

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins on Color and Color Combinations

Mary Meigs Atwater wrote in the December 1929 Shuttlecraft Bulletin that members are asking about what color or color combinations to use in their weaving. She responded that there is no rule about color – there is nothing to go by but taste and the fashion of the moment. She said that some people love color while others have no feeling for color, though she suspected that most of us are in the middle ground, not color blind, but a little afraid of color and tend to select them with our minds rather than by eye. She has written before that one should try a combination out and if you like it, use it. She recommended a woven sample of at least 20 inches square that is wet finished to really see what you are working with. Hang it where you can see it and look at it for a day or two. The time you take doing this is time saved with a finished handwoven piece you will be pleased with.

She also wrote that any two colors may be combined if the proportions are right.

In her July 1928 issue, she wrote on colors for baby coverlets and at this time, she was very willing to give color combination recommendations. She recommended choosing a color scheme (such as pink, blue, yellow or green combined with white) that coordinates with the baby's room. She mentioned that harmonious color associations will prove of value to the child right from the beginning. She discussed the effects of different colors: red excites, while blue calms. Pink is a color of affection, yellow for cheerful talk and play. Green is a color of hope and promise.



{ color dive } image via: @_ewabakrac

For weaving a coverlet, she recommended two shades of the same color with one color assigned to the 1-2 and 2-3 shots, while the 2nd color is assigned to the 3-4 and 1-4 shots. She mentioned a blue-green and yellow-green combination.



Have you seen the website Design Seeds? (link: <http://design-seeds.com/>) It is a website that celebrates color and design, founded by Jessica Colaluca. Design Seeds are created to inspire. You are welcome to use the color combinations in your designs and

color palettes.

For color combination recommendation examples, you can see <http://brightside.me/article/the-ultimate-color-combinations-cheat-sheet-92405/> : For example -

White: combines with everything, especially blue, red and black.

Beige: combines with blue, brown, emerald, black, red, white.

Gray: combines with fuchsia, red, violet, pink, blue.

Pink: combines with brown, white, mint green, olive, gray, turquoise, light blue.

Red: combines with yellow, white, fulvous (beige), green, blue, black.

Brown: combines with bright-cyan, cream, pink, fawn, green, beige.

Orange: combines with cyan, blue, lilac, violet, white, black.

Golden yellow: combines with gray, brown, azure, red, black.

Green: combines with golden-brown, orange, salad green, yellow, brown, gray, cream, black, creamy-white.

Turquoise: combines with fuchsia, cherry-red, yellow, brown, cream, dark-violet.

Cyan: combines with red, gray, brown, orange, pink, white, yellow.

Dark-violet: combines with golden-brown, pale-yellow, gray, turquoise, mint green, light-orange.

Black is a universal colour — it looks elegant in any combination, especially with orange, pink, salad green, white, red, mauvish, or yellow

These are just a few and the color names may mean different colors to different readers, but they do provide a starting point. A thread wrapping is an effective tool to select color combinations and well worth the time they take.



So experiment, look through the websites, through weaving magazines-at the projects that are included there-and look outside for some color inspiration. Keep records on what works for you.

From the Ultimate color combinations guide:

Scheme № 2: The triad — a combination of three colors

A Triad is a combination of 3 colors that are equidistant from each other on the color circle. It produces a high contrast effect while preserving 'harmony.' Such a composition looks vibrant even when you use pale and unsaturated colours.

