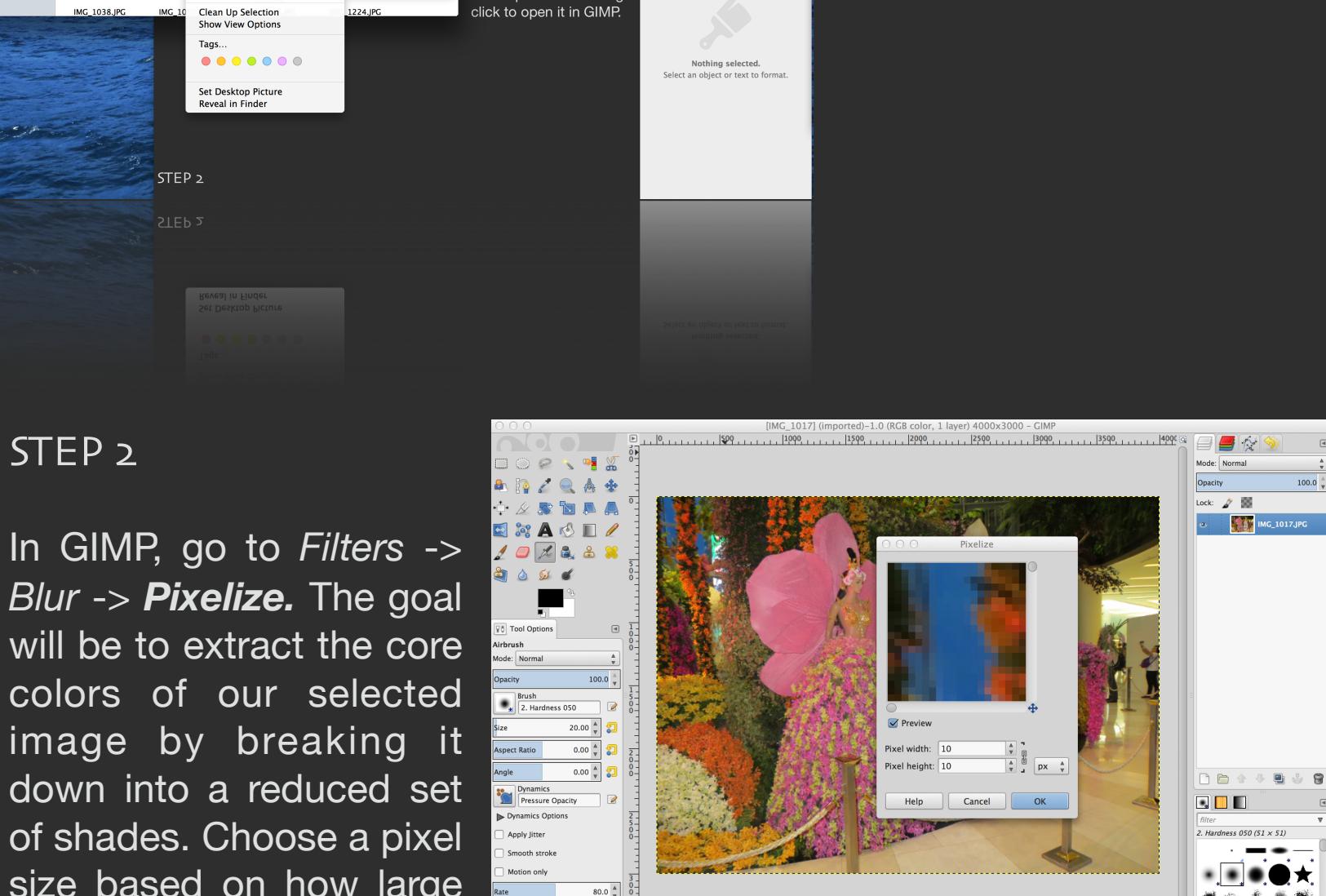


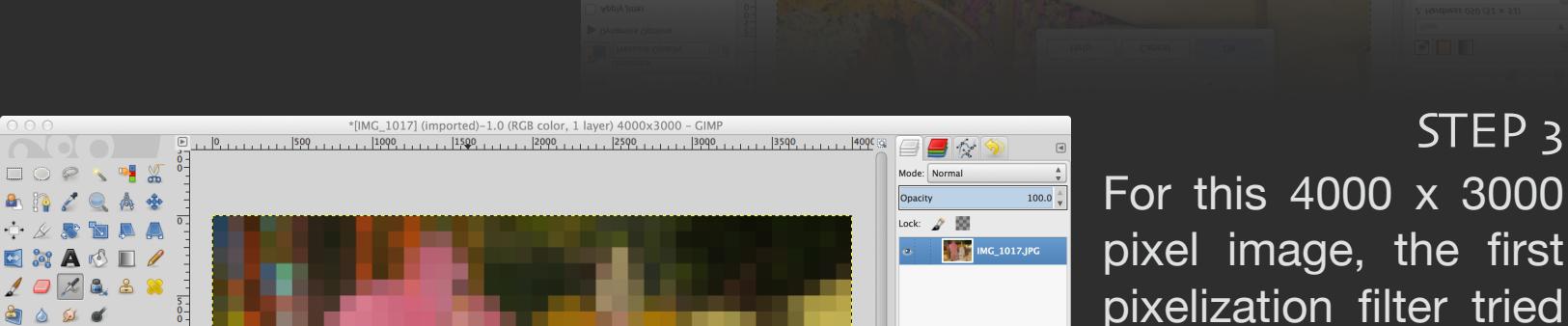
Tutorial: Creating Color Palettes

AFFINITY DESIGNER & GIMP

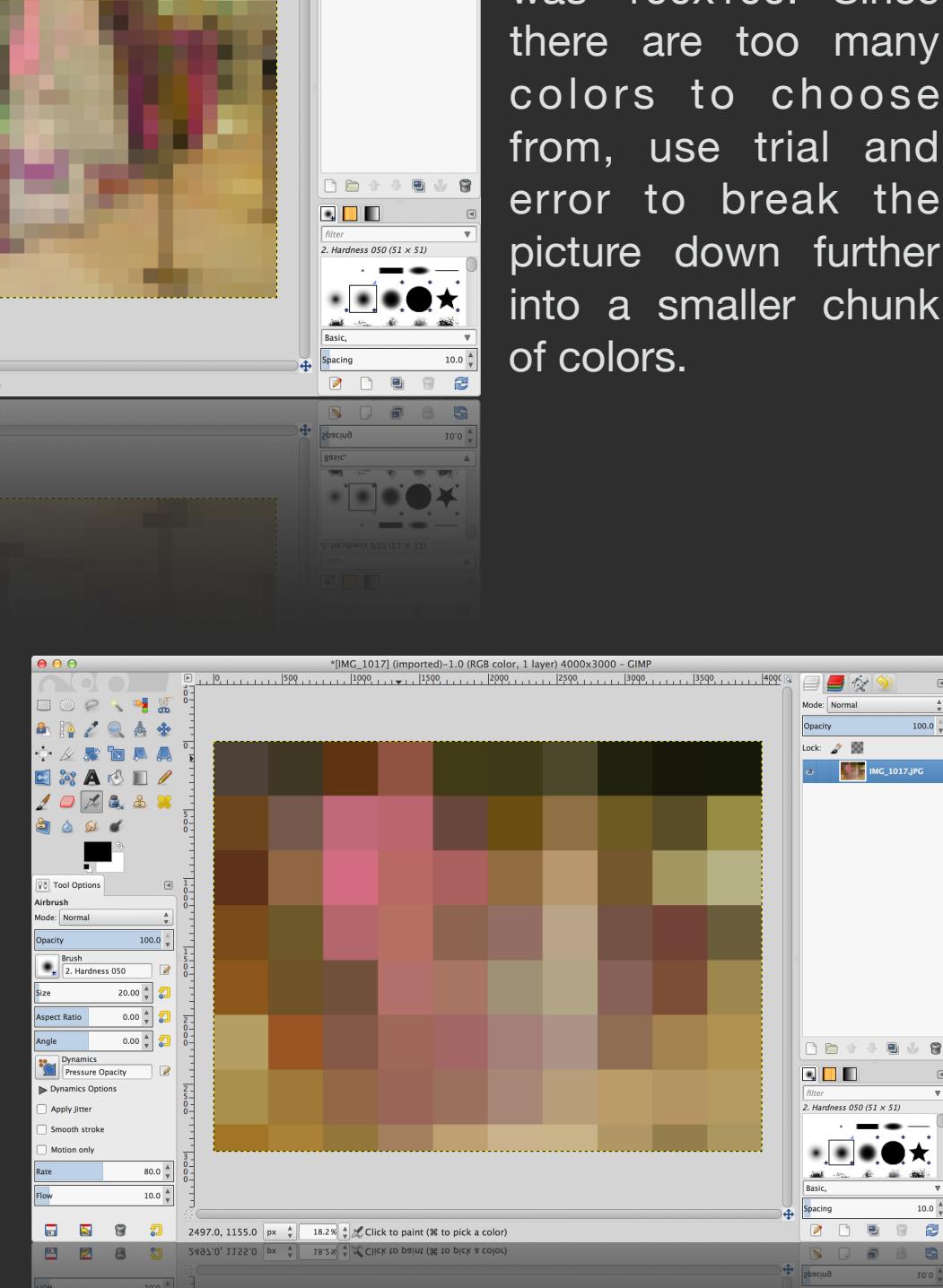
Create coordinated color palettes and store them in an easy to copy image file using Affinity Designer and Gimp. In this tutorial, we'll be using a photograph to extract colors and make them into a reusable palette.



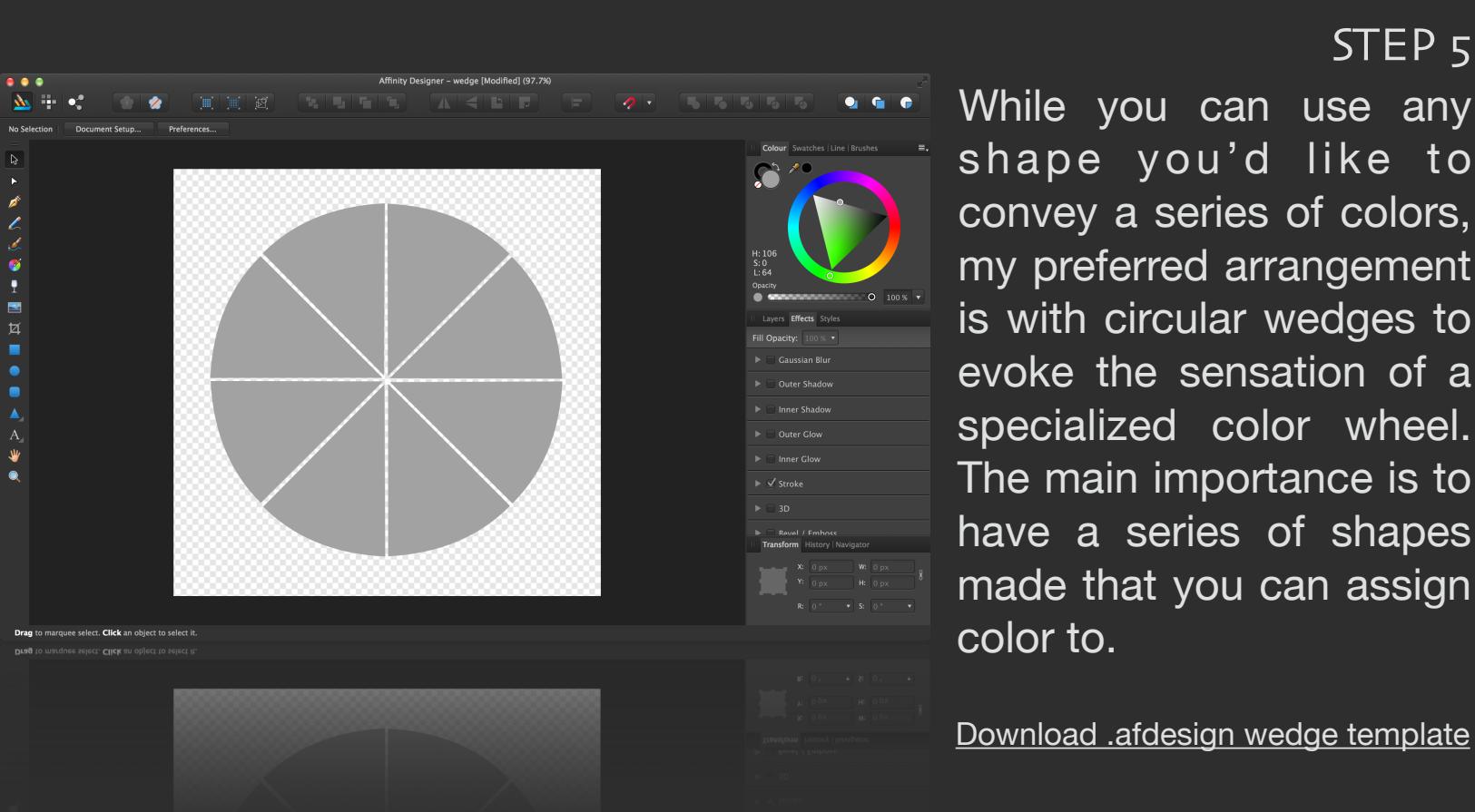
STEP 1
From Finder, find the picture you want to use as the basis for your color palette and right click to open it in GIMP.



STEP 2
In GIMP, go to *Filters -> Blur -> Pixelize*. The goal will be to extract the core colors of our selected image by breaking it down into a reduced set of shades. Choose a pixel size based on how large your image is.

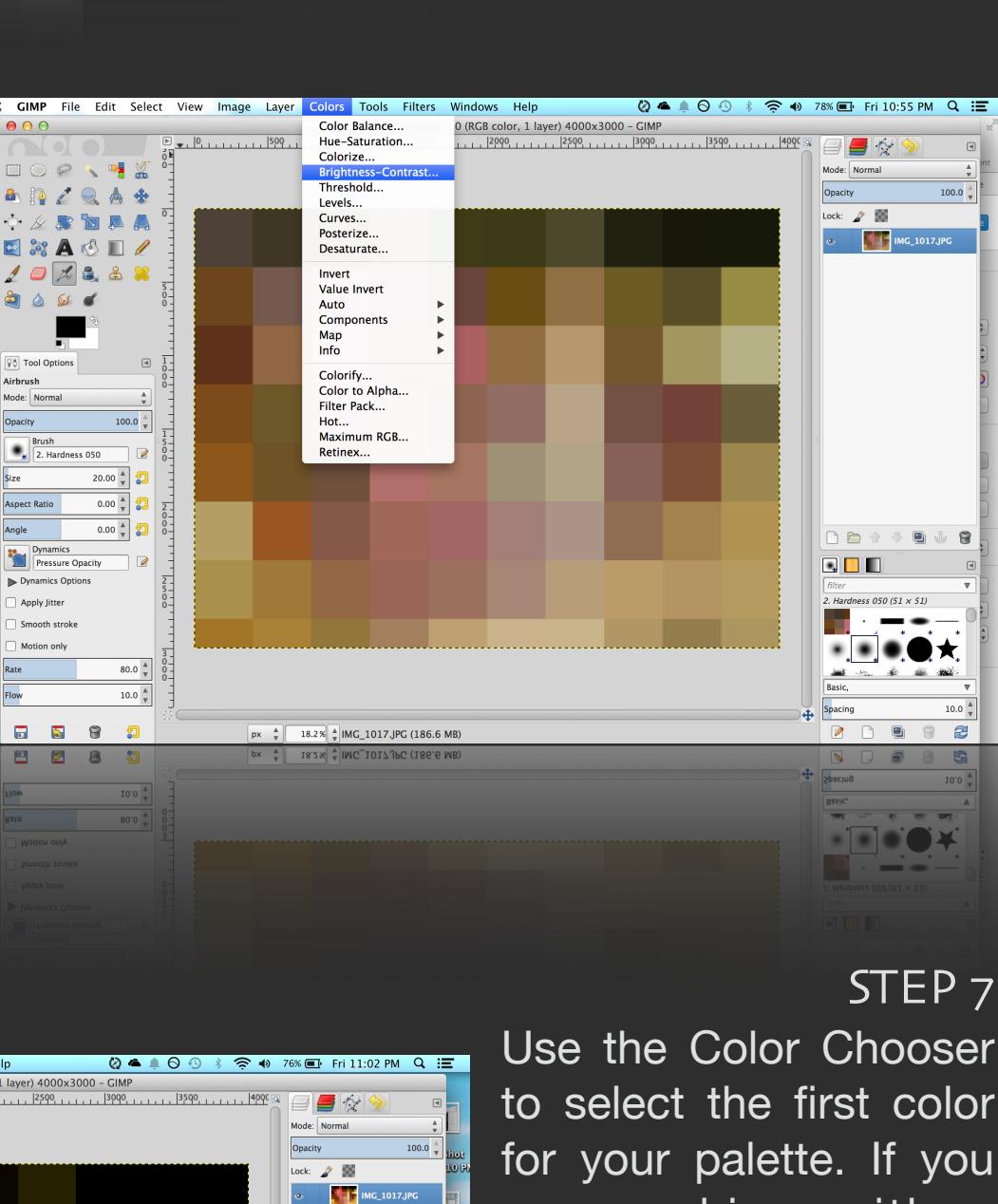


STEP 3
For this 4000 x 3000 pixel image, the first pixelization filter tried was 100x100. Since there are too many colors to choose from, use trial and error to break the picture down further into a smaller chunk of colors.



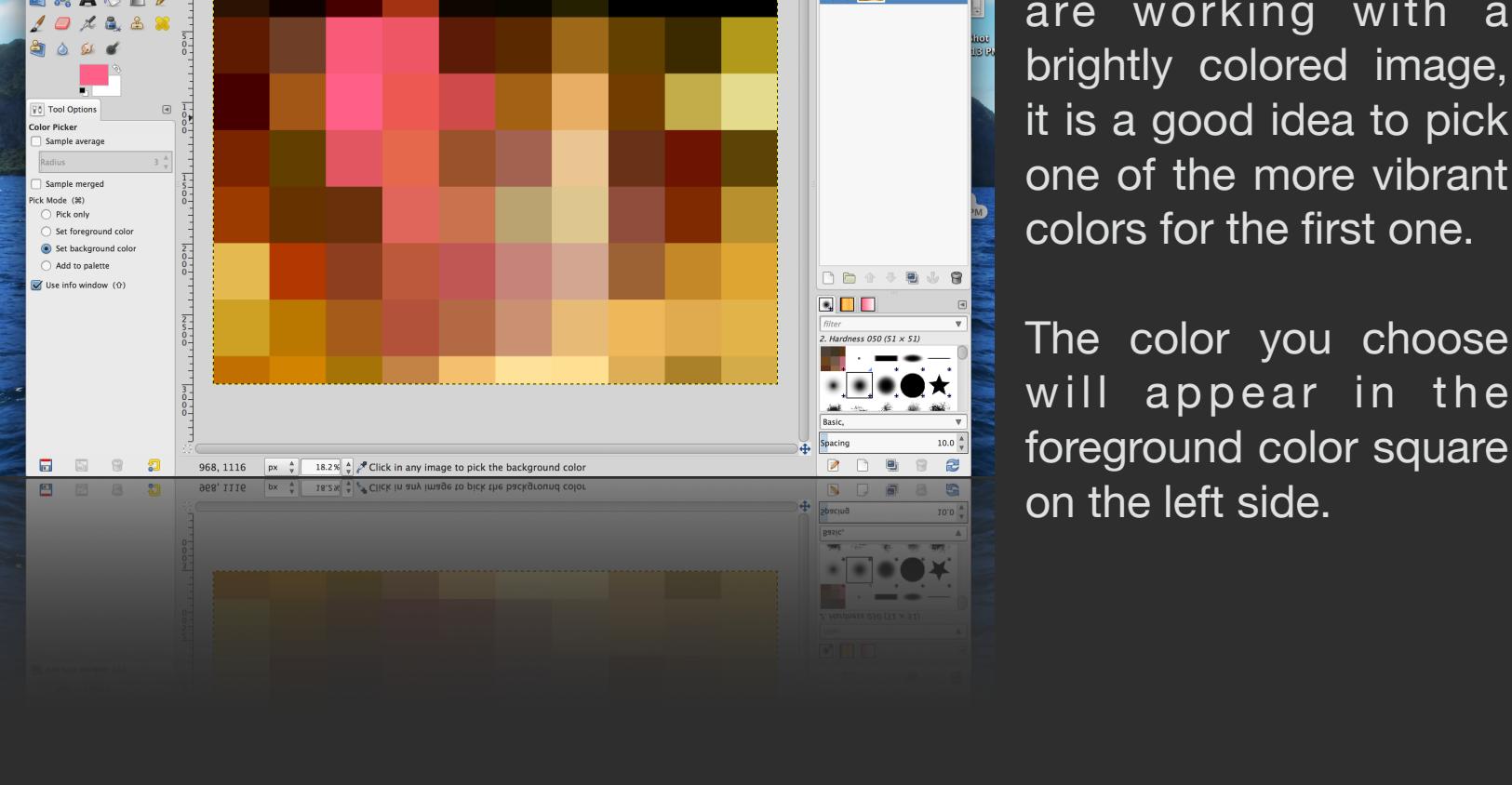
STEP 4
When you've broken your image into roughly 3-4x the number of colors you're aiming to include in your palette, launch Affinity Designer.

For the sample image, a pixelation scale of 400x400 was used.



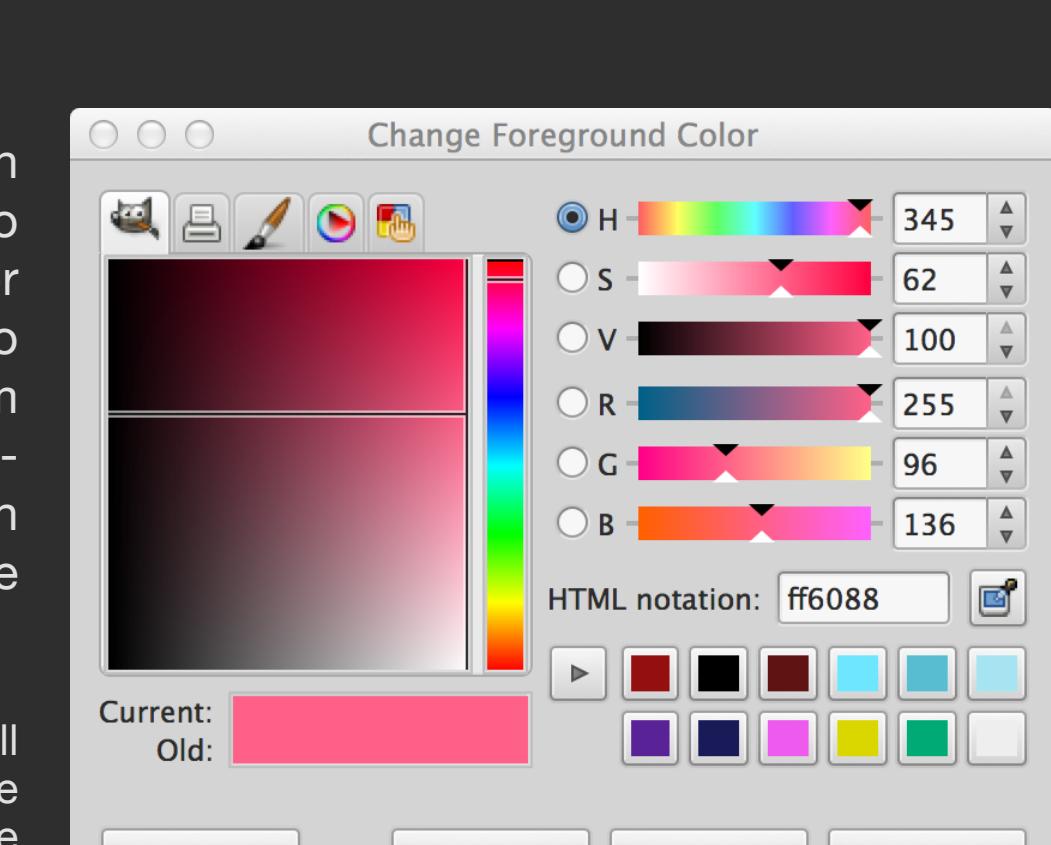
STEP 5
While you can use any shape you'd like to convey a series of colors, my preferred arrangement is with circular wedges to evoke the sensation of a specialized color wheel. The main importance is to have a series of shapes made that you can assign color to.

[Download .afdesign wedge template](#)



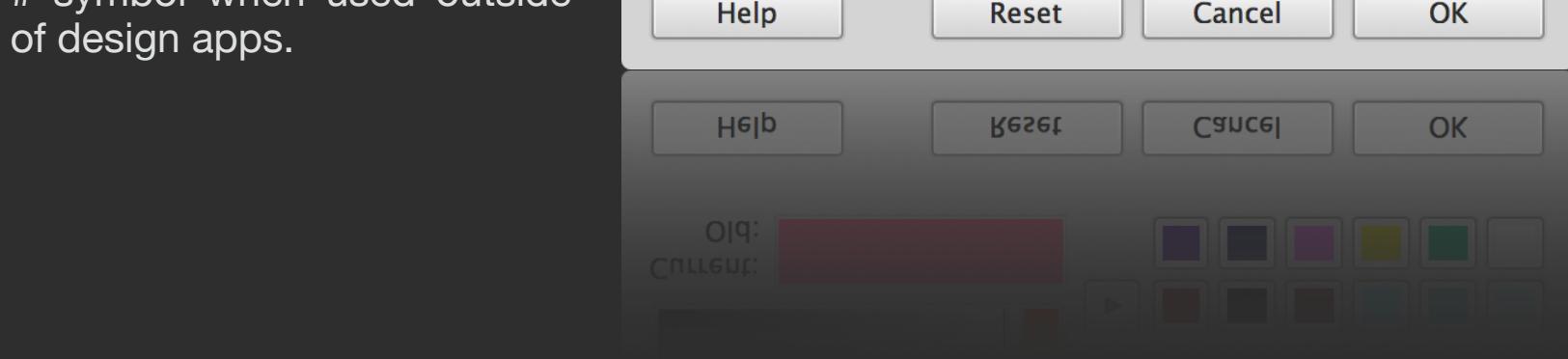
STEP 6 - OPTIONAL
The pixelation process may make the colors in your photo seem duller. If the image colors look off, adjust the contrast by going to *Colors -> Brightness-Contrast* until it matches the color theme you want to make.

Tip: The HTML notation will typically be prefaced with the # symbol when used outside of design apps.



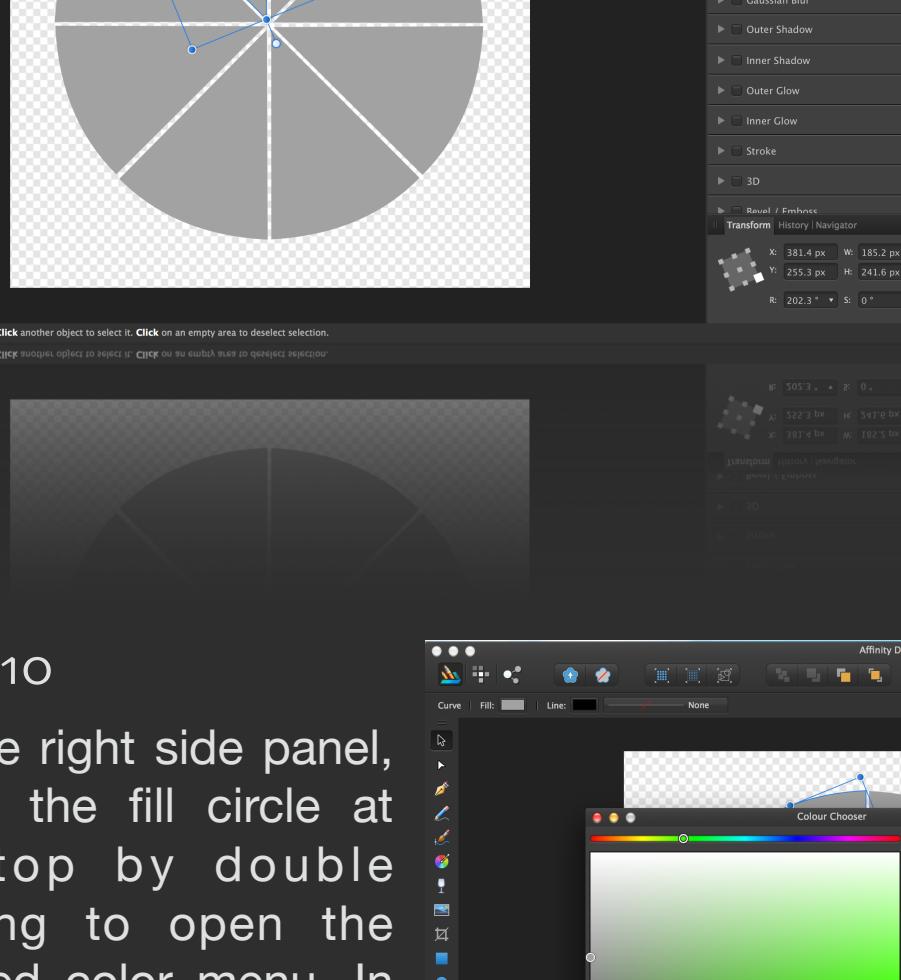
STEP 7
Use the Color Chooser to select the first color for your palette. If you are working with a brightly colored image, it is a good idea to pick one of the more vibrant colors for the first one.

The color you choose will appear in the foreground color square on the left side.



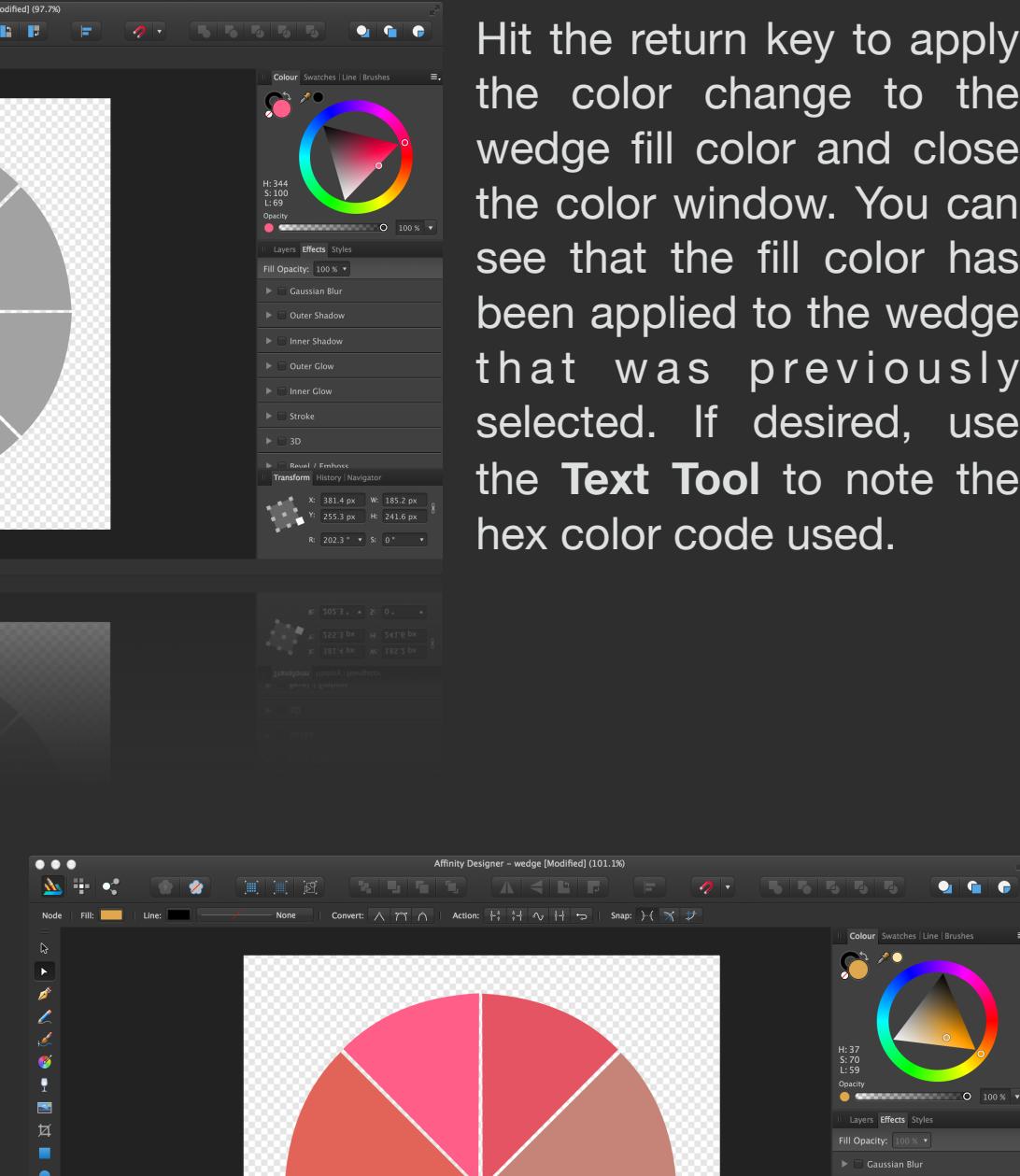
STEP 9

Switch back to Affinity Designer and select one of the wedges in your circle by clicking on one of the wedges twice with the **Pointer Tool**. We will be setting the color of this wedge to match the color that we copied from the image.



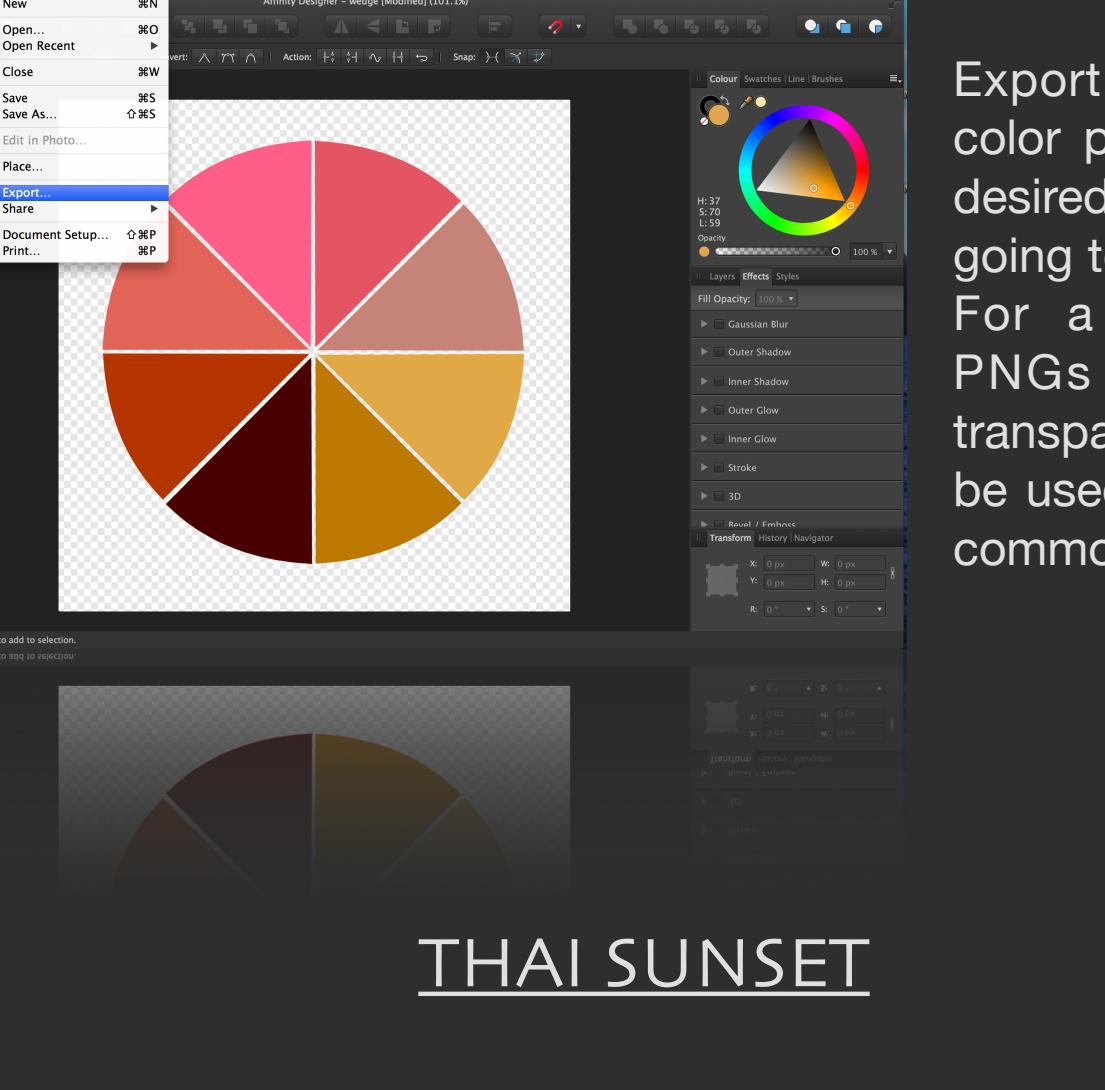
STEP 10

On the right side panel, select the fill circle at the top by double clicking to open the detailed color menu. In the field labeled with the '#' symbol, use CMD + P to paste the copied HTML notation from GIMP.



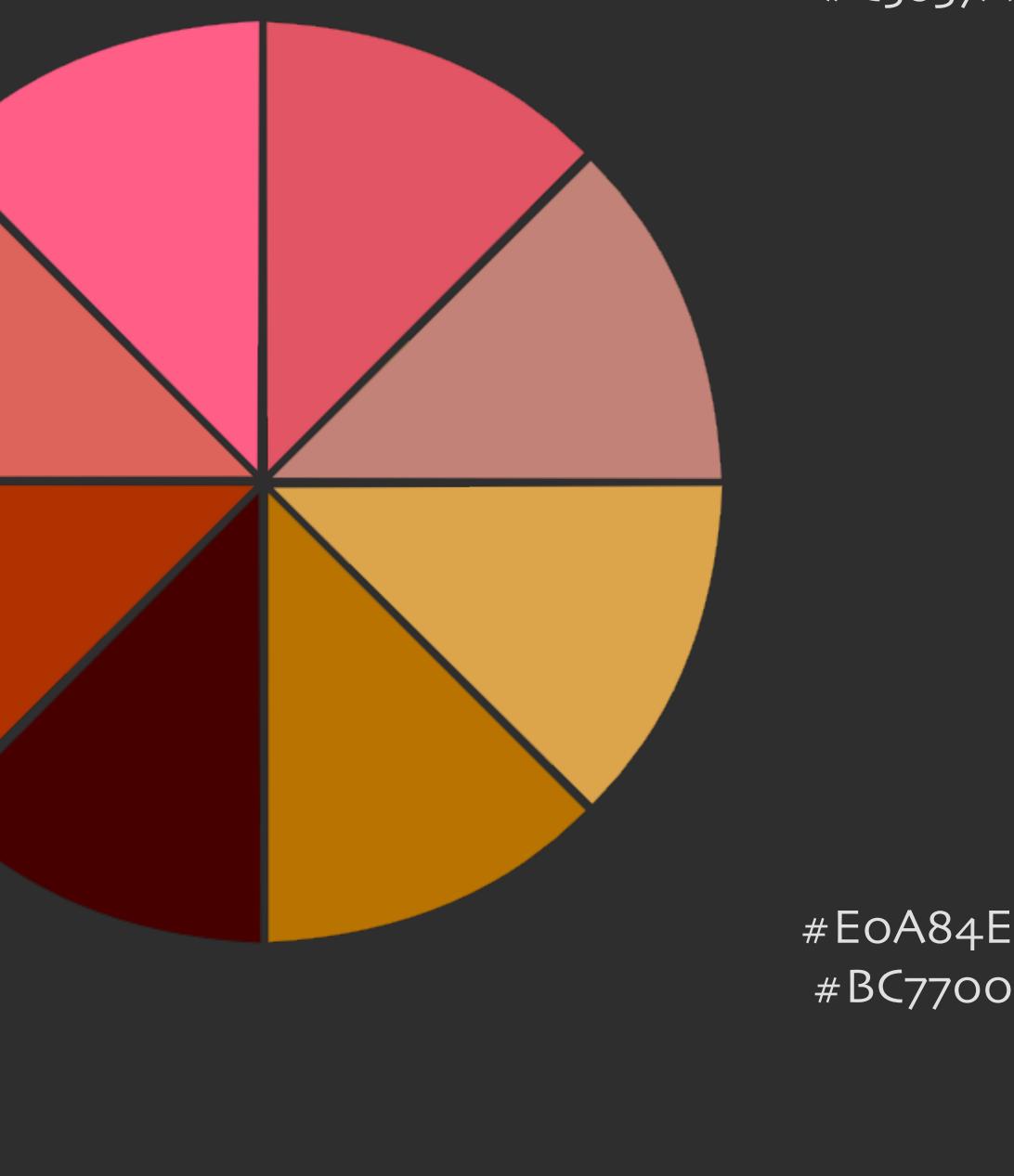
STEP 11

Hit the return key to apply the color change to the wedge fill color and close the color window. You can see that the fill color has been applied to the wedge that was previously selected. If desired, use the **Text Tool** to note the hex color code used.



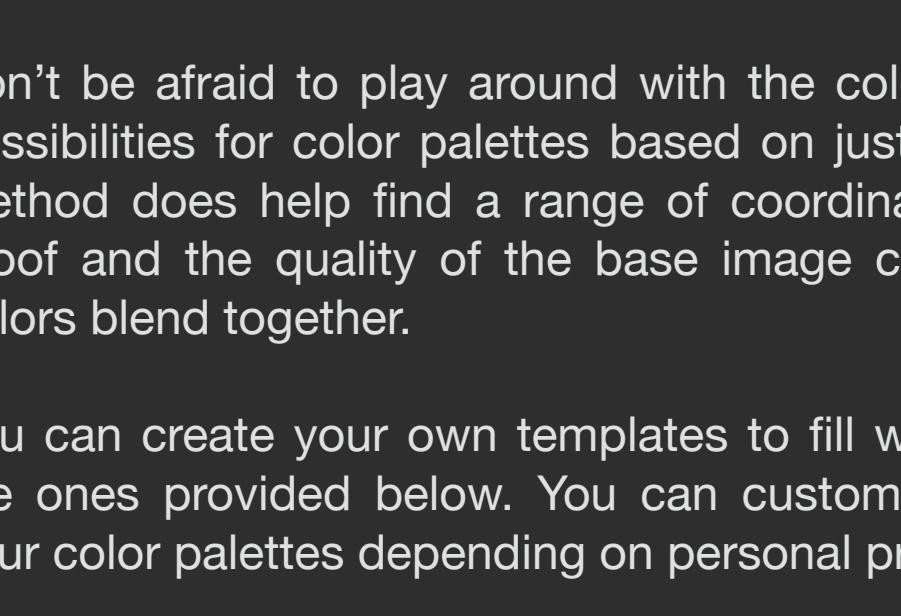
STEP 12

Repeat steps 7-11 to fill your remaining wedges with coordinating and complementary colors. Generally speaking, it is a good idea to include variations on the shades and pick one or two color families to make the main focus.



STEP 11

Export your finished color palette into your desired file format by going to **File -> Export**. For a basic image, PNGs preserve file transparency and can be used in a variety of common applications.



#FF608A
#E0645B

#E25664
#C5837A

#B33600
#470000

#E0A84E
#BC7700

TIPS & TRICKS

Don't be afraid to play around with the colors - there are endless possibilities for color palettes based on just one image. While this method does help find a range of coordinating colors, it isn't fail proof and the quality of the base image can affect how well the colors blend together.

You can create your own templates to fill with colors or download the ones provided below. You can customize the presentation of your color palettes depending on personal preference.

An alternate method to pixelization is posterization - coming soon!

DOWNLOADS

[Affinity Designer Wedge Template .afdesign file](#)
[Scalable Vector Graphic Template .svg file](#)

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