

FREE
INSPIRATION!

COLORED PENCILS 101



HOBBY LOBBY®

COLORED PENCIL
Tips, Tricks & Techniques

WET & DRY WATERCOLOR PENCILS

For this photorealistic still life, we started by filling in our sketch with watercolor pencils and blending them with water. Then let it dry completely, and use dry watercolor pencils to define the details.



WET WATERCOLOR PENCILS

Wet watercolor pencils allow you to get the look of a painting, but with more precision and control. For seamless blending, work a clean, wet brush from the area with the least pigment toward the heaviest.

WATERCOLOR STEP BY STEP



SUPPLIES

- Colored pencils
- Watercolor pencils
- White spirit solvent
- Paintbrush
- Watercolor paper
- Pencil
- Kneaded eraser
- Cutting mat



STEP 1

Sketch your image, and then use a kneaded eraser to lighten lines.



STEP 2

Add color in layers with watercolor pencils.



STEP 3

Blend pigments together using white spirit solvent, and let it dry.



STEP 4

Add final details with either regular or watercolor pencils.



HATCHING & CROSSHATCHING

Hatching (parallel lines) and crosshatching (criss-crossing lines) are super versatile techniques to have in your repertoire. You can vary the direction, length, spacing and intensity of your lines to create a wide variety of effects depending on what you're drawing.



DRAWING TECHNIQUES

Hatching:

Coloring or shading with closely drawn parallel lines.

Crosshatching:

Coloring or shading with closely drawn sets of intersecting lines.

Stippling:

Coloring or shading with small dots.

Burnishing:

The process of using a lighter colored pencil, colorless blender or white pencil to apply heavy pressure to layers of pigment, resulting in a smooth, opaque look.

Frottage:

Rubbing the side of a pencil tip across paper to reveal the surface texture.

Gradation:

Gradually transitioning from one color or value to another.

Back & Forth:

Coloring or shading by moving pencil back and forth until area is completely covered.

Scumbling:

Coloring or shading by layering small circular shapes on top of each other.

Blending:

Creating smooth transitions between colors or values by varying pressures or using blending pencils.



▲ BLENDING

Colorless blending pencils and blending stumps are great additions to your artist toolkit! We used them here to smooth out the color transitions on our cacti, creating a gradual shift from the highlights to the shadows.

◀ BLENDING TECHNIQUES

Overlapping:

Layering multiple shades to create a gradient.

Blending Stump:

Best for blending from dark to light.

White Pencil:

Use to blend light colors and highlighted areas.

Blending Pencil:

Has the same wax and binder as colored pencils for smooth blending without adding pigment.

LAYERING

Layering multiple shades in the same color family is a great way to give your artwork dimension. Start with the lightest colors, carefully working around any white space, and then gradually build up darker shades on top.

Tip: Try adding shadows with a complementary color—it gives a more realistic look than black.



BLACK PAPER

Compared to white paper, black media paper provides higher contrast for lighter colors, making your artwork appear to pop off the page. And since the background is already dark, it's easier to create shadows.

