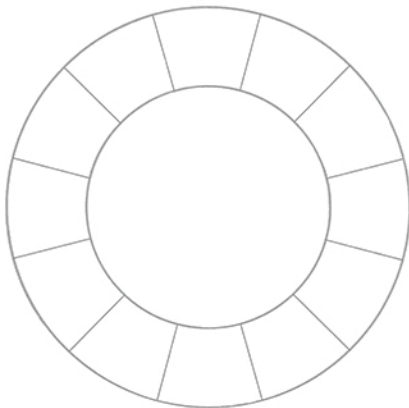# Color Harmony Basics

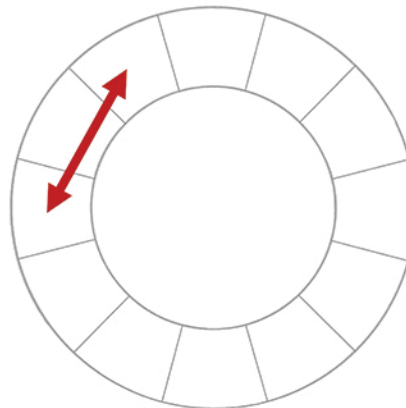by Erika Mulvenna

BERNINA
made to create

Color Harmony

When colors in a color system are arranged in hue-order in a circle, it is easy to discover relationships between colors and color harmony. Color "chords" can be made from combinations of two, three, four or more colors from the wheel. The color wheel harmonies are not the only way to coordinate colors, but are a great starting place to find inspiration and ideas to try new combinations of colors. The most common color harmonies used in a color wheel are included in these cards.
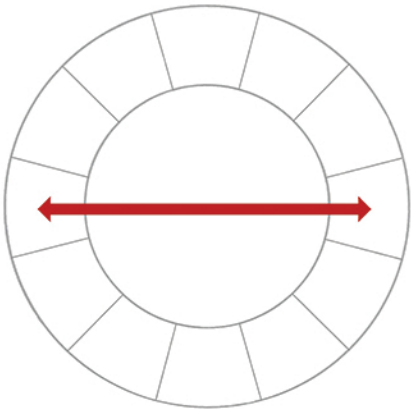
Achromatic

An achromatic color harmony doesn't include any colors from the wheel at all! This combination uses only black, white, or shades of gray.
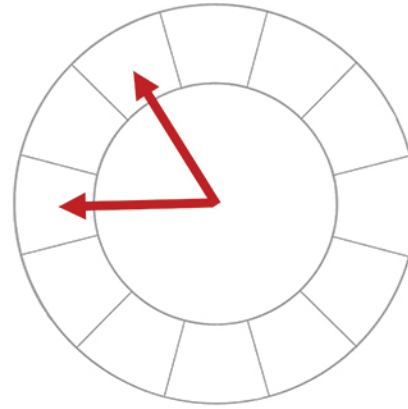
Analogous

An analogous color harmony consists of two or more colors that are neighbors directly next to each other on the color wheel.
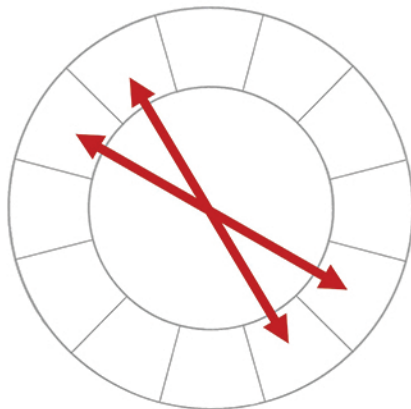
Complementary

Colors directly across the wheel from each other are called color complements, as both colors "complete" each other. Complementary colors are the most intense, vibrant of all the color harmonies on the wheel.
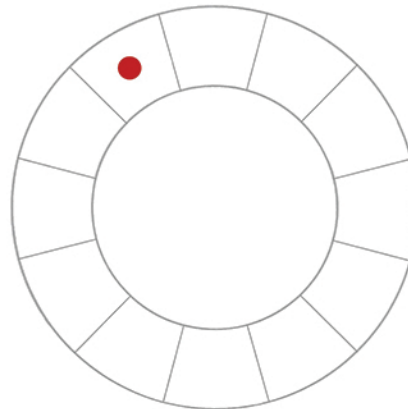
Diad

A color harmony consisting of two colors spaced one color apart from each other on the color wheel is called a diad.
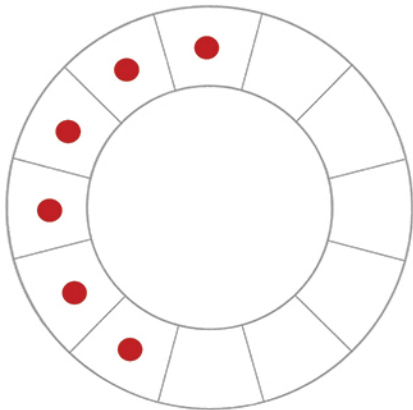
Double Complementary

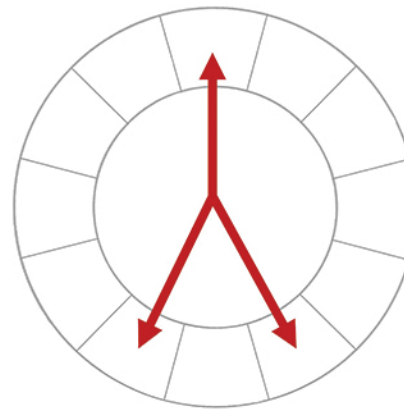This color harmony includes two complementary pairs anywhere around the color wheel.

Monochromatic

A monochromatic color harmony consists of using one hue from the wheel in different tints, tones and shades.
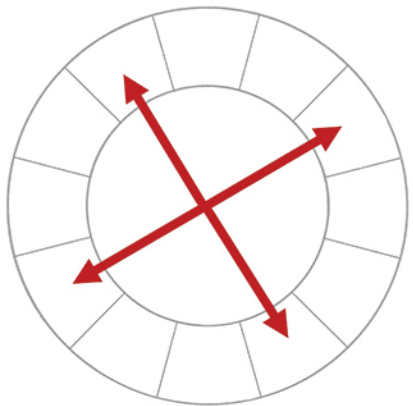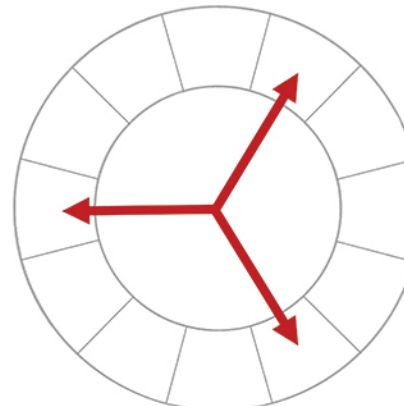
Polychromatic/Multi Color

A polychromatic or multi-color harmony uses a wide variety of colors from around the wheel.

Split Complementary

A split complementary color harmony begins with one color on the wheel, and includes the two colors on each side of the main color's complement.

Tetrad

A tetrad color harmony combines four colors evenly spaced from each other around the color wheel.

Triad

Selecting three colors evenly spaced around the wheel creates a triad color harmony.