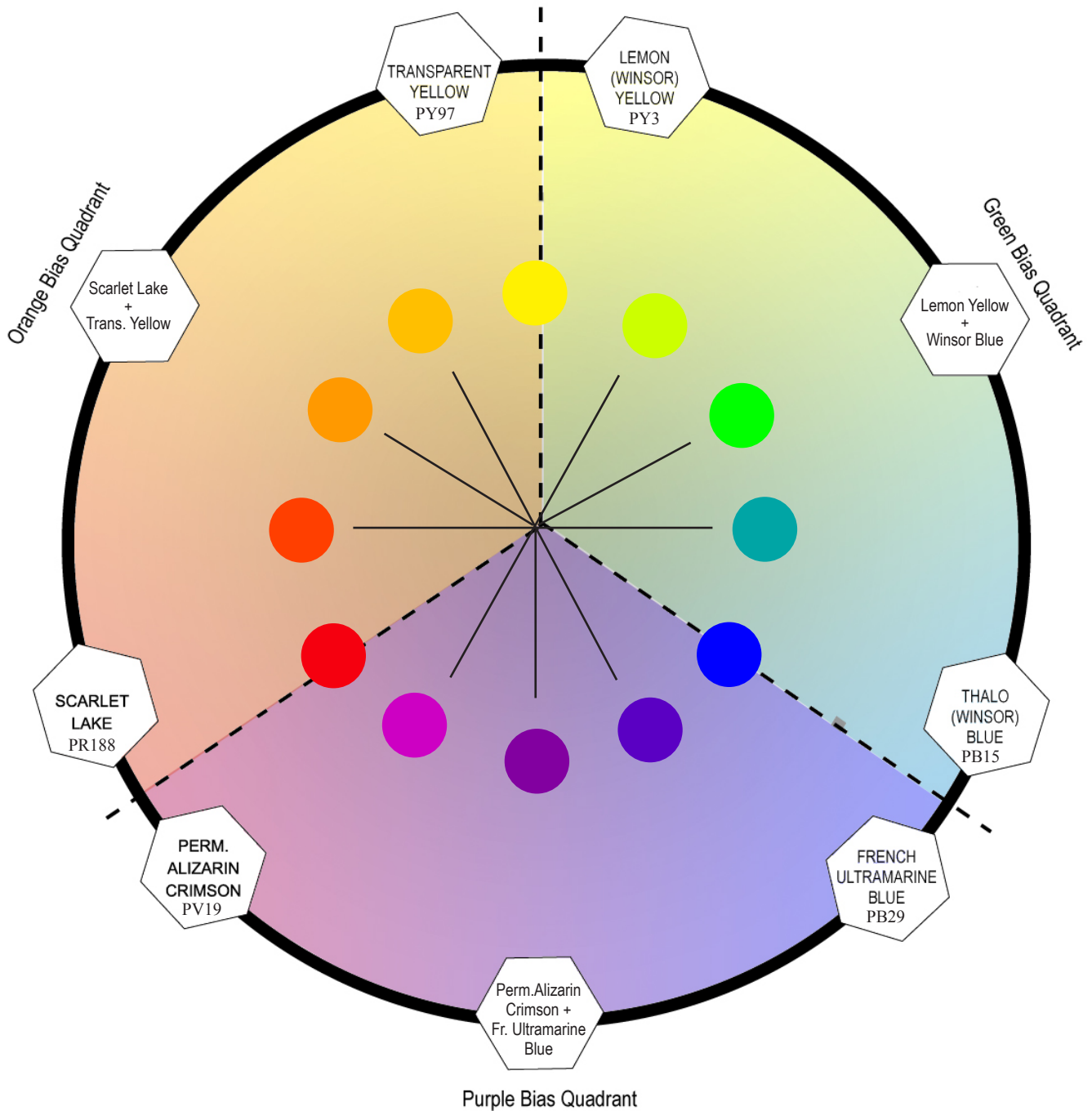


# The SPLIT PRIMARY COLOR WHEEL for Watercolor



If we had "pure" primaries (yellow, blue and red), our color wheel would look and work like the one in the center. Unfortunately, watercolor pigment primary colors aren't "pure" - almost always having a color bias that makes them lean toward some other color. Some are nearly pleochroic - that is, they appear to be different colors when used thinly or in a saturated wash. So, to mix CLEAN secondary and tertiary colors, the SPLIT PRIMARY color wheel works better. We have six primary colors (two yellows, two blues and two reds), and by mixing those appropriately, we can make clean intermediate hues, and wonderful, lively neutrals.

For the cleanest clearest mixtures, stay in one area defined by dotted lines. Cleanest greens come from mixing a green biased blue with a green biased yellow. Cleanest oranges come from mixing an orange-biased yellow with an orange-biased red, and the cleanest violets come from mixing a purple-biased red with a purple-biased blue. Cross the dotted lines when you want to neutralize a color mixture (dull it). Neutrals are made by mixing colors opposite each other.