

Listening Guide for CD Track 10, “Amores de Colores” (Love of Colors)

0:00-0:23 The *paseo* or instrumental introduction beginning with a break section (0:00-0:05) in which horns, bass, and percussion all play the same rhythm.

0:24-1:01 Verse 1 of the *cuerpo*. Note that the section beginning at 0:37 is sung by the chorus, and then at 0:43 the chorus and lead vocalist sing the verse together in alternation. Horns fill in with short figures between the melodic phrases. For the most part the bass plays a fairly straight rhythm under this and the other verse sections.

Quiero definir con los colores	I want to define with colors
El amor y el cariño de la gente	The love and affection of people
Quiero definir con los colores	I want to define with colors
Las clases de amores diferentes	All the different kinds of love there are
Y VERÁS QUE VAS A ENCONTRAR	YOU’LL SEE THAT YOU’LL FIND
TU COLOR	YOUR COLOR
Será verde SERÁ MORADO	Whether it’s green OR BROWN
Será blanco O COLORADO	Whether it’s white OR REDDISH
Será negro SERÁ ROSADO	Whether it’s black OR PINK
Tu color	Your color
Quiero definir, señores, con colores	I want to define, sirs, with colors
El cariño de la gente	The affection that people have

El amor y la pasión (¡dice!)

Their love and passion (and it says!)

1:02-1:13 An instrumental interlude that features saxes, then trumpets, then a series of rhythmic breaks. This figure repeats in the middle beginning at 1:08. The bass begins to vary its pattern more frequently.

1:14-1:26 A second instrumental interlude. Note how the trumpet line adds in on top of the saxophones.

1:27-2:15 A rapped section begins over a similar musical background in which the nature of loves of various colors are described. This is a modern, rather non-standard addition to the *merengue* form, though it does employ call-response singing characteristic of the *jaleo*. The constant switching between Spanish and English is common in recordings by performers based in the United States.

Rojo, tan peligroso

Red is dangerous

Agresivo, atrevido

Aggressive, fearless

Don't tell me, Justefino

Don't tell me, Justefino

Handsome, keen, encendido

Handsome, keen, on fire

Juh, ¿qué color? COLOR ROJO

Juh, What color? THE COLOR RED

¿Qué color? COLOR ROJO

What color? THE COLOR RED

¿Qué color? COLOR ROJO

What color? THE COLOR RED

Yo, blanco, eso mismo

Me, white, simply that

PURO, *YOU KNOW*

PURE, YOU KNOW

Como quiera muy duro

Anyway very hard

No sé si *the first to kill you*

I don't know if it's the first to kill you

NO FICA?, NO MALICIA

NO FAKE, NO MALICE

¿Qué color? COLOR BLANCO

What color? THE COLOR WHITE

¿Qué color? COLOR BLANCO

What color? THE COLOR WHITE

¿Qué color? COLOR BLANCO

What color? THE COLOR WHITE

Amarillo, frío, no da cariño

Yellow, cold, don't gives love

Go home, domina

Go home, hey, it dominates

Amor despreciativo

Deprecating love

¿Qué color? AMARILLO

What color? THE COLOR YELLOW

¿Qué color? AMARILLO

What color? THE COLOR YELLOW

¿Qué color? AMARILLO

What color? THE COLOR YELLOW

Negro, zero sincero

Black, not sincere at all

Siempre dice "yo te quiero"

Always says "I love you"

"Te Espero," que traicionero

"I'll wait for you," how traitorous

Que cuando *feel it, want to get up*

When I feel it, want to get up

¿Qué color? COLOR NEGRO

What color? THE COLOR BLACK

¿Qué color? COLOR NEGRO

What color? THE COLOR BLACK

¿Qué color? COLOR NEGRO

What color? THE COLOR BLACK

2:16-2:31 The tonality switches to major and a sweet female voice begins singing a quote from the old Mexican children's song "De colores," quite a radical change of mood. This sort of musical quoting of earlier music is also somewhat unusual.

2:32-3:04 Just as suddenly the song switches back to the original minor and the first formal *jaleo* section begins. The saxes enter first, then the trumpets over them. The bass gets wilder, sliding and playing pedals more frequently.

3:05-3:41 Another rapped section describing love in various colors.

3:42-4:00 A sudden switch back to the female voice and a chorus singing the *merengue* version of "De colores" in a major key.

4:01-end The song shifts back to minor and the *jaleo* section continues, employing figures similar to the section at 2:32.