

# *Harmony Vs Dissonance in Color*

## *(unity vs disunity)*

HARMONY: Increases color unity, reduces contrast.

DISSONANCE: Decreases color unity, increases contrast.

More people have a personal preference for harmony and harmony is generally considered more desirable, but dissonance can be used to create contrast, grab attention and increase 'energy' in a design. A design can use both harmony and dissonance. Harmony can enrich a color palette and improve unity, but dissonance can create interest, variation and eye-catching affects.

How does color create harmony versus dissonance (unity versus disunity)? Read on! (see next page)

How to create Harmony (unity) or Dissonance (disunity)  
with color.

*Simply follow the 'Rule of Intervals'!*

Rule of Intervals:

- Adding intervals between two colors will unify and enrich a color palette, increasing harmony in the color palette.*
- Subtracting intervals between two colors will add contrast and variation and increase dissonance in the color palette.*

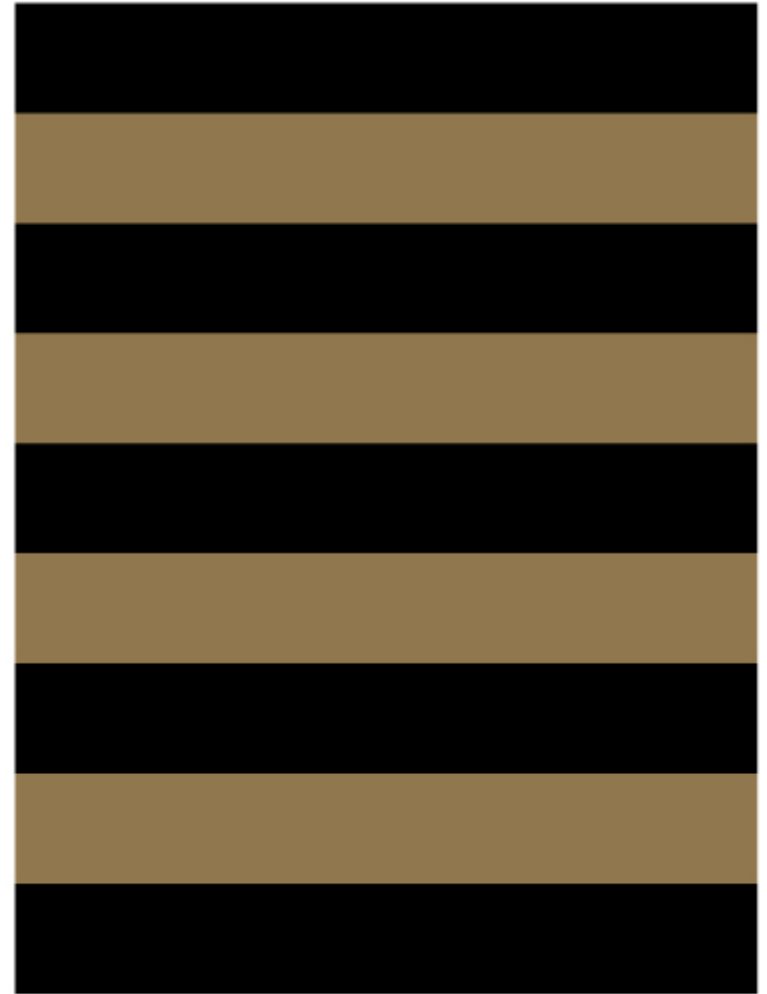
Here's the Big Secret! *Any two colors can be harmonious, all you have to do is add intervals between them. Let's look at an example...*

## Example of applying the Rule of Intervals:

Many people say that brown and black do not 'go together'.

Looking at this brown and black next to one another, they do appear to have a great deal of contrast and dissonance.

Dissonance could be good if you were designing something eye-catching. But what if you want a more harmonious effect between these colors? How do we make these colors look more harmonious together? Simply add intervals....(see next page)...



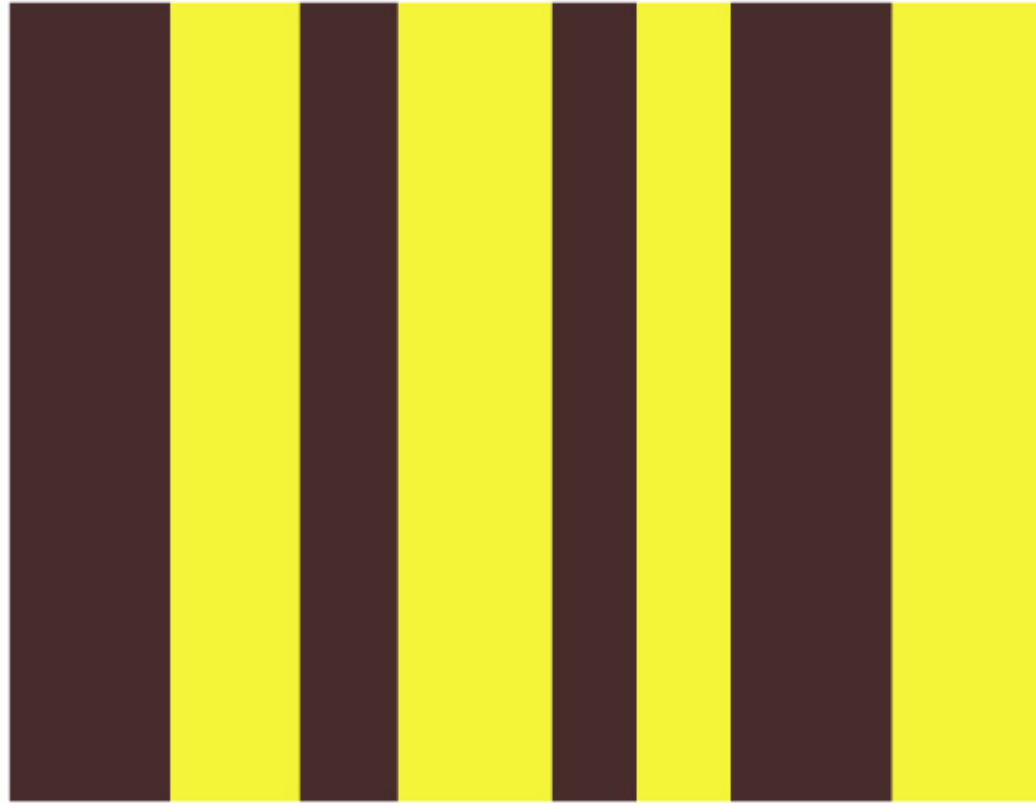


Adding intervals of hue between the two dissonant hues helps to unify the colors and make them more harmonious.

Would you like another example?....(see next page)



Here is a harmonious set of colors created by mixing yellow and brown together in various amounts. What if you want more contrast and dissonance in your color palette? Just take away the intervals !~(see next page)



Subtracting the intervals between the brown and yellow adds contrast and dissonance.