

6: Colour Schemes

If you're not happy about composing an entire colour scheme from scratch, try an easier way to get started and gain confidence!

Colour Matching

✿ Find any object, or a picture, or even a hank of multi-coloured yarn which represents your mood, or you feel is appropriate to the project you have in mind, or which simply contains a ready-made selection of colours you like.

✿ Look at this very closely and carefully to see how many individual colours, including all tones of them, that you can find. Be amazed at how many there are, even when the subject appears to be more or less 'monochrome'.

✿ Match as many of them as you can, as exactly as you can, from your stock of yarns. (If you can duplicate them in different textures and yarn qualities, so much the better.)

✿ If possible, carry the original picture or object around with you and search the world diligently for even very small quantities of the colours you do not have.

✿ As soon as you have a good few of them, try coming to grips with the proportions in which each colour and tone occurs in the original. A good way of doing this is to make some yarn wrappings around strips of card (with double-sided sticky tape down the back to keep the yarn in place). Try first a wrapping in which the proportions are represented roughly correctly, then others in which you vary this deliberately - watch how, without changing any colours, you can transform the whole effect.

✿ The next stage is to add related or contrasting colours and/or to take out certain ones. Always observe the effects.

Soon you'll find that all this close observation of colour and colour balance, and practical experiment with it, will begin to show you the way forward towards a personally creative use of colour. Have fun!



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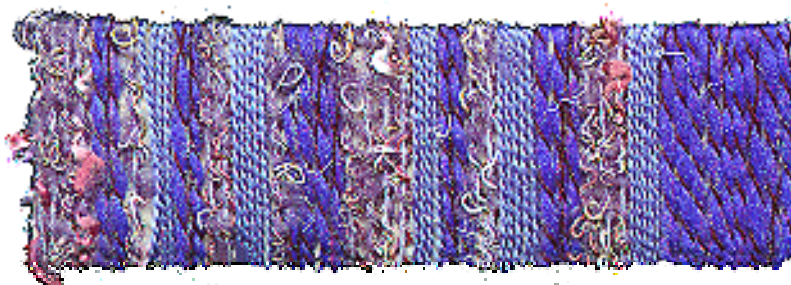


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1 A Yorkshire Stone Wall
2 A Begonia Leaf
3 Colinette Silk Yarn
4 A Yarn Wrapping



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