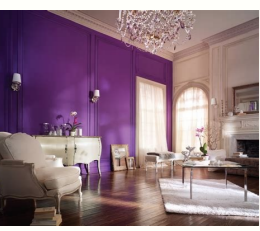
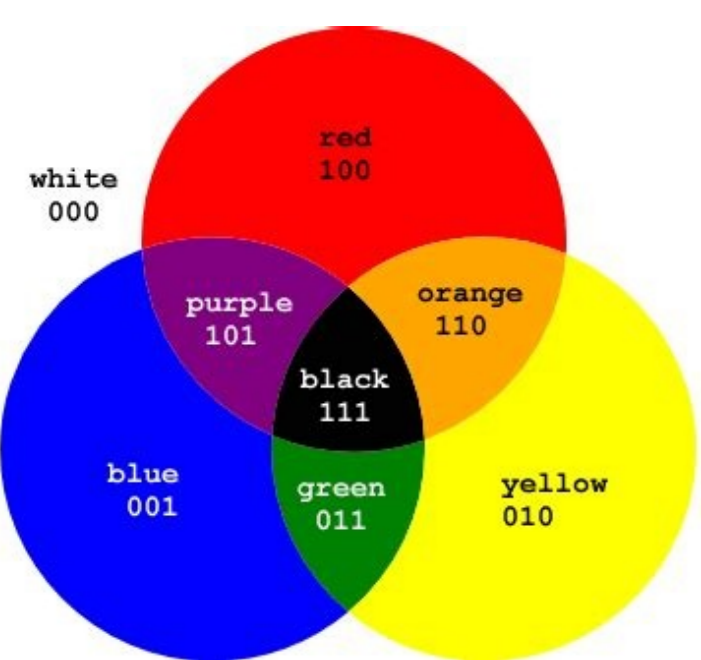


What 2 colours make purple paint

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How to make purple paint colors. What colours to make purple paint. What colors make light purple paint.

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 blues have hints of yellow. 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 greenish 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 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 Whether you are a seasoned painter or new to the game, knowing how to mix paint colors is an essential skill. Purple is a wonderfully diverse color that has been long-loved by royalty around the world. There is also a great deal of variation in the shades of purple, so learning how to mix the perfect shade can take some work. In this article, we break down all the things you need to know to create any shade of purple you desire. A Brief History of the Purple Hue: The Color of Royalty Colors have been an integral part of human history since the first humans ground up different berries into the first pigments. As a result, color is so much more than a range of particular lightwave frequencies. An amalgamation of historical and cultural relevance is steeped into every color, and we believe that knowing this history brings it into your works of art. The rarity and expense of purple pigments have made it a favorite color of royalty throughout history. Tyrian Purple The purple color first appeared in the Neolithic period. Various Neolithic archeological sites have paintings created with sticks of hematite and manganese powder. Tyrian purple is a deep purple dye created from thousands of tiny snails. The process of making this dye was incredibly laborious and expensive, so anyone who could wear purple robes in Ancient Greece had to be very wealthy. As a result, Tyrian purple became the color associated with priests, nobles, kings, and magistrates throughout the Mediterranean. La découverte de la pourpre ("The Discovery of Purple", 1636) by Peter Paul Rubens. This painting depicts Hercules' dog, whose mouth has been stained tyrian purple after eating a sea snail. Upon seeing this shade, a nymph demanded that this color be made into a dye, thus resulting in the creation of purple dye for clothing; Peter Paul Rubens, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons Purple in China Rather than using the snails from the Mediterranean, the ancient Chinese used the purple gromwell to make their dyes. The resulting purple dye adhered to the fabric very poorly, making it very expensive. The ruler of the Qi state loved purple, and as a result, it became incredibly popular during this period, and the already inflated price rose even further. Ancient China ranked colors in terms of propriety and importance. The primary colors were the most valued, and for a long time, purple was not as celebrated as crimson. By the 6th century, however, purple had risen so far in popularity that it overtook crimson. Purple in the Middle Ages and Renaissance Periods For many years, the robes of the cardinals and clergy of the church were Tyrian purple. Pope Paul II declared in 1464 that since the Byzantium dye was no longer available, the cardinals should wear scarlet robes instead. The new robes of the lower-ranking members of the Christian church were not dyed with a purple dye. Instead, the purple robes were made with a combination of indigo and red kermes dyes. The purple color became increasingly prevalent in religious paintings during the Renaissance period. Violet or purple robes often adorned depictions of the Virgin Mary. Kings and other royal figures began to wear purple less frequently throughout the Medieval and Renaissance periods, but university professors began to wear it more. Students and professors of religious studies, in particular, often wore purple robes. It was during this time that purple began to be associated with wisdom and knowledge. Purple in the 18th and 19th Centuries Purple was still the color of the privileged throughout the 18th century, being worn by royalty, members of the aristocracy, and members of the Christian church. It was in the 19th century that this began to change. The experiments of a British chemistry student who was attempting to create synthetic quinine led to the first synthetic aniline dye. This new purple color was named mauve, or mauve. The new purple shade quickly took off, with Queen Victoria wearing a mauve silk gown. Before this new synthetic shade was developed, purple shades had been worn exclusively by those with considerable wealth. New industrial production processes made the color available to the masses, and this dye was one of the first to completely revolutionize the fashion and chemical industries. Catherine II (c. 1780) by Fyodor Rokotov; Fyodor Rokotov, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons So, What Does the Purple Color Mean? Color psychology associates purple with luxury, wealth, and power. In the same breath, and as you may expect given its history, purple represents nobility and royalty. The blue within purple is said to communicate a sense of stability and calm, which when combined with red, is associated with wisdom and knowledge. What Two Colors Make Purple? On the surface, mixing purple seems as easy as combining red and blue pigments. As with everything in life, however, it is not that simple. There are several questions we need to ponder before we even pick up the tubes of paint. What kind of purple do you want? Do you want a bright violet shade or a muted aubergine? Do you need to create highlight and shadow shades of your chosen purple? In time we will answer all of these questions, but let us start at the very beginning. Pure, primary blue mixed with pure, primary red will result in a shade of pure purple. Purple, like orange and green, is a secondary color. If you are a painting novice, using a color mixing chart can be very helpful. Mixing the two colors that sit opposite each other on the color wheel will create the color that sits between them. In this case, combining red and blue, which are opposites, will create a purple color, which sits between them. If creating the perfect shade of purple was as simple as that, we would stop the article here and call the whole thing off. Unfortunately, color theory can get a little more complicated. If you want to start mixing varying shades of purple, we need to start considering the color temperature. On the surface, color temperature is also relatively simple. Colors like blues and greens are cool, while your oranges and reds are warm. Within these categories, however, some reds are cooler than others, and some blues are warmer than others. Cooler reds tend to lean more towards purple shades because they contain a small amount of blue pigment. In contrast, warm reds naturally drift towards orange because they include a little yellow. The tendency of particular colors to veer towards others is known as color bias, and you need to understand color bias to create exact shades. The relative temperature of your two base colors - red and blue - will directly affect the qualities of your purple color. Mixing the perfect purple color is not as simple as combining the closest blue and red. If you have a collection of paints in your studio, try gathering all of your red and blue colors together. You will see that there is great shade variation in both colors. So yes, blue and red will make purple, but the purple shade depends heavily on the types of blue and red you use. Purple is a secondary color, and to create vivid secondary colors, you must use only two primary shades. If you use a warm red that contains a little yellow, and a cool blue that also has some yellow, you are mixing together all three primary colors. A combination of all three of these will result in a muddy shade of purple that is closer to brown. So the bottom line is, to create a vibrant purple color, you need to use a warm blue and a cool red. Ranking Blue Shades from Warm to Cool Generally, you can tell the relative temperature of blue shades just by looking at them. Warmer blue shades, like ultramarine blue, appear to be closer to purple already, while cooler blues, like manganese blue, have a green tint. While we have spoken a lot about color temperature, it is very much a relative term. Here is a list of blue shades, ranked from warm to cool: Ultramarine blue Indanthrone blue Cobalt blue Phthalo blue Cerulean blue Ultramarine blue, indanthrone blue, and cobalt blue are your go-to blue shades for creating the most vibrant purple colors. It is not enough to have the right hue, we also need to consider the red. Ranking Red Shades from Warm to Cool You can alter the shade of your purple by changing the blue you use and the red you use. While you want warmer shades of blue for a vibrant purple, you want cooler shades of red for a vibrant purple. Here is a list of possible red colors ranked from warm to cool: Cadmium scarlet Cadmium red light Vermillion Naphthol red Alizarin crimson Permanent Carmine Quinacridone rose Spectrum crimson To create pure blue shades, spectrum crimson, alizarin crimson, permanent carmine, and quinacridone rose are your go-to cool reds. Any of these shades combined with a warm blue will create the most beautiful, vibrant pure purple. Adjusting the Temperature of Your Purple Shades While we are on color temperature, we should discuss creating warmer and cooler shades of purple. Whether you are painting a field of purple tulips or decadent silken robes, a range of purple hues will lend more realism to your composition. Adjusting the temperature of your purple shades is one way you can begin building a purple pallet. Throughout the rest of this article, we will be using purple as a base color. This pure purple is a combination of alizarin crimson and ultramarine blue. Making Cooler Purple Colors The simplest way to cool down your purple color is to add more blue. The most important thing to consider if you choose this method is which blue to use. It is always best to use the same blue you used to make the original purple color. It needs to be a warm blue, or you will make your purple shade muddy. It is also good practice to only add a small amount of blue to your purple at a time. A small amount of paint can drastically change the color, and if you add too much blue too quickly, you may have to add more red as well to bring it back to your perfect shade. Making Warmer Purple Colors It may seem obvious now, but to make a warmer purple, the best way is to add a little more red. You should definitely use the same red you used to make your base purple, and this red should be cooler, or else your purple will become muddy. Once again, if you are adding red to your purple shade, start by adding a small amount and keep adding gradually until you are happy with the hue. Muting Bright Pure Purple Colors with Complementary Hues Sometimes a vibrant pure purple is not what we want. If you want to paint realistic scenes, vibrant purple alone will be garish. Muted shades are important elements of any painting because they help the brighter colors stand out. Knowing how to mute bright purple shades is just as important as knowing how to mix them in the first place. The best way to mute any color is to add a small amount of that color's complement. A color's complement is the color that sits directly opposite it on the color wheel. The color that complements purple is yellow. Adding a small amount of yellow to your purple will mute the color, making it less vibrant. As in every other aspect of color mixing, the temperature of the complement color is important. A warmer yellow that is closer to orange will mute your purple but keep it fairly warm. If you want a more earthy muted purple color, try mixing it with a little bit of yellow ochre. In contrast, using a cooler yellow, like cadmium lemon yellow, will mute and cool your purple shade. While on the most basic level, purple and yellow are color complements, each unique shade of purple will have its own unique complement yellow shade. Getting to grips with the color wheel and these basic aspects of color theory will set you in good stead to mix and mute any color you need. Creating Purple Tints and Shades If you are looking to mix a dark purple color or a light purple, it is time to consider tints and shades. Dark purple colors and lighter shades of purple are essential for creating depth and dimension in your paintings. As you now know, adjusting colors is a little complicated, and the same goes for creating tints and shades. How to Make Light Purple Tints Having highlight shades or tints of your purple hue is essential for capturing the effects of light or depth. Purple colors are typically quite dark colors naturally, so it is likely that you will want to lighten them often. There are a few different methods you can try out for creating light purple colors. Adding small amounts of white to your purple hue is the most common and easiest way to make light purple. One of the most significant benefits of using white to create light purple tints is that you will not alter the purple hue. Lightening pure purple with white will result in a lighter tint of pure purple. Another great option for creating light purple tints is to add a little bit of light yellow. Adding a color of a light value to your purple will lighten it. We know that you can use yellow to mute a vibrant purple hue. If you want to make a muted purple tint, then a light yellow is the perfect option. The best yellows we can suggest are cadmium lemon yellow and cadmium yellow. Cadmium lemon yellow will make your purple hue much lighter than cadmium yellow. The method you choose to use to create purple tints is personal preference, and it may take some experimentation to get the perfect shade. How to Make Dark Purple Shades Purple colors are already quite dark, so it is not difficult to make them a little darker. You really need those dark purple shades to add shadows and dimension to your paintings. Depending on the complexity and the light values within the composition, you may need several dark purple shades. It is always a good idea to create a pallet of light and dark variations on your primary purple hue. There are also a few different ways you can make dark purple hues. As you can use white to lighten purple, you can also use black to darken it. Many artists, us included, will warn you that using black is not the best way to make your purple hues darker. The reason why this is not the best method is that black paint is rarely a pure black pigment. Most tubes of black paint contain many different color pigments, and they often have a green pigment base. You can test this out yourself. Try mixing your black paint with some white. You will likely find that rather than forming a pure grey, this combination will have a greenish tinge. Using black to make dark purple may result in unwanted tinges of color. A better option for making dark purple is to use a small amount of burnt umber. Burnt umber is a dark reddish-brown shade, and when you mix it with pure purple, it creates a deep muted shade. In terms of temperature, burnt umber is warmer than purple, and as a result, it will warm up your purple hues. Phthalo green is another option for creating a rich dark purple. You can create a dark black color by combining phthalo green and alizarin crimson. Mixing some of this combination with your purple shade will result in an incredibly dark purple. Out of all the purple colors that you can mix yourself, this combination is probably the darkest. Scientific Hex Table for Different Shades of Purple Type of Purple Hex Number % Red, Green, Blue % Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black Purple Shade Pure Purple #660066 50% R, 50% B 68% C, 100% M, 26% Y, 18% K Lavender #6666FF 50% R, 50% Blue 8% C, 8% M, 0% Y, 0% K Aubergine #30734 51% R, 43% B, 6% Black 76% C, 95% M, 45% Y, 58% K Mauve #1784A7 38% R, 35% B, 27% G 29% C, 54% M, 14% Y, 0% K Plum #8E4585 41% R, 39% B, 20% G 50% C, 86% M, 17% Y, 2% K Violet #700FF 53% R, 67% B 69% C, 79% M, 0% Y, 0% K Amethyst #9966CC 34% R, 44% B, 22% G 43% C, 67% M, 0% Y, 0% K Tips for Using Different Shades of Purple in Your Painting Purple is a wonderful color to use in your paintings. Not only can you craft beautiful purple compositions, but you can also mix purple into a range of different colors. Purple is a wonderful complementing color and it can make the other colors in a painting pop. When it comes to mixing your own purple shades and choosing your color combinations, the only limit is your imagination and your willingness to experiment. We've created a web story of our Top 5 Purple colors and how to mix them. Frequently Asked Questions How Do You Mix a Vibrant Purple? A vibrant, pure purple is probably one of the easier purple shades to mix on your own. All you need are equal amounts of pure red and pure blue paint. You can lighten or darken this shade by adding white or darker pigments like burnt umber. Knowing the basics of color theory and color bias will help you to mix any shade of purple you need. What Color is the Complement of Purple? A color's complement sits opposite it on the color wheel. In the case of purple, yellow is its complement. If you use yellow and purple together in a painting, they will make each other appear brighter and bolder. What Kind of Blue Do You Need to Make Purple? According to color theory, you need to use a blue that has a color bias towards purple already. Warm blues like ultramarine or indanthrone blue are perfect for creating a crisp and bright purple shade.

