

# COLOR WHEEL FLOWER



Step-by-step instructions  
on the basics to mixing a full range of colors.

Lora S. Irish

## INTRODUCTION

I admit it - I am a craft supply hoarder! I love craft supplies and can barely walk past a sale on colored pencils, brush packs, paper mache pieces, craft paints, or carving wood bundles. My studio is full of banker boxes, stuffed to the brim with supplies just waiting for me in case I get that flash of inspiration.

But when it comes to working with craft paints I really only need five colors on my table - cadmium medium red, cadmium medium yellow, ultramarine blue, titanium white, and carbon black. Those five are the three primary colors plus the color for no colorations - white, and the color for all colors together - black.

I do include three more colors in my basic color kit - cadmium medium orange, bright green, and dioxide purple. These are the secondary colors and I use them so often it is easiest for me to use pre-mixed colors.

In the photo, below, there are six colors lined up in front of the desk lamp - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Adding black and white to the set all of the color mixes that appear of the palette plates in the foreground can be quickly mixed to use on your new wood carving, pyrography, or gourd project.

All those other paint bottles in the background are unnecessary to creating a full, working palette of hues, tones, and pastels.

But, they are fun to have on hand especially if you are like me, a craft supply hoarder.



# Lora S. Irish

Although I took my training in the professional fine arts at the University of Maryland as an oil/canvas artist, it was with my introduction to relief wood carving that I found my passions.

Working with natural materials - wood, leather, gourds, fibers - quickly lead me into the hobby and crafts area of the arts

In the art world the term, crafts defines the material and media with which you work, not the quality of your art.. Without doubt master woodworkers are professional artist that simple use wood instead of canvas or paper.

My love of natural materials has exploded over the years from carving into pyrography, leather work, gourd art, and the needle arts.

As my own love for the natural-based arts grew I discovered that I had a second, equally powerful passion - that of sharing and teaching the crafts that I love.

As you read through this primer on creating a color wheel and the theory of color mixing I hope to inspire and encourage you in your own love of the crafts.

[LSIrish.com](http://LSIrish.com)

Lora's free, online tutorial blog

[ArtDesignsStudio.com](http://ArtDesignsStudio.com)

Line Art Patterns for all crafters,  
created by our artist, Lora Irish.



Lora Irish has 14 Limited Edition Fine Art Prints featuring pure bred dogs, and for twenty years ran an art gallery highlighting the artwork of over 60 fine dog artists on the web.

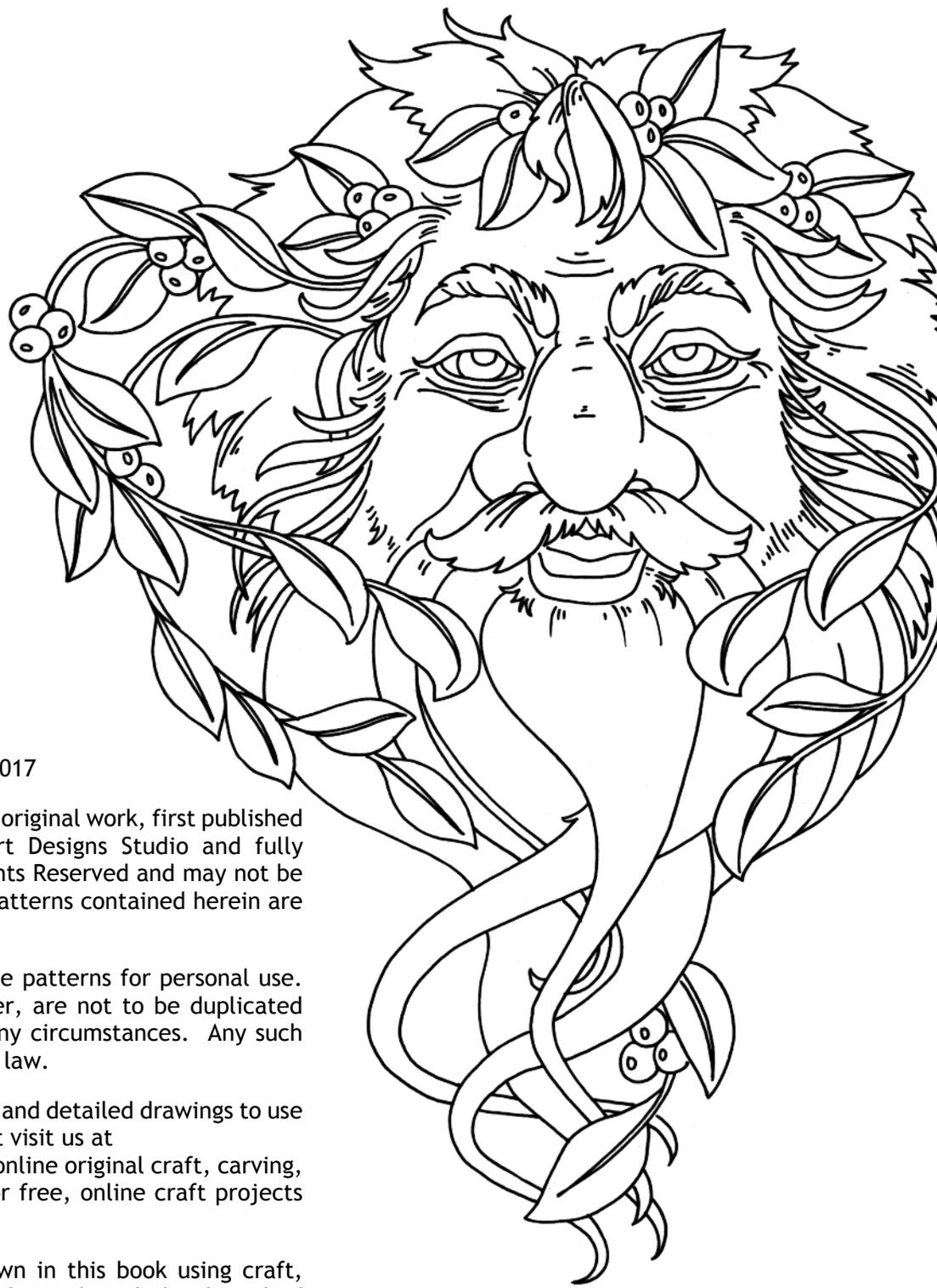
Classic Carving Patterns, at [CarvingPatterns.com](http://CarvingPatterns.com), was opened on the web in 1997 and focused on Lora's art prints and first book, Classic Carving Patterns.

Today you will find Lora's line art work on her pattern warehouse website, [ArtDesignsStudio.com](http://ArtDesignsStudio.com), which offers over 3000 designs, patterns, and ideas for your next craft project. Visit her blog at [LSIrish.com](http://LSIrish.com) with over 600 web pages of free tutorials, patterns, and projects.

Between 1987 to 1995, Lora's dog art was featured on seven front cover dog magazines, published by Huflin Publication. Since 1998, Lora has been featured in Wood Carving Illustrated Magazine, Scroll Saw Magazine, Pyrography Magazine, and the Gazette.

In 2007 she was awarded the Wood Carver of the Year Award by Wood Carving Magazine.

Currently she has 28 books on the market that focus on patterns, wood carving, pyrography, and leather art. These are available for sale on line at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), [FoxChapelPublishing.com](http://FoxChapelPublishing.com), [TautonStore.com](http://TautonStore.com) and [DoverPublicans.com](http://DoverPublicans.com).



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To discover more line art patterns and detailed drawings to use with your next pyrography project visit us at [Art Designs Studio](http://ArtDesignsStudio.com), Lora S. Irish's online original craft, carving, and pyrography pattern site. For free, online craft projects visit us at our blog, [LSIrish.com](http://LSIrish.com).

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Lora S Irish pattern from  
Adult Coloring, Pyrography, Carving  
Portraits

[ArtDesignsStudio.com](http://ArtDesignsStudio.com)



## GENERAL SUPPLIES

Wax-coated paper plates or styrofoam plates  
Palette knife  
2 bowls of water  
Paper towels  
Assorted flat shader brushes, sizes #4 - #10  
Frisket film, 12" x 12"  
12" x 12" x 18" birch plywood board  
220-grit sandpaper  
6 - 8" square of brown kraft paper  
Graphite tracing paper  
#2 pencil  
Painter's tape or masking tape  
Craft knife, bench knife, or chip carving knife

## CRAFT PAINT SUPPLIES

Cadmium red  
Cadmium orange  
Cadmium yellow  
Chromium oxide green  
Ultramarine blue  
Dioxide purple

Assorted gel pens



## PROFESSIONAL V. CRAFT COLOR NAMES

The list of color names in the above supply list are the traditional artist quality, professional color names. Most paint manufacturers use the chemical-based name for their artist color lines, whether those colors are acrylics, watercolors, or oils. So the manufacturer will name their pure hue red Cadmium Medium Red for each different line of paint.

Craft paints, made for the hobby market, have their own specific names for their hues, tones, and color shades depending on the manufacturer. One company may call the pure hue red color Fire Engine Red, while another names the same color Apple Red and a third might name theirs Candy Cane Red.

When you purchase your craft colors please refer to the manufacturer's color chart, which shows all of the colors in that line of paint. Choose the purest hues possible, regardless of the name of any particular paint color.

## APPLE BARREL BY PLAID

My project was worked using the Apple Barrel craft paint line manufactured by Plaid. These colors are inexpensive and readily available. My local WalMart carries several lines of Plaid craft paints.

From left to right:

20501E Bright Red = Cadmium red

21961E Outrageous Orange = Cadmium orange

20513E Bright Yellow = Cadmium yellow

20361E Bright Green = Chromium oxide green

20596E Cobalt Blue = Ultramarine blue

20595E Concord Grape = Dioxide purple

20503E White

21885E Jet Black



This Color Wheel Flower board is destined to become the front cover of a scrapbook when this project is complete. I will add a second 12" x 12" x 1/8" birch plywood piece for the back cover to the book.

I can drill three to five, 1/4" evenly spaced holes along the left edge of both boards, approximately 3/8" in from the edge that will hold 1" to 1 1/2" loose leaf rings. The loose leaf rings can be opened to add my 12" x 12" scrapbook page layouts.



I have been exploring handcrafted journals lately which lead to turning the flower pattern on my plywood board into something unexpected.

While a nice painting of an Oriental Poppy, done in realistic colors, would have worked well, changing the coloring into a color wheel adds that fun and surprising factor to my scrapbook cover.



## STEP 1

Prepare your birch plywood board by sanding the surface with 220-grit sandpaper. Work the sanding in the same direction as the grain lines of your wood to avoid leaving fine cross-grain lines that can show up during the painting steps.

Remove the dust with a lint-free cloth.

Crumple a large sheet of brown kraft paper and scrub the surface of your board. Kraft paper acts as a very fine sandpaper, removing any wood fibers, leaving the wood with a soft, polished sheen.



## STEP 2

Center the printed paper onto the face of your board. Tape the top edge of the pattern with several pieces of Painter's tape - low tack masking tape.

Slide a sheet of graphite tracing paper under the paper with the graphite surface facing the wood.

Use an ink pen or pencil to trace along the pattern lines.

Remove the graphite paper, pattern, and Painter's tape.

## STEP 3

Print one copy of each of the patterns, pages 23 and 24.