



Why C-M-Y?

by Margie Deeb

September 2006

I encourage artists to learn and use the C-M-Y wheel, in which cyan stands in for what you know to be primary blue, and magenta fills in for red. This month we'll explore why.

Yellow, red and blue have long been considered primaries because they are pure; they have no other colors in them. In theory, all other colors can

be created by mixing combinations of yellow, red and blue. (Figure 1.)

Studying a color wheel, you can see why theory says all colors can be made from just three primary colors.

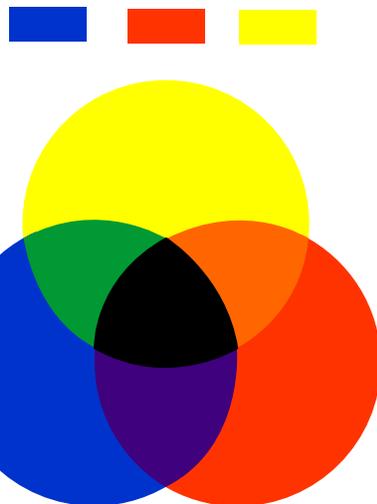
But theory is just that—theory. In practice this is not true.

Press printed material require four

colors—not three—to produce a wide range of colors accurately. These colors are referred to as the ink primaries of cyan, magenta, and yellow (figure 2), plus black. This is the four-color ink printing process.

The mixing of the cyan-magenta-yellow primaries creates a broader and more luminous range of colors

Traditional artists' primaries:
Blue - Red - Yellow

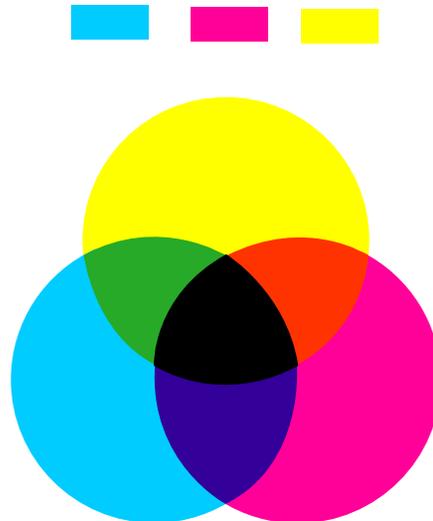


combined make the
traditional artists' secondaries:
Violet - Orange - Green



Figure 1.

Ink primaries:
Cyan - Magenta - Yellow

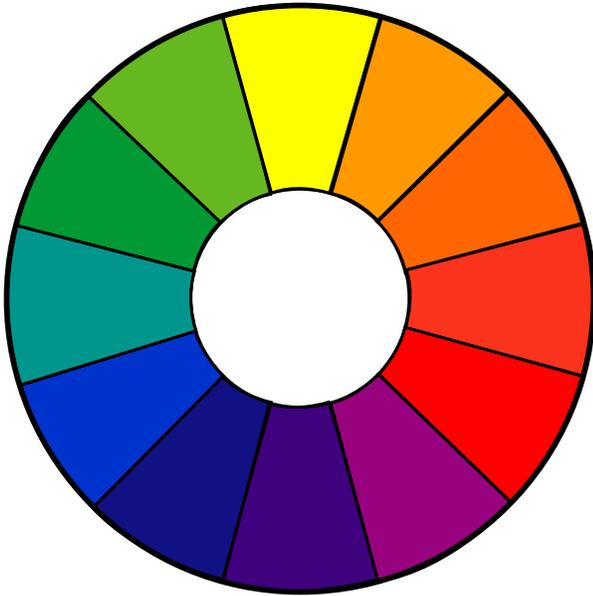


combined make secondaries:
Violet - Warm Red - Green

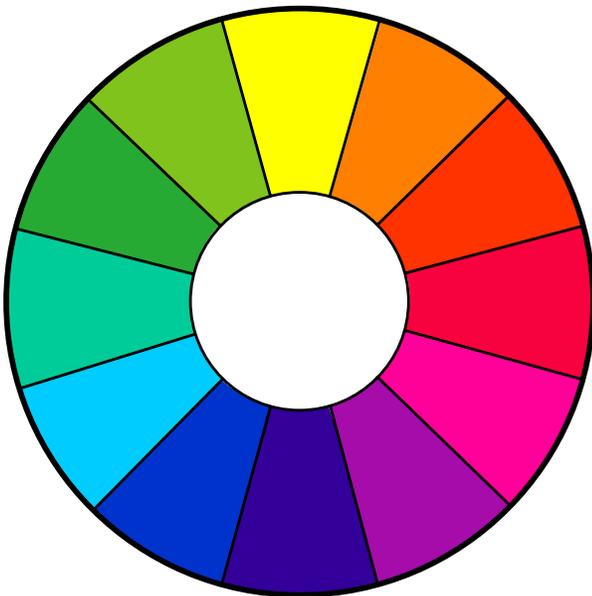


Figure 2.

Traditional artists' wheel



Ink wheel:



Note: All colors are approximations of subtractive colors. Colors vary according to monitor, browser, and operating system.

Figure 3.

than the traditional yellow-red -blue primaries of the artists' wheel. It is difficult, if not impossible, to mix vibrant purples and red-violets using a true blue and red pigment. Because magenta is more luminous than red, using it as a primary rather than red greatly expands the red-pink-purple range.

The traditional primaries and ink primaries form the basis of two workable color wheels, each having its advantage. However, using cyan, magenta, and yellow is far more accurate system. Jim Ames, author of "Color Theory Made Easy," writes that "the human eye is "programmed" for a spectrum in which cyan, magenta, and yellow are the primary colors. And accurate color theory must reflect the universality of cyan, magenta, and yellows as primaries and serve to explain all color situations in nature and in art."

This is especially important to bead artists who work with a wide range of colors, yet cannot mix their colors as painters do. If you're an artist working with a wide range of purples, pinks, teals and blue-greens, the colors of cyan and magenta are critical to your palette.

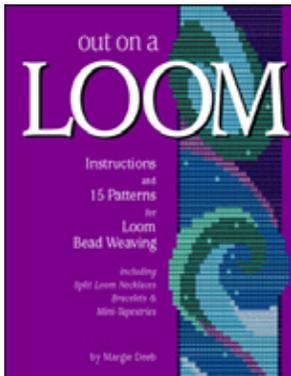
Look at the complementary combination of green and magenta and compare it to green and primary red. Both combinations have their uses and their appeal. But there's no disputing that the green/magenta pair is more lively and bold.

When I work directly with the wheel, I use a C-M-Y wheel, because I want that fuller range of colors. And I am particularly drawn to cyan and magenta and the colors they can create. When I look at the traditional artist's wheel, I immediately sense the lack of luminosity and vibrancy, and find it leaves me visually unfulfilled. The wheel I use, a 5 1/8" spinnable C-M-Y wheel, is available in the "Books, Patterns, & More" section, under "Bead Accessories."

In studying both wheels, it is important to see them in print, not on a computer screen. There are too many variables from monitor to browser to operating system for color to be accurately represented. On pages 14 - 15 of "The Beader's Guide to Color" both wheels are represented side by side for comparison.

As you become familiar with both wheels, you'll notice their nuances and how the switching of 2 primaries changes the other contiguous colors. As a result you'll be able to make more knowledgeable and striking color combinations.

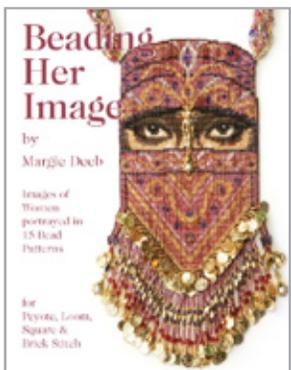
MARGIEDEEB.COM



Out On A Loom is a creative journey through color, design, and form for the beginning to intermediate level seed bead artist.

The softcover book features 32 full-color pages of detailed instructions, patterns, illustrations, and diagrams for creating loom woven bracelets, mini-tapestries and split loom necklaces. Professional and creative finishing techniques are provided so each finished project can be a work of art.

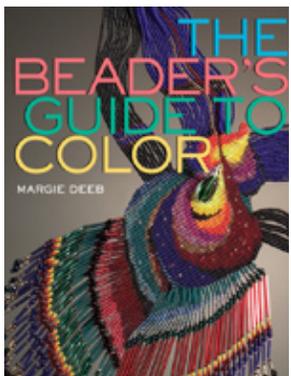
\$19.95 US Dollars



Beading Her Image illustrates the power and beauty of the feminine in 15 seed bead patterns for **peyote, brick, square stitch, and loomwork**. Women from a wide range of times and cultures are woven into tapestries, necklaces, and bracelets. The stunning and gorgeous color palettes that artist Margie Deeb is known for adorn each piece.

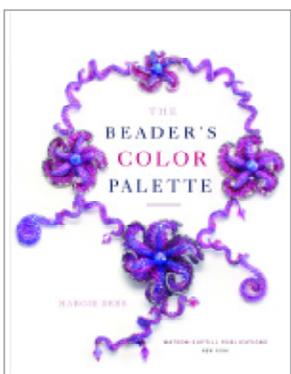
Includes loom building instructions, finishing split loom necklace instructions, and peyote, brick, and looming instructions. (Paperback, 44 pages)

\$19.95 US Dollars



The only book of its kind written specifically for bead artists, *The Beader's Guide to Color* teaches bead-ers of all levels everything they need to know about color to create unique and vibrant bead-work designs. Margie discusses psychological and symbolic color associations, and ways in which color can be used to create and accentuate pattern, rhythm, and movement. 21 color schemes are described and illustrated in detail with accompanying projects for all skill levels. (Paperback, 144 pages)

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The Beader's Color Palette: 20 Creative Projects and 220 Inspired Combinations for Beaded and Gemstone Jewelry opens the door to worlds of color inspiration. Gather colors from around the planet to create stunning color schemes for beaded creations. Gorgeous beaded jewelry illustrating 220 specific palettes for glass and gemstone beads make *The Beader's Color Palette* a coffee table book of inspiration for color lovers working in every medium. Includes detailed instructions for stringing, finishing, looming, and off-loom stitches. (Paperback, 192 pages)

\$24.95 US Dollars

Artist, designer, musician, and color expert

Margie Deeb is the author of several beading books, including the popular *The Beader's Guide to Color* and *The Beader's Color Palette* (Watson-Guptill, 2008).



She teaches color courses for artists, interior designers, and bead-ers and her free monthly color column, "Margie's Muse," is available on her website. She produces a free graphically enhanced podcast, "Margie Deeb's Color Celebration," available on iTunes.

Her articles have appeared in *Bead & Button* and *Beadwork* magazines, and she writes a regular color column in *Step-by-Step Beads*. Visit Margie's website for her books, patterns, jewelry, inspiration, and more:

www.MargieDeeb.com

Also available at MargieDeeb.com:

- Exquisite **seed bead patterns** in peyote, brick, square stitch, and loom available as downloadable PDFs or hardcopies
- **CMY Color Wheels** (the ones that Margie uses for herself and in her classes)
- **Accessories** for beading, such as tapestry rods, and unusual findings
- **Gallery of extraordinary bead art**
- Information about **classes/events**
- **Gallery of Your Work**
- Graphically enhanced **podcasts**

Join Margie's beading and color coterie. Sign up at: margiedeeb.com/newsletter