9-10 Analogous Color Scheme

Complementary

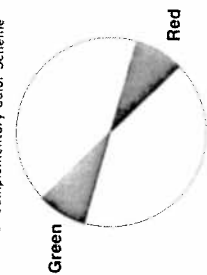
A complementary color scheme combines direct opposites on the color wheel. See Fig. 9-11. Examples are red and green, and orange and blue.

When complementary colors of equal intensity are used together, a very bold color scheme results. Each color emphasizes the other. Wearing an outfit of two bright complements will certainly attract notice.

A softer effect can be obtained by using different values and intensities. Try pairing pink with forest green, instead of pure red with pure green. Choose a rust and navy plaid, instead of orange and blue.

Another method is to use one of the complementary colors as an accent. A yellow blouse with violet trim or a red tie with a narrow green stripe is eye-catching but not overwhelming.

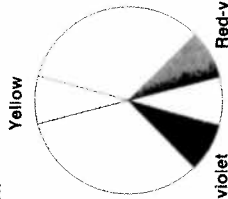
9-11 Complementary Color Scheme



Split-Complementary

One color used with the two colors on each side of its direct complement makes up a split-complementary color scheme. See Fig. 9-12. This combination is more common and easier to wear than a complementary color scheme. The effect is not as bold.

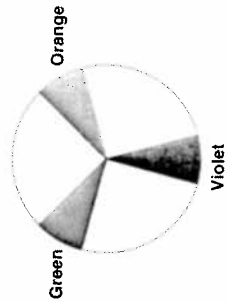
You often find a split-complementary scheme in a plaid or print fabric. A blue-and-green plaid accented with a stripe of red-orange uses this color scheme.



9-12 Split-Complementary Color Scheme

Triadic

Three colors that are equally distant from each other on the color wheel create a triadic color scheme. See Fig. 9-13. The primary colors of red, yellow, and blue make up one example. Orange, violet, and green create another example. As you can imagine, with this much contrast in hues, a triad of high-intensity colors would be very bold. A combination of softer, muted colors would be easier to wear.



9-13 Triadic Color Scheme

Accented Neutral

Since neutrals have no hue, they combine well with any color. Matching white, black, or gray with a smaller amount of a color results in an accented neutral color scheme. The accent color brightens up the neutral color. A gray suit might be accented with a yellow tie or scarf, or a blue handkerchief.

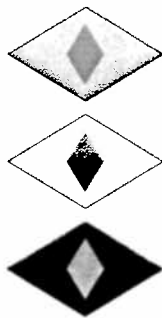
An accented neutral scheme is often used to create a focal point, or point of interest. The eye is drawn to the accent color, making that area more noticeable.

SELECTING COLORS FOR YOU

Of the many hues in the color spectrum, which ones look best on you? Should you choose the warm reds, oranges, and yellows or the cool blues, blue-violets, and greens? Some color experts say that everyone can wear every color, as long as it has the right value and intensity.

It's always best to evaluate colors in natural light, because other types of light can alter the way they appear. Incandescent light may add a touch of yellow, while fluorescent light adds blue. Some light bulbs are “soft pink,” adding a subtle pink tone. Natural sunlight, though, reflects an object's true colors.

When selecting colors for your wardrobe, consider your personal coloring, your body shape, and your height. The right values and intensities of a color will complement these features. See Fig. 9-14.



9-14 A color's intensity changes when placed against different backgrounds. How does this explain why colors look different on people? What happens when you put different garments together in an outfit?



9-15 The colors you wear can make your hair and eye colors stand out.

Analyzing Colors

To find out which colors look best on you, compare various colors to your personal coloring. Stand at a mirror and hold colors underneath your chin. You can use clothing, pieces of fabric, or even colored paper. Remember to use natural daylight rather than artificial lighting if possible. Have one or more friends or relatives help with your evaluation.

As you hold up a color, watch for changes in your eyes and face. A good color accents your eyes or hair and seems to give them sparkle. Your complexion looks healthy and glowing. Your face appears softer; any laugh lines or circles under your eyes are diminished. In contrast, another color may make your face appear hard and sad, and your eyes lackluster. You and others will notice the difference.

If you have a light complexion, does your face look more red or yellow with certain colors? If you have darker skin, how do different colors impact your skin tone? Overall, does the color enhance or overpower you?

As you continue your analysis, you may need to switch back and forth among colors to compare the effects. Try to discover whether some colors are more flattering than others. Do you look better in cool or warm colors, in brighter or softer hues? Do you look best in a clear red, blue, red, or orange-red? Is your best green an olive green, a blue-green, or a true green? Is pure white or ivory more attractive on you? Some people use the seasonal approach to selecting colors, as shown on page 167.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR COLORS

How can you decide what colors look best on you? One color analysis system is based on the four seasons, as shown below. Skin, hair, and eye color link a person with a season, which has a set of corresponding colors. Note how a hue changes slightly for each season. Green is true green for winter, blue-green for summer, yellow-green for spring, and earthy green for autumn.

	WINTER	SUMMER	SPRING	AUTUMN
SKIN	Blue undertones: fair, beige, rosy, ivory, olive, brown, black	Blue undertones: pale to deep rosy beige; often translucent and/or freckled	Gold undertones: ivory, peach, pink, medium beige, brown	Gold undertones: honey, peach, coppery beige, golden black; often freckled
HAIR	Light to dark brown with red highlights; charcoal, black, gray	Blonde, dark brown, sometimes black	Golden to strawberry blonde, brown with gold highlights	Coppery to brown to blonde with gold or red highlights; sometimes black
EYES	Deep in color with gray rims around the iris	Blue to gray to green with white flecks; soft brown, golden brown	Blue to violet to hazel with white flecks	Green to blue with aqua over gray
COLORS	Blue-based colors, clear true colors, vivid or icy colors, black, white	Soft colors with blue undertones, pastels, dusty colors	Medium to light colors with yellow undertones	Strong but dusty colors with yellow and orange undertones, earthy shades

Exploring Seasonal Colors

Work with a partner to determine what season applies to each of you. Use the information on skin, hair, and eye color to decide. Then find the colors that work best for you, using colored paper, fabric swatches, or actual garments.

Personal Coloring

Your personal coloring consists of the color of your skin, hair, and eyes. See Fig. 9-15. Some of these colorings can change. Sunshine causes some skins to tan and hair to lighten. Hair color may darken as a person grows older, until a certain point where it may start to go gray. Many people change their hair color, sometimes with striking effects.

Skin Tones

Skin tones vary widely, from cream, to honey, to olive, to ebony. All tones, however, have either yellow or blue undertones, subtle traces of color seen through the skin. To determine the color of your undertone, look at the skin on the inside of your wrist. If possible, compare it with other people's to see the difference between warm and cool undertones. Skin with a more yellow, gold, or peach cast has warm undertones. A blue or pink trace indicates cool undertones.



9-15 A color that looks good on one person may be less effective on someone else. How would you evaluate these color choices in clothing?

The white one would, but why? All the light that reflects from the white object makes it look larger. On the other hand, the black cube absorbs all light, making the cube look smaller.

In the same way, colors can create illusions that change how you look. The right color or combination of colors can help you look larger or smaller, taller or shorter.

Suppose you want to make your shoulders appear broader. Would you wear a dark green shirt or a bright red one? To de-emphasize the hips, would a pair of light yellow or blue-gray pants be more effective?

Guided by what you know about the effects of different colors, you can probably figure the better choices. You know that warm colors seem to advance, bright colors draw attention, and light colors add size. Thus, the bright, warm hue of the red shirt would emphasize the shoulders better than the dark, cool green.

To minimize an area, you need the opposite effect. Hips would be less noticed in a receding, cool blue-gray than in yellow. Fig. 9-17 suggests how colors can be used for different effects on size.

Remember that your goal in choosing colors is to achieve a look of good health. If a color makes you look pale or harsh, it's not a good color for you, no matter how trendy it may be. See Fig. 9-16.

Body Shape

If you looked at a white cube and a black cube of identical size, which one would appear larger?

Height

An unbroken block of color gives the illusion of added height. Dressing from neckline to hem in a single color or in clothes that are close in value and intensity helps make you look taller. See Fig. 9-18.

On the other hand, broken blocks of color detract from height. Wearing sharply contrasting items, either in hue, value, or intensity, makes you look shorter. You might combine a light blue sweater with navy pants or a shamrock green shirt with tan pants.

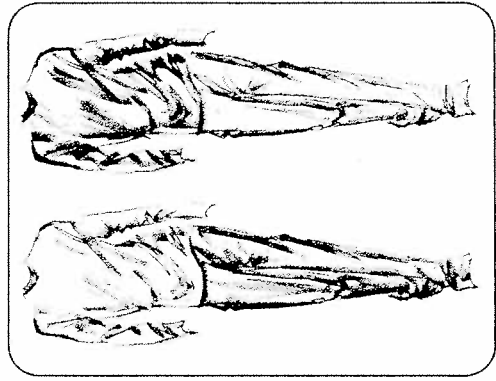
Emphasis

Color can also be used to emphasize certain areas and diminish others. A scarf or collar that contrasts with the shirt draws attention toward the face and away from the body. To minimize a waistline, choose a belt that matches the dress or pants. Wearing a belt in a bright, contrasting color will make it the center of attention.

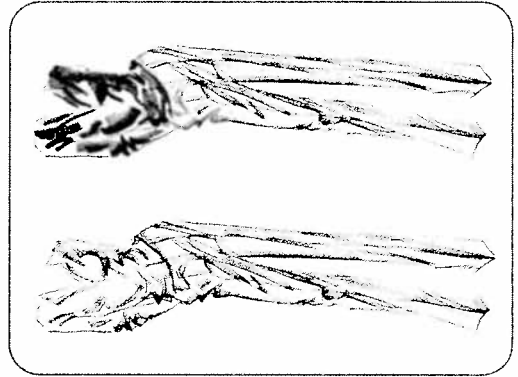
Your Favorite Colors

In one clothing class, students completed a color analysis. Later someone said, "I never knew blue was my best color, but it's always been my favorite. I've got lots of blue clothes." People with an eye for color often choose what looks good on them—without even trying. The mirror tells them that some hues look better than others. Compliments from friends and family also reinforce the notion that certain colors are more flattering.

Does that mean you shouldn't wear other colors? Not necessarily. You can wear the "right" colors when you want to look your best, or just use them as accents. You can keep your special colors in mind as you shop, but you don't have to skip over a good buy just because the color isn't on your list. Wearing colors simply because you like them puts your personality on center stage, and that can be fun.



9-18 Colors can make you look taller or shorter. They also affect how size is seen. What illusions do these outfits create?



9-17 • Color Effects on Size

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?	USE THESE ...	USE THESE ...	USE THESE ...
Increase size or draw attention to an area	HUES Warm hues, such as reds, oranges, and yellows	VALUES Light, high values; light tints; strong contrasts in value	INTENSITIES High intensities; pure, strong, brilliant; saturated with color
Decrease size or take attention away from an area	Cool hues, such as blues, blue-greens, and blue-purple	Low, middle values; dark shades; weak or no contrast in value	Low intensities; weak or grayed colors

CHAPTER 9

Review

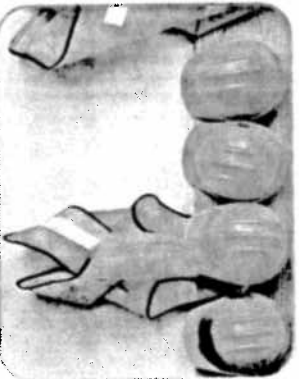
and Activities

CHAPTER SUMMARY

- Colors can be used as symbols to communicate messages.
- Colors can draw or deflect attention by suggesting temperature and movement.
- The three primary colors—red, yellow, and blue—are used to make all others, including secondary and intermediate colors.
- Adding black or white creates variations of colors on the color wheel.
- Colors can be used in color schemes to create different visual effects.
- The best colors for you are those that enhance your natural coloring.
- You can use color to help accent or minimize physical features.

USING KEY TERMS

Cut out two attractive outfits from a magazine or catalog and glue them to a large piece of paper. Label each with the color scheme used. Use other Key Terms to label and describe the colors included in the outfits.



RECALLING THE FACTS

1. Why is it valuable to understand the impact of color?
2. Give four examples of how colors are used as symbols.
3. Why are some colors called “warm” and others “cool”? Give examples.
4. Which color would be better for a library’s walls, mint green or deep gold? Why?
5. How do pigments determine an object’s apparent color?
6. How are secondary colors related to primary colors?
7. How do you find the complement of a color on the color wheel?
8. How is a tint of blue related to a shade of blue?
9. How can colors be varied in a monochromatic color scheme?
10. Give two tips for creating a pleasing complementary color scheme.
11. How are neutrals useful in creating colors? In creating color schemes?
12. Describe how a color that looks good on you affects your appearance.
13. Which colors are better for minimizing features, shades or tints? Why?

THINKING CRITICALLY

1. The symbolism of colors varies among different cultures. People in India wear white to mourn the dead; in the United States, the traditional choice is black. How do you think such differences arise?
2. One teen thought the colors in a dress were flattering when she tried it on in the store’s fitting room. When she modeled it at home, however, she didn’t like the colors. What do you think happened?
3. Lime green clothes may be “in” one year and “out” the next. Why do you think such color trends occur?
4. Of the color schemes described in the chapter, which do you think would be easiest to use when coordinating an outfit? Which would be most difficult? Why?

APPLYING KNOWLEDGE

1. **Color creation.** Choose one of the primary colors. From this color, create a dulled intensity variation, a secondary color, an intermediate color, a tint, and a shade. Use water-based paints.
2. **Color schemes.** Choose one of the color schemes described in the book. Starting with a skirt, pants, or dress, create an outfit of three pieces or more that is based on that color scheme. Write a description of your outfit, identifying the scheme and the colors selected.
3. **Skin tones.** Evaluate your skin tone for either blue or yellow undertones. Cut a 2-inch (5-cm) circle from a sheet of white paper and place it over the skin of

your lower inner arm. Compare with classmates. Are your undertones cool (blue) or warm (yellow)? How can you use this demonstration to guide you in choosing colors for your wardrobe?

4. **Accents.** Experiment with complementary and neutral accents, using large and small fabric samples. Which colors combine for pleasingly dramatic effects? How might these combinations be worn?
5. **Personal colors.** Follow the directions on page 157 to determine the most flattering colors for you.

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

Your friend has a new job at A-1 Restaurant. He asks for your advice when choosing a uniform shirt. His options are either deep green with the collar, trim, and restaurant name in gold or a gold shirt with green trim and lettering. He can then wear pants of any color that goes well with the shirt. Your friend is fair-skinned with pale blue eyes and bright red hair. He stands a lanky six-foot-two.

Think Creatively

Which shirt design should your friend choose to make the most of his features? What color pants? Why?