



freie Farbe

www.freiefarbe.de www.freecolour.org

Colour Communication for the 21st Century: Open and Free

We are a loose association of (until now only German) colour professionals, and our goal is to

liberate Colour!



Current Situation

- Hundreds of colour systems from many manufacturers
- There are many colour applications, e.g.

printing, building, industrial,
artists, foils, spray, finishing,
textile

...and many more...





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Corporate Design

- specific colours serve as company identification hook
- Example: HKS 13 – the mostly used print colour in Germany
- But: HKS is a pure offset printing system – it is spot colours for Offset
- it does exist also for artists (Schmincke)
- **But not for architectural purposes, not as lacquers, as foils... and what about RGB???**



Deutsches
Rotes
Kreuz



hagebaumarkt[®]





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Pantone

- the worldwide leader for colour fandecks
- printing spot colours, textile, foils
- many software integrations (licensing)
- But: No architectural colour, no lacquers!
- No RGB/CMYK/Lab values
- „...any cross-referencing, in whole or in part, to any PANTONE Color system, including, but not limited to, the PANTONE numbers and PANTONE Colors, by third parties, may be a violation of PANTONE, Inc.'s proprietary rights and is strictly prohibited.“





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RAL and NCS

- the leading systems for architectural purposes
- But: no printing, no foils
- RGB/CMYK values only by additional RAL/NCS software
- integration in some programs
(licensing necessary)





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The world of Colour 2015

Colour as intellectual property

- fixed colours
- no universal application
- no comparison allowed
- no free calculation possible



Look at these facts...

- Everyone uses a computer today
- Colour design normally occurs in software
- RGB and CIELAB are mathematical systems
- Mathematics is Copyright-free
- free calculation is possible (e.g. gradients, harmonies)
- comparison is no problem

→ Let's take a mathematical system!



RGB/HSB

- no licensing
- included in every software
- limited gamut
- technical definition
- many variants (CIE RGB, Adobe RGB, sRGB,...)
- 1 main standard (sRGB)

CIE-L*a*b*/HLC

- no licensing
- included in few softwares
- every color
- perceptual definition
- few variants and
- 1 main standard (D50, 10°)



RGB/CIELAB fandecks

- CIELAB fandecks offer systematic overview over CIEL*a*b* and HLC
- offset print is less exact than lacquer print would be (av. DeltaE = 3.7 instead of 0.5)
- systematic and exact color material for RGB/HSB is completely missing!



cielab-farben.de



Summary: What do we need for Free Colour?

- Real-world colour material for RGB and CIEL*a*b*
- More software integrations of the CIEL*a*b* model (Open Source library)
- Join FreieFarbe!