



Progress Over Perfection

COLOUR MIXING GUIDE

You only need 5 colours to create a world of possibilities!
 With just a few basic acrylics, you can mix almost everything you need.

YOUR ESSENTIAL STARTER COLOURS

As a minimum, I recommend:



If possible, choose a warm, true version of each colour rather than neon or heavily pre-mixed shades. 

ORANGE

Mix: **RED + YELLOW**

← More yellow = brighter orange
 More red = deeper burnt orange →

TRY: + White = peach 
 + Black = rustic autumn orange 

GREEN

Mix: **BLUE + YELLOW**

← More yellow = fresh spring greens
 More blue = deep forest greens →

TRY: + White = sage/mint tones 
 + Black = darker woodland greens 

PURPLE

Mix: **RED + BLUE**

← More red = warmer purple
 More blue = cooler violet →

TRY: + White = lavender 
 + Black = rich plum tones 

SKIN & WARM NATURAL TONES

Simple Skin Tone:
WHITE + tiny amount RED + tiny amount YELLOW

Then adjust with:

- ♥ More yellow = warmer skin
- ♥ More red = rosy tones
- ♥ Tiny touch blue or black = deeper muted tones

BROWNS

Mix: **RED + BLUE + YELLOW**

Adjust the balance to create:

- ♥ Warm browns
- ♥ Chocolate tones
- ♥ Rustic earthy colours

TIP: Add white for lighter tan colours. 

GREY

Soft Grey:
WHITE + tiny amount BLACK

Warmer Grey: Add a tiny touch of red or yellow. 


Cooler Grey: Add a tiny touch of blue. 

MAKING COLOURS LIGHTER OR DARKER

TO LIGHTEN:
 Add white slowly. Acrylic paint lightens quickly, so a tiny amount goes a long way.



TO DARKEN:
 Add tiny amounts of black. Black is very strong - use it sparingly.



HELPFUL PAINTING TIPS

- ♥ Mix more paint than you think you'll need for large areas.
- ♥ Acrylic paint dries slightly darker than it looks wet.
- ♥ Keep a scrap piece of paper or canvas nearby to test colours.
- ♥ If a colour feels too bright, add a tiny touch of its opposite colour to soften it.
- ♥ Pause, rewind, and take your time - there's no rush.



HANDY COLOUR MIXING IDEAS

PEACH  Red + Yellow + White	SAGE GREEN  Green + White + Tiny Black	SKY BLUE  Blue + White	NAVY  Blue + Tiny Black	PINK  Red + White	TERRACOTTA  Orange + Tiny Brown	OLIVE GREEN  Green + Tiny Red/Brown	CREAM  Yellow + Lots of White	DUSTY ROSE  Red + White + Tiny Brown
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Progress over perfection.
 Some of the most beautiful paintings come from experimenting, layering, and simply enjoying the process. 



Advanced COLOUR MIXING GUIDE

Create beautiful, natural colours with confidence!

All colours below can be mixed using just: White, Black, Red, Blue & Yellow

EARTH & WARM TONES

	YELLOW OCHRE	+ +	More yellow for brighter ochre, more red for deeper tone.
	RAW SIENNA	+ +	Add a tiny touch of blue to neutralise if needed.
	BURNT SIENNA	+ +	More red for richer sienna, more yellow for lighter version.
	BURNT UMBER	+ + +	More blue for cooler umber, more red for warmer umber.
	RAW UMBER	+ + +	More yellow for warmer, more blue for cooler.
	TERRACOTTA	+ + +	Add more white for a softer terracotta.

WARM NEUTRALS & BEIGES

	CREAM	+	More white for lighter cream.
	BEIGE	+ +	More yellow for warmer beige.
	TAUPE	+ + +	Add more blue for cooler taupe.
	WARM GREY	+ +	Yellow = warm grey Red = warmer grey

ADVANCED NEUTRALS (GREYS)

	WARM GREY	+ +	Yellow = warm grey, Red = warmer grey
	COOL GREY	+ +	More blue for cooler grey.
	CHARCOAL GREY	+ +	Add more black for darker charcoal.
	GREIGE	+ +	Equal touches of yellow & blue for greige.

HELPFUL TIPS

- ♥ A tiny amount of black goes a long way – add a little at a time.
- ♥ Use white to lighten, but remember colours dry darker.
- ♥ To tone down a colour, add a tiny touch of the opposite colour.
- ♥ Always test your colours and keep notes of your recipes!



GREENS

	SAP GREEN	+ +	More yellow for lighter sap green.
	OLIVE GREEN	+ +	Add more red for a warmer olive tone.
	MOSS GREEN	+ + +	More black for depth, more yellow for lighter moss.
	SAGE GREEN	+ + +	More white for softer sage.
	EMERALD GREEN	+	More blue for deeper emerald.

BLUES & TURQUOISES

	SKY BLUE	+	More white for paler sky blue.
	TURQUOISE	+ +	More yellow for warmer turquoise.
	TEAL	+ +	More blue for cooler teal.
	NAVY BLUE	+ +	Touch of red softens the blue beautifully.

PURPLES & VIOLETS

	LAVENDER	+ +	More white for softer lavender.
	DUSTY PURPLE	+ + +	More blue for cooler purple.
	DEEP PLUM	+ +	More red for warmer plum.

RICH & DEEP COLOURS

	BURGUNDY	+ +	More red for warmer burgundy.
	FOREST GREEN	+ +	More black for depth.
	PETROL BLUE	+ +	More blue for bluer petrol.

COLOUR MIXING KEY



Experiment. Enjoy the process. Progress over perfection. ♥