A very brief history of color order

By Rolf Kuehni

Presented by Dr. Renzo Shamey

Color Order History, R.G. Kuehni, R. Shamey
Aristotle’s seven basic colors

Yellow
XANTHON

Violet
ALOURGON

Blue
KYANOUN

LEUKON
White

PHOINIKOUN
Scarlet

PRASINON
Green

MELANON
Black
Francois d’Aguilon, Basic colors and mixtures diagram  1613
Isaac Newton, Circular diagram of spectral colors, 1704
Colors hand-painted
Tobias Mayer’s central plane of the double triangular pyramid with Red, Yellow and Blue primaries in the corners and 88 mixtures
Sketch of Mayer’s double triangular pyramid 3D color solid
J. H. Lambert’s single triangular color solid

1772
P. O. Runge’s color sphere 1810

Top left: view toward the white top
Top right: view toward the black bottom
Bottom left: horizontal cross section
Bottom right: vertical cross section
Koenig and Dieterici’s experimentally determined sensitivity functions of the short (right), medium and long-wave sensitive cones of the human eye, 1886
Calculation of tristimulus values $X$, $Y$ and $Z$ from reflectance $R$ of the object, spectral power $S$ of light and the three colorimetric functions $x$-bar, $y$-bar and $z$-bar
Solid over the x, y colorimetric diagram, valid for daylight D65, containing all possible object colors, each as a dot.
Hering’s representation of the hues in his circle from the four unique hues Green, Blue, Red and Yellow.

Hering’s 16-hue circle

1905, 1911
Left: Hering’s single hue triangle with white on right top, the full color $r$ on the left corner and black on bottom right.

Right: The sum of the colors of the Hering system form a double cone.
Hue triangle of the Swedish Natural Color System
Pastel sketch of Munsell’s ‘balanced color sphere.’ Patent 1900
Munsell’s sketch of the effect of varying chroma of different hues on the color sphere
Ca. 1900
Munsell’s drawing of the color tree, ca. 1912
Value 60 chart with 10 hues of the 1915 Munsell color atlas
Modern version of the Munsell Color Tree
Cubo-octahedron around central reference color with 12 color points equally distant from the reference
Image of D. L. MacAdam’s 3D arrangement of samples representing the OSA-UCS color solid
Angular slice through the OSA-UCS color solid
Ransing, 1987
Hue G50Y of the Natural Color System 2004 edition
Colorcurve system
Left: Aim points at Level 65 ($L^* = 65$) in the $a^*b^*$ diagram
Right: Color samples at Level 65
Rogondino print atlas page varying in cyan and magenta primaries with all samples having a content of 10% black.