

# **Lesson #1 - Painting in Acrylics -**

## **Pamela Weisberg, Instructor**

### ***Introduction***

Painting is a very enjoyable activity! I love to paint and would like you to experience the same pleasure too. So, with that in mind, let's start off right and discuss the most important aspects of painting in acrylics. First of all, we'll work on developing the skills used to paint what we would like to express. So it is a combination of enjoying the journey - the ride you're experiencing, and also happy when you finally get to your destination - your finished painting. Now that is quite a high expectation to get from painting a picture but one well worth striving for.

Any questions you may have, please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to help in any way I can. My email address is: [info@thevillageartcenter.com](mailto:info@thevillageartcenter.com)

### ***Setting Up To Paint Procedure***

Setting up correctly your supplies to paint is one of the most important habits to develop when learning how to paint. It gets you into the proper frame of mind. So here are some guidelines to help you to get started right:

- \*Use a sturdy easel, one that has strong legs if you're planning on doing large paintings.

- \*Setup your palette either in front of your easel or off to the right or left side - depending on if you are a lefty then set up your palette on the left side or if you are righthanded then set up the palette on the right side.

- \*It is best to start off with a limited amount of paints. All you need now are the colors listed on the color wheel of your kind of paint. See color wheels below.

- \*Have paper towels handy and use disposable gloves if you wish to keep your hands clean.

- \*Brushes should be close at hand so that you do not have to waste time looking for the right one at the right time

- Have a medium size plastic container for water next to your palette. Dip your brush into the water and wipe off paint with your paper towel when switching to a different color.

- \* \*It is OK to stand or sit, whichever is comfortable for you. Standing is better for large canvas painting.

- \*Try to have a particular place that you can paint on a regular basis. Having all your supplies ready to paint makes it so much easier.

## ***Project #1 Paint a Color Wheel***

A great way to get to know your supplies and learn a little about color is to do a color wheel. Give yourself enough time to do this project because you will be referring to it often in the future. Here are some guidelines to follow to make it more fun and useful:

- \*Use a small, pointed-round brush to paint the color wheel.
- \*Some colors will require painting a few layers to cover the white of the canvas.
- \*No two colors should look the same.
  
- \*Despite what you may have heard, one medium is not better or worse than another, just different.

This first session is getting you started. There will be future sessions that will go deeper into the subject of color.

The following is a brief description of color principles you should be aware of:

Primary Colors: Generally considered to be: Red, Yellow, and Blue. These are colors that cannot be made from other colors.

Secondary Color: Violet, Green and Orange. These are colors that are mixtures of the red, yellow, and blue.

Complementary Colors: Any color that is opposite on the color wheel.

Chroma: The intensity of a color - sometimes referred to as a color's grayness.

Value: How dark or light a color is.

### **STEP #1 SET UP YOUR PALLETE:**

Uncover your Sta-Wet pallete and place a gray paper the size of 12" x 16". Place a piece of clear glass from a picture frame or plastic the same size over the gray paper. I apply masking tape around the edges of the glass to make it safe for handling. You now have a great pallete to paint with. Place a small amount of your colors along the upper side leaving the middle area open for mixing your paint.

I recommend Liquitex Acrylic Heavy Body Colors: cadmium yellow light, cadmium yellow medium, cadmium red light, cadmium red medium, deep magenta, paynes gray, cobalt blue, viridian, chromium oxide green, cadmium orange, ivory black or mars black, titanium white

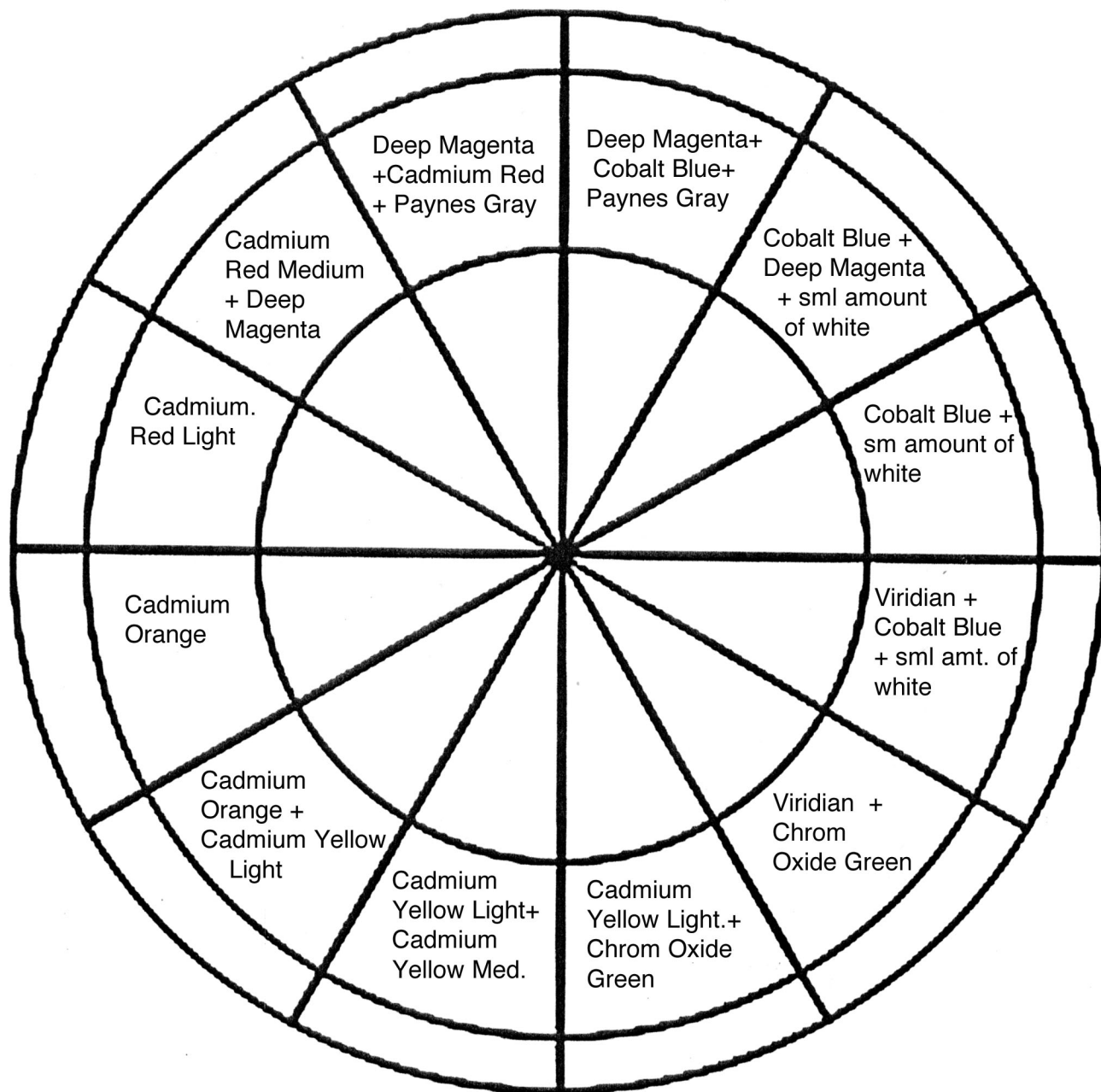
**STEP #2 APPLY THE COLOR WHEEL TEMPLATE ONTO YOUR CANVAS.** See the following instructions.

**STEP #3 PAINT THE COLOR WHEEL**

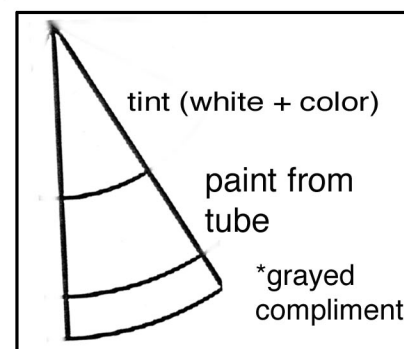
# Project #1 - Color Wheel For Acrylic Painters - Instructions

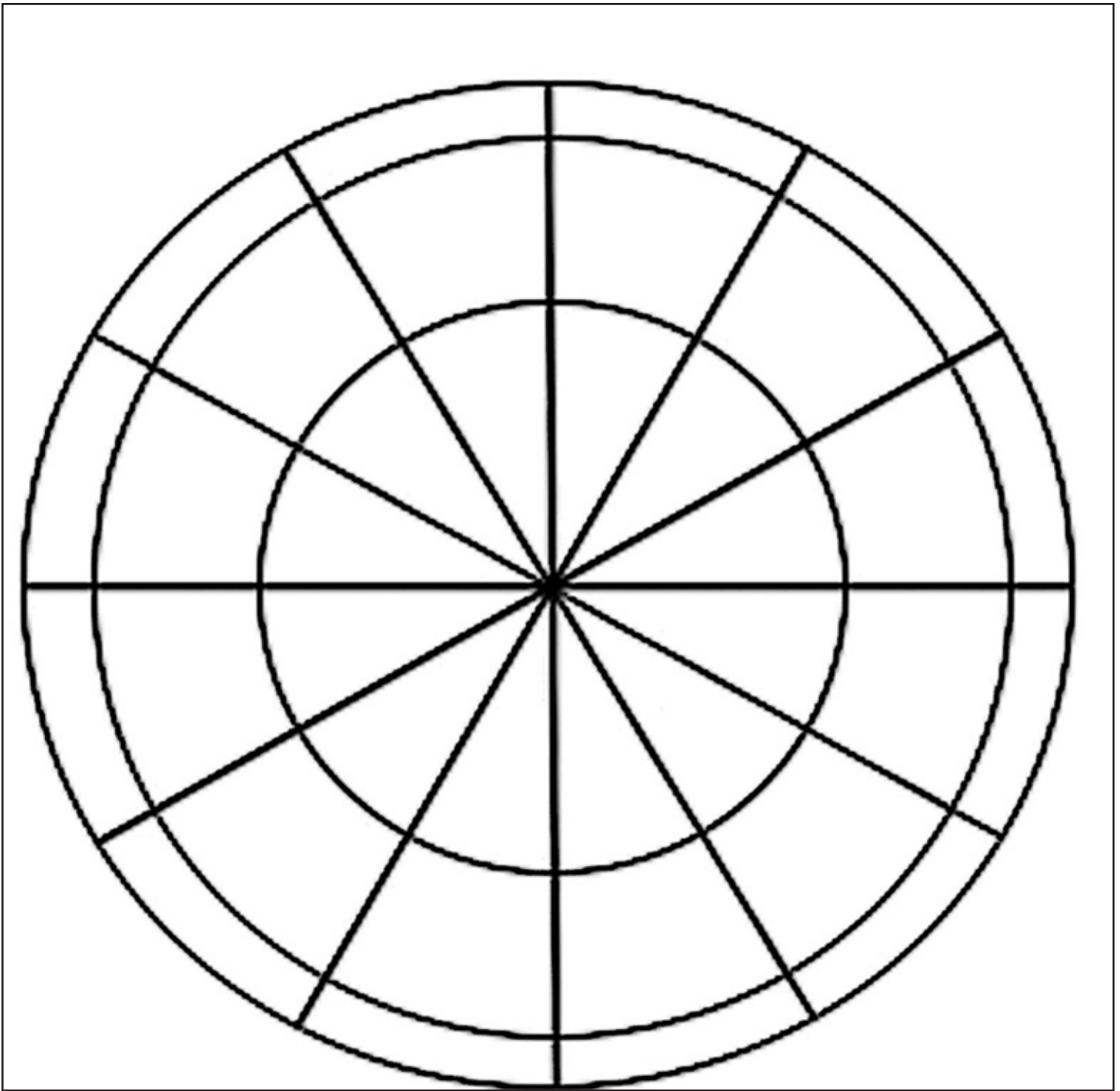
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1. Trace template using Saral Transfer Paper to canvas board using #2 pencil or a colored pencil
2. Use a black marker to darken lines on board
3. Paint main color first
4. Tints always start with white
5. Grayed compliment should be a muted & dulled color



\*Grayed Compliment: main color + a little paint from opposite the color wheel OR color + gray





***Color Wheel Template***

### ***Sample Color Wheel***

***Use your small color wheel as a guide to color.***

***Colors in print are usually darker so your paint will probably not match exactly.***

