

Techniques & Tips

An Adventure with Wax Colours



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Mixing Techniques

Wax Colours and Watercolours

The most well known mixing technique used with wax colours is based on the principle that wax crayons and colouring blocks repel liquid colours such as watercolours. To try out this technique, draw a basic picture using wax colours to draw the lines and colour the areas and then paint over these with watercolours – preferably with a dark colour, because this makes the drawing stand out most brilliantly. The wax drawing repels the watercolours, but the rest of the paper absorbs the colour. Since the layer of colour applied with wax colours is never completely dense, the watercolours also penetrate any uncovered areas; this can result in surprising and impressive artistic effects. The kind of effect that you ultimately achieve with your picture is dependent upon whether the paper is smooth or grainy, whether you use one or more watercolours when painting over, and whether you let the colours dry as they are or wash/wipe them off. These differences are shown in the following examples of various floral pictures.

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Small Floral Picture

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- STOCKMAR Wax Crayons in green, light green, golden, crimson and white or a cardboard box with 12 colours or a tin case with 16 colours
- STOCKMAR Prussian Blue Watercolour Paint
- smooth drawing paper DIN A4
- a flat No. 20 paintbrush
- paint dish, water glass



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1- Draw a simple floral arrangement using the wax crayons (Dia. 1). The flower on the right has white buds on its stems that will only become visible when the drawing is painted over.

2- Prepare the Prussian blue paint in a paint dish. To do this, dip your brush in a small amount of the pigment and gradually add clear water, mixing until the paint has an ink-like consistency. A rule of thumb: the less water you add, the darker the colour tone; the more water you add, the lighter the tone.



2

3- Dip your flat brush into the blue paint and paint over the whole sheet of paper with rapid strokes. The flowers will stand out brilliantly and all light and white colours will become visible (Dia. 2).



3

4- If you use grainy paper instead of smooth, a different picture quality will result because the spaces in between are more densely covered with paint (Dia. 3) and the overall colour appears more muted.

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Floral Splendour / Washed-Out Technique

You need

- STOCKMAR Wax Crayons, a cardboard box with 12 colours or a tin case with 16 colours
- STOCKMAR Watercolours in Prussian blue, crimson, golden, green, ultramarine blue
- grainy watercolour paper DIN A4
- a flat No. 20 paintbrush and a round No. 10 paintbrush
- cloth or rag
- paint dishes, water glass



1- Begin by drawing your picture on grainy watercolour paper using white, yellow, blue and red wax crayons (Dia. 4; the white lines are shown here in grey). Use very simple forms when drawing the flowers. Partially colour the yellow and red blossoms with crimson, vermillion and golden. Because of the grainy structure of the paper, the colouration will remain muted.

2- For painting over, mix and prepare the different watercolours (see also page 2 / Small Floral Picture). Using rapid strokes with the flat brush, paint over the entire picture with Prussian blue. With a clean cloth, wipe off the blue paint from and around the blossoms, then use the round paintbrush to dab on red and yellow paint and allow these colours to spread out. Using the round paintbrush, apply ultramarine blue and green to the damp background between the blossoms (Be careful to always wash out your brush in clear water before using a new colour!). In this way, a splendidly coloured picture will result from a simple drawing (Dia. 5).



TIP

Drawing paper that's painted over with watercolours starts to ripple when it dries. But smaller formats can easily be pressed flat once they are dry.

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Bouquet / Melting Technique / Wet-in-Wet



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7

You need

- STOCKMAR Wax Crayons, cardboard box with 12 colours or tin case with 16 colours
- STOCKMAR Watercolours in ultra marine blue and blue green
- smooth watercolour paper DIN A4
- a round No.10 paintbrush
- sponge
- paint dishes, water glass
- a hot plate
- newspaper

2- For painting over, mix and prepare the watercolours (see also page 2 / Small Floral Picture). If desired, attach your sheet of paper to a painting board using paper tape (or see the Tip on page 3). Dampen the paper thoroughly with a moist sponge, then use the round brush to paint dabs of blue green and ultramarine blue around the flower bouquet and in the areas in between, then let these colours spread. Repeat the process so that darker and lighter coloured areas result (Dia. 7).

3- Variation: If you prefer to have the coloured dots remain visible on the flowers, first cover the whole picture with blue and then work on the damp background.

1- Paint a bouquet of flowers using the melting technique (see directions 5). This technique is best carried out using large strokes. It's best to place a large flower like a sunflower in the middle of the picture and then to arrange other coloured blossoms around it (Dia. 6).

