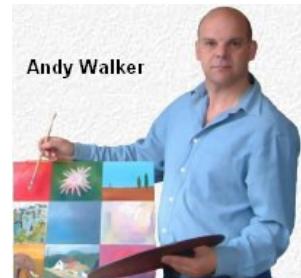


# Hints and Tips to improve your drawing and painting. colour spotting



Colours can be tricky things, and it's sometimes very difficult to see what a particular colour is. Any colour will be altered by those around it, and some colours just look like murky grey or dirty brown! How can you possibly work out what the colour is and then how to mix it in paint?

Well in this tip I'll show you how to make a very simple gadget that will help you to isolate and spot the colour you are trying to paint. All you'll need is a piece of paper and a hole punch.



Just take a piece of white A4 paper and fold it in half. Then punch a hole in it using a ring binder hole punch (or you can cut a small hole with a craft knife).

By folding the paper over you will end up with two holes as shown here.

Fold the paper back over in half again to make it less floppy, and you are ready to spot your colours.

Simply hold the paper between you and the object you are painting and use the hole to isolate colours in it. Suddenly it will be much easier to identify each colour, just because it will be isolated from the other colours around it.

You can even paint small patches of paint alongside the hole to see if your colour mix is right, see below.

Here's how to mix the colour you want every time:

Ask yourself, "what is the 'local colour' or 'root colour' of the object I'm painting?" In other words, is it mostly red, yellow, blue, green, brown, pink, etc....

Once you have identified this, then mix some of this colour and paint it alongside the hole in the paper. How does it compare to the actual colour of the object? Do you need to add a little more yellow, or blue? Then do so and then retest. Perhaps it is too dark or too light, Then adjust this and retest. Just continue until the paint you have mixed looks the same as the colour you see through the hole.

