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# DERWENT INKTENSE EXPERT GUIDE

An easy guide to using Derwent Inktense

Versatile • Vibrant Colour • Portable



# INKTENSE INSPIRES

We have heard from many artists who love working with Derwent Inktense Pencils and Blocks. Now with the new Inktense Paint Pan Set, Inktense is even easier to take out on your artistic travels.

With our brand ambassadors, we have put together easy-to-follow projects which demonstrate the creative possibilities with Inktense, in whatever form.

With these simple tips you can try new techniques to create stunning artworks on paper or fabric.

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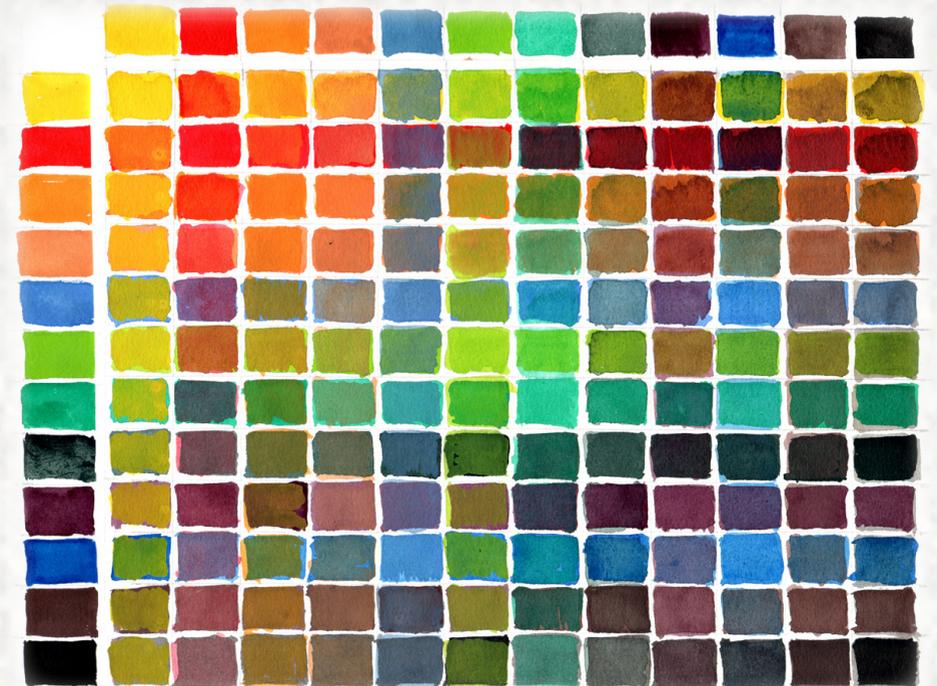
# GETTING STARTED

Inktense offers a range of highly versatile, water-soluble mediums which create vivid ink-like colour when combined with water.

Start by gathering your equipment and experiment on a spare piece of watercolour paper. Practice different techniques for blending and mixing, with and without water. Try on both paper and fabric surfaces.

Once you have a feel for the product, create a colour chart to reference throughout your project. Using just twelve colours you can build a map of many different tones and values.

Across the top and down the left hand side of your chart place pure colours. Then see what can be created by layering one colour over the top of another.



Colour chart created using 12 colours from the Inktense Paint Pan Set.

# PREPARING YOUR PALETTE

Highly pigmented dry colour transforms into a pure ink-like wash which is permanent once dry. Inktense Blocks are perfect for printing on fabric as well as paper.



## INKTENSE BLOCK WASHES

*Robert Dutton*

Robert Dutton has won numerous awards for his distinctive and expressive pastel paintings, and runs popular demonstrations, workshops and sell out art holidays throughout the UK. He contributed to Dorling Kindersley Artist's Drawing Techniques featuring several Inktense paintings. He also teaches at 'Paint Andalucia' in Southern Spain. [rdcreative.co.uk](http://rdcreative.co.uk)

## YOU WILL NEED

- Inktense Blocks
- Craft Knife/Scalpel
- Paint Pallet/Mixer
- Paint Brushes



*"Inktense is water-soluble ink and should not be considered a straight 'swap' for watercolours. While watercolours are 'washable' across a broader page, Inktense creates bolder, more vibrant colours."*

## PREMIX WASHES

Using a sharp craft knife or scalpel, you can create your own bespoke colour tints with fine shavings from dry Inktense Blocks. They are easily shaved whilst maintaining their shape due to the high pigmentation. Do not over do the amount of pigment you use! The Inktense range is so vibrant and a little dab of colour goes a long way!



## LARGER WASHES

For larger scale work, the shaving technique is extremely useful. By following the step above, add more water to the ratio of Inktense pigment to achieve the desired tint. The more pigment, the stronger the colour. The more water, the finer and translucent the tint.



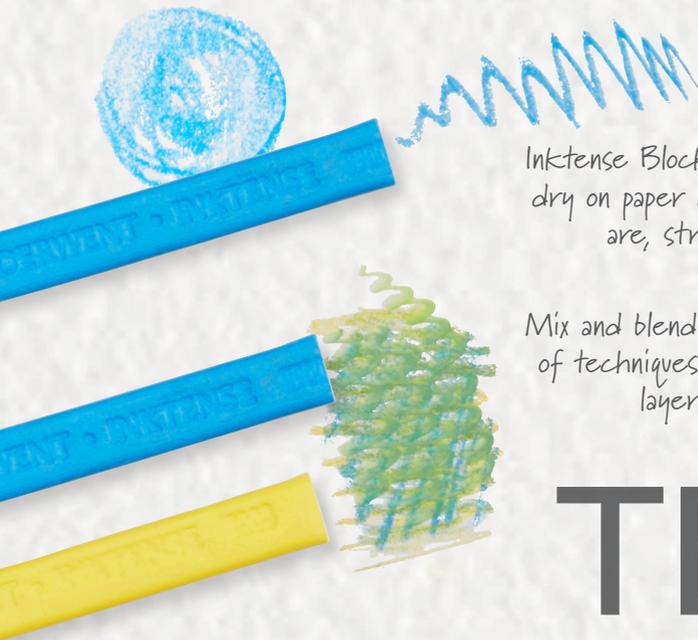
## STIRRING

For water media techniques on a grand scale, Inktense Blocks themselves can be stirred into wells of water and very quickly mix together to create large scrumptious volumes of lovely premixed colour. Time to get those big brushes out!



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Inktense Blocks or Pencils can be used dry on paper and fabrics; just as they are, straight from the tin

Mix and blend together using a variety of techniques such as cross hatching, layering and rubbing.



Try using the side or edge of your Inktense Blocks to create sweeping colour and interesting textures.

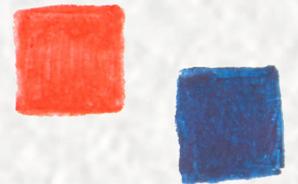
# TECHNIQUES

## Using Inktense Pencils & Blocks

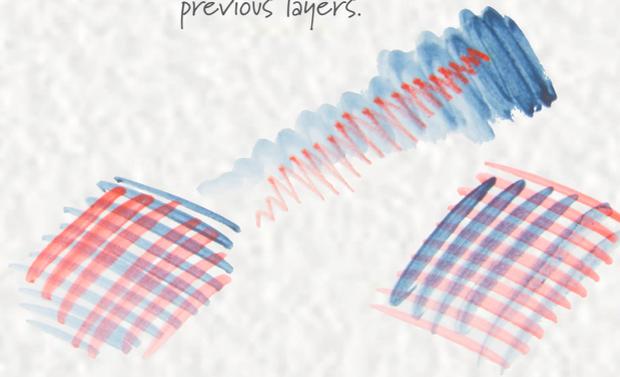


Activate with water to unlock vivid ink-like colour.

Once dry, Inktense is permanent. You can layer on top without smudging or lifting previous layers.



Or apply dry to a wet surface for a bolder base colour.



They dry quickly too - a huge advantage when travelling or storing your work.

# HAND LETTERING

## WITH THE INKTENSE PAINT PAN TRAVEL SET

Shayda Campbell

Shayda Campbell teaches 'perfectly imperfect' watercolour painting, illustration and bullet journaling on YouTube at [youtube.com/shaydacampbell](https://www.youtube.com/shaydacampbell)

*"The Inktense Paint Pan Set is easy to use and it's compact enough to put in your pocket and pull out whenever creativity strikes and you just have to get your paint on!"*

A floral piece like this one is a wonderful project for the beginner watercolour artist. The forms of flowers and leaves are so common that you can abstract them as much or as little as you like and they will remain recognisable to your viewer.

## YOU WILL NEED

- Inktense Paint Pan Set (includes waterbrush)
- Watercolour Paper

Two colour palettes now available



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## STEP 1

Begin by mixing up a lovely dark green to paint some leaves on the page. The Inktense Paint Pan Set comes with a palette in the lid as well as a waterbrush so you really do have everything you need at your fingertips. Go for larger, basic leaf shapes first. As you paint leaves and vines, think about the pressure that you apply to the paper. In one moment you use only the lightest touch; just the delicate fine point of the brush, in another moment you smooch the belly of the brush across the page forming large leaves and petals.

## STEP 2

After you have created a perimeter of greenery, mix up a deep violet and begin to add some floral shapes. Keep in mind that the shape of a flower is a very vague thing. A flower rarely looks like the four or five petal icon that we see so often. A good swoosh of your waterbrush across the paper will produce an organic shape that will almost certainly look more like a real flower than that familiar set of petals. Adding the details of a stamen and/or a stem will help your organic flower to come to life.

## STEP 3

Finally, use black paint and the waterbrush to write 'Bloom' in a brush script in the centre of the piece. The waterbrush is a great lettering tool. You can easily add pressure for a thicker stroke or lighten your pressure to get

those thin, delicate up-strokes. The waterbrush also makes it easy to attain that pretty watery translucent look in each letter. Try making your letters opaque at the top and lighter towards the bottom. Having water inside the brush makes it easy to add the right amount to the form of each letter.





# URBAN SKETCHING

The perfect companion for artists on the move, the Inktense Paint Pan Set will bring a myriad of colour to your sketches while allowing you to travel light!

Urban sketching is accessible to anyone and everyone. Capture the quirk and character of the people and places around you with this dynamic genre.

## YOU WILL NEED

- Inktense Paint Pan Set
- Inktense Pencils
- Waterbrush
- Graphic 3B Pencil
- Graphic Line Maker Black 0.5
- Sketchbook

## DRAWING PEOPLE IN PUBLIC PLACES

*Lynne Chapman*

Lynne Chapman is an accomplished children's book illustrator, lecturer and urban sketcher, having published more than 30 books, and run inspirational workshops on an international scale over a 17 year career.

@lynnepencil  
[lynnechapman.blogspot.co.uk](http://lynnechapman.blogspot.co.uk)



Leeds Town Hall drawn from the Steps of the Art Gallery.

Painted from memory - I cannot see the subject!

*"A great way of bonding with complete strangers in a weirdly random way"*

## Confidence

The first sketch is the hardest, so screw up your courage and just make a start. You will get better too, honest! Urban sketching is about capturing the moment. Try not to rub out - it makes a mess and takes up valuable time. If it goes wrong, either draw over the top, or move to a new bit of the page. A great way to begin is to get together with friends for a sketchcrawl.

## Location

Go for venues where folks are likely to be sitting for a while. I tried the forecourt of a station once - hopeless: everyone was in a hurry and very twitchy! I have found trains are perfect - when people are travelling, they have less objection than when they're at leisure. Museums, galleries, cafes and queues seem to be other universally acceptable venues. Buses are too bumpy by the way, and people get off too soon. I always choose a table seat on the train as it gives you a better view of more people.

## Subject

I try not to draw people with friends: conversation makes them move constantly. People reading books are good, but newspapers are a problem: too many different head positions as they look at different articles! People sleeping, texting or at laptops are the best of all - total absorption, so they rarely see you, and they hold one position for ages. Another situation I like for sketching is live musicians.

They are normally too involved in their performance to worry about me and I've been given quite a few free albums when I've shown them afterwards.

## Hot Tips

- My 'victims' sometimes work out halfway through that I'm drawing them. Try not to get stuck drawing a 'portrait'. People are no longer natural, plus there's suddenly an expectation on you to achieve likeness (as well as a need to make sure it's flattering!)
- If you're new to urban sketching I suggest you focus on particular details – shoes, hands, bits of faces – rather than going for the whole person.
- Carry at least half a dozen ready sharpened pencils in a pencil case (3Bs are my favourite), that way you never need to stop and sharpen mid-way, and miss the moment.
- Try to travel light, rather than taking every bit of art gear you have. Conversely, a pencil is a bit limited on its own: take the means to apply colour, even if it's just a couple of Inktense Pencils and a waterbrush to help your drawing jump off the page.



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# VIBRANT LANDSCAPES

## LAYERING TECHNIQUES

Robert Dutton

Highly versatile and easily layered, Robert shows us how to create vibrant and expressive landscapes using Inktense Blocks and Pencils.

[rdcreative.co.uk](http://rdcreative.co.uk)

*“It was really exciting to see how easily the colours flowed from both Inktense Pencils and Inktense Blocks when further drawing techniques and structural elements were desired – especially when applied into wet passages of paint”*

## YOU WILL NEED

- Inktense Blocks
- Inktense Pencils
- Permanent White Gouache
- Watercolour Paper
- Waterbrush



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## STEP 1

Using lots of wet in wet techniques with Inktense helps create the first and most important foundation stage on to which to build this expressive, colourful river scene. Using different pressured strokes the colours just melt onto the sheet or delicately compliment the surface texture of the paper; further extending creative expression for finer details. Due to it's permanence Inktense can be worked over once dry without affecting previous layers of vivid colour.

## STEP 2

Continuing with the layering process, after the initial foundation structure is dry, mix a little Permanent White Gouache into the Inktense colour to give a heavier body and more intensity to the opaque mixes. Use Inktense Pencils to build up the details at this stage too.

## STEP 3

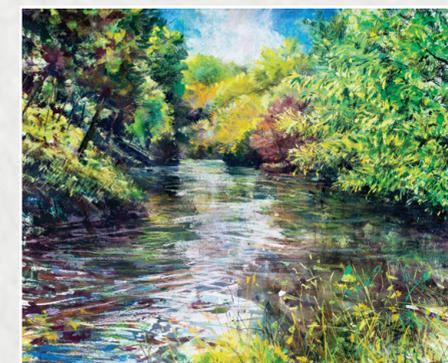
Bring the whole painting together using Inktense Blocks on their side; one over the other, to highlight textures in the foliage. Use dry Inktense Pencils (no water) to add the final linear details - especially in the foreground grasses.

## Hot Tips

- You can layer Inktense without smudging or lifting previous layers. Start with the lighter colours at the bottom

before adding the darker colours over the top.

- You can also add detail by running a wet waterbrush over an Inktense Block or Pencil.



# CUSHION DESIGN

## APPLYING INKTENSE TO FABRICS

Suvi Kyyrönen

Konsta Shop are a favourite stockist of Derwent products in Finland; providing high quality art supplies to professionals, hobbyists, families and schools alike. Suvi and the rest of the testing team, Heli and Lida, are always looking for new ways of using artist products, and have featured the application of Inktense on paper and fabric in their online blog.

[@konstashop](#) [konstashop.fi](#)

You can use Inktense Pencils and Blocks like fabric colours. Soak the fabric and

draw, or paint on a dry cloth with a wet brush. Decorate fabric bags, essentials and pillowcases, or make a piece of art on canvas!

## YOU WILL NEED

- Inktense Blocks
- Intense Pencils
- Fabric of your choice!
- Paint Brushes
- Spritzer Bottle
- Craft Knife
- Stamps

30°  
hand wash  
your fabric  
projects

*“Water-soluble Inktense Pencils and Inktense Blocks are a guaranteed investment. You can use them in a variety of drawing and painting exercises, and work on both paper and fabric. The only limit is your imagination!”*



## Dry to Dry

Draw and colour with Inktense Pencils as usual. Even though the glow of the colours is most pronounced wet, these strong, gemstone colours are still striking when dry. When used dry you can also add subtle details to your work. If you are using Inktense Blocks, colour large areas on the sides and draw details with corner and tip.

## Dry to Wet

Moisten the surface first and then see how the colour dissolves in water and spreads smoothly. You can design the whole work with smooth colours and follow how they intertwine and mix with each other. Or you can also let each application set and then work with a dry pencil or block to create layers. An interesting contrast is created between these smooth and accurate shapes.

## Spray Effects

If you have a spritzer, you can easily make your own spray inks with Inktense Blocks. Scratch the pigment onto paper, pour into the bottle, add water and shake. You can use one or more colours to create your own colour blends. Spray impressive effects on your work or use with stencils.

## Splashes

Create splashes by wetting part of your surface with a brush. Then scratch the Inktense Block or Pencil with a craft knife to apply the colour over the area you have moistened. Pigments dissolve

in water and absorb into the surface. For larger splashes, take some colour from your Inktense Blocks to a wet brush and then tap the brush over your finger so that the splashes hit the paper.

## Stamps

Moisten a rubber stamp lightly with a brush, swipe the colour over the stamp side, and then press the image onto your surface. When the pattern is still wet, you can continue working by moving the colours with a wet brush, gently from the edges of the pattern to the centre areas. Alternatively, you can wait for the stamped pattern to dry, and then continue working with either ordinary colouring pencils or with Inktense Pencils.



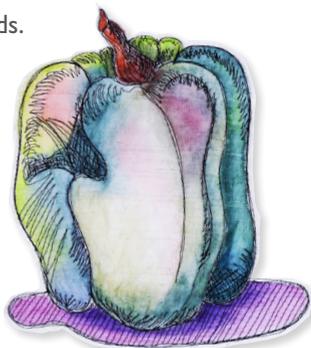


## USING INKTENSE PENCILS

Ana Buzzalino

Ana Buzzalino is a textile artist living in Calgary, Alberta, Canada who has spent the last 30+ years experimenting with and teaching a variety of surface design and quilting techniques. Nowadays she works mainly on art quilts that incorporate mixed media techniques.

Her art has been shown in national and international shows and has won numerous awards.

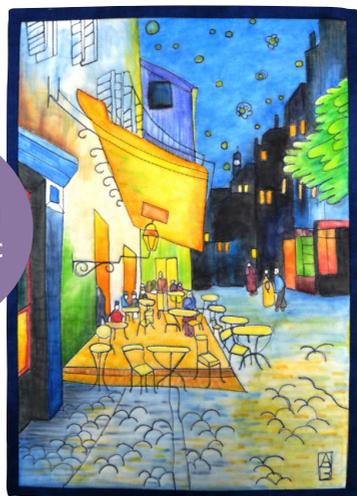


[anabuzzalino.com](http://anabuzzalino.com)

## YOU WILL NEED

- Inktense Pencils
- Pre-washed fabric of your choice
- Wadding
- Backing fabric
- Thread
- Paint brushes
- Textile medium
- A container with water
- A few paper towels
- A sewing machine with a free-motion quilting foot

30°  
hand wash  
your fabric  
projects



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## Getting Started

Trace your design on a piece of fabric before layering it with wadding and a backing fabric. Using thread in a charcoal colour, to resemble the look of a pencil line on a sketchbook, free-motion quilt the design on the fabric until all of the trace lines are covered. Backstitch on some of them to make them thicker and darker, as you would when you sketch.

## To paint on dry

Apply the dry colour as desired, going from light to dark, blending as you go. With a small brush, take a small amount of textile medium and begin applying to the coloured area; blend the colours carefully. Start at the center of the area you coloured and work your way outwards, so by the time you reach the edges there will be almost no medium left on the brush, and it won't bleed beyond your lines. Repeat as necessary. Let it dry and adjust the colours, if you'd like, by adding thin layers.

## To paint on wet

With a small brush, paint the area to be coloured with textile medium. The work needs to be quite damp, but not sodden. Start adding colour with the Inktense Pencils directly onto the wet area. This allows the colour to flow freely from the pencil. Once the colour is applied to one area, go back over it with a brush and textile medium to blend the colours in. It is possible to also dip the end of the pencil into the textile medium directly and apply to your work for fine lines, dots and detailed work.

## Heat Setting

Let the piece dry for 24 hours to ensure it is completely dry. Heat set with an iron on wool setting using a piece of muslin between the iron and your work to protect the quilt/fabric. Press each area moving the iron slowly to avoid scorching the fabric. Once the piece is heat set, it can be washed to remove excess fabric medium.



## TIPS

- You can work on a single piece of fabric and quilt afterwards if you so desire. In that case, place a double layer of muslin underneath to catch excess fabric medium and colour that may bleed through.
- If you don't like the first application of colour, let it dry. Once dry, the colour is permanent, so you can add layers of colour on top without moving the colour underneath.
- Don't forget to wipe your brush clean when working with different colours, to keep the colours from becoming muddy.

### Watercolour Pads

Developed especially for water-soluble pencils, this smooth 300gsm acid free paper is ideal for all water-soluble media.



### Craft Knife

Handy size with soft touch easy grip handle.



### Spritzer

Add a new creative dimension to your water based work.

# ACCESSORIES

There is a huge range of accessories available to compliment the Inktense range.

### Sketch & Store Books

These hardback sketchbooks have wider rings to accommodate extra paper, an elastic band to keep loose sheets in place, and an expanding pocket to store additional items.



### Water Brushes

These little gems are portable, refillable, and most importantly, leak proof.



### Technique Brushes Set

Perfect for adding different effects to paintings - experiment and create your own style.



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# INKTENSE FACTS

## TAKE CARE WHEN LOOKING AFTER YOUR CRAFT PROJECTS

Inktense products are permanent once dry, and can be safely washed by hand at a cold temperature (max 30°). We recommend you use water only, and avoid harsh detergents.

## LIGHTFASTNESS

100% of colours within the Inktense Paint Pan Set are lightfast, meaning the pigment will remain chemically stable under long exposure to light. Your artworks will not lose vibrancy for 100 years under museum conditions.

Derwent uses the Blue Wool Scale (ISO 105) to evaluate lightfastness.

90% of colours within the Inktense Pencils and Inktense Blocks ranges are lightfast.

## MADE IN BRITAIN

With a heritage dating back to 1832, Derwent's innovation comes from a deep understanding of the needs and requirements of artists. Perfecting the art of pencil manufacturing in the Lake District for generations, our wide range of pencils is synonymous with quality and craftsmanship. Artistry is threaded through the core of every Derwent product to deliver world class artists materials at every stage of the creative journey.



Inktense can be used with a wide range of Derwent products for a mixed media approach.

Please visit [www.DerwentArt.com](http://www.DerwentArt.com) for our most up-to-date colour charts on all our ranges.



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Sign up to the Derwent Newsletter to discover the full range, plus receive exclusive access to products, offers and hints & tips

[www.DerwentArt.com/Inktense-Range](http://www.DerwentArt.com/Inktense-Range)



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