

What two colors mix to make purple

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What two colors do you mix to make purple. What two colors can you mix to make purple. What two colors do you mix together to make purple. What two colors mix together to make purple. What two colors make purple.

Most of us know what colors make purple paint but mixing red and blue doesn't always give us the desired result. Getting a bright, vibrant purple can be a little complicated. Purple is a color that is frequently on my painting palette. I love the color and all of its various tints and shades, but it is also a very useful paint color even if you are not a fan of purple. Purple can be used to darken blues and reds without using black. It also lends a depth and richness to black paint, which tends to be flat and dull on its own. A tiny bit of purple can also be used to mute or tone down yellows and oranges when you find they are too bright. In my opinion, Dioxazine Purple is a must have in your paint box. But what if Dioxazine Purple is not the right purple for your painting? How do you mix various tints and shades of purple if you don't have Dioxazine? And why does your mix of blue and red give you a dull muddy color instead of the vibrant purple you want? All of these questions are answered below and I give you a whole range of purples to use. I work mostly in acrylics, but these mixes will work for any medium. At the end of this post I have also included a printable color mixing chart for purples. This post may contain affiliate links. If you click a link and buy, I may receive a small commission. Please see my full privacy policy for details. Why Red and Blue Don't Always Make Purple We all learned at a young age that blue and red make purple. Primary Blue and Primary Red mixed in equal amounts will make purple. Primary Red plus Primary Blue make Purple But what about all of those other blues and reds in your paint box that don't quite give you the purple you imagined when mixed together? The answer is color bias. Color bias means that some colors also have hints of other colors in them. So, for example, some blues have hints of red and some reds have hints of blue and some reds have hints of yellow. Primary color theory tells us that if we mix the three primary colors together, red, blue and yellow, we get brown. If you mix a blue with a red that has hints of yellow you are actually mixing all three primary colors, so you get a muddy, brownish purple. Blue + Red + Yellow = Brown Blue plus Red plus Yellow equal Brown Here is a list of the more common blues and reds and their color bias. Color Bias Chart So, your tubes of blues and reds must have no yellow (or green since blue + yellow = green) in order to make a true purple. For more information on color theory, check out my post on the basics of color theory for beginners. How to Check for Color Bias You can check the color bias of your paint by mixing them with a little white. Red paint mixed with white should turn pink. If you get a peachy color, then there is a yellow bias. Red and white make pink Red and white make peach Blue paint mixed with white should turn light sky blue. If you get a greenish blue or a turquoise blue, then there is a yellow bias. Ultramarine Blue and white make sky blue Cerulean Blue and white make a green blue Now that you understand color bias, let's make purple! Shades of Purple Color How to Make Bright Purple Paint To get a bright, vibrant purple the best colors to mix are a warm blue and a cool red. Ultramarine Blue (warm) and Quinacridone Magenta (cool) is my favorite mix for a bright purple. You can also use Alizarin Crimson (cool) and Ultramarine Blue or Permanent Rose (cool) and Ultramarine Blue, but the Quinacridone Magenta will give you the brightest purple. (see chart below) Mix these colors in equal parts to get the brightest purple. (colors on the computer screen are not always accurate) Ultramarine Blue plus Quinacridone Magenta Ultramarine Blue plus Permanent Rose Ultramarine Blue plus Alizarin Crimson How to Mix Dark Purple Acrylic Paint To make a dark purple you can use the same mixes as above but use more blue than red. The more blue you use, the darker your purple will be. You can also add very tiny amounts of black paint to the bright purple mixes to darken them. Black can quickly overwhelm your purple paint so start with tiny amounts of black and keep adding it until you get the color you want. Alternatively, you can start with a premixed tube of purple, such as Dioxazine purple and add blue or black paint to it gradually until you achieve the desired result. Purple plus Black Mixing Light Purple Paint Again, take your bright purple mix and this time add a little white. The more white you add, the more pastel the color will be. You can also try adding a tiny amount of Cadmium Lemon Yellow to lighten the purple paint. This will give you a less pastel look. Make sure to use the Lemon Yellow as other yellows will give you a dull, muted greyish purple. Adding white to Dioxazine Purple will also work to give you a light purple paint. Purple plus White Purple plus Lemon Yellow Muted Purple To get muted purples, you need to mix the complement of purple, opposite on the color wheel, which is yellow. For more information on this, see my post on complementary colors. Purple is opposite yellow on the color wheel. They are therefore complementary colors. Adding a little Cadmium Yellow, Hansa Yellow, Yellow Ochre or any yellow you have in your paint box will give you a muted shade of purple. Purple plus Cadmium Yellow Purple and Yellow Ochre Purple plus Hansa Yellow You can also add a yellow to any premixed tube of purple that you have to get a muted shade of purple. If the result is too dark you can add a little white to lighten it or more yellow depending on how deep the purple was to start with. To darken the muted purple, again add a tiny bit of black or more blue to get the darker muted shade. Purple Color Mixing Chart Click on the chart to download it and save it to your computer or print it for future reference. Purple color mixing chart You need to play around a bit with the colors you have to see what you can come up with. There are many combinations of paint colors to give you many variations of purple. Each manufacturer has a slightly different formula for their paint, so you may get slightly different results depending upon which brand you use. Making Purple "Pop" If your purple doesn't "pop" on your painting, try surrounding it with a dull color like I have done in this painting. The duller greenish/yellow makes the purple of the flower look more vibrant. Acrylic painting of a purple flower. Surrounding your purple with say a vibrant blue will make your purple seem to fade back into the picture. Contrast is the key to making your subject stand out in any painting. Points to Remember Red (with a blue bias) + Blue (with a red bias) will give you purple. Yellow (opposite on the color wheel) will tone down or grey out the purple color. Colors are influenced by what is around them. To make your purple look more intense, surround it with dull colors. I hope these tips work for you and you enjoy playing around with color mixes. Remember to save swatches of the colors you mixed so you will remember how you mixed them when you need to use them. How to Mix Purple Acrylic Paint I would love to see what you have painted with your color mixes and how you used the various tints and tones of purple. Join my private Facebook group, Trembling Art Creative Corner where you can post your paintings and other artwork. It is a great place to get feedback, ask questions and connect with other artists. Thanks for reading. Share272 Tweet Reddit There are so many different shades of purple! Knowing how to best make purple and what colors to mix to create it, is an absolute must for painters! Whether you are using it to add a vibrant accent or for creating shadow values in your painting, its usefulness can't be understated. First, we will take a look at what colors make purple when mixed together. Then I will show you how to make different shades of purple. So that you can create any purple color you may need - let's get into it! What two colors make purple? So, what colors make purple? As purple is a secondary color, the primary colors red and blue make purple when mixed together. However, there are many other colors you can use (including different shades of blue and red) to create different shades of purple color. Take a look below to see what additional colors you can use to make shades of purple... How to make shades of purple Overall, Ultramarine Blue makes a dark purple, while purple mixed with Cobalt Blue will create a lighter shade of purple. Purple mixed with Alizarin Crimson, will also be a little cooler in color temperature, than if you create a purple with blue and Cadmium Red. You can also mix purples with other varieties of reds than mentioned here such as Burnt Siena, Quinacridone Red, and Vermillion. Mixing blue and red Mixing Blue and Red to make Different Shades of Purple When learning how to make the color purple, you can also use different types of blues such as Phthalo Blue, Prussian Blue or Cerulean Blue. However, if you do not have any of these colors on hand. Simply use the blue and red colors that you have to make purple. What colors to mix to make purple muted You may not always want to have a bright, saturated purple. Muted colors are a very important aspect to any painting as they are what make bright colors to stand out. So knowing what colors make purple muted, allows you to create different shades and combinations of muted colors. How to mix muted colors using complementary colors Muted colors are created by mixing a color with its complementary color. Take a look at the color wheel below. The colors that are opposite each other are the complementary colors. So, for example, yellow is the complementary color of purple and red is the complementary color of green. Complementary Color Wheel So, since yellow is the complementary color of purple (and vice versa) we will mix purple with yellow to get a muted purple color. Below you will see different combinations of purple and yellow that you can mix together. In order to achieve various shades of purple colors that are muted. Here we reference the complementary color wheel but there are many variations in the color wheel for artists and it is well worth learning and understanding its nuances. Mixing purple and yellow to make muted shades of purple Muted shades of purple color chart When mixing Yellow Ochre with either Provence Violet Bluish or Dioxazine Purple you get more of an earth tone purple than when it is mixed with Cadmium Yellow. And of course the muted purple that is made with Provence Violet Bluish ends up being lighter than if mixed with Dioxazine Purple. You are not limited to the colors mentioned in the color chart for creating a muted purple. You can use different shades of purple that you mix up yourself and then mix those with any yellow you choose. Other options for yellows are Cadmium Lemon Yellow, Hansa Yellow, and or whichever other yellow you might have on hand. If you haven't already - you can grab my FREE Color Mixing Guide for helpful color mixing instructions and techniques! How to make dark purple color Purples can make really great dark colors because they are generally already a darker color. However, there are great ways for how to make the color purple even darker shades of purple! The color chart below shows what colors make purple darker by mixing them with other colors that are dark in value. Color Chart showing how to mix different shades of dark purple Burnt umber mixed with purple creates a nice muted dark purple color. It also makes the purple a bit warmer as burnt umber is warmer in temperature than purple. Phthalo Green mixed with Alizarin Crimson makes a dark black color. So when you mix this color mixture with purple then you end up with a very dark purple color. This is probably one of the darkest purple colors you can mix up for yourself! Next, you can also mix dark shades of purple using Provence Violet Bluish or any other lighter purple color. Though keep in mind that when using Provence Violet Bluish you will end up with a lighter purple than Dioxazine Purple. However, you can still make a dark purple color with it as seen in the color chart. How to make light shades of purple As mentioned before, many purples are darker in value. So, you will undoubtedly run into circumstances when you will need to know how to make the color purple a lighter shade of purple yourself. The obvious color you would mix with purple to lighten it would be white. You can see the difference between both Dioxazine Purple and Provence Violet Bluish when mixing them both with white. Mixing purple with white Mixing white with purple to create light shades of purple color How to make light purple with yellow To make a color lighter you simply need to mix it with a color that is lighter in value. So, there is another reasonable option for lightening purple besides just white. That color would be yellow. Now, yellow can also be used to mute purple as explained above. However, when mixing purple with a light yellow it will also lighten the purple. So, this mixture can be helpful if you need to lighten and mute a purple. Purple and yellow make lovely shades of light purple also In the color chart example above Cadmium Lemon Yellow is used to lighten purple. This is a much lighter version of yellow when compared to Cadmium Yellow. You can also use Cadmium Yellow to lighten purple with - however it will not turn out as light as when mixed with Cadmium Lemon Yellow. What colors mixed together make purple cooler in value Paying attention to color temperature is absolutely essential when painting. It is one of the most important things to consider when you mix your colors. So what colors make purple cooler? Well, blue is one of the best colors to mix into your purple when you need to create a cool purple. How to make the color purple cool in value - color chart example You can see in the color chart above how both the Provence Violet Bluish and Dioxazine Purple react to being mixed with Cobalt Blue and Ultramarine Blue. How to mix a warm purple color Being able to mix a warm purple is just as important as mixing a cool purple. Red and purple mixed In the color chart below I used two different kinds of reds - Alizarin Crimson and Cadmium Red. The Alizarin Crimson is cooler in temperature (and darker) while the Cadmium Red is warmer. Red and purple make warm shades of purple (color chart guide) Alizarin Crimson mixed with purple ends up being a little darker than when mixed with Cadmium Red. And as expected, a red mixed with Alizarin Crimson would be cooler in temperature. How to mix earth tone shades of purple color Do you like earth tone colors? They can make great shades of purple and are an alternative way to mix more muted purples, outside of mixing purple with its complementary color yellow. In the color chart below you can see that Blue (Cobalt Blue and Ultramarine Blue) can be mixed with Burnt Siena to create a purple. However, just mixing blue with Burnt Siena alone does not create a strong enough purple. So, I recommend mixing in a little bit of Alizarin Crimson or Cadmium red. How to mix Earth Tone Shades of Purple Examples of different shades of purple in art Now that we have covered the practical side of how to mix different shades of purple it is time to look at the color purple at work in art. In the paintings below you will see how different shades of purple help to serve different roles. Muted purples can act as shadows while bright purples can be highlights. Edwin Dickinson Here is a painting by the American painter Edwin Dickinson. It contains a range of muted colors. In fact, Dickinson would often use the color purple in his paintings. Edwin Dickinson, There is a strip of dark purple on the lower right side of the painting - it is a dark bright purple and helps for the foreground to feel like it is in front. In addition, the tree on the upper right side of the painting is made with a lighter muted purple. Paul Cézanne Paul Cézanne was a French 19th century painter whose work influenced many artists in the 20th century. This particular fruit still life painting of his has many different shades of purple in it. The artist used dark muted purple under the lemon as well as underneath the plate to denote shadows. He mixed a cool purple for the area that is behind the lemon. Having a cool purple in this area works well as cool colors recede back in space while warm colors move forward. On that note, he used shades of warm purple for the foreground area of the painting as you can see in the front center area of the work. Johannes Vermeer I am showing a painting by one of the old masters to prove that they too used the color purple! This painting by Vermeer is an example of how muted purple can play a strong role in a painting. Most of the wall in the background is made of different shades of muted purple. The color scheme works very well as Vermeer uses a complementary color palette. Since the girl in the painting is dressed in yellow and the background is in purple the painting provides a beautiful Purple - Yellow complementary color scheme. This diagram points out the different shades of purple Vermeer uses in this painting The right side of the painting is a cool muted purple, though lighter than the other side of the wall. The lower far left side of the wall is much darker and slightly warmer than the right side. However, there are patches of lighter areas on the left side of the wall as seen by the middle arrow. How to use shades of purple color in your own painting Purple has many uses beyond just using the color to paint areas of purple in your painting. It is very helpful to mix into all sorts of other colors as well, even if that color is not meant to look purple. In fact you can mix a really nice shade of brown color using purple. Often just adding a small amount of purple can help to create a rich and complex color. It is important to always keep an open mind when it comes to combining and mixing colors - it is often the least expected color combinations that leads you to the best colors! Be sure to grab my FREE Color Mixing Guide! More color mixing guide resources for you: Want to remember this? Save How to Mix Shades of Purple Color to your favorite Pinterest board!



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