

Pastel pencil technique



Pastel pencils have a **soft**, fragile pastel core that creates a **powdery, velvety, matte** effect with **more control** than soft pastels, making them ideal for **soft sketching, layering, blending**, and adding **expressive** detail.

Pastel pencils are used when you need **control** and **detail**, such as **drawing hair, leaf veins, fabric folds**, or **refining edges**, while still keeping a **soft, painterly look**.

Begin with a very **light sketch**, focusing first on **lines**, then gently build the main **shapes** and **colors** with a **soft, controlled** hand. Too much pressure too early makes mixing harder.

Build up the image **slowly**, in **layers**, blending **carefully** if necessary and adding details only after the base is complete.

Finally, **intensify** the dark and **light** areas for more **contrast** and protect the drawing, as pastel pencils smudge easily.

Sharpening tools

Pastel sharpener
Sandpaper

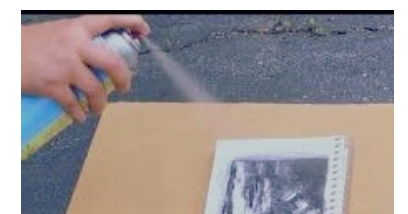


Pencils



Fixativ

Stop, come back later



Watercolour pencil technique

You will love the moment when brush and water bring your drawing to life. Don't be afraid to experiment and discover your favourite technique.

Wet-on-dry

More control, clear edges



Apply wet color on dry paper.

- Draw your design with the watercolor pencil as you would with a regular colored pencil, keeping pressure light for easier blending.
- Use a damp (not soaking) brush and gently drag it across the paper and blend it into a smooth watercolor effect.
- Work gradually, start with a small amount of water and build up, so you don't lose details or over-dilute the color.

Best for: Leaf texture, dry grass, rocky surfaces, fabric texture, animal fur

Watercolour pencil technique

Layering (Glazing)

builds depth with transparent layers



Apply wet color on dry paper.

- Start with a light base layer, let it dry fully, then add thin layers on top, working gradually rather than trying to reach the final color in one step. Each layer slightly changes what is underneath, allowing you to deepen shadows, adjust colors, or create more complex tones without losing transparency.

Best for : petals, folds, skin, creating smooth transitions and volume, deeper colors (making them warmer, cooler, or more intense)

Watercolour pencil technique

Wet-to-Wet

soft, flowing, blurry effects

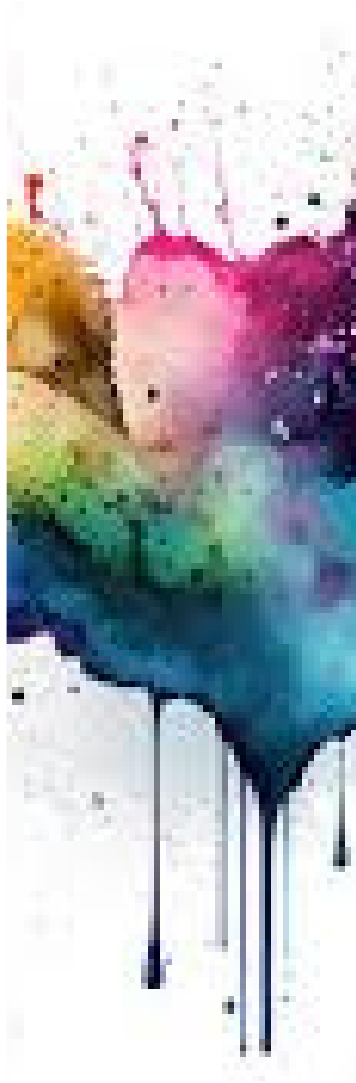


Wet the paper first.

- Before drawing, use a wet brush to dampen the area of the paper where you'll be coloring.
- As you draw on the wet paper, you'll notice the colors spreading and blending naturally; the pigment will soften and spread immediately.
- Use minimal pressure and fewer strokes, as the color diffuses quickly and creates soft, unpredictable edges.

Best for: sky, clouds, water, soft backgrounds.

Watercolour pencil technique



Splattering

Flicking wet color on dry paper.

Flick wet paint from a brush onto a dry surface to create fine droplets that add texture and visual interest.

Best for: landscapes

Color Lifting

Removes color to create light areas.

Lift color with a clean damp brush or tissue.

Best for: highlights, clouds, reflections, corrections

Watercolour pencil technique

Pigment Pickup (Palette)



- Before starting, select a limited range of 3–5 colors and anticipate the main mixtures needed to complete the drawing.
- Apply the watercolor pencil onto a separate surface or palette to create areas of pigment.
- Use a slightly damp brush to dissolve the pigment into a controlled mixture.
- Test the mixture briefly on a scrap surface to check intensity and water level.
- Lift the color with the brush and apply it to your drawing for a soft, watercolor wash effect.