

AN ARTIST'S GUIDE TO COLOUR SCHEMES



THE SIX BASIC COLOUR SCHEMES

- Monochromatic
- Analogous
- Complementary
- Split Complementary
- Triadic
- Tetradic

A Tint = any colour mixed with white to make it lighter

A Shade = any colour mixed with black to make it darker

A Tone = any colour mixed with black and white to make it more grey (i.e. "tone" it down).

[Use this free online tool by Canva to play about with these colour schemes](#)





MONOCHROMATIC

Various tints and shades of any one colour



ANALOGOUS

Any three colours next to each other



COMPLEMENTARY

Any two colours opposite each other



SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY

The two colours either side of the opposite colour (three colours in total)



TRIADIC

Any three colours evenly space around the colour wheel



TETRADIC

Two pairs of complementary that form a rectangle in the colour wheel