

Lifhacking With Color Psychology

-The Cheat Sheet and Reference Guide

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Red

Warm Color Most Appetizing Makes people hungry Associated with Food Passion

Can cause anger Weddings in Asia Love Assertive/Decisive Fattening (when worn)

Sexy (attractive on date) Shown to raise blood pressure

Opposite on color wheel: Green

Orange

Warm Color Energy Most often found in food Appetizing Fall and Autumn Holidays

Opposite on color wheel: Blue

Yellow

Warm Color Most difficult for our eyes to process Sunny/Cheerful Decay

Discomfort if too saturated Can cause fighting/temper tantrums

Strongest color combo is yellow and black (safety signs, school buses, etc)

Opposite on color wheel: Purple

Green

Cool Color Easiest color for our eyes to process Nature/Environment Calming

Green room on talk shows Replaced black boards in schools

Opposite on color wheel: Red

Blue

Cool Color Sea/Sky/Ice Relaxing Sadness

Least appetizing Aids study and concentration

Public Service Denotes Loyalty/Trust

Best color to wear at job interview

Opposite on color wheel: Orange

Purple

Cool Color Royalty Spirituality Exotic Wealth Mysterious

Considered unlucky in Italian theatre

Opposite on color wheel: Yellow

Brown/Tan

Neutral Color Down to Earth Old Fashioned A bit "Square" (ex. Brown suit)

Chocolate/Coffee Decay/Waste Great for Celebrity Damage-Control/cultivate a more wholesome image

Silver/Gray

Neutral Color Riches Technology Cutting edge/Modern Futuristic
Black & White can suggest an earlier time/ be more dramatic/dynamic/romantic Stormy/Gloomy

White

Neutral Color Composed of all colors of the spectrum Purity Innocence
Cleanliness Weddings in West Death in Asia Implies Space
Professional (web design, etc) Use white (or light gray) text on dark background or vice versa

Black

Neutral Color Black is the absence of color Sinister Rebellious
Monsters Evil
Most fashionable color Death in the West Unsettling Can cause bad behavior in children

Pink

Little Girls Soft Innocent Bubble gum/young girl teen culture
Makes people tired
Used in mental hospitals Used in opposing teams' locker rooms

For Further Reading:

Bibliography from: <http://www.colormatters.com>

Color/ General

1. Hope and Walch, THE COLOR COMPENDIUM , Van Norstrand Reinhold 1990

This book covers all aspects of color. An excellent starting point.

Color /Aesthetics / Art

1. Itten, Johannes, THE ELEMENTS OF COLOR, Van Norstrand Reinhold

A must for artists. Basic principles as well as interesting psychological and optical information.

2. Albers, Josef , THE INTERACTION OF COLOR , Yale University.

This classic book explains the critical contextual relationships of color. How and why colors change their appearance.

3. Arnheim, Rudolph, ART AND VISUAL PERCEPTION, University of California Press.

The most thorough and academic book about design principles.

4. Morton, J.L., [COLOR LOGIC](#), Colorcom, 1998

A practical, visual guide that takes the guesswork out of color theory. This clear, concise, and fully-illustrated book presents a complete picture of color terminology, harmony, and dynamic color effects. 172 illustrations take you from understanding essential theory to application. Currently being used as a text book for design courses in the US, Canada and Australia.

5. Birren, Faber, Color Perception in Art. 1976

6. Chevreul, M.E. Harmony and Contrast of Colors, 1967

7. Goethe, J.W., Theory of Colours. 1971.

8. [Chris Willard's/Hunter College - Reading List](#)

9. [Chronological Bibliography on Color Theory](#)

In Spanish and English - Achronological bibliography on color theory, from Plato to 1997. You can perform a search by keywords [here](#).

Color / Interior Environments and Architecture

1. Birren, Faber, LIGHT COLOR AND ENVIRONMENT, Schiffer Publishing , 1988

2. Mahnke, Frank and Mahnke, Rudolf, COLOR AND LIGHT IN MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENTS, Van Norstrand, 1993

3. Swirnoff, Lois, DIMENSIONAL COLOR, Van Norstrand

4. Morton, J.L., [COLOR VOODOO FOR THE OFFICE](#), Colorcom, 1998

Color effects in the workplace. The same concepts can be applied to any critical task area.

Physiological, psychological and optical effects of color plus formulas for harmonious color schemes.

5. Logrippo, Ro, [IN MY WORLD: DESIGNING LIVING & LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR THE YOUNG](#), John Wiley & Sons, 1995

6. Leatrice Eiseman, Colors for Your Every Mood : DISCOVER YOUR TRUE DECORATING COLORS - a basic guide for women

Color and Web Site Design

1. [Visibone](#) : Color References: Cards, charts, posters which helps you visualize all color options when laying out a site or composing graphic images.

2. Morton, J.L., [COLOR LOGIC FOR WEB SITE DESIGN](#), Colorcom, 1998

A practical, visual guide that takes the guesswork out of color theory for web site designers. This clear, concise, and fully-illustrated book presents a complete picture of color terminology, harmony, and dynamic color effects. 223 illustrations take you from understanding essential theory to specific web design applications

3. Morton, J.L., [COLOR VOODOO FOR E-COMMERCE](#)

A complete pictorial guide to designing e-commerce sites by using color as the key to success. 180 color illustrations

Color / Science / Physics

1. Falk, Brill, and Stork, SEEING THE LIGHT, Optics in Nature, Photography, Color, Vision and Holography , John Wiley and Sons, 1986

An excellent technical source for the physics of light.

2. [Color Research and Application](#)

reports on the science, technology, and application of color in business, art, design, education, and industry.

3. MED-LINE searches

Search for chromotherapy, photobiology and color

Color / Philosophy

1. Westphal, Jonathan, COLOUR, A Philosophical Introduction , Basil Blackwell, 1991

Color / Psychology and Symbolism

1. Sharpe, Deborah, THE PSYCHOLOGY OF COLOR AND DESIGN , Nelson Hall Inc. 1982

An excellent scientific analysis of critical psychological color effects.

2. Morton, J.L., [A GUIDE TO COLOR SYMBOLISM](#), Colorcom, 1998.

Confidently choose the right color to support your message with this visual guide to color symbolism. Each of the 100 + large color swatches are defined by specific symbolic associations and RGB/HEX

formulas.

3. Morton, J.L., [COLORS THAT SELL: TRIED AND TESTED COLOR SCHEMES](#), Colorcom 2004

4. Morton, J.L., [GLOBAL COLOR: CLUES & TABOOS](#), Colorcom 2004

5. Peterson, L.K, GLOBAL GRAPHICS: COLOR - DESIGNING WITH COLOR FOR AN INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Illustrates how to choose the right colors for international designs

6. Hartman, THE COLOR CODE

7. Leatrice Eiseman, PANTONE GUIDE TO COMMUNICATING WITH COLOR - basics with beautiful illustrations

8. Gage, John, COLOR AND CULTURE. 1993.

9. Gage, John, COLOR AND MEANING, 1999