Notes and Comment

Reply to Potts and Harris

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Potts and Harris (1979) claim that I inappropriately concluded that interocular transfer of color-contingent motion aftereffects produces positive aftereffects (Favreau, 1978). They state, without providing any data, that they found no transfer of these aftereffects. I surmise, from the rest of their paper, that their methodology differed considerably from mine, and it is thus difficult to see how they can so readily assert that their results, rather than mine, are valid. In fact, since my data permitted the rejection of the null hypothesis, whereas theirs cannot lead to either rejection or acceptance of the null hypothesis, it would seem that there is a presumption in favor of the former.

Potts and Harris offer two specific arguments against my conclusions. They contend (1) that I used too few tests and (2) that therefore the first test following adaptation may have been unduly influenced by the last-seen direction of rotation during adaptation. Regarding the first argument, one could just as easily claim that their multiple testing (they do not, incidentally, indicate how many tests they used) wiped out the effect, as there is considerable evidence that aftereffects are weakened by repeated tests (see, e.g., Jones & Holding, 1975; Skowbo & Clynes, 1977). The evidence on this issue is not consistent,

but there is at least as much reason to believe that the effect would be wiped out by the multiple tests that Potts and Harris allegedly used as to believe that the initial test is unreliable.

As for their second objection, it is not supported by my results, for, as reported in my paper, I found that the positive aftereffect could be obtained only when the test for interocular transfer *followed* that of the adapted eye, and not when the initial test was for interocular transfer. Moreover, I gave each observer two tests for interocular transfer, one with each color, and there were no systematic differences based on order. There were just as many positive aftereffects in the first test as there were in the second.

REFERENCES

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