

COLOUR FOUNDATIONS: COMPARATIVE MIXING

Ages	5 to 99
Time	15 minutes
Learning Outcome	To compare coloured mixtures produced subtractively by mixing paints with optical mixtures using the same paints.
Colour Concepts	Mixed colours depend on the mixing process used.

MATERIALS

- Spinning disks
- Spinning disk template (on next page - can be copied to sturdier paper)
- Scissors
- blue and yellow- coloured acrylic paints, brushes, water for cleaning, palette, paper towel

INSTRUCTIONS

- Step 1. Fill in alternating sections of the outer edge of a circular disk with blue then yellow paints.
- Step 2. Mix your blue and yellow paints in equal amounts on your palette, and paint the centre part of the disk.
- Step 3. Cut out the circle and put it on the disk.
- Step 4. Spin the disk quickly, so that the painted sections of the outer disk blend to a single colour. (If you can still see individual blue and yellow areas, the disk needs to be spun faster.)

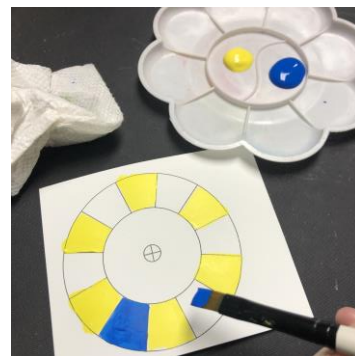
Note: If you cannot find a spinning disk (any type of spinning top will do).

QUESTIONS & OBSERVATIONS

1. What do you notice about the colours of the inner and outer parts of the disk?
2. If they are different, describe how they are different in terms of this colour characters.



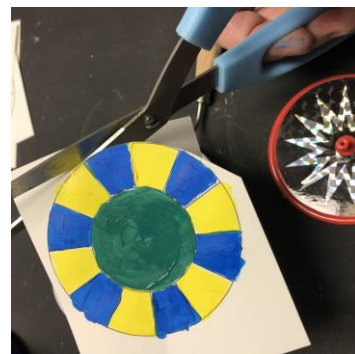
Materials



Step 1

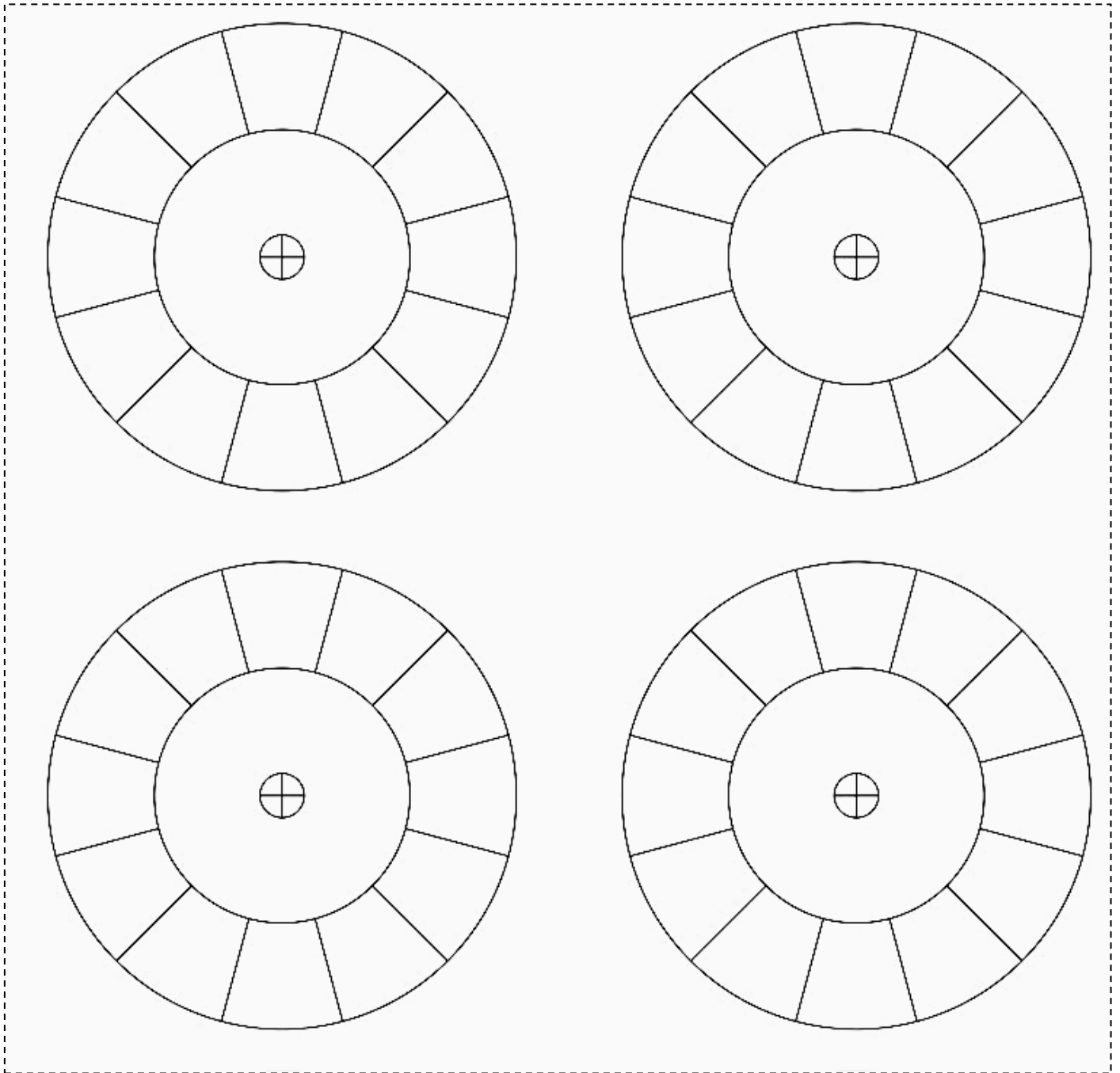


Step 2

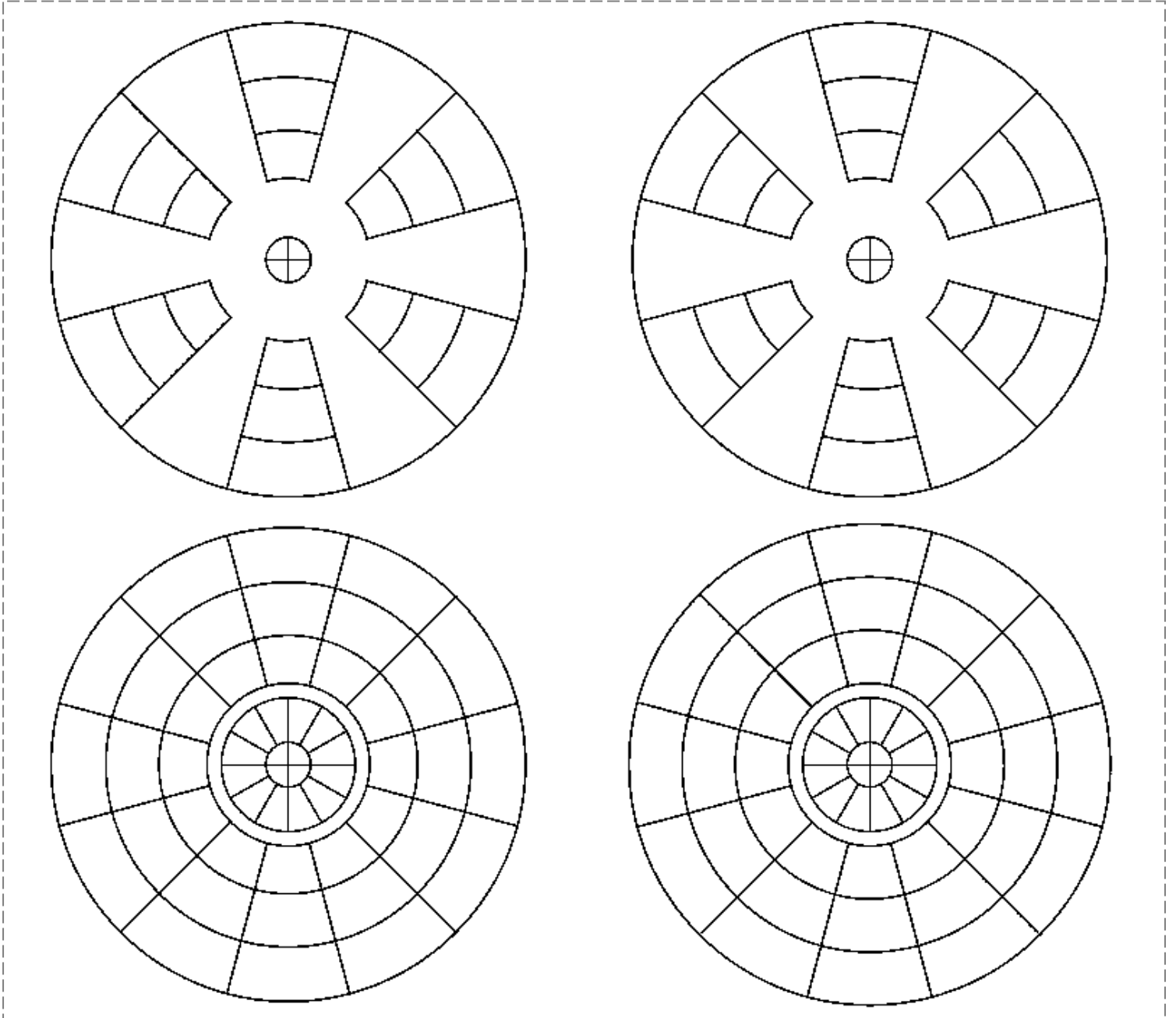


Step 3

TEMPLATE FOR SPINNING DISKS



TEMPLATE FOR SPINNING DISKS



MORE TO EXPLORE

1. *Mix various blues and yellows. Notice how small apparent changes of colour impact both subtractive and optical mixtures.*
2. *Create mixtures using various media: paints, pastels, pencil crayons, printed inks; coloured papers.*
3. *Choose various colour combinations, and numbers of colours to mix.*
4. *Vary the lighting source – e.g. outdoor vs. interior lighting.*