



Jack Richeson and Company offers a full comprehensive line of pastels...from our student grade to professional to our unique handmade premium Unison pastels. Gathering the best pastels from all over the world to better serve all your pastel needs.

Unison Soft Pastels

In the hills of Northumberland, England, an artistian makes pastels. He mixes pigments in equipment a baker would use. He lightly hand-rolls the dough and allows the sticks to air-dry.

Out of frustration with the pastels available, British artist, John Hersey, began making hand-made pastels. Developed to be superior in colour, texture and response, Unison Soft Pastels are unlike anything on the market today. John Hersey worked out his unique colour formulations over a decade of experimentation, creating intense, vibrant colours, blended almost exclusively from pure pigment and water.

Hersey had been using soft charcoal for years, and loved the texture of the medium and the boldness of the absolute black it offered. His work in black and white gave him a keen awareness of light and shadow. He wanted to translate that awareness to the use of colour. But he could not find pastels that suited him in either performance or colour. In pastel

factories, pigments are mixed with water, gums and other additives in large mechanical mixers. The pastel "dough" is pushed through the barrel of an extruder by a long revolving screw. The solid dough is forced through a circular opening at the extruder's end. It emerges from the extruder like a long pencil and is cut to stick lengths. The sticks then drop onto a conveyer belt to go through a drying operation, and then are wrapped.

"The problem with the extrusion process," Hersey said, "is that it squeezes the pastels very tight and compresses them." They are probably overheated in drying as well. This makes them hard, on the whole. It alters their consistency. And alters their response to being used. "In our hand-made process, the pigment hardly gets pressed at all. The sticks are rolled lightly. It makes them very fluent when you use them. Like soft charcoal."

Creating consistency of response across the colour spectrum was a particularly thorny problem for

Hersey. All pigments vary in their physical properties. Many pigments will hold together after being mixed with water, rolled and dried. Others fall to pieces. For those a little weak starch or gum to give the best response without interfering with the colour.

Many of the colours are pure and single pigments. On the whole they are blended, three or four or five different pigments together. Unison blends in very little white or chalk. Artists are generally looking for intense and dark pastels. You can get sick of the endless arrays of pale pastel shades and you want some really strong colours. Those pastels are just pigment and nothing else.

"Light is the beauty of the world making colour the tangible evidence of creation," Hersey wrote. "If the sun is the true light, then in the earth also there is true colour. But unlike the sun, the earth is subject to much coming and going. At one time, dawn. At another, twilight. At one time spring. At another, autumn. Although the true sun remains, the



Artisan John Hersey passed away in 2010. His amazing vision and love of light and colour will be truly missed by artists everywhere.

colour is forever changing. Its own true nature held between the fingers of the cool sky and the radiant sun.”

Most manufacturers make up their sets of colours by the simple addition of either black or white to the pigment mix. That practice results, Hersey contended, in isolated series of stepped reductions or tints, having no reference to a colouristic whole. Instead, Hersey takes colours and creates cycles of related hues, to reflect the unison he sees in nature. Thus the name of his company: Unison Colour.

“I worked it out so that the cycles work in terms of how your eye sees things,” Hersey said. “It’s not just theory. In nature, one sees centers of intense colour and all the variations of that colour until it gets so weak or so influenced by something else that it becomes another colour. Stable colour does not exist.

It’s an illusion of the sun. You look out the window, you’ll find that what was a beautiful pale green is now a dark blueish green. Colour in nature

is changing all the time. These changes are what I am trying to illustrate in my colour sets. Of course it’s not complete. If you are going to make pastels to illustrate the entire universe, you’re going to make millions of pastels.”

Hersey found inspiration in his surroundings. He was originally from the south of England, which he described as foggy and misty, with poor light for an artist. The light in Northumberland, where he lived, is particular. “It’s Roman light up here,” he said. “Very brilliant, incandescent and radiant. Like the works of Poussin and Claude Lorraine.

Even if you drive south one hundred and fifty miles from here, all the colours begin to fade. Light has been an enormous influence for me.”



Unison Pastels shown actual size.



Standard Size 740...



Medium Size 741...
Available by special order only.



Jumbo Size 742...
Available by special order only.

Individually Boxed

Each stick is individually packaged to eliminate product handling, damage and dust. Each hanging carton contains a foam insert to protect the pastel from breakage. The back panel displays handling information, UPC code, colour, and product number, easily identifying all important information according to ACMI regulations. Discover the value and convenience of individually packaged Unison Soft Pastels!



Red Values Set #740271



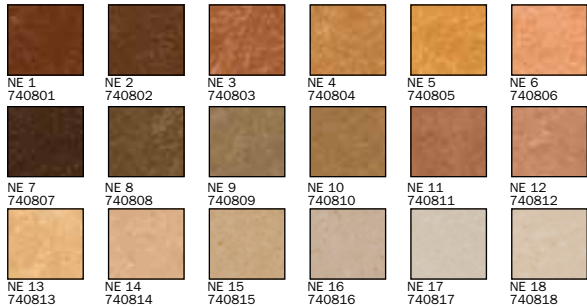
Red Earth Values Set #740272



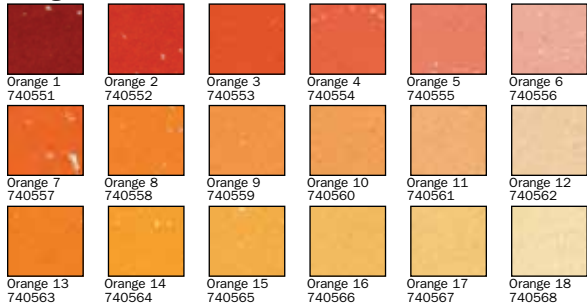
Brown Earth Values 1-18 Set #740274, 19-36 Set #740283



Natural Earth Values Set #740346



Orange Values Set #740289



Unison Soft Pastels Color Chart

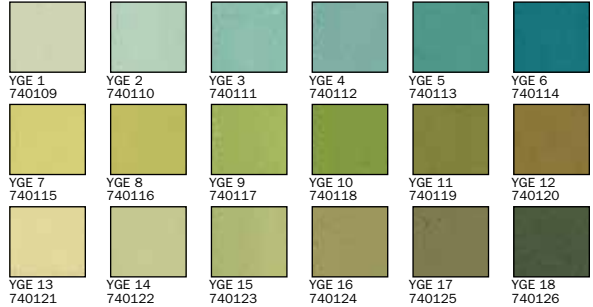
402 COLORS AVAILABLE

Unison Pastels are tested in accordance to: ASTM D-4236 and bear safety labels to the standards issued by ACMI. While many Unison colours are AP Approved non-toxic, certain colours bear the CL label with safety warnings.

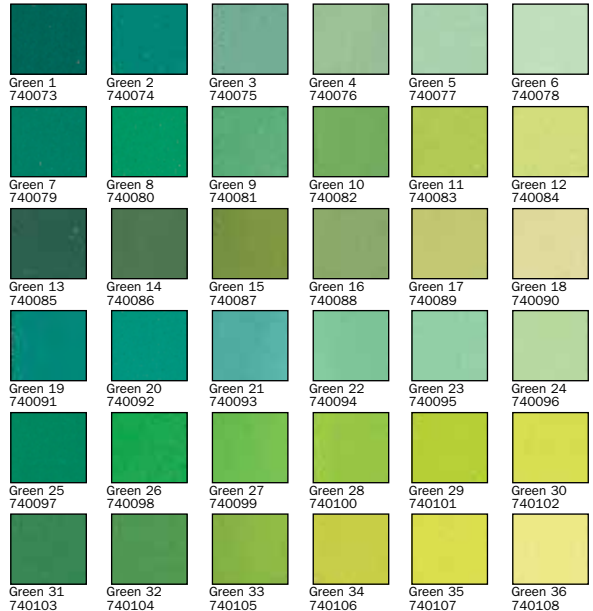
Yellow Gold Values Set #740273



Yellow Green Earth Values Set #740278



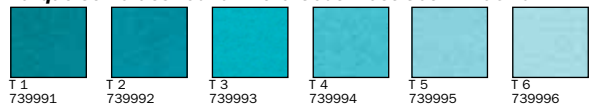
Green Values 1-19 Set #740275, 19-36 Set #740276



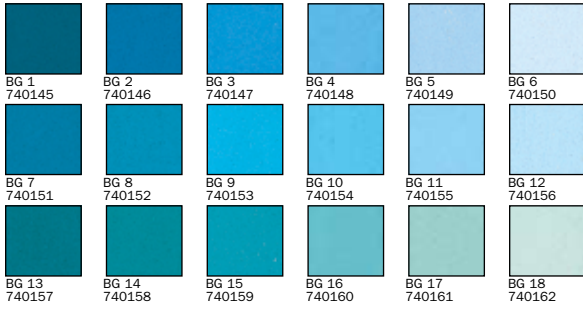
Blue Green Earth Values Set #740277



Turquoise Values found in the Southwest Set #740326



Blue Green Values Set #740280



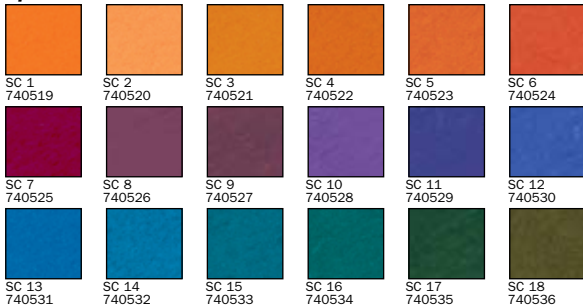
Blue Violet Values Set #740279



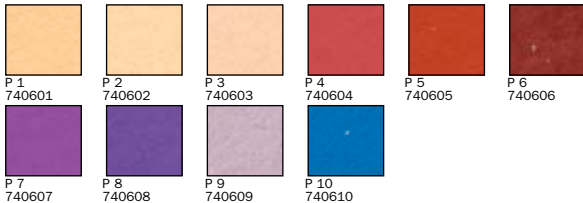
Grey Values 1-18 Set #740281, 19-36 Set #740282



Special Collection Set #740540



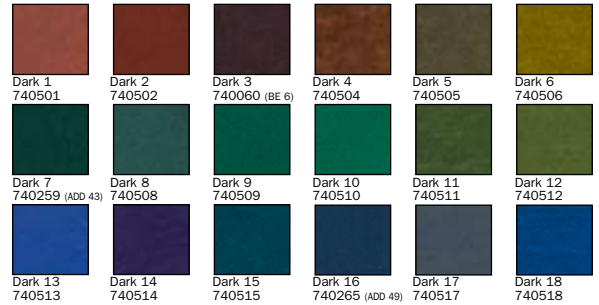
Portrait Colors found in Set #740293



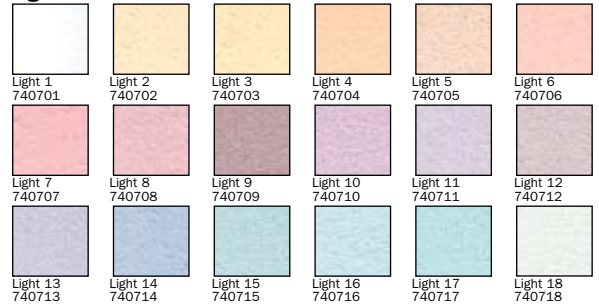
Additional Values 1-18 #740300, 19-36 #740301, 37-54 #740302



Dark Values Set #740321



Light Values Set #740342



This color chart has been reproduced using modern printing methods. While every effort has been made to represent the original colors, it is not possible to exactly match the pigments due to the nature of printing.

Unison

Soft Pastel Sets

For set contents, visit our web site at www.richesonart.com

A. Unison Value Sets

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
740271	Set of 18 Red Values
740272	Set of 18 Red Earth Values
740273	Set of 18 Yellow Gold Values
740274	Set of 18 Brown Earth Values 1 (1-18)
740283	Set of 18 Brown Earth Values 2 (19-36)
740275	Set of 18 Green Values 1 (1-18)
740276	Set of 18 Green Values 2 (19-36)
740277	Set of 18 Blue Green Earth Values
740278	Set of 18 Yellow Green Earth Values
740279	Set of 18 Blue Violet Values
740280	Set of 18 Blue Green Values
740281	Set of 18 Grey Values 1 (1-18)
740282	Set of 18 Grey Values 2 (19-36)
740289	Set of 18 Orange Values
740300	Set of 18 Additional Values 1 (1-18)
740301	Set of 18 Additional Values 2 (19-36)
740302	Set of 18 Additional Values 3 (37-54)
740321	Set of 18 Dark Values 1 (1-18)
740340	Set of 18 Dark Values 2 (19-36)
740342	Set of 18 Light Values
740346	Set of 18 Natural Earth
740341	Set of 36 Dark Values
740343	Full Set of Unison Pastels (Contact Customer Service for the current number of available colours.)

B. Specialty Painting Sets

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
740329	Set of 8 Sampler Set
740284	Set of 18 Starter Colors
740285	Set of 18 Portrait Colors
740287	Set of 18 Landscape Colors
740326	Set of 18 Southwestern Colors
740540	Set of 18 Special Collection Colors
740292	Set of 36 Starter Colors
740286	Set of 36 Portrait Colors
740288	Set of 36 Landscape Colors
743034	Set of 48 Landscape Colors
743035	Set of 48 Portrait Colors
740310	Set of 72 Starter Colors
740293	Set of 72 Portrait Colors
740294	Set of 72 Landscape Colors

Wooden Box Sets

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
994035	Set of 48 Mattson Portrait Colors

c. Half Stick Sets

Sets made in half sticks for a greater variety of colors at a lower cost.

740900	Set of 16 Starter Set
740905	Set of 30 Starter Colors
740910	Set of 63 Starter Colors
740915	Set of 120 Starter Colors

B



A



C



D



D. Problem Solver Sets

Sets made with hard to find colors that solve issues for plein air paintings as well as various skin tones for portraiture.

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
740335	Set of 8 Shadow Set
740827	Set of 8 Portrait Caucasian Set
740828	Set of 8 Portrait African Set
740829	Set of 8 Portrait Asian Set
740830	Set of 8 Portrait Native American Set
740831	Set of 8 Portrait Mediterranean Set
740832	Set of 8 Portrait Latino Set
740833	Set of 8 Portrait Eyes Set
740834	Set of 8 Desert Sunset Set
740835	Set of 8 Polar Ocean Set
740836	Set of 8 Northern Sunrise Set
740837	Set of 8 Tropical Ocean Set

Unison Soft Pastels Displays



A. Oak Spinning Display Case

The rack is mounted onto a stainless steel rotating plate, that easily holds up to 500lbs., and one panel of the upper area opens to offer four shelves of storage. The filled display includes 4 each of 402 colors, 402 hooks and 25 printed color charts.

- Height: 69", width: 18", depth: 18"
- Bottom storage area: 15-1/2" high
- 11 beveled rows for hooks

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
740330	Spinning Display Empty
740333	Spinning Display Full

Handmade Color Charts

NUMBER 740309



B. Flat Unison Pastel Rack

Contains 4 each of 84 colors. Includes a full color header and enough hooks to hang 7 rows of 12.

- Height: 31"
- Height with header: 38"
- Base width: 17-1/2"
- Base depth: 16"
- 7 beveled rows for hooks

NUMBER 740308

Empty Unison Pastel Rack

NUMBER 58050



C. Artists' Studio Oak Pastel Chest

Made of solid oak, this convenient chest of drawers is designed to hold boxes of Unison Pastel Sets. Each drawer can hold four sets of 18, two sets of 36, or one set of 72. Measures: 20-3/4"(w) x 17"(d) x 18-5/8"(h). Pastels sold separately.

NUMBER 887250



D. Protective Foam Inserts

NUMBER 740391 (18CT)

NUMBER 740392 (72CT)

E. Empty Boxes with foam inserts

NUMBER 740298 (18CT)

NUMBER 740317 (72CT)