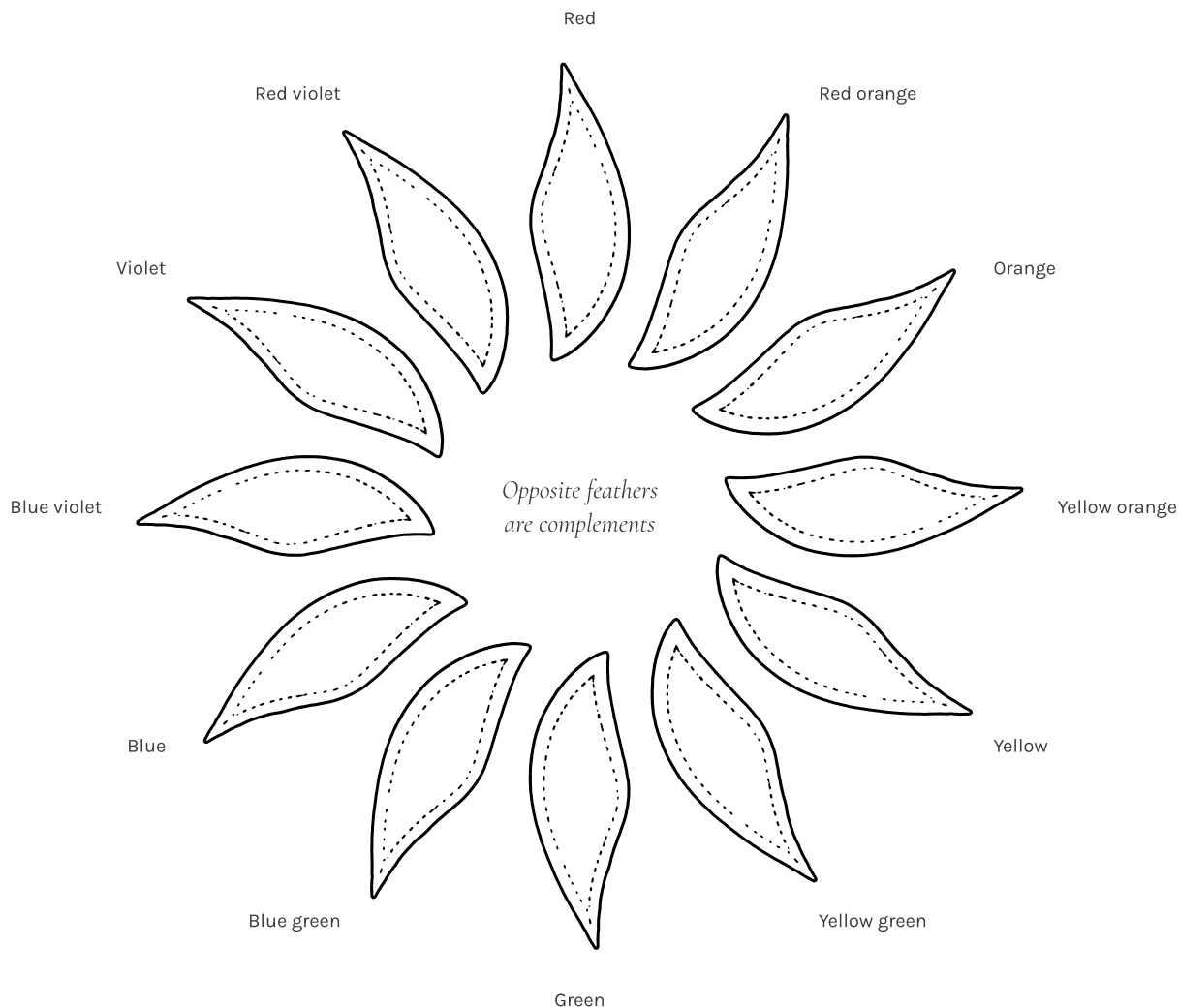


Choosing your colours

No printer can show you your own pencils, so this wheel starts empty. Colour each feather with the nearest pencil you have. From then on, every rule on this sheet works with the colours you really own.



FOUR WAYS TO CHOOSE



Complementary

Opposite each other. Side by side, each makes the other look brighter.



Split complementary

One colour against its opposite's two neighbours. Softer, still lively.



Triad

Three, evenly spaced. Balanced and cheerful.

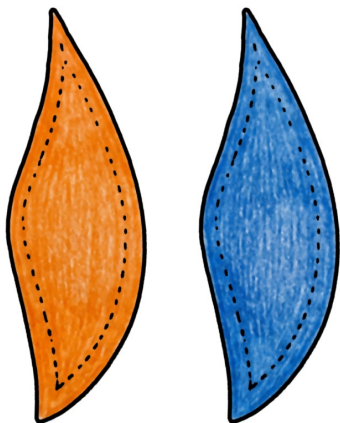


Analogous

Neighbours on the wheel. Calm, quiet and harmonious.

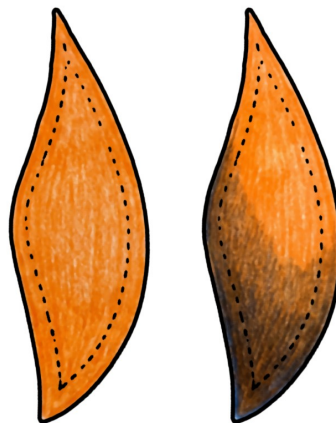
Two ways to use a pair

Pick a colour and find the feather opposite it. Those two are a pair, and there are two ways to use them.



Side by side

Put them next to each other and each makes the other look brighter. A little of the second colour is enough: a berry among leaves, an eye, the edge of a wing.



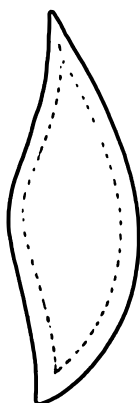
One over the other

For a shadow, leave your black pencil in the tin. Build the colour up where the shadow falls, then lay its opposite over the top. The two settle into a deep, natural shadow that black cannot give you.

THE SIX PAIRS

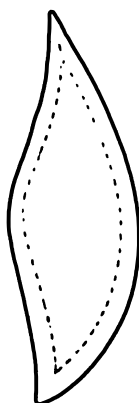
Red and green. Red orange and blue green. Orange and blue. Yellow orange and blue violet. Yellow and violet. Yellow green and red violet.

TRY IT HERE, WITH ONE PENCIL AND ITS OPPOSITE



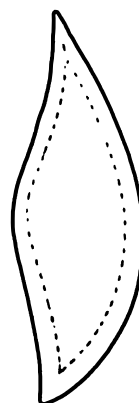
Lighter

Press lightly and let the paper show through. The paper is your white.



Quieter

A light touch of the opposite colour over the top calms a colour down without darkening it much.



Deeper

More layers of the same colour, pressed a little harder, then its opposite where the shadow falls. Not black.

FIVE THINGS WORTH KNOWING

- **Start with a few pencils and let one colour be the loudest.** Give the others less room, not less care.
- **Build colour in light layers, pale to dark.** Press hard only at the very end.
- **Leave some paper white.** The white is a colour and it is doing work.
- **Warm colours tend to come forward and cool colours tend to fall back.** Use it for depth.
- **Try your colours on a scrap of the same paper first,** and keep a clean scrap under your drawing hand. It stops the colour smudging.