

# The Color Cipher



The color cipher appears to be complex at first, but every clue you need to decode it is present in the drawing provided. This drawing is a color-by-number style page, which allows you to associate different colors with different numbers. In some places, colors are only half-filled, such as the deep pink areas of the tree's top. Looking at this space reveals that the deep pink color is 1, since there are 1's in the areas that should be that color but haven't been filled in yet. Another example of this is in the rings of the trunk, where the top has the red filled in but not the 5's, and the bottom has the brown filled in but not the 4's. The rings should match in color scheme, as shown through a little red being visible on the bottom trunk, so this allows you to deduce that red is 4 and brown is 5. If you continue in this manner, you can directly associate each single digit color with a number except for 0. Since the light blue is the only color remaining, that means that 0 must be the light blue. If it is not immediately clear that you should be using the numbers 0 to 9, the trunk of the tree also has tally marks along it ranging from 0 to 9, giving a second indication that all ten single-digit numbers should be used in the solution.

The colors and their associated numbers are shown below:



You can place the numbers on each of the boxes that correspond to their color, but that alone won't provide you the solution. The next clues come from the image itself. The image portrays a tree cut in two pieces, with a background cut in two pieces, and the message "See the Tree to know the Forest," where the T of Tree is also cut in two. All of these indicators reveal that a "tree," or letter, is not associated with one box, but two, with the boxes sitting one on top of the other. For example, the very first set of boxes in the code is a blue box on top of a yellow box. The blue means 0 and the yellow means 9, so we get the number 09. This can be done with every vertical pairing of boxes in the message, referred to in the written code as the "forest" you are getting to know. For example, the top set of boxes in this message reveal the numbers 09, 14, 01, 04, and 05.

As you are getting the string of numbers used, a pattern emerges: the numbers go between 01 and 26. What else has 26 of something? That's right: the alphabet. Each number corresponds to the letter that is in that position of the alphabet, so 01 is A, 02 is B, and so on. Translating each number pair to the letter of the alphabet in that position will reveal the hidden message.

If you download and use the font for this cipher, please be aware that not all software can use the color features. I have used it successfully in Adobe products, but cannot guarantee it works in any other programs. Additionally, the font uses two light blue boxes, translated as 00, as a space. This was not included in the message in this image for spacing purposes and to be sure that the connection between the numbers and letters would work smoothly.

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Cipher created by Patrick Roughan, ©2020

Font download link and additional ciphers can be found at [www.patroughan.com](http://www.patroughan.com)