

How to Use Color Harmonies

This tutorial will review color harmonies in CorelDRAW and show you how to quickly adjust the color scheme of a project. A harmony is a set of colors that are grouped together based on hue, and when you change one color in the harmony, the rest of the colors will change accordingly.

In this example, I want to change the color scheme of the cupcake to match the café text. Rather than individually changing all the color variations within this graphic, I can use color harmonies to change the color scheme but still maintain the tonal variation.

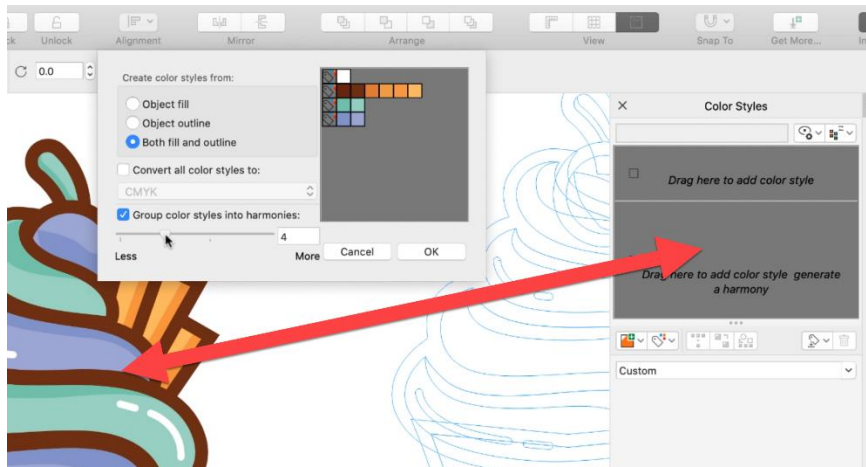


How to Create a Color Harmony

First, we need to open the **Color Styles** inspector. Go to **Window > Inspectors > Color Styles** or press **^ + C** on your keyboard.

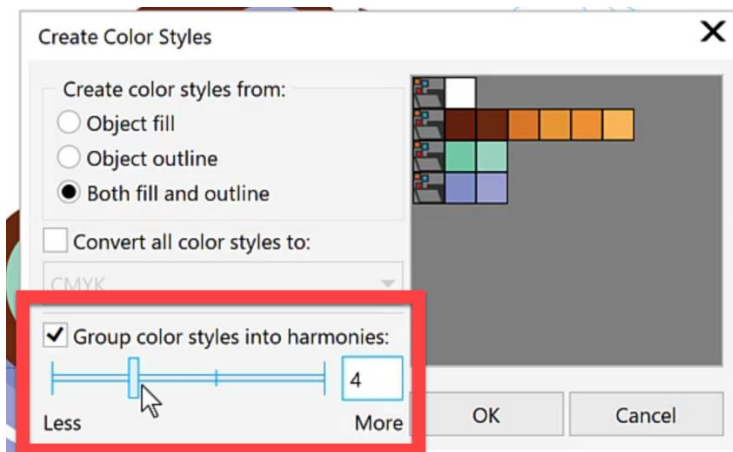
The **Color Styles** inspector will appear on the right. To create a color style:

- Select the object or group of objects that you want to work with.
- Drag them over to the section that says *Drag here to add color style and generate a harmony*.



The **Create Color Styles** dialog box will pop up, and here you'll see the color harmonies that have automatically been created for you. You'll see that the harmonies have been grouped together based on their shades of color.

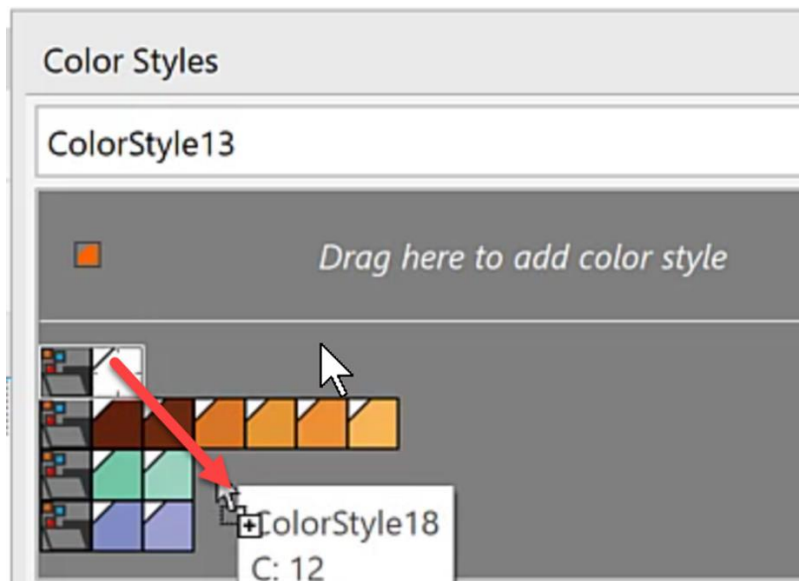
- Increase or decrease the number of harmonies you want to create by moving the slider.
- Then click **OK**.



Now these color harmonies have been added to our **Color Styles** inspector.

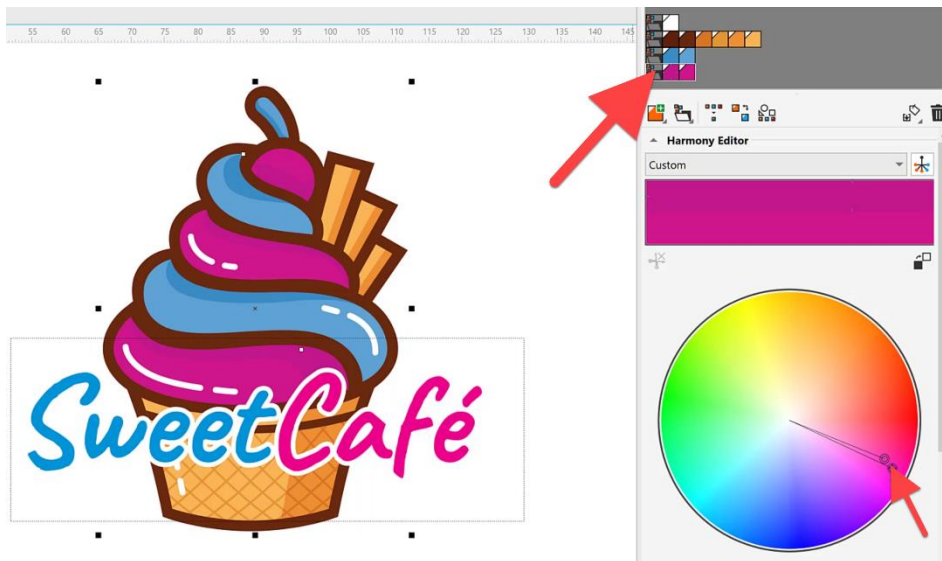
Note: If you have a complex image, your color harmonies might not be grouped together the way you want them to be. To adjust the color harmonies:

- Drag the color style onto the harmony you want it to group with, in this example dragging the white swatch into another group.



How to Adjust a Color Harmony

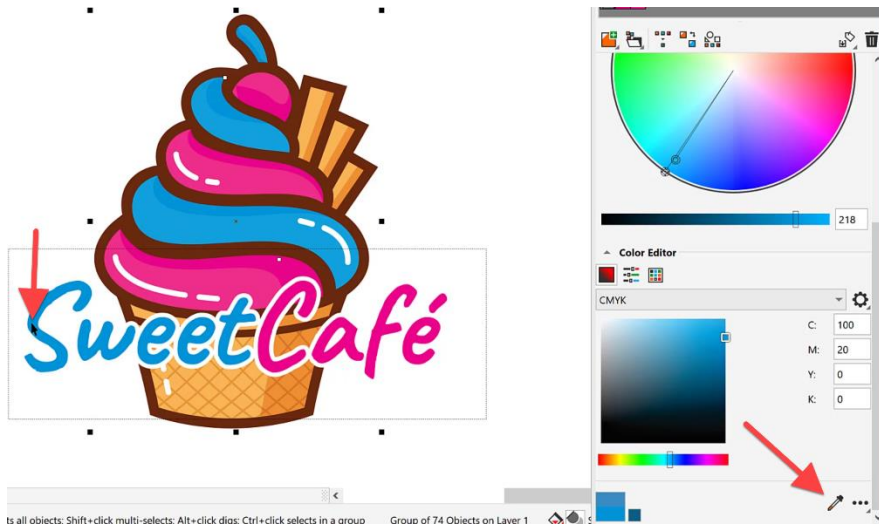
- Click on the harmony folder you want to make changes to.
- Under the **Harmony Editor**, select any one of the handles and as you move it around the color wheel, the colors will begin to change in the harmony.
- When you release your mouse, the new color scheme will apply to your graphic.



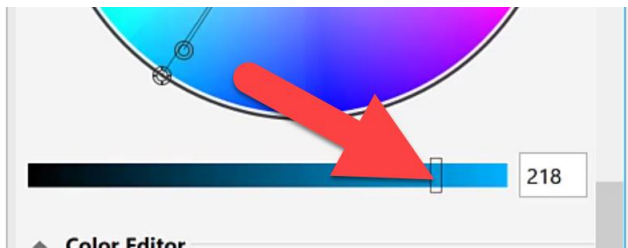
- Repeat these steps for any color harmonies you want to change.

How to Choose a Precise Color and Adjust Brightness or Darkness Levels

- Open the **Color Editor** section underneath the **Harmony Editor**.
- Use the eyedropper to sample the color you want to use from your design project, and it will apply to the color harmony.

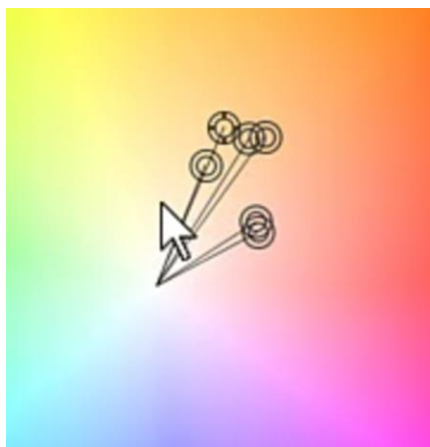


- Adjust the slider to change the brightness or darkness levels of the shades underneath the color wheel.



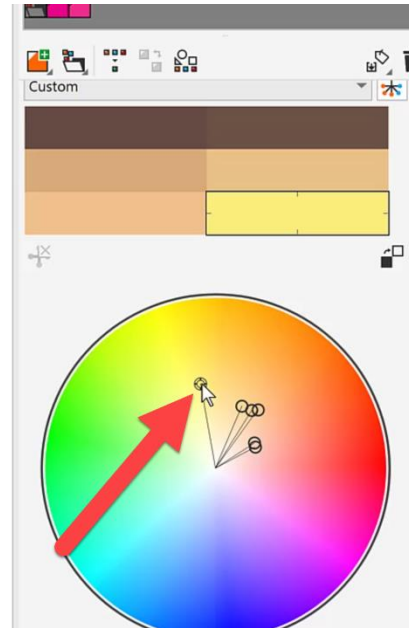
How to Adjust a Color Independently

To be even more precise with your color selection, you can independently move the handles to change a singular color style within the harmony. The selector rings here are all double rings and clicking one of them and moving it will move all in "harmony" as we've been just doing.



To adjust a selector ring independently of the rest of the color harmony:

- Click one of the selector rings a second time and you will notice that all the other selector rings have a single ring. The one that you clicked will be a double ring.
- Now you can move this one independently of the others to the color tone and shade you prefer without affecting the other colors in the harmony.



- Hold down **Cmd** while dragging the selector ring to preserve the original saturation.
- Hold down **Shift** to preserve the original hue.



And it's just that easy to completely change the color scheme of your designs and graphics with just a few clicks using the Color Harmonies feature in CorelDRAW.