

Organized Color Mixing: The Pegboard Palette Lesson

Materials Needed

- Acrylic Paints: Red, Blue, Yellow (Primary colors), plus White and Black.
- Canvas or thick cardstock paper (several sheets).
- Paint Brushes (various sizes: small detail, medium flat).
- Water Jars/Cups (2 per student: one for rinsing, one for clean water).
- Paper towels or rags.
- **Pegboard setup** (installed or freestanding).
- **Pegboard cups and hooks** (for holding paint, water, and brushes).
- **Paper Trays** (to store clean paper, scrap paper, and wet artwork).
- **Different Colored Paper** (small squares for testing color temperature).
- Palettes (disposable plates or plastic palettes).

Introduction: Why Organization Sparks Creativity (10 minutes)

The Hook

Imagine a master chef trying to bake a cake, but all the flour, eggs, and sugar are mixed up in a giant pile on the floor! Would they be able to create something amazing? Probably not! In art, having an organized space helps our minds stay calm and focused so we can let our creativity flow. Today, we are going to become master organizers and brilliant painters!

Learning Objectives (Tell them what you'll teach)

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Successfully set up an organized painting station using trays and pegboard tools.
2. Mix primary colors (Red, Blue, Yellow) to create all three secondary colors (Orange, Green, Purple).
3. Apply at least two basic acrylic painting techniques (flat wash and layering) in a creative project.

I Do: Setting Up the Pegboard Palette (Modeling)

Success Criteria for Setup: All tools are accessible, and paint is secure.

1. **Paint Station:** Show how to use the small pegboard cups. Explain that these are perfect for holding small amounts of paint that we are actively mixing. We will only put a little bit of primary color in three separate cups.
2. **Water & Brushes:** Demonstrate using a larger pegboard cup for storing clean brushes and another for the rinse water jar.
3. **Paper Trays:** Use the trays for organization. Tray 1 holds our clean paper for painting. Tray 2 holds our scraps for mixing practice. (If using multiple colored papers, place these neatly in a third tray.)

The Painting Practice: Color & Technique (35 minutes)

Phase 1: I Do - Mastering Primary Mixing (Modeling) (10 minutes)

We are going to make a 'Color Recipe Card' using our knowledge of primary colors.

1. **Modeling the Mix:** Demonstrate taking small amounts of primary paint (from the organized pegboard cups) and mixing them on the palette.
2. **The Recipes:**
 - Red + Yellow = Orange
 - Blue + Yellow = Green
 - Red + Blue = Purple (or Violet)
3. **Testing the Color:** Take one of the 'different colored papers' from your tray (e.g., a gray or blue sheet). Show how painting a small swatch of the new mix onto that colored paper changes how the color looks. This helps us decide if we need more yellow or more blue!
4. **Technique: Flat Wash:** Model painting a smooth, even layer of one color onto a piece of scrap paper.

Phase 2: We Do - Guided Mixing and Application (10 minutes)

Now it's your turn to practice using your organized station.

1. **Challenge Mix:** Everyone try to mix a beautiful shade of Green. (*Formative Assessment: Walk around and check mixtures. Ask: "What happens if you add a tiny bit of white to your green?"*)
2. **Technique Practice: Layering:** Using your green mix, paint a flat wash. After it dries slightly, use a different color (like purple) to paint a small shape right on top of the green. This is layering!
3. **Clean-Up Check:** Encourage learners to quickly rinse brushes in the designated water jar and dab them dry on a paper towel. Place clean brushes back in the pegboard cup.

Phase 3: You Do - The Organized Abstract Project (15 minutes)

Now, let's use our organization skills and new color knowledge to create a small abstract painting.

Instructions:

Create an abstract piece on your cardstock using *only* the primary and secondary colors you mixed today. Your goal is to fill the paper using at least two different colors and two different techniques (flat wash and layering).

Success Criteria for Project:

- Painting uses at least five distinct colors (primary or secondary).
- The colors are evenly applied (no huge unpainted spots).
- The artist successfully uses the pegboard cups for paint access and places finished/wet work into a designated Paper Tray for safe drying.

Closure and Recap (10 minutes)

Sharing and Reflection (Formative Assessment)

Gallery Walk & Tell: Look at your neighbors' art (or your own finished pieces). Which secondary color

mix are you most proud of? Why?

- **Question:** What was the hardest color to mix?
- **Question:** How did having your paint cups and brushes organized on the pegboard make the process easier? (Expected Answer: No searching, less mess, easier access).

Clean Up and Storage

I Do (Model): Demonstrate the proper cleaning of the palette and brushes. Show how the wet artwork is placed gently into the Paper Tray (Tray 2) to dry safely without smudging.

Reinforcing Takeaways (Tell them what you taught)

Today, we learned that organization (using our pegboards and trays) is just as important as the paint we use! We mastered the primary color recipes and practiced two essential techniques: flat washing and layering. You are now organized artists!

Summative Assessment & Evaluation

The final abstract painting serves as the summative assessment, evaluated against the success criteria:

1. **Color Theory Application:** Did the student successfully use mixed secondary colors (observing hue accuracy)?
2. **Technique Demonstration:** Is there evidence of both flat wash and layering/build-up?
3. **Organizational Workflow:** Did the student maintain a clean workspace and use the paper trays/pegboard storage tools as directed throughout the painting process? (Observation checklist.)

Differentiation and Adaptability

Scaffolding for Struggling Learners (Homeschool/Classroom)

- **Pre-Set Palettes:** Pre-load the pegboard cups with labels (R, B, Y) and small amounts of paint to reduce initial setup cognitive load.
- **Color Wheel Reference:** Provide a simple printed color wheel for visual reference during the mixing phase.
- **Focus Reduction:** Focus only on mixing one secondary color (e.g., just green) instead of all three.

Extension for Advanced Learners (Homeschool/Classroom/Training)

- **Tertiary Challenge:** Challenge the learner to mix tertiary colors (mixing a primary color with a neighboring secondary color, e.g., yellow-green or blue-purple).
- **Value Study:** Introduce Black and White paint (tints and shades). Use the pegboard cups to organize small dabs of white and black, and challenge the student to create three different values (light, medium, dark) of their favorite color.
- **Advanced Technique:** Introduce the Dry Brush technique and integrate it into the final abstract project.