

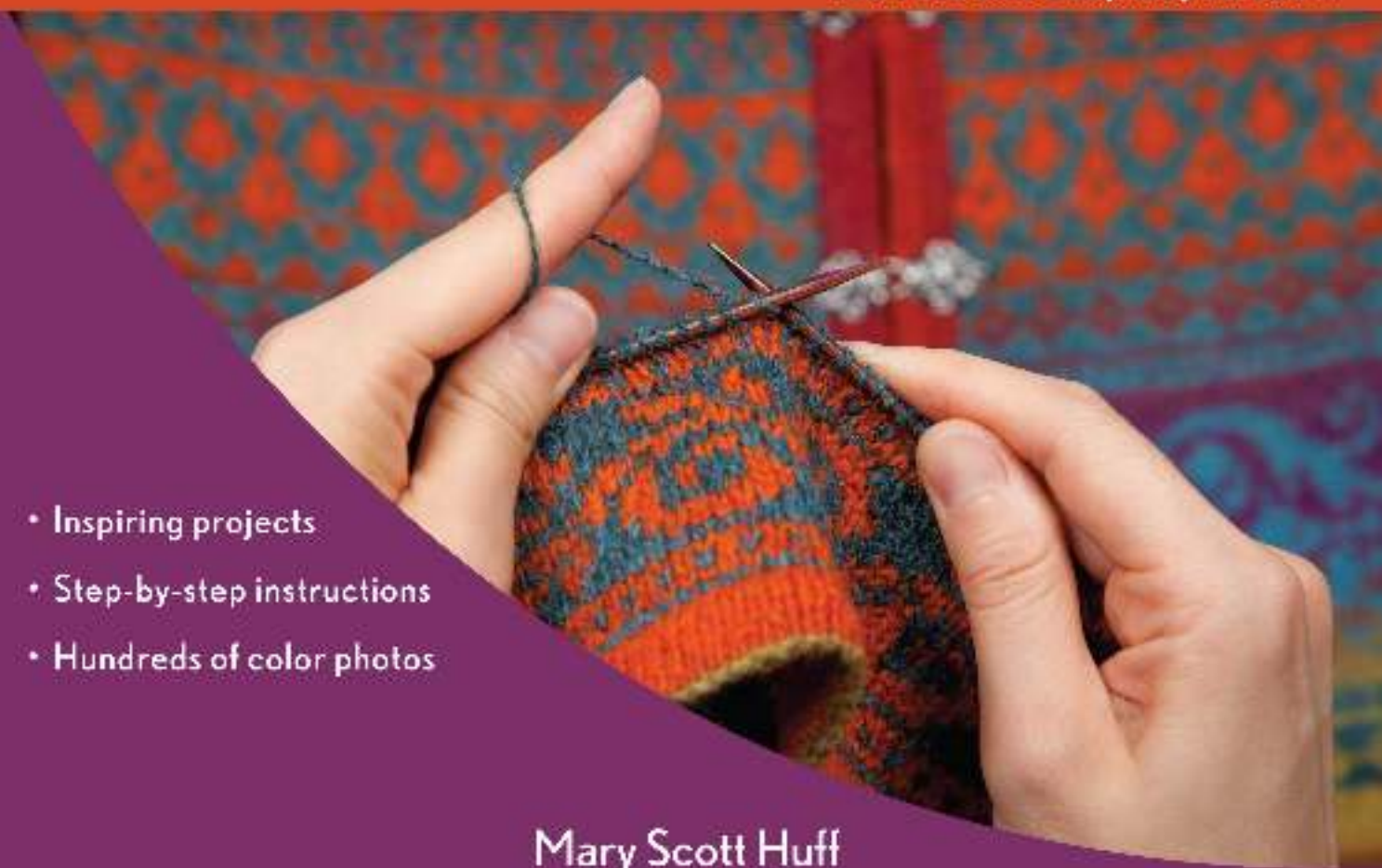
Teach Yourself
VISUALLY

Color Knitting

The Fast and Easy Way to Learn

- Inspiring projects
- Step-by-step instructions
- Hundreds of color photos

Mary Scott Huff



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Why Knit in Color?

Color is the ultimate expression of our personal selves in knitting. You can knit the same sweater as your best friend, making the same size, using the same yarn and needles. The colors you each select for your sweater are what give you two distinctly different and self-expressive garments.

The colors you choose for your knitting determine the mood of your work and the impact of each piece. Color can also be used to highlight areas you want to draw attention to and downplay or disguise those you don't.

Color, and the techniques employed to to highlight it, personalizes your work more than any other design choice.



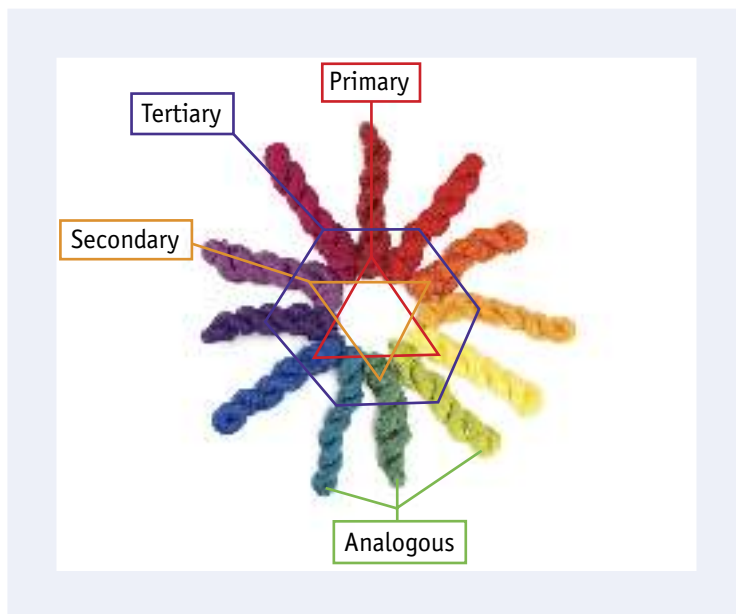
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Understand Color Relationships

The 12-part color wheel illustrates the ways that colors relate to one another, and helps you experiment with different combinations.

Color Wheel Relationships Explained

Working with a color wheel is a great way to kick-start your creativity when thinking about the colors you will choose for your knitting. In addition to showing the relationships between colors, the wheel also allows you to see the difference between different values and saturations of the same hue.



Primary: Red, yellow, and blue; these are the colors from which all other colors are mixed.

Secondary: The colors resulting from any equal-part mixture of two primaries: combine yellow and red to get orange, yellow and blue to get green, and red and blue to get violet.

Tertiary: The result of a mixture of a primary and the secondary next to it.

Analogous: Any group of three colors adjacent to one another on the color wheel.

Complementary: Colors that are opposite one another on the wheel. Violet and yellow, blue and orange, and red and green are reliably pleasing combinations.

**HUE**

Hue is the word used to describe the colors we see, expressed in color names. “Blue” describes a hue.

**SATURATION**

Saturation is an expression of the intensity (lightness or darkness) of a hue. The ball on the right could be described as “dark blue.”

**VALUE**

Value describes the degree to which a color is diluted with white, gray, or black. Mixing a color with white creates a tint. Combining a color with gray creates a tone. Blending a color with black creates a shade.

**TEMPERATURE**

Temperature conveys the warmth or coolness of a color. Red, orange, and yellow (top row, above) are described as “warm,” while green, blue, and violet (bottom row, above) are called “cool.”

Rainbow Reptiles Project

Explore combinations from the color wheel by knitting a rainbow of reptiles.



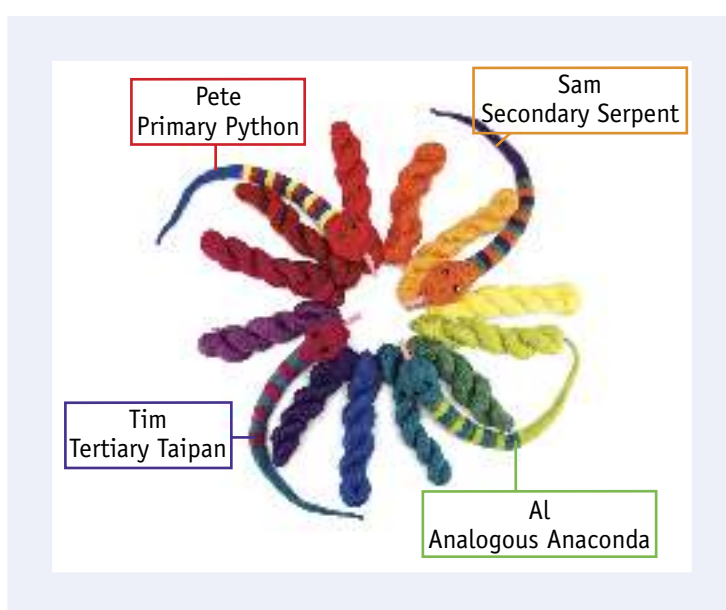
Meet the Rainbow Reptiles

Pete, a Primary Python: Pete's red, yellow, and blue stripes may remind you of kindergarten (is that why they call it Primary School?), but he still has something to teach. The colors Pete wears are where it all begins. All the other colors in the world are based on some combination of Pete's stripes.

Sam, a Secondary Serpent: Sam sports secondary stripes. His orange, green, and violet bands are equidistant from the primaries on the color wheel. Secondary colors are equal mixes of any two primary colors.

Tim, a Tertiary Taipan: Tim is wearing a combination of tertiary colors, which are made by mixing a primary with the secondary next to it. Think of tertiaries as the colors "in between."

Al, an Analogous Anaconda: Al wears yellow-green, green, and blue-green. These colors are adjacent to one another on the wheel, and are of the same temperature. Analogous colors seem to flow into one another, due to their proximity on the wheel.



Specifications

SIZE

Finished measurements: 2½" wide × 17½" long

YARN

Fingering-weight yarn

Shown: Simply Socks *Sock Yarn*, 80% superwash wool, 20% nylon; 175 yd./50g skein. 1 skein each: #200 Cherry Red, #357 Orange, #430 Buttercup, #515 Fiesta Lime, #550 Green, #580 Teal, #650 Blue, #710 Blue Violet, and #215 Magenta

NEEDLES

Size 2 (2.25mm) DPNs, or size needed to achieve gauge

OTHER MATERIALS

2 oz wool roving or other stuffing

Eight ¼" buttons

½ yd. ¾" grosgrain ribbon

Tapestry needle

Stitch marker

Sewing needle and thread

GAUGE

34 sts and 48 rnds = 4" in St st

Pattern Stitches

Stripe Pattern: *6 rnds B, 6 rnds C, 6 rnds A; rep from * for patt, ending with 6 rnds B.

Pete, Primary Python: A: Cherry Red, B: Buttercup, C: Blue

Sam, Secondary Serpent: A: Orange, B: Green, C: Blue Violet

Tim, Tertiary Taipan: A: Magenta, B: Blue Violet, C: Teal

Al, Analogous Anaconda: A: Teal, B: Green, C: Fiesta Lime

Knit the Rainbow Reptiles

SERPENT'S HEAD

- 1 With DPNs and color A, CO 30 sts. Join for working in rnds, being careful not to twist. Work 3 rnds in St st, PM after 15 sts.
- 2 Inc rnd: K2, M1L, work to 2 sts before M, M1R, k4 (slipping M), M1L, work to last 2 sts, M1R, k2. Work inc rnd every 3rd rnd 4 more times—50 sts.
- 3 Work 8 rnds even.
- 4 Dec rnd: K1, ssk, work to 3 sts before M, k2tog, k2, ssk, work to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. Work dec rnd every 3rd rnd 4 more times—30 sts. Work 1 rnd even.



STRIPED BODY

- 1 Change to color B and work 3 rnds in stripe patt. Dec rnd: K2tog, work to M, k2tog, work to end of rnd.
- 2 Cont in stripe patt, working dec rnd every 18th rnd 4 more times—20 sts. Work 2 rnds even (to end of color B stripe), and then change to color C.



SOLID TAIL

- 1 Use color C to end of tail. Work 2 rnds even. Dec rnd: K2tog, work to end. Work dec rnd every 5th rnd 15 more times—4 sts. Work 5 rnds on the last 4 sts (now a knitted cord).
- 2 Break working yarn and thread through a tapestry needle. Run yarn tail through remaining 4 sts and fasten securely, hiding tail inside snake body.



FINISHING

- 1 Stuff snake body loosely with roving, making sure there are no empty spots.
- 2 Thread a tapestry needle with color A and make even running sts around open end. Pull snugly to gather mouth closed and fasten securely, threading yarn tails inside body to hide.
- 3 Sew button eyes and ribbon tongue in place as shown with sewing needle and matching thread. Trim end of ribbon tongue into a V-shape.

**TIP**

Begin stuffing each snake by gently poking small amounts of roving into it with a wooden chopstick. In the photo, the head is being stuffed, but you may want to start by stuffing the narrowest part of the tail. As the body begins to fill, use your fingers to pull apart the roving that has already been stuffed in to keep it from forming lumps.



Other Ways to Choose Colors

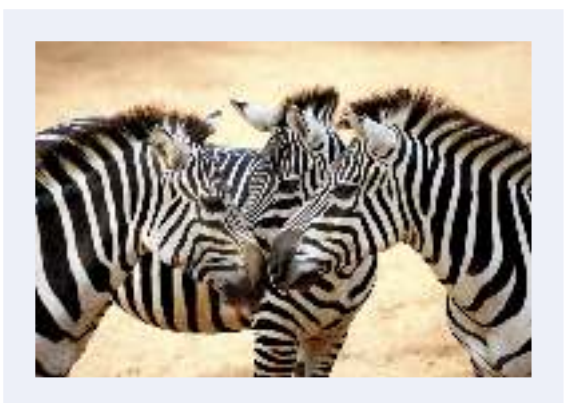
What if the color wheel isn't your thing? That's absolutely fine! Some of the greatest color knitters never took an art class and don't give a fig for color wheels. Keep these ideas in mind to help you choose combinations you'll love.



Contrast is just as important as hue. Colors with highly contrasting values (right) will usually be more pleasing together than colors of the same value (left).



Look to nature. Flower gardens, forests, and meadows all are studies in how colors work together. Mother Nature never combines colors that "clash."



Neutrals are colors, too. Go to the zoo and look at the animals from the African plains. Brown, gold, and green have much to teach us about contrast, value, tint, tone, and shade.



Color fans from a paint store are really useful portable color libraries. Each card shows hue, value, and saturation, all in one place. You can even write the names and amounts of yarns already in your collection on the corresponding chip in your fan. It's an instant stash inventory system.

Tips for Successful Color Mixing

Why Knit in Color?

Make proportionate combinations. If you know that bright green is only a small part of your overall composition, cover most of that skein with the other colors to get a true idea of what they will look like together.

Work within the yarn maker's palette. While you certainly are not limited to choosing yarn from only one source, keep in mind that yarn collections (from the same manufacturer) are usually created to work together. Don't be afraid to take advantage of the hard work already done for you by yarn designers.

Surprise yourself. If you have some colors chosen, but don't know what else to add, ask yourself, "What color would I *never* choose to go with these?" Grab a skein of that hue and put it with those you already have. The result is often very surprising. Even if you don't like the combination, this exercise can help you think in a new direction.

TIP

Emulate your favorite ready-to-wear color combinations. Looking at fashion photos with a critical eye for the colors can be really enlightening. Remember, you don't have to love the shapes of the clothing, just pay attention to the colors.



Color Knitting Yarns

At the same time you are choosing colors for your design, you will need to consider the material you'll use. The fiber, structure, gauge, and dye style of your yarn all contribute to the look and feel of your final product.

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