



# Rebel Legion

## Generic Jedi Costume color Tutorial

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### Overview-

This Tutorial is penned with the intent of informing and instructing beginners as well as veteran Star Wars costumers in the visual cues and use of colors when designing their own custom Jedi Costume. While examples of Canon Star Wars Characters will be used, this tutorial is not necessarily intended as a reference for the creation of Jedi "face" character costumes with the purpose of application to the Rebel Legion.

With that being said, this tutorial is not just examples. Contained within is a brief history of the Jedi Costume; both behind the scenes and within the Star Wars universe, basic color theory principals pertaining to Jedi costuming guidelines, tips on color use when designing a Jedi costume, and examples of actual Jedi color schemes used throughout the Star Wars mythos. All sources used to create this tutorial are copyrighted Lucasfilm Ltd. post year 2000 or is referenced to using multiple sources that includes: video games, comic books, role-playing game materials, novels, animation, & film. This is due to the appointment of a full-time "Keeper of the Holocron" at Lucasfilm licensing.

[http://www.wired.com/entertainment/hollywood/magazine/16-09/ff\\_starwarscanon](http://www.wired.com/entertainment/hollywood/magazine/16-09/ff_starwarscanon)

Without further a-do... let's begin.



# -Brief Jedi costume history-

The Jedi costume is one of the most signature character costumes of the Star Wars saga. The uniquely varied designs allow for numerous customizations and variations to the Jedi look as a whole. The evolution of the costume both on and off the screen has been as convoluted as the history of the Jedi Order itself.

## Behind the scenes

During the production of the original Star Wars, The Jedi Order was personified by the then venerable Obi-Wan Kenobi portrayed by Sir Alec Guinness. The original color concepts stemmed from his starting location on the desert planet of Tatooine. As such, tans and browns were the defining shades of his Jedi robes. This color scheme was also reflected in the costume colors for Luke Skywalker.

When the production of “The Empire Strikes Back” began, it was the rebel uniform that carried the colors of a Jedi. This was done to differentiate the rebels from the Empire as well as illustrate Luke’s transition into becoming a Jedi knight. Also of note is the use of tans and browns in Yoda’s robes. It gives you a visual hint that Yoda is the Jedi master Luke seeks due to his robe’s similarity to Obi-wan Kenobi’s. Luke’s transition from farm boy to Jedi was further demonstrated in the final installment of the Star Wars movie saga.

Pre-production of “The Return of the Jedi” revealed a different side to the Jedi. The visual transition to Jedi knighthood for Luke Skywalker involved the use of black in his costume. This was done to illustrate Luke’s now close connection to his father, Anakin Skywalker. However, sharp eyes will note that throughout the film his costume is never totally black, visually hinting to the goodness within.

Ten years go by between installments before the ‘prequels’ began pre-production. It was then the re-evaluation of the Jedi color scheme underwent extensive research and revision. Concept designers started with ideas taken from the movie ‘Willow’ as well as other sources and ended up with designs reminiscent of Obi-wan Kenobi in Episode IV due to the monk-like aspects of the Jedi Order. The Jedi color scheme also went full circle and, while they toyed with numerous colors and combinations including black, they ultimately stayed with the tans and browns from Tatooine.

It wasn’t until “Attack of the Clones” that colors really started to branch out for Jedi. The colors became darker, as well as using other colors besides brown. Of particular note is the use of a dark green in Jocasta Nu’s robe color scheme as well as other Jedi; Barriss Offee’s robes are unique in the films as they are the only movie Jedi robes with a blue color scheme. The alien Jedi portrayed further expanded designs and color combinations within the Star Wars Saga.

Jedi costume variation reached a peak during the production of “The Revenge of the Sith”. Warm & cool grays as well as dark terra cotta reds were used in conjunction with the standard tans and browns to fill out the ranks of the Jedi characters ranging from younglings to masters. With the completion of “The Revenge of the Sith”, Jedi colors come full circle yet again and the Jedi revert back to a more monochromatic state in “A New Hope” due to the survival of both Yoda and Obi-wan Kenobi.

## Within the Saga

The Jedi, in line with their peacekeeping role in the galaxy wear robes that are muted and mundane in color. Humility and functionality were the defining guiding principles in their garb. Honoring their master as well as honoring their home world &/or culture also played a part in color choices they made for their robes. This variation of garb among the Jedi allowed them to quietly mingle with the public when the need arose, with only a Lightsaber as proof of their affiliation.

## Old Republic

Depending on the timeframe, Old republic Jedi robe colors were as varied as the Jedi who wore them. Over time, the significance of the color worn symbolized the individual Jedi's specialization. By the onset of the Clone Wars, Jedi healers donned blue hued robes; Jedi scholars wore yellows and greens in addition to specially patterned tabards; Corellians were seen proudly wearing predominantly green robes; and most commonly Jedi used various shades of brown for the color of their garments. This practice ended when the Great Jedi purge all but destroyed the Jedi Order.



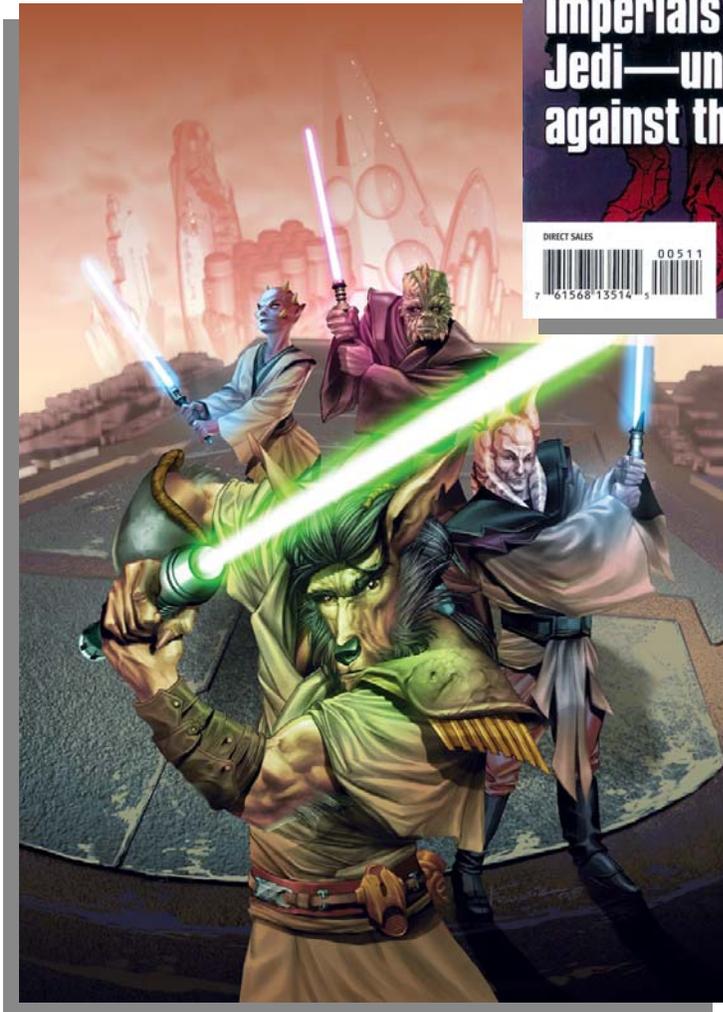
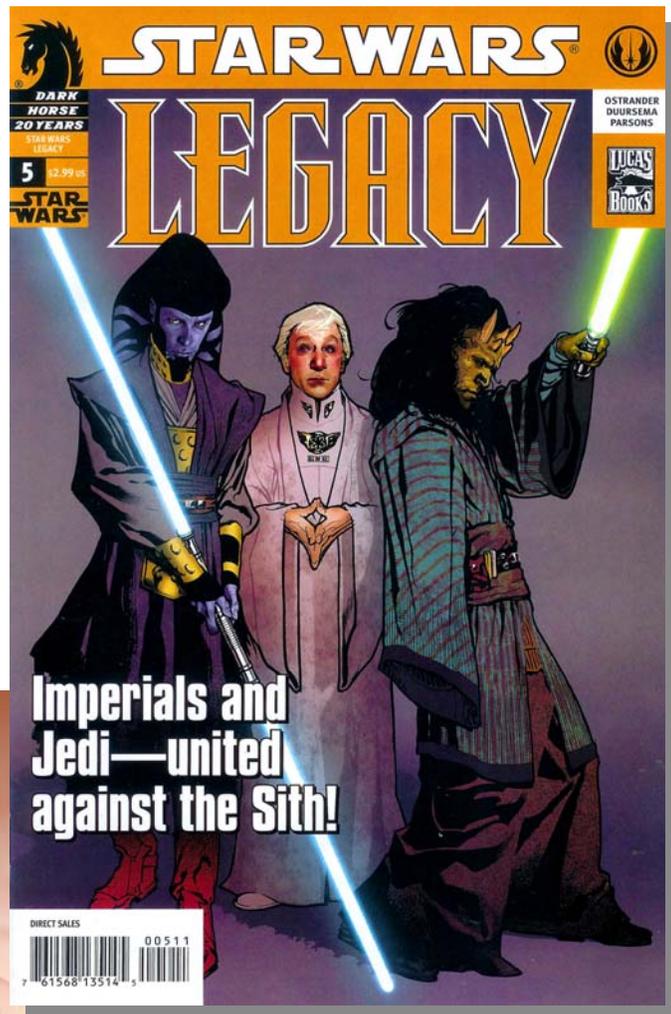
## New Republic

When Luke Skywalker began to rebuild the Jedi Order, the limited amount of information regarding Jedi lore & personal individualism among the fledgling Jedi order led to a surge of “non-traditional” color use and garb. Looking more like tramp freighter pilots than Jedi, it wasn't until the beginning of the Yuuzhan Vong invasion of the Galaxy did the Jedi begin to go back to a more “orthodox” state.



## Legacy

By the time of Cade Skywalker, The Jedi Order came back to a state similar to that of the Jedi near the fall of the Old Republic. The Soft colors and understated robes of a Jedi were in full force when the Sith order attacked the Jedi Temple on Ossus.

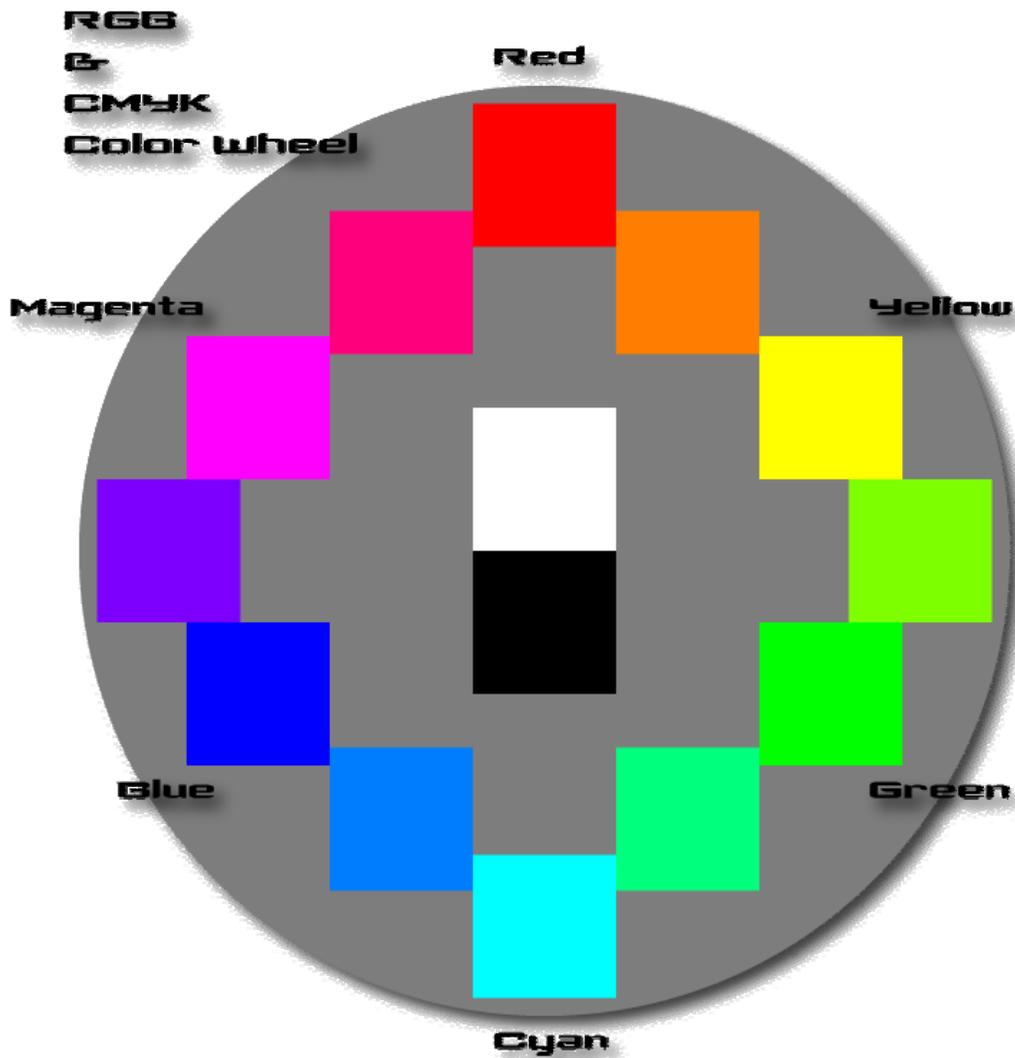


# -Basic color harmonies-

Color Harmonies, also commonly known as color schemes and/or color palettes, are important for any design project. Colors play a large part in costume design and when used with a sense of understanding, can be used to create various effects. In the Star Wars film saga, the color harmonies used for Jedi costumes were done so very specifically for intuitive storytelling purposes. Understanding what color harmonies are and their relationship to the color wheel is essential to the design of Jedi costumes.

## Additive colors- RGB

Projected light; like from a computer screen or theatrical lighting; uses the three basic hues red, green, & blue to create a tremendous variety of colors by adding them together at various levels. When red green & blue are all combined equally at their brightest, they produce white.



## Subtractive colors- CMYK

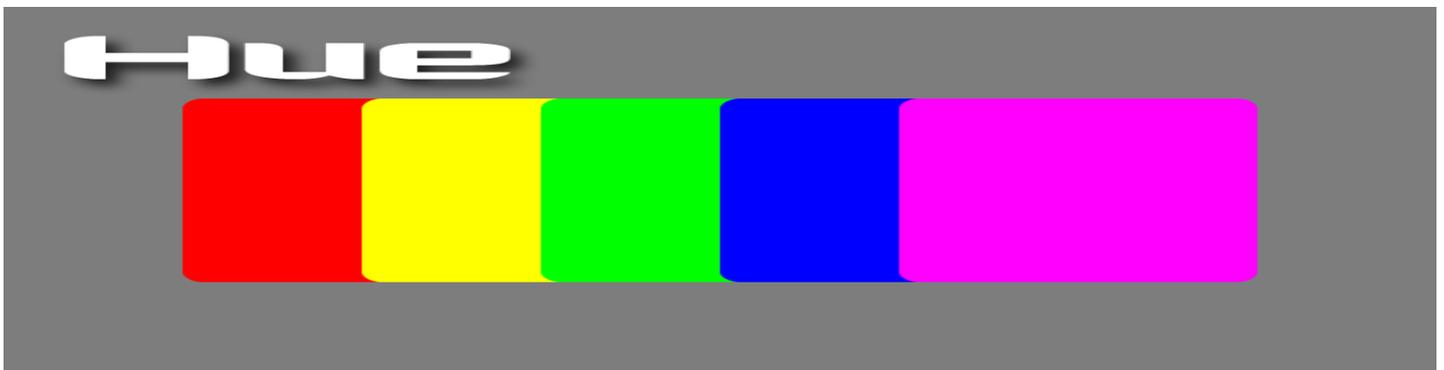
Reflected light; like in the form of paintings and printed documents; uses Cyan, Magenta, & Yellow to create the vibrant colors in newspapers, fabric, and similar printed materials. When these three hues are combined properly; unlike the additive color scheme; Cyan, Magenta, & Yellow produce Black.

## Color Hue, Tint/shade, & Saturation

Hue, tint, shade, and saturation are terms used by professional artists and designers to describe modifications done to colors. These four variables allow for near infinite variation and account for much of the descriptions to the thousands of colors we see every day. These terms will also help you to locate the proper colors for your custom Jedi costume.

### Hue

Hue is the term for the base color. Red, green, blue, & purple are all words that describe hue. When two colors are mixed together, then a new hue is made.



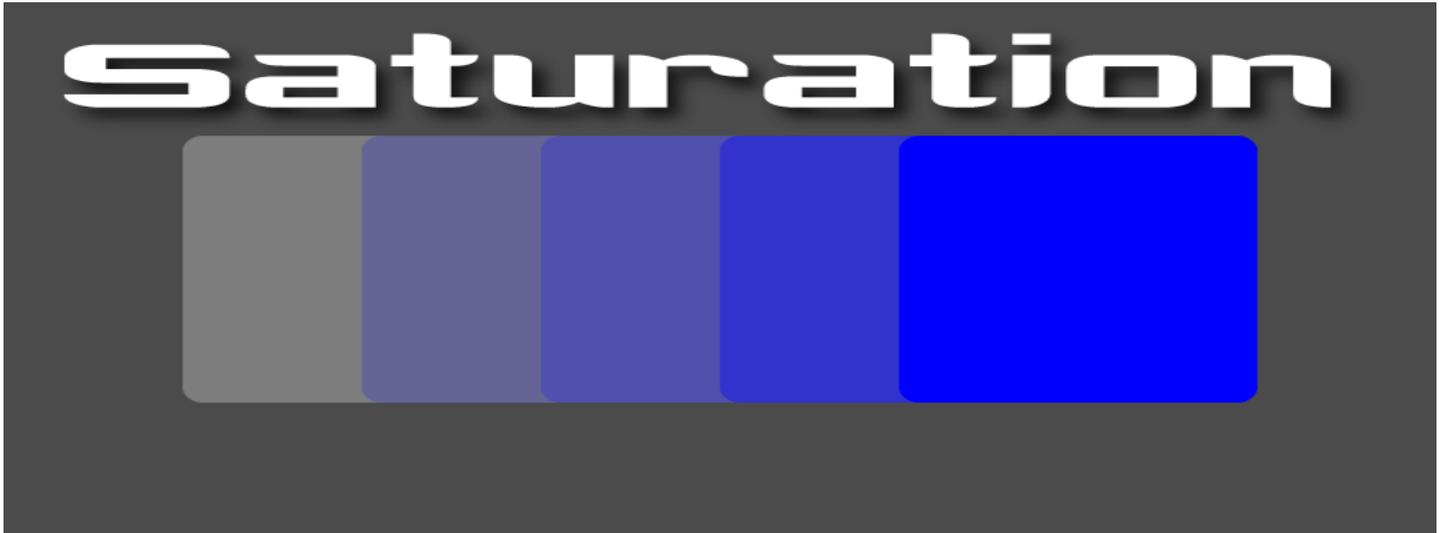
### Tint/shade

How light or dark a color is determines what tint & shade are all about. Tint is used to describe how much white is mixed with a hue, while shade describes the amount of black used.



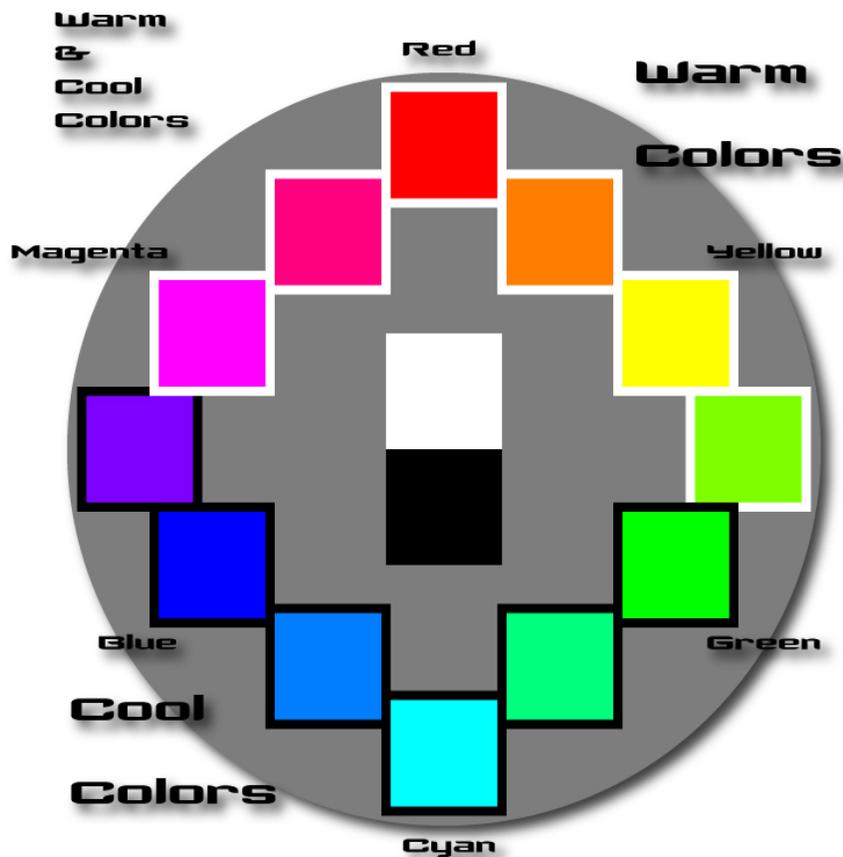
## Saturation

How bright or dull a hue appears describes its saturation. The more “washed-out” the hue seems, the more de-saturated it is. The hues represented on the color wheel denote colors at full saturation.



## Warm and Cool Colors

How Red or Blue a color it is determines whether it is a warm or cool color. Using warm or cool can create various feelings and emotions. The Jedi color palette tends to stay decidedly on the warm end of the spectrum, so this is serious consideration when deciding on a color for your Jedi costume.

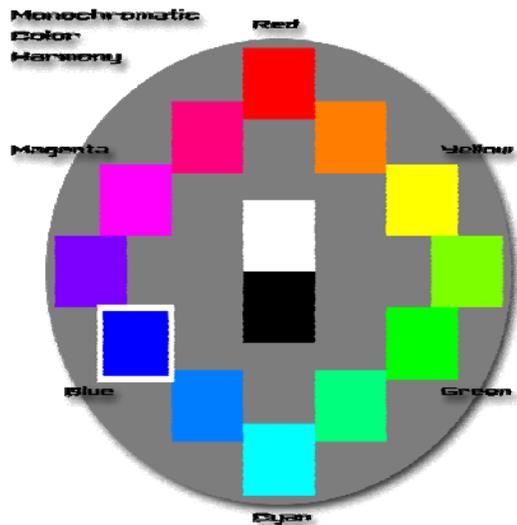


## Listing of color harmonies

Color physics aside, it is important to know not only how hues are mixed, but also how we perceive these colors when they are used together in specific ways. Knowing these color harmonies can allow you to “nudge” colors so they can either appear a slightly different hue, brighter than they actually are, or even subdue the brightness of a particular hue so that it blends better with a particular composition. This includes costume design.

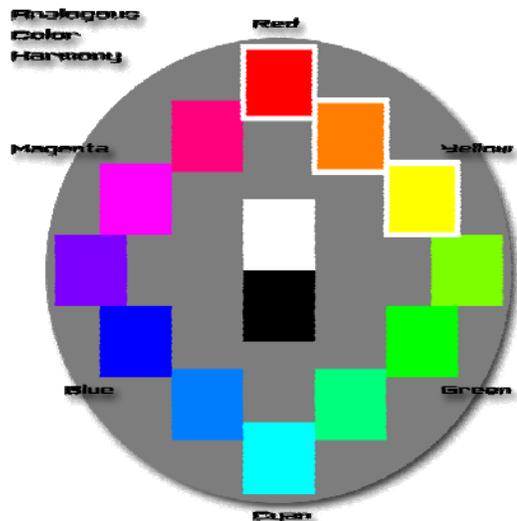
### Monochromatic

A monochromatic color harmony is when only one hue is used and through various tints and shades, you create a composition. This color harmony is good for creating a particular mood. Depending on the color used, you achieve different feelings. This is also the principal color harmony for Jedi costumes.



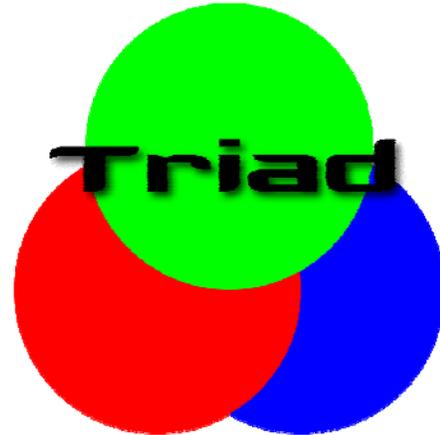
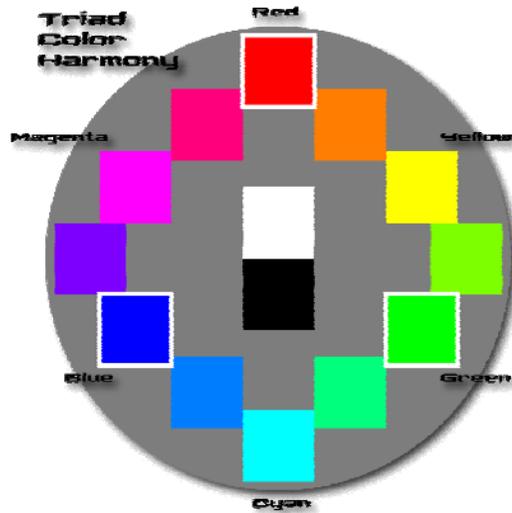
### Analogous

Analogous color harmonies use the hues on either side of a main color to produce the desired soothing effect. This color harmony is closely tied to nature and this connection is reflected in the eye-pleasing effect it has. The effect this color harmony achieves is why it is ideal for a Jedi costume.



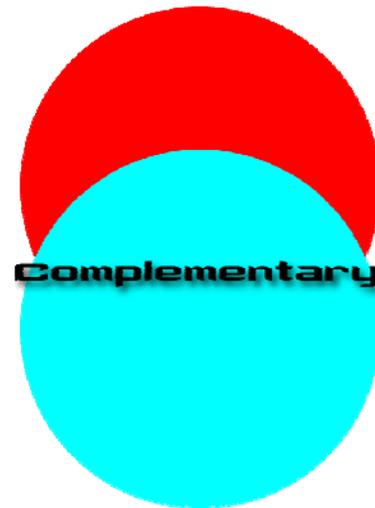
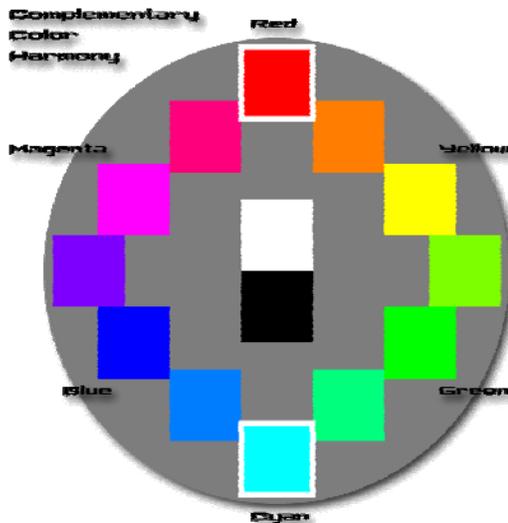
## Triad

Triad uses three hues that are equidistant from each other. Due to this arrangement, the color combination can be quite vibrant even if you use de-saturated colors. Since Jedi robes are designed to be soothing, this color harmony is definitely not recommended for this particular type of costume.



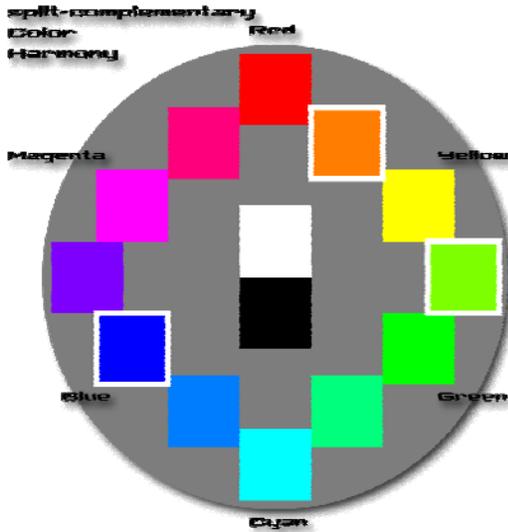
## Complementary

If you are trying to stand out, using the Complementary color harmony is the way to do it. The bone-jarring vibrancy of using hues on the direct opposite sides of the color wheel makes even reading text a chore. This color harmony should be used carefully and in small doses. Utilizing this particular color harmony is the opposite of what a Jedi would be or should be wearing, so it should never be used for this costume.



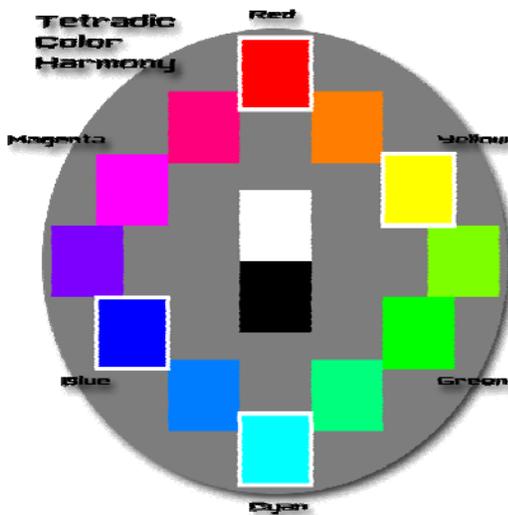
## Split-complementary

While not as blatant as its namesake, the split-complementary color harmony uses hues just left or right of the polar opposite main color to create a vibrant effect. When used properly tremendous visual effects can be achieved with this harmony. However, this color harmony's purpose is to draw attention to itself and therefore not suitable for Jedi Costuming.



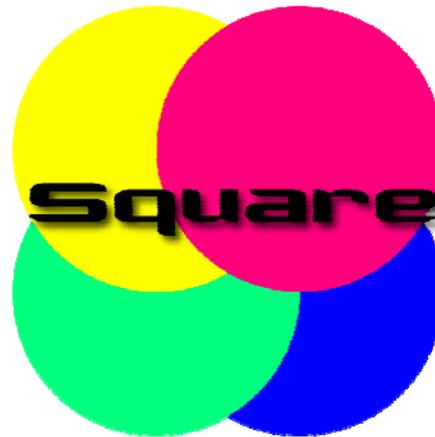
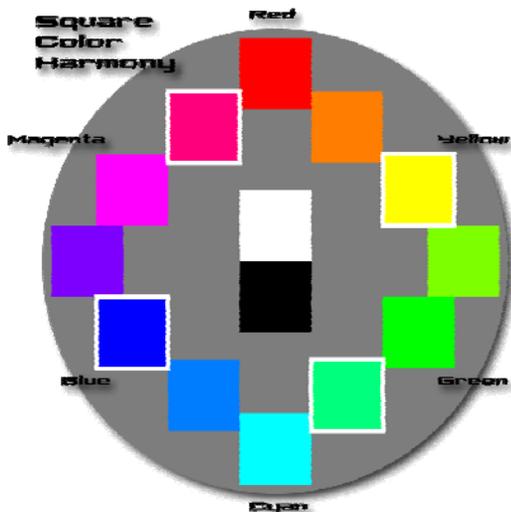
## Tetradic

This complex balance of two complementary color harmonies working together is difficult at best to work with and a visual train wreck at worst. The benefits of this color harmony lies in its variation. With so many colors to choose from, something's bound to come out of it. However, since its pattern is based on complementary harmonies, it is not recommended for a proper Jedi color scheme. Besides, using four colors is a bit too much for Jedi robes anyway.



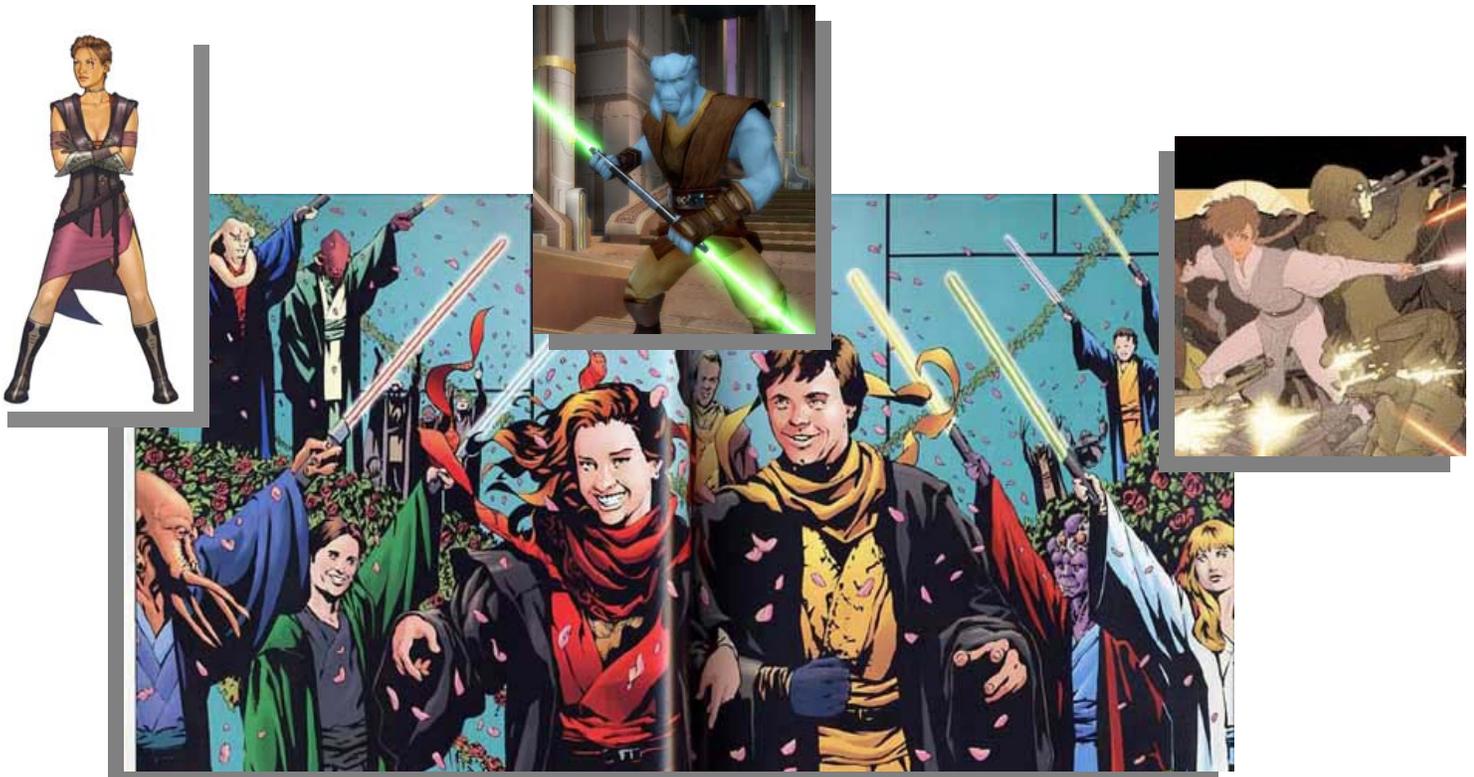
## Square

This color harmony, similar to the Triad harmony, is based on four equidistant hues on the color wheel. As long as the proper balances are kept with this harmony, eye pleasing designs are possible. Just bear in mind of the difficulties when dealing with four colors and you should do fine when working on design projects. However as I said before, four hues are just too many to incorporate into an authentic Jedi color scheme. I don't recommend using this color harmony when designing your costume.



## Relationship to the Jedi costume

Color plays a large part in the aesthetics for Star Wars costumes. Knowing the basics of color theory will not only improve the authenticity of your custom Jedi design, but also will enhance the overall quality of the costume as well, so choose wisely!



# **-Basic Jedi color schemes-**

## **Finer points**

The exception to any of the suggestions within this tutorial is usually when you are replicating a “face” &/or alien character. Certain face characters do not follow the same rules as Generic “rank-and-file” Jedi characters. The most notorious human Jedi is Ulic Qel-Droma; his initial days as a Jedi he wears a toned-down split-complimentary color scheme. What also happens is when the look of a Jedi character gets further away from human, the colors used can become more unorthodox. When making alien Jedi just be careful to not go too overboard. Refer to these basic rules of thumb whenever you go “off the beaten path” when designing your Jedi costume.

### **Basic rules of thumb**

-Keep your colors understated and subdued. Any fabric color that is fluorescent or visibly loud is not suitable for the majority of Jedi robes. Natural toned and/or pastel fabrics work well even for male Jedi Costumes.

-Please pay attention to complexion. Colors that look good on Qui-Gon Jinn may not necessarily look as good on Yoda. A person’s complexion can adjust the perception of costume’s color and vice versa. Be aware as to how the fabric looks against your skin. The wrong color can make you look more dead than alive.

### **General Use of metallic colors**

Metallic colors & finishes should only be used on hard points and accessories for Jedi costumes. Overtly shiny or metallic material should be kept to a minimum if used at all.

### **General Use of patterned fabrics**

Patterned fabrics are generally reserved for the tabards and obi of your costume. Pattern fabrics should be used as an accent only. If you do use patterned fabric, stick to simple geometric patterns and unrecognizable real world motifs (patterns &/or logos). If the pattern is simple with a level of sophistication to it, then it should be adequate for use on a Jedi costume. Just remember the pattern should only add nuance to your costume and should not stand out.

### **General colors for leather costume items**

The vast majority of all Jedi use shades of brown leather for their boots, belts, and tabards. While the tabards can be a different color than the belt and boots, the color of both belt & boots should be as similar as possible. The use of black leather on a Jedi is rare and should be an option if the overall color of the costume is using cool colors. However, black leather is not recommended if you are using colors shared by the Sith.

### **General use of black, white, and red**

What is red, white, and black all over? If you guessed a Sith, then you’d be right. The use of only these colors at their full saturation denotes the absolute nature of the Sith within. And while there are individual cases for using this particular palette for Jedi, it should be reserved for face characters only. This recommendation also includes cool grey Jedi robes. If you truly wish to use these colors as a generic Jedi, make it a point to NOT carry a red Lightsaber. Believe it or not Lightsaber blade color helps to distinguish yourself as a Jedi, but don’t be surprised if people are confused as to what side you are on.

## -Color Palette Examples-

These examples use the exact same black and white “blank” illustration. The only difference between these examples is the colors that are used. They are a rough representation of the colors used on the actual costumes whenever there is reference for it. The characters referenced with a particular palette are those are the most notably referenced or were first to wear that particular Jedi color scheme.

### -Old Republic-

Obi-wan off-white



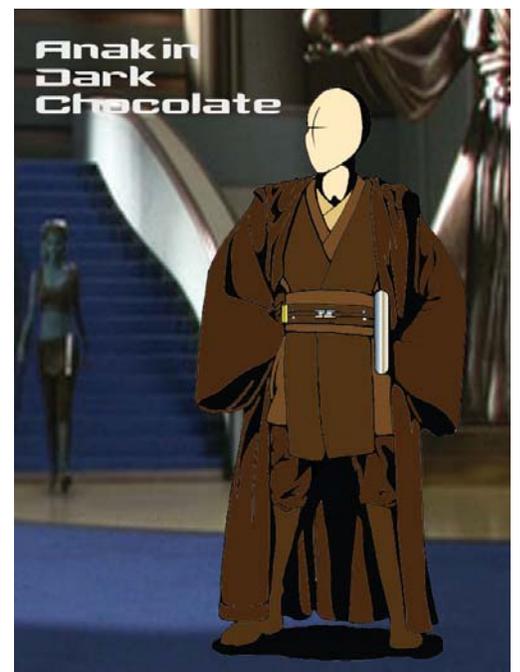
Qui-Gon Khaki



Windu Tan



Anakin Dark Chocolate



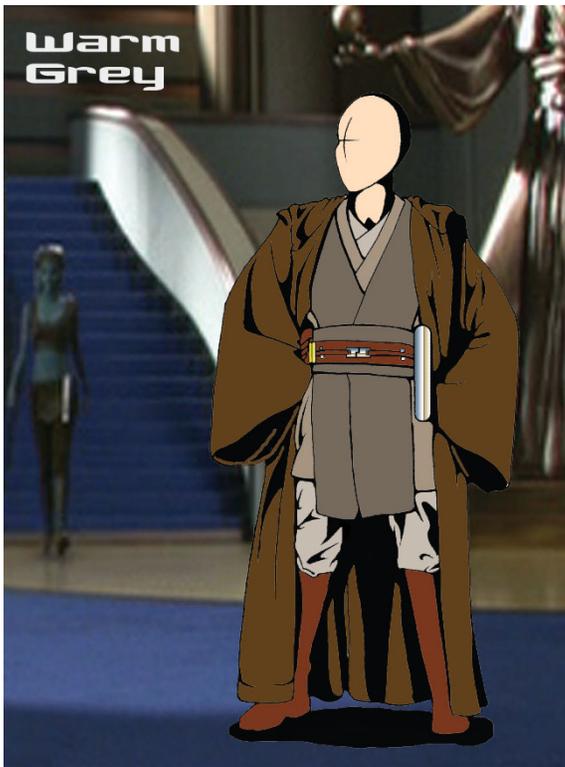
**Chocolate**



**Cin Drallig Terracotta**



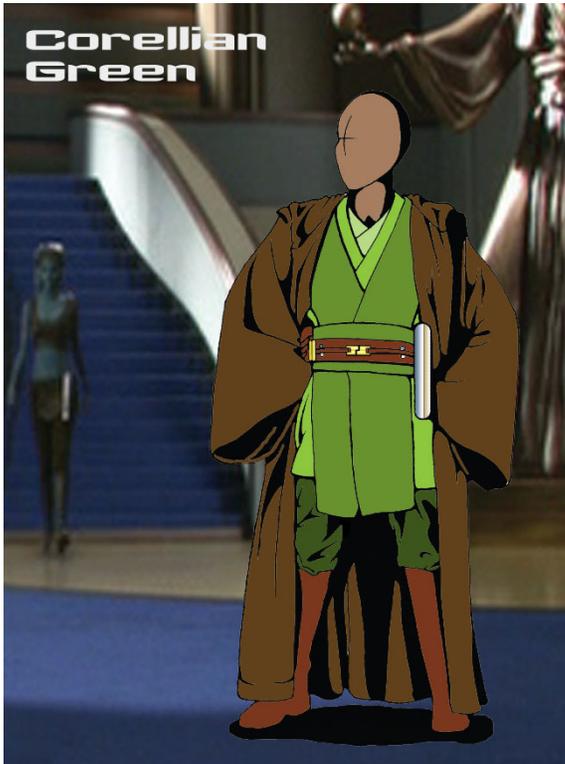
**Warm Grey**



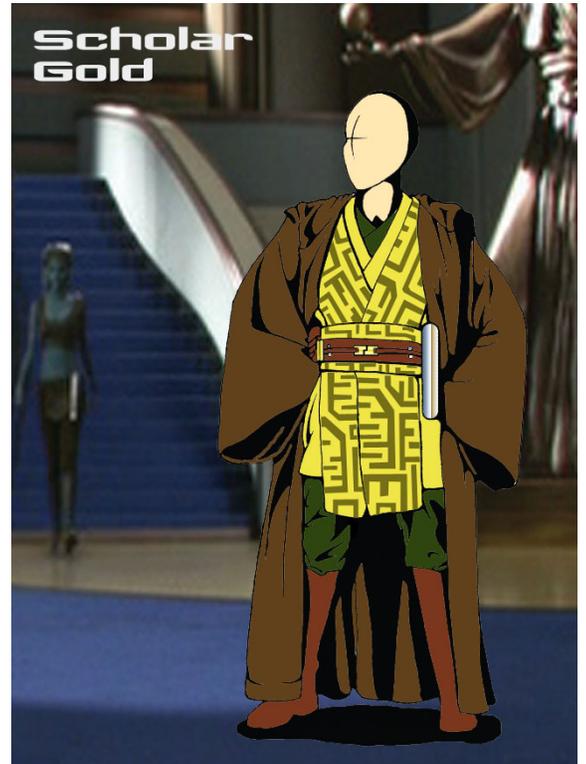
**Healer Blue**



**Coreellian Green**



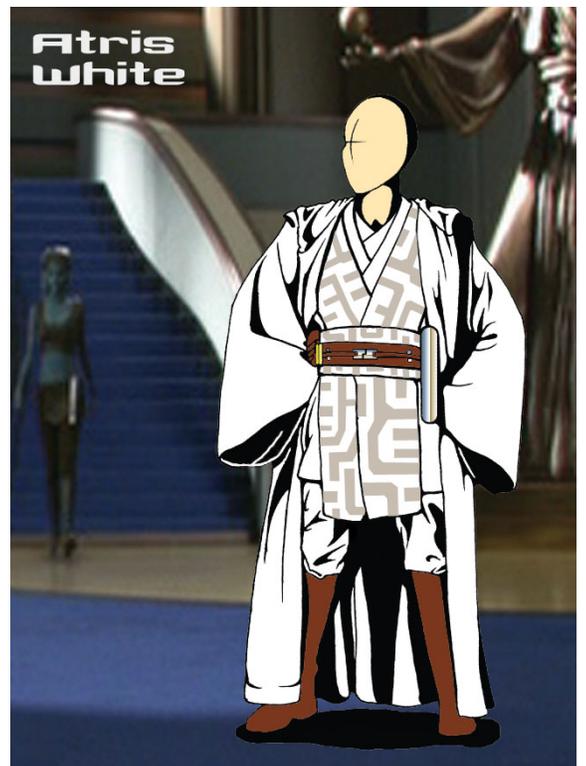
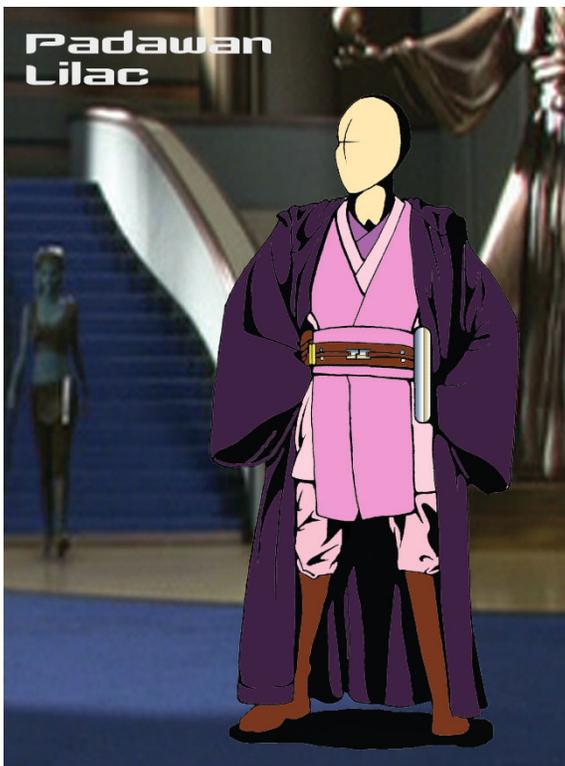
**Scholar Gold**



**Padawan Lilac-**

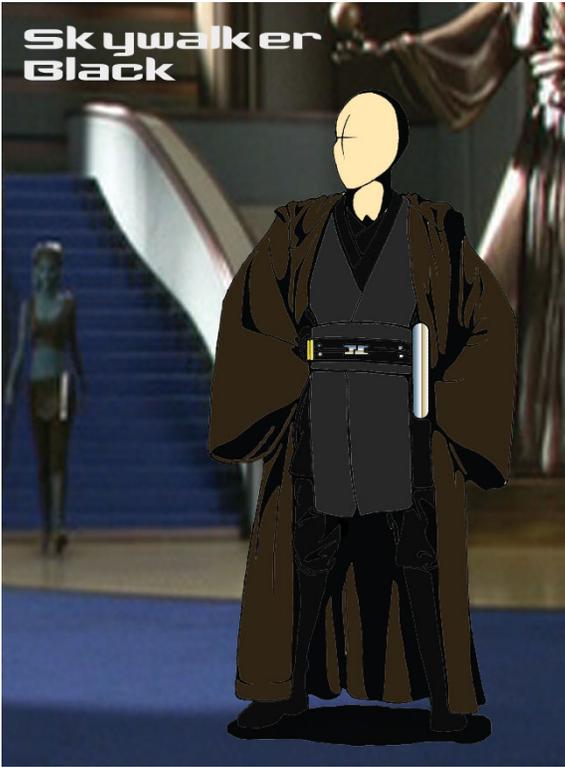
**[recommended for ladies only]**

**Atris White**



# -New Republic-

Skywalker Black



Brakiss Red



Yun Cool Grey



## -Closing-

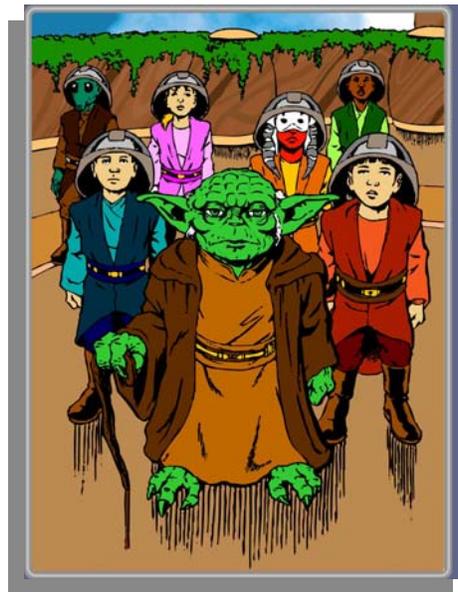
It is my hope that this tutorial not only assists beginner costumers in their design of a Custom Jedi costume, but also aid Rebel Legion costume judges in being able to have a reference available to consistently judge Jedi Costumes on their craftsmanship and authenticity within the Star Wars universe. In addition to this I hope this reference also lays to rest (at least for the foreseeable future) the color debate that has been a major stumbling block for the Rebel Legion Jedi costumers. In time I feel tutorials like these will actually prevent more problems from arising due to ever expanding Star Wars universe.

## -Concepts behind hero Star Wars Costumes-

The nature of hero costumes in the star wars universe stem from two particular points of view presented in the movie saga. These opposing points of view are individuality (light side) and conformity (dark side). While there is a certain amount of uniformity to hero faction costumes, there is also a significant amount of variation that goes on that visually underpins the individuality point of view. From using different colors to modified or even alternative costume pieces, there are numerous details that differentiate the heroes from the villains in the Star Wars universe. Even the progression from clone troopers to stormtroopers follows this pattern. The ranks of the Jedi are no different and this variation should be represented in the costumes worn by fans.

## -One final note-

Please make a point to consult members of the Rebel legion before construction if you are planning on sending the costume in for application for use at official events. Most Rebel Legion members are more than happy to help out fellow costumers and Star Wars fans to create authentic-looking, yet original costumes.



*May the force be with you.*