

Techniques for using Pastel Pencils and Pastels.

by Jenny Hill

Pastel Pencil Techniques

Pastel Pencils are perfect for producing fine detail as they provide precise control. They are particularly good for small studies, great for linear drawing and very useful for fur, feathers and hair. A variety of techniques for using Pastel Pencils, some of which also apply to Pastels, are demonstrated below.

Blending

There are many ways of blending Pastel Pencils and Pastels.

Blending involves the merging of one colour or more. Blending is especially important for creating tone, shade and other colours.

Lay your colours down on the paper close to each other, then, using your finger, paper stump, rubber shaper or stipple brush, merge the colours together.

Example 1 shows how the finger can be used to blend two shades of blue together.

Example 2 shows how a paper stump can be used. The effective use of a rubber shaper is shown in **example 3** and blending using a stipple brush can be seen in **example 4**.

The hardness of the stipple brush is especially good for working the pastel into the tooth of the paper.

The softness and dustiness of the Pastel Pencils and Pastels makes them easier to blend. The Pastel Blending White is also very effective for this technique, as it is colourless it blends the shades or tones together without affecting the colour.

Tip: Rub your paper stump repeatedly on a sandpaper block to clean it. Rubber shapers and stipple brushes can be cleaned using a damp cloth.

Derwent has an array of useful accessories available. Just visit the Artists' Essentials section under 'products' on the Derwent website www.pencils.co.uk

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Hatching and Cross Hatching

This technique involves laying down colour in the form of lines and adding a different layer in a different direction each time. Example: Draw the first layer of lines in a horizontal direction; draw the second layer of lines, on top of the first, vertically. Each different direction adds more tone to the shading. Different colours can also be used.

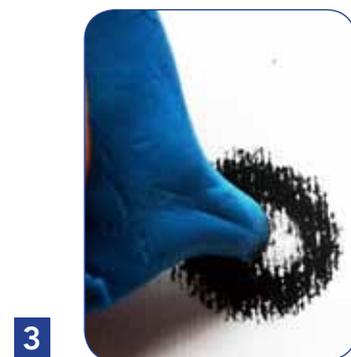


Highlighting

Use a Derwent eraser pencil (**example 1**) or battery eraser (**example 2**) to lift colour from your drawing. This creates effective highlights. The eraser pencil is better suited for subtle lighter highlights whereas the battery eraser is more effective for distinctive highlights.

You can also use a Derwent kneadable (putty) eraser (**example 3**) for lifting off colour to create highlights. The putty eraser can be moulded into any shape required and can also be used for erasing and light blending.

The Pastel Pencil Titanium White is also excellent for highlighting. Instead of lifting off colour, just add white to the areas where highlighting is required.



Embossing

Derwent produce two, double ended embossing tools with four different sized heads. The tools are used to impress lines into the paper which will show up white when colour is added on top. Ideal for whiskers and veins on leaves.



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Wet brushing

This involves using a slightly damp fan brush from the Derwent Essential Drawing Tools set to spread the colour out. This method is useful for creating a base layer of colour and also for blending details into the background. Here the wisps of hair are being faded out.



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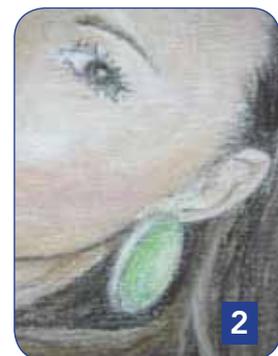
Pastels are good for building up broad areas of colour and are useful for abstract work. They can be used on their side, on their edge or their corner. They are excellent for techniques such as blocking in and frottage.



Different strokes

Example 1 shows how the edges of the block can be used for the straight lines of the fence and a single side stroke for the grass.

The edges of the Pastels can also be used for fine detail. In **example 2** below, the corner of the Titanium White Pastel was used for highlights in the eye and on the earring. A sandpaper block can be used to regain a sharp corner on the Pastel.



Broad Cross-hatching

Broad cross-hatching can be used to make an under painting using the side of the Pastel. Colour can be built up quickly this way



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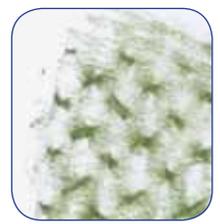
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Frottage

Broken colour patterns can be made by placing smooth paper or card over a textured surface then rubbing the Pastel (block) over the top, similar to brass rubbing. A variety of diverse effects can be created by using different materials e.g. rough stonework, bark, netting or textiles. Several different colours can be used to great effect.



Frottage over brick



Frottage over mesh

Sharpening Tips Pastel Pencils

Pastel is a fragile material which can sometimes make them difficult to sharpen. Derwent produce a Pastel Pencil sharpener especially for Pastel Pencils. Always ensure your sharpeners are changed regularly. The materials used to make Pastel Pencils do mean that blades become blunt quicker. A craft knife can also be used to sharpen your pencils, try and leave as much wood around the Pastel as possible. The wood is there to protect the material inside.



Pastels

A sandpaper block can be used to regain a sharp edge to a Pastel.

