



Watercolor Crayons:
Techniques For Stampers

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Watercolor Crayon Techniques For Stampers

In the world of rubber stamps, watercolor crayons don't get a lot of love. There is something about a crayon, with its association with the scribbled art of our childhoods, that can keep us from giving watercolor art crayons the respect they deserve. But these handy little sticks of pigment can be used in many different ways in stamping. The results can be bright and beautiful!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

What Are Watercolor Crayons?

Watercolor crayons and regular wax crayons are both made of pigment, wax binder and other ingredients formed into a bluntly pointed stick. And both are usually wrapped with a paper label. But, while regular wax crayons resist water, watercolor crayons dissolve in water. They can be used dry like regular wax crayons or wet like watercolor paint.

Why Not Just Use Watercolor Paint? Watercolor artists typically use traditional watercolor paints. The crayon format is an additional option. They are very portable and can be less messy than using watercolor in tube or pan form. It also lets you work dry in a drawing-like way and then use water to blend, something you can't really do with tube or pan watercolors. It is a different approach and a different medium in use.

Crayon or Pastel? Watercolor crayons are sometimes called “*water soluble crayons*”, “*watercolor pastels*” or “*water soluble pastels*”. “*Pastels*” may be a more marketable word when selling to artists in some parts of the world, but these are not the same as hard pastel or soft pastel mediums.



Grades & Brands: With all art supplies, you should purchase the best quality that you can afford, artist quality if possible. Scholastic grade watercolor crayons for kids tend to cost about fifty cents to a dollar each and are usually sold in sets. Brands include: *Faber-Castell* Watercolor Crayons, *Prang* Payons and *Sargent* Art Water Color Crayons.

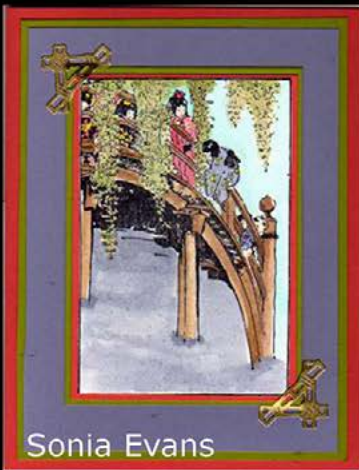
Water soluble crayons for artists are more highly pigmented and lightfast. They typically cost between around \$1.50 to \$3 each. Most of these art crayons are sold in sets but some can also be purchased individually, which is nice if you are looking for specific colors or need to replace one color but don't need to replace the whole set. Brands include: *Caran d'Ache* Neocolor II Artists' Crayons (aka watersoluble wax pastels), *Derwent* Artbar, *Holbein* Watersoluble Crayons, *Lyra* Aquacolor and *Staedtler* Karat Aquarell.

For the samples in this eArticle, I used a set of twelve Lyra Aquacolor water soluble crayons as well as another eleven individual open stock colors from the Caran d'Ache Neocolor II Artists' Crayons line, purchased from *Dick Blick Art Materials*.

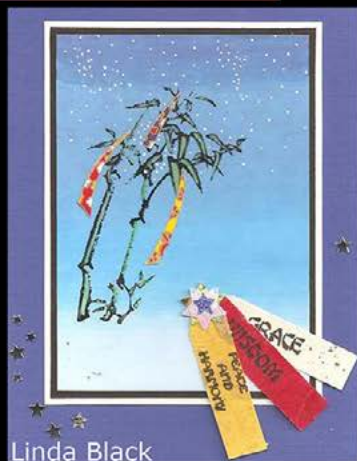
Similar Mediums: Similar water-soluble art mediums include watercolor pencils as well as Faber-Castell's Gel-Sticks and Gelatos. Derwent's Inktense Blocks are instead water soluble sticks of ink. Gel-Sticks, Gelatos and Inktense Pencils or Blocks are permanent when dry, while watercolor crayons and watercolor pencils can be reactivated with water even after having dried. These other water-soluble products can be used in some of the techniques covered in this eArticle.

Learn More: For more on Gel-Sticks and Gelatos, see "*Gelatos, Gel-Sticks & Stamps*" eArticle. For colored pencils, see "*Colored Pencils*" eArticle.

Next: *A page from one of our Sponsors.*



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Choosing Surfaces

Paper: When you will be using water with watercolor crayons, consider watercolor paper, as it handles water better than cardstock. Smooth watercolor papers typically work best when you need to stamp and use water. For this eArticle, I used Canson cold press watercolor paper (80#).

If you are dry blending or blending with a water-based blender pen, you can alternatively use cardstock. For samples in this eArticle using cardstock, I used Strathmore Premium Cover (Ultimate White 80#) and Neenah Classic Crest (Polar White 80#) cardstocks.

Other Surfaces: Watercolor crayons can leave marks on all kinds of things, so experiment with using them on porous surfaces beyond paper, like wood or papier-mache boxes or chipboard shapes. They will wash off slick non-porous surfaces (which can be used as palettes.)

Some watercolor crayon brands work well on surfaces prepped with acrylic gesso when dry blending, while others do not. (I liked Neocolor II crayons on this surface by not Lyra Aquacolor.) They typically don't blend well with water on gesso. Experiment with the crayons you have to see how they behave on a gesso surface.

You could even use watercolor crayons on fabrics. In their *Technical Product Guide*, Caran d'Ache suggests coloring their Neocolor II Artists' Crayons (aka water soluble wax pastels) on wet fabric, covering them with a piece of clean paper or fabric, and then ironing to heat-set the color.

Learn More: LuAnn Kessi has an interesting [April 10, 2011 post on her blog](#) where she compares Neocolor II Crayons and Inktense Watercolor Pencils when used on fabric to make quilts.

Next: *Artwork using watercolor crayons on fabric.*



Front



Back

Hanni Vanziel's Artwork

Supplies: Stamp (Text, Fern - Hero Arts, Leaves, Cross-hatch - Magenta, Baby's Breath - *unknown, Star burst - Comotion, Grass - Penny Black, Butterfly, Flowers, Circles - Stampin' Up, Rose Leaves - Rubber Stampede, Alphabets - Hero Arts & *Unknown, Text - Stampatown ladies, Word - Inkadinkado), Muslin, Watercolor crayons, Water in spray bottle, Stamp ink (Tsukineko: VersaFine black, Clearsnap: ColorBox Chalk inks), Cardstock, Awl, Ruler, Embroidery floss, Double-sided tape.

"Scribble choice of colors on muslin. Spray with water and dry over night. Iron all the wrinkles out of the fabric (using parchment paper between iron and colored fabric.)"

"Randomly stamp text, fern, leaves, crosshatch, baby's breath, star burst, grass, butterfly, flowers, circles, and rose leaves to make a collage back ground."

"Use double-sided tape to attach front and back side to a 4 1/4" x 5 1/2" piece of heavy cardstock. Use an awl and ruler to create holes in these three layers, evenly spaced on the outer edge of the card. Sew sides together with embroidery floss."

"Attach some pretty postage stamps. Use different fonts and sizes of alphabets stamps to stamp text and words."

Finished Size: 4 1/4" x 5 1/2" (Postcard)

General Tips

Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- *If you don't want stamped lines to move and you plan to use watercolor crayons and water, stamp images with waterproof ink. Briefly heat with a heat tool to be sure it is fully dry.*
- *When you see "blender pen" mentioned in this eArticle, it refers to water-based blender pens like the Dove Blender or Tombow's Dual Tip blender pen. It does not mean alcohol ink blender pens or Xylene-based blenders.*
- *When working with a waterbrush or blender pen to blend watercolor crayons, clean the brush or pen between colors if you don't want colors to mix on the brush. Clean a waterbrush by squeezing the barrel and brushing it on scrap paper until the water is clear. To clean a water-based blender pen, scribble it on scrap paper until the fluid is clear.*
- *If you find the color on your surface is too dark, try applying water with a brush or waterbrush.*
- *If you are blending with water or a blender pen and the surface is too wet, blot excess water/color by lightly touching it with a paper towel.*
- *If you want to stamp on top of watercolor crayon, you usually want the watercolor layer to be dry first to avoid stamp ink feathering on a wet surface. Very wet surfaces can be left to dry overnight. In some cases you can speed drying with a heat tool.*
- *If you are working with highly pigmented watercolor pencils, you will be able to layer color. Light colors can cover dark colors or vice versa.*
- *Experiment with using watercolor crayons with other water-based art mediums like watercolor pencils, watercolor paints, Gel-Sticks and Gelatos.*

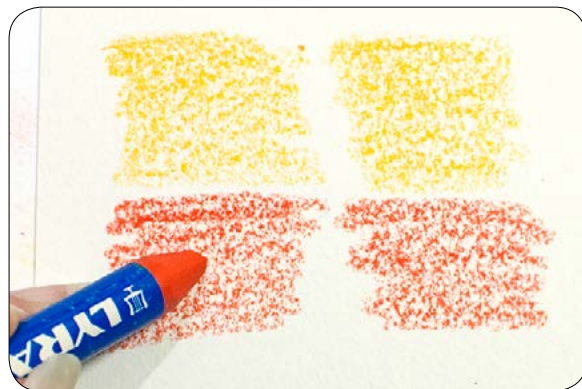
Watercolor Crayon Techniques

Color & Blend Dry

By their name, it is obvious that watercolor crayons are designed to be used with water, but you can certainly use them dry. When colored dry on paper, the color is opaque, thick and creamy. The look is actually fairly similar to better quality regular wax crayons.

Smudging Color: Softer watercolor crayons can be moved a little bit on some surfaces by rubbing with a finger or a dry sponge. Add more color and repeat to build color.

Experiment on different papers, as color moves better on some papers than others. This can vary by brand and how much color you layer on. I found that Caran d’Ache Neocolor II Artists’ Crayons smudged/blended with a dry finger just a little better on watercolor paper than on cardstock. Lyra Aquacolor moved better on cardstock. Neocolor II also moves nicely on surfaces prepped with acrylic gesso, while Lyra did not do as well. Test the brand you use!



Color watercolor crayon on watercolor paper.



Smudge crayon color with finger.



Color on cardstock with Lyra Aquacolor.



Color on top with Neocolor II (and Lyra.)

Layering Dry Color: One cool thing about watercolor crayons is that if you are using an artist grade brand with high pigmentation, they can be layered. Light colors can show up even when layered onto darker colors, something that you can't do with a lot of inks. (You can color lighter crayon colors on dark papers successfully as well.) In some cases, you will see the true top color on top of the base color. In others, the two will overlap to create a third color.

When layering (or dry coloring in general), you will find that there is a limit to how much you can layer before the surface can't accept any more color. If you still need to do more layering or coloring and want to stay dry, you might try spraying with a workable artist fixative to reestablish some tooth so you can continue coloring.

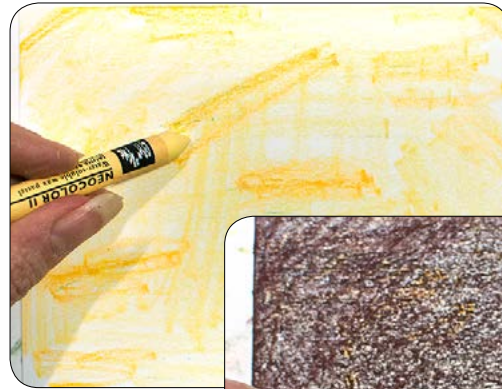
Sgraffito: You can also use watercolor crayons in sgraffito techniques. This may be my favorite crayon technique. It can also be done with regular wax crayons. Again, more pigmented artist grade crayons work better here.

Start by applying a layer of a watercolor crayon. Then layer one or more different colors over this first layer. Scrape through the top layer(s) with a firm tipped tool to reveal the color(s) below.

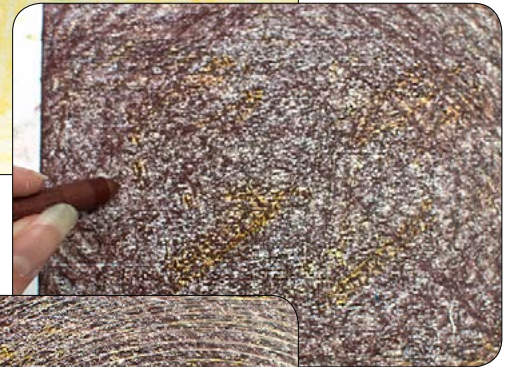
Often this technique is done using light bright colors as the first layer and dark colors on top, but if your watercolor crayons are pigmented enough for lighter colors to cover dark, you could do it the other way around as well.

Here I used a steel wood graining comb to make the pattern. This process removes color, creating watercolor crayon crumbs. Don't waste them; use the *shavings* to create backgrounds or paint.

Next: *Artwork and a Sponsor page.*



Color surface with a layer of crayon. Color another color over the first.



Use a metal comb, the end of a paper clip or other object to scrap away some of the top color to create a pattern.



Nancie Waterman's Artwork

Supplies: Stamps (Cow - Red Castle, Text - Unknown), Cardstock (white, hunter green), Textured paper (tan), Stamp ink (Stewart Superior - India Ink Black), Watercolor crayons (Lyra Aquacolor, Caran d'Ache Neocolor II), Waterbrush, Scissors, Paper adhesive (Xyron, foam tape.)

"Create two background layers by coloring on white cardstock with watercolor crayons. Layer colors."

"Stamp cow on white cardstock scrap in black ink. Use heat tool to make sure ink is dry. Color cow using watercolor crayons. Use fine point waterbrush to blend colors. Cut out cow."

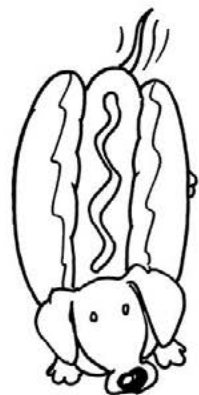
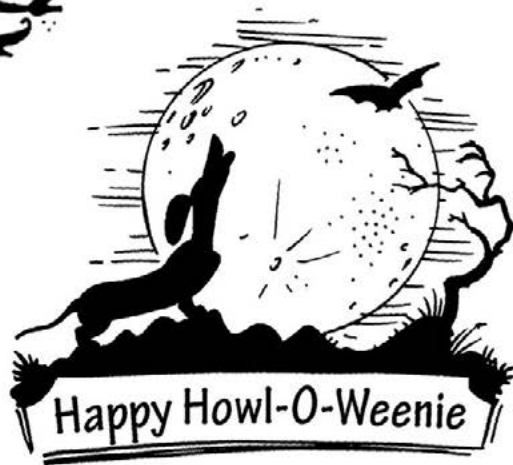
"Stamp text on watercolor background in black ink. Attach cow to same layer using foam tape. Layer onto green watercolor layer, textured cardstock and then hunter green card."

Finished Size: 7 1/4" x 5 1/2"

RubberHedgehog Rubber Stamps Animal Rubber Stamps and More!



Let's party to
wake the dead!



Images not
shown to scale.



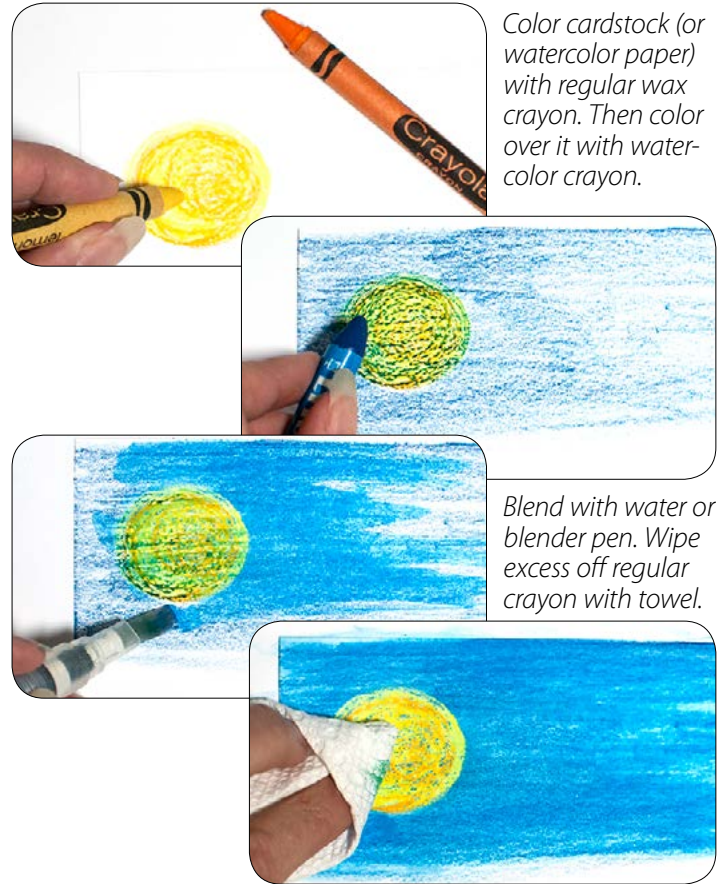
<http://RubberHedgehog.Com>

Use With Regular Wax Crayons

You could use both regular wax crayons and watercolor crayons in the same piece if you like. If you color with both on your surface, and leave it dry, it will all look like dry crayon color. If you add water in some way (brush, mist, sponge, etc.) or use a water-based blender pen, the watercolor crayon dissolves and becomes paint-like, while the regular wax crayon will not.

Wax Crayon Resists: So you could color patterns or highlights or other detail using a regular wax crayon and then color with watercolor crayon and then brush with water. The regular wax crayon marks resist the dissolved watercolor crayons.

Try this with white regular wax crayon in areas you want to protect from the wet color of the watercolor crayon, for example to create highlights, light flares, stars or falling snow. Or use yellow to create a sun or a flower center.



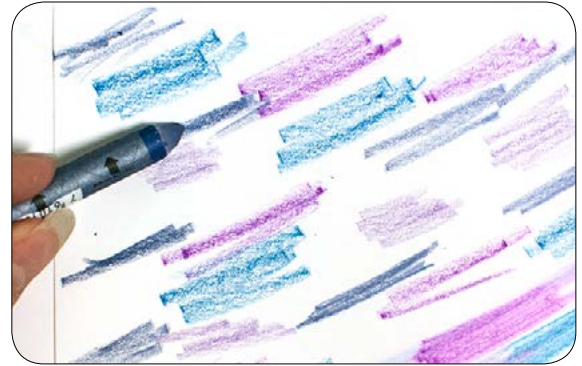
Color Dry & Then Blend Wet

One common way to use watercolor crayons is to color them on paper and use water to smooth, distribute and blend the color. You could alternatively use a water-based blender pen, which tends not to get the paper as wet, making things a littler easier when working on regular cardstock.

Backgrounds: Color several colors that will mix well together randomly or in patterns over a piece of paper. When you blend it, the original colored areas will tend to stay dark with some color moving and spreading. Try coloring with the side of the crayon tip so that you are not forcing the color into the paper fibers as deeply, so the color moves more easily. Color and blend additional layers if you like.

Use a wide wet brush or blender pen to smooth and blend color. Or try a wet sea sponge, a baby wipe or wet fingers.

Learn More: In her *July 5 2013 The Paperie blog post*, Cathie applies color dry and then uses shimmer mist spray instead of water and then brush to blend.



Color cardstock (or watercolor paper) randomly with watercolor crayon.



Use a wide wet brush (or blender pen) to smooth and blend color.

Nancie Waterman's Artwork

Supplies: Stamps (Text - Posh Impressions, Background - Sonlight Impressions, Flowers - Unknown), Watercolor paper, Cardstock (white, purple-blue, duplex maroon), Stamp ink (Stewart Superior - India Ink Black, Tsukineko: StazOn - Teal Blue), Watercolor crayons (Lyra Aquacolor, Caran d'Ache Neocolor II), Wet wide paintbrush, Waterbrush, Scissors, Paper adhesive (Xyron, foam tape.)

"Create background by coloring watercolor crayons on watercolor paper. Blend with wide wet paintbrush. Allow to dry. Then stamp background on top in teal blue ink. Stamp text on top of this in black. Use black crayon to edge this layer."

"Stamp flowers on watercolor paper scrap in black ink. Use heat tool to dry. Color using watercolor crayons. Use waterbrush to blend colors. Cut out flowers."

"Layer background to purple/blue cardstock and then maroon card. Attach flower on top using foam tape."

Finished Size: 4 1/2" x 5 3/4"





Hanni Vanziel's Artwork

Supplies: Stamp (Leaf branch - Stamp Zia, Butterfly - 100 Proof Press, Quote - Stampin' Up, Word - Inkadinkado), Watercolor paper, Watercolor crayons, Water in spray bottle, Bleach, Perfect Pearls (Ranger: gold), Fantastix (Tsukineko), Colored pencil, Stamp ink (Tsukineko VersaFine: black), Cardstock (white), Paper adhesive.

"Background: Scribble watercolor paper with watercolor crayons. The heavier the application, the brighter your colors. Spray with water until the whole surface is wet, no puddles. Let dry overnight."

"Randomly splash diluted bleach and tap water over the surface. Brush some of the wet spots with gold Perfect Pearls. Use a Fantastix dipped in bleach solution to remove the color from the leaves and butterfly. I found that there was a resist with using bleach, after the materials had dried, meaning that it did not return to white after applying bleach; it must be the wax."

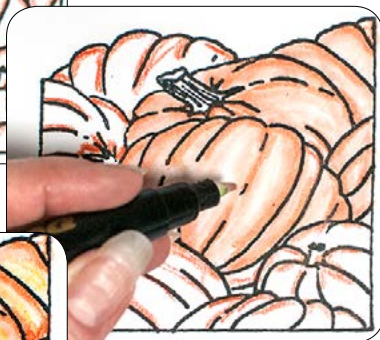
"Use colored pencil to color the leaves. Stamp leaf branch, butterfly, quote and word in black ink. Trim and attach to base card."

Finished Size: 7" x 5"



Color with watercolor crayon in select spots inside stamped image. Use a blender pen or water to pull color out.

(Pumpkins: Quick Art)



Add additional color(s) with watercolor crayon. Use a blender pen or water to pull color out.



Inside Stamped Images: You can also use watercolor crayons to color inside stamped images. Stamp with waterproof ink so the water or blender pen won't move stamp lines. Heat the image with a heat tool to be sure it is dry.

Apply watercolor crayon where you want color to be darkest. Many stamps include shading dots or lines to help you decide where to put the darkest color. If not, take a moment to pick a light source in your picture and decide where to apply darker color to create shadow areas.

Use a wet brush or water-based blender pen to pull the crayon color out into nearby areas, creating a gradation of color from dark to light. Go back and color and blend another layer to deepen the color. Use two or more colors near each other with a little space in between to create a third color where they overlap.

Next: *Artwork created using watercolor crayons.*

Nancie Waterman's Artwork

Supplies: Stamps (Pumpkins - Quick Art, Text - smARTworks), Stencil (Leaf - Art-2-Go), Watercolor paper, Cardstock (white, hunter green), Stamp ink (Stewart Superior - India Ink Black, Tsukineko: StazOn - Jet Black), Watercolor crayons (Lyra Aquacolor, Caran d'Ache Neocolor II), Wet wide paintbrush, Waterbrush, Dove Blender, Scissors, Paper adhesive (Xyron.)

"Create background by coloring watercolor crayons on cardstock. Blend with wide wet paintbrush. Allow to dry. Then place stencil on top. Color around stencil openings with brown watercolor crayon. Use waterbrush to pull brown into stencil openings. Repeat to create a background. Allow to dry"

"Stamp pumpkins on white cardstock scrap in black ink. Use heat tool to dry. Color using watercolor crayons. Use blender pen to blend colors. Continue to color and layer. Cut out pumpkins."

"Layer pumpkins on orange background. Stamp text on background in black StazOn ink. Layer all to green card base."

Finished Size: 6" x 4 1/4"



Shona Erlenborn's Artwork



Supplies: Stamps (Sparkle N Sprinkle), Watercolor paper, Cardstock (glossy), Embossing Folder, Die & Die-cut machine (Cuttlebug: Leafy Branch, Spellbinders Labels Nine), Watercolor crayon, Waterbrush, Glitter (Sparkle N Sprinkle: Sparkling Snow, Purple Potion), Sakura glue pen, Twig, Thread, ½" Tear-ific Tape (Sparkle N Sprinkle), Ink (Tsukineko: StazOn black, VersaMark), Google eyes, Dimensional glue, Embossing powder (Sparkle N Sprinkle: Concord), Blue feathers.

"Run watercolor paper through leafy branch embossing folder. Color piece with green watercolor crayon and waterbrush. When dry, put back in embossing folder. Rub branches and leaves with watercolor crayons. Apply Sparkling Snow glitter to leaves with glue pen."

"Attach a real twig across card with thread. Edge card base with ½" Tear-ific Tape, center card and apply Purple Potion Velvet glitter to remaining exposed edge."

"Stamp owls in black on watercolor paper. Color with crayons and waterbrush. When dry, cut out, add googly eyes to two of them. Use Dimensional Glue on the eyes of other two. Stamp and emboss sentiment on glossy card in VersaMark and Concord powder. Cut and emboss with Labels Nine die/embossing folder. Brush on some crayon with the waterbrush before removing die. Attach owls, blue feathers and sentiment with dimensionals." Finished Size: 4 ¼" x 5 ½"

Heat Embossed Resists

Heat embossed lines will resist watercolor crayon. You can use this to create resist effects. Simply stamp and emboss an image on cardstock or watercolor paper. Color over the entire piece with watercolor crayons, blending either wet or dry. Use a damp paper towel to wipe excess color off the embossed areas.

Or go one step further and color the entire piece with watercolor crayons, blending wet or dry. Dry with heat tool if you blended wet. Then stamp and emboss images in clear ink and powder (brushing away excess powder before heating) on top of this colorful background. Color over the entire piece with another color of watercolor crayon (typically a darker color.) Blend with water or a blender pen. Allow to dry. Use a damp paper towel to wipe excess color off the embossed lines. The first layer will show through the clear embossing.

Next: Watercolor crayon artwork and a Sponsor Page.



Color with watercolor crayon and optionally blend with water. Dry. Then stamp and emboss in clear ink and powder.



Color with watercolor marker. Blend with wet brush. Wipe excess off with paper towel.



*(Butterfly:
Jim Stephan)*

Marilyn Sweeney's Artwork

Supplies: Stamps (Magenta, Great Impressions), Watercolor crayons (Lyra), Watercolor paper (Marco's), Clear embossing fluid, Embossing powder (clear), Paper towel, Cardstock (white), Paper adhesive.

"Color on lightweight watercolor paper with yellow and orange watercolor crayons. Use a dampened paper towel to blend each color. Allow to dry."

"Then stamp and emboss the images on top of this layer in clear embossing ink and clear powder. Color over the whole piece with various colors of watercolor crayons (turquoise, green, purple, dark blue, red.) Wipe with a dampened paper towel to expose the stamped image. You can color over the sheet again with other colors and follow the same process if desired. Mount on a white card."

Finished Size: 5 1/2" x 4 1/4"





Marilyn Sweeney's Artwork

Supplies: Stamp (Seaside Stampin' Ink), Watercolor crayons (Lyra), Watercolor paper (Marco's), Micro Glaze, Clear embossing fluid, Embossing powder (clear), Paper adhesive.

"Color on lightweight watercolor paper with yellow and orange watercolor crayons. Use a dampened paper towel to blend each color. Allow to dry."

"Then stamp the image with clear embossing ink and heat emboss with clear powder. Color over the whole piece with various colors of watercolor crayons. Wipe with a dampened paper towel to expose the stamped image. You can color over the sheet again with other colors and follow the same process if desired."

"Finish with a coating of Micro Glaze to give it a shine. Mount on a white card."

Finished Size: 5 1/2" x 4 1/4"



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Color on a Palette

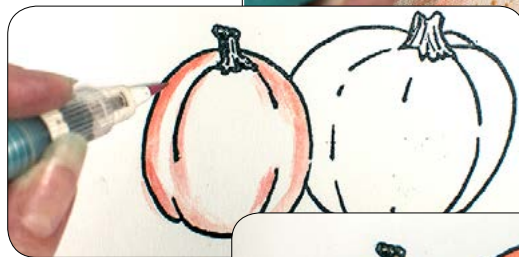
Another way to use watercolor crayons is to use them on a palette as a source of color for painting with a brush or blender pen or for a monoprint.

Scribble & Paint: Scribble watercolor crayon color onto a palette or craft sheet. (Watercolor crayons are usually soft enough to leave color even on slick surfaces.) Use a wet brush, waterbrush or water-based blender pen or a sponge to pick up the color and paint it onto your paper as a background or to color in an image stamped with waterproof ink.

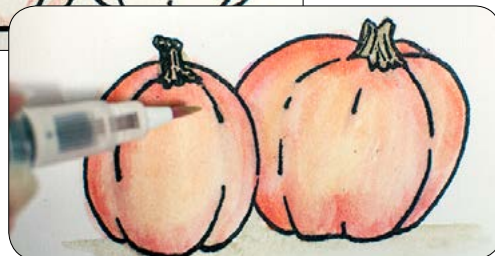
Notice that you can create new colors by scribbling two colors next to each other on the palette and then using a wet brush to mix the color. Here I mixed reds and yellows to create orange tones and brown and green to create color for the stems. Continue to layer color until you like the look.



Scribble on craft sheet with watercolor crayons. Pick up color with wet brush or blender pen.



Paint inside stamped image.



*(Pumpkins:
Quick Art)*

Nancie Waterman's Artwork



Supplies: Stamps (Pumpkins - Quick Art, Text, Leaves - smARTworks), Watercolor paper, Cardstock (white, red-orange, hunter green), Stamp ink (Stewart Superior - India Ink Black, Watercolor crayons (Lyra Aquacolor, Caran d'Ache Neocolor II), Waterbrush, Water, Mist bottle, Paper adhesive (Xyron.)

"Stamp pumpkins on watercolor paper. Scribble watercolor crayons on palette and use waterbrush to paint pumpkins. Continue to color and layer."

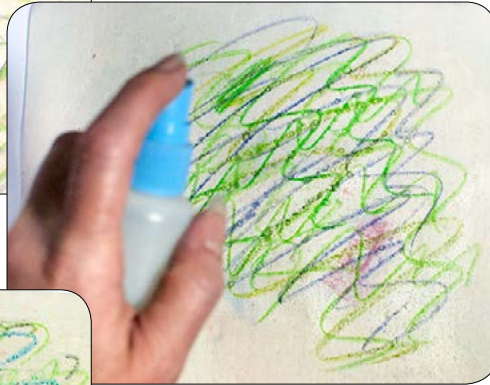
"Stamp text in black. Color leaves with red-orange watercolor crayon, mist with water and stamp on card. Overstamp same image in black ink."

"Layer onto red-orange cardstock and then to green card base."

Finished Size: 4 1/2" x 6"



Scribble on craft sheet with watercolor crayons. Then mist with water.



Press watercolor paper face down on wet color. Rub back of paper to make sure color transfers. Lift off paper. Repeat until you like the color. (Second pull is shown at left.)

Monoprint: Instead of moving the color from the craft sheet or palette using a brush, you can put the paper in direct contact with the color to transfer it to the paper. There are two ways to go about this.

One way is to scribble or draw with several watercolor crayon colors on a palette or craft sheet. Mist the color on the craft sheet with water.

Lay a piece of watercolor paper face down into the wet color. Press gently on the back of the paper. Lift the paper. Repeat if you want to add more color, until you have a finished print you like.

Alternatively, you can get a similar effect by doing the same thing but wetting the paper instead of the scribbled color.

Scribble or draw with watercolor crayon on a palette or craft sheet.

Lightly and evenly wet a piece of paper with water by misting or brushing with a wide wet paintbrush.

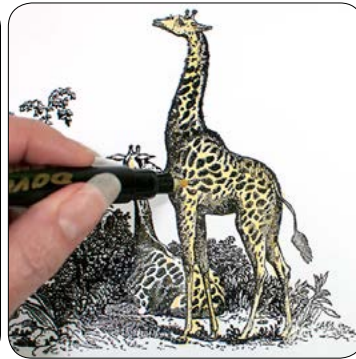
Then lay the damp paper onto the watercolor crayon, pressing firmly to make sure the color transfers. Lift the paper.



Scribble on craft sheet with watercolor crayons. Then mist or brush a piece of watercolor paper with water.



Press watercolor paper face down on wet color. Rub back of paper to make sure color transfers. Lift off paper. Repeat until you like the color. (First pull is shown at left.)



Color over embossed area with watercolor crayon. Pull color off embossing onto nearby paper with waterbrush or blender pen.



Color over stencil area with watercolor crayon. Pull color off embossing onto nearby paper with waterbrush or blender pen.

Embossed Lines as Palette: You can also use heat embossed lines as a palette. This is a nice way to color small areas right next to embossed areas.

Stamp and heat emboss an image on your paper. Then roughly color on the embossed lines with watercolor crayon. Use a wet brush, waterbrush or water-based blender pen to pull the color off the stamped lines onto the paper.

Stencil as Palette: Try using a plastic or metal stencil or mask as a palette. Place it over the surface. Scribble watercolor crayon on the stencil near the openings. Use a water-based blender pen in gentle circles to pull color off the stencil into the openings. Remove the mask.

The color shapes are likely to be fairly rough, although this will vary by the stencil. You could do this with water, but I find the less wet blender pen to be better for keeping color in line.

Next: Artwork created using watercolor crayons.

Nancie Waterman's Artwork

Supplies: Stamps (Giraffe Scene - Beeswax), Cardstock (white, hunter green), Corrugated cardstock (tan), Embossing ink (Ranger: black), Embossing powder (clear), Heat tool, Watercolor crayons (Lyra Aquacolor, Caran d'Ache Neocolor II), Dove Blender pen, Decorative paper scrap, Metal charm (Articus Studio - compass), Corner rounder, Paper adhesive (Xyron, foam tape)

"Stamp giraffe scene in black embossing ink and emboss with clear powder on white cardstock. (Note: I worked the background hard on this card and so got some pilling. I should have used watercolor paper.) Color on top of embossed lines with watercolor crayon. Use a blender pen to pull color off embossing to color inside stamped impression. Use more watercolor crayon and the blender pen to color the background."

"Round corners of this layer and corrugated paper. Layer giraffe scene to corrugated layer and both to green card base. Layer decorative paper scrap to green card. Use foam tape to secure metal compass."

Finished Size: 5 1/2" x 7 1/2"



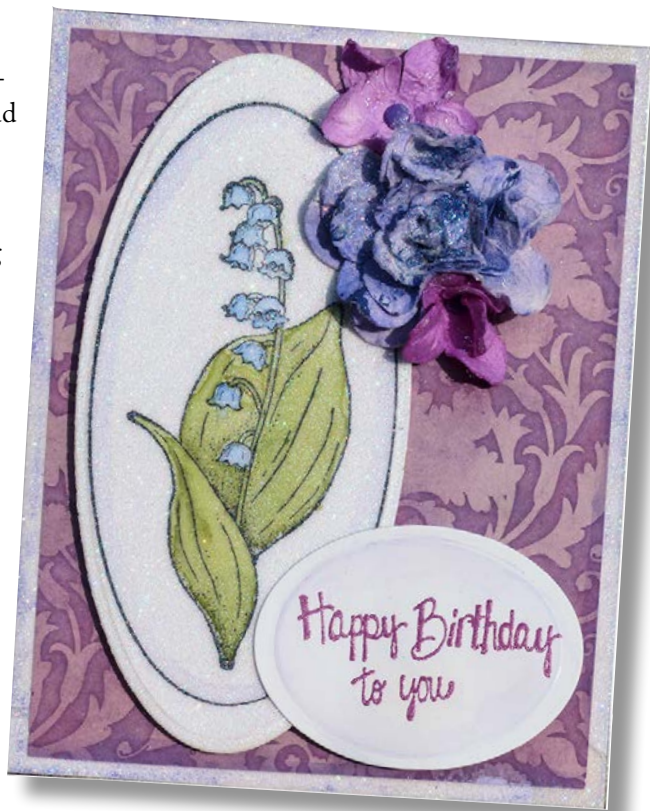
Shona Erlenborn's Artwork

Supplies: Stamps (Sparkle N Sprinkle), Tear-ific Tape (Sparkle N Sprinkle), Cardstock (white, white glossy), Glitter (Sparkle N Sprinkle: Cloud Nine Velvet, Pixie Violet, Sparkling Snow), Ink (Tsukineko: StazOn black, VersaMark), Embossing folder, Die & Die-cut machine (Spellbinders: Mega Ovals, Classic Ovals), Watercolor crayons, Waterbrush, Tissue, Fabric flower, Brushable Glue (Sparkle N Sprinkle), Embossing powder (Mulberry), Dimensionals, Brads.

"Apply 2 1/2" Tear-ific Tape to white cardstock. Remove backing and cover with velvet glitter. Stamp flower on top of glitter in StazOn black. Cut and emboss with Mega Ovals die/embossing folder. Color with watercolor crayons and a waterbrush. Brush purple around the outline and take up excess with a tissue."

"Color big ivory flower with purple crayon and waterbrush. When dry, apply Brushable Glue and violet glitter. Apply glue and snow glitter to all three flowers. Stamp and emboss sentiment on glossy cardstock in clear ink and mulberry powder. Cut and emboss with Classic Ovals die/embossing folder. Edge with same purple crayon with waterbrush before removing die."

"Assemble card with dimensionals and brads. Edge card base with 1/2" Tear-ific Tape. Center card front, apply velvet glitter to exposed edge. Distress with same purple crayon and waterbrush." Finished Size: 5 1/2" x 4 1/4"



Touch and Paint

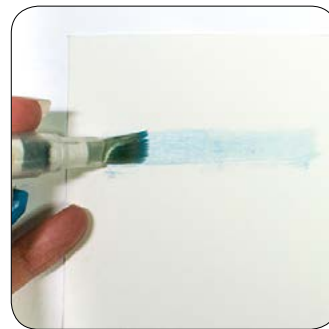
Watercolor crayons can also be used as a self-contained portable palette of pigment and used with a wet brush, waterbrush or water-based blender pen. Only a small amount of color at a time is picked up by the brush or blender pen, so this approach is best for applying color to small areas.

Water and Brush: Touch a wet brush or waterbrush to the crayon to transfer color. Then Paint. Re-apply color as needed.

Blender Pen: Alternatively, you can use a water-based blender pen in the same way. Touch the blender pen tip to the watercolor crayon and then color with the blender pen. Re-apply color as needed.

Tip: If you touch the wet brush or pen to the flat end of the watercolor crayon instead of the point, it lets you keep the point end dry for dry coloring techniques.

Next: *Artwork created using watercolor crayons.*



Touch waterbrush to watercolor crayon to transfer color. Then paint with waterbrush. Re-apply color as needed.



Touch blender pen to watercolor crayon to transfer color. Then paint with pen. Re-apply color as needed.

Wanda Hentges' Artwork

Supplies: Stamp (Hope - Quietfire Design), Ranger Specialty Stamping Paper, Stencils (2 Fancy Flowers & "Create A Flower" stem and leaves - Studio 490 Wendy Vecchi), Lyra Aquacolor crayons, White Embossing Paste (Studio 490 Wendy Vecchi), Ranger Detail Waterbrush, Ranger Archival Ink (Jet Black, Fern Green), Pitt pen (black), Sharpie paint marker (white).

"Cut paper to size. Scribble crayons on paper and spritz with water. Move color just a bit with your finger. Let dry or use your heat tool."

"Lay stencil on paper, positioning smaller flower in the upper left corner. Cover with embossing paste, leaving it thicker than the stencil. Remove stencil. Put excess paste back into jar and wash stencil immediately. Let flower dry or use heat tool gently."

"Lay Create A Flower stencil on paper, positioning the stem and leaves so the leaves are on the paper. Sponge green ink through stencil, stopping when you get to the flower. Remove stencil. (Ink can be cleaned off with alcohol.) Dry paper with a heat tool."

"Paint embossing paste by scribbling watercolor crayons on craft sheet and picking up the color with a waterbrush. Use white and black pens to add details to the flower, stem and leaves. Stamp 'Hope' in black. Draw frame with black pen."

Finished Size: 3 1/2" x 2 1/2" (ATC)



Marilyn Sweeney's Artwork



Supplies: Stamp (Martha Stewart), Watercolor crayons (Lyra Watercolor Crayons), Ink (Memento: Paris Dusk), Watercolor paper (Marco's), Clear embossing fluid, Embossing powder (clear), Waterbrush, Paper towel, Non-stick craft mat, Cardstock (white), Paper adhesive.

"Stamp butterfly in Paris Dusk ink on a scrap of lightweight watercolor paper. Overstamp the image with clear embossing fluid. Heat emboss with clear embossing powder."

"Apply pink and light green watercolor crayon to a non-stick craft mat. Pick up each color with a waterbrush and color in parts of the image. Then color over the image with dark green and purple watercolor crayons (using the crayons themselves). Blend with a dampened paper towel to expose the stamped image. Glue to a piece of white cardstock that was colored with purple crayon and blended with a dampened paper towel to form a border. Affix this piece to a white card."

Finished Size: 4 1/4" x 5 1/2"

Coloring Wet

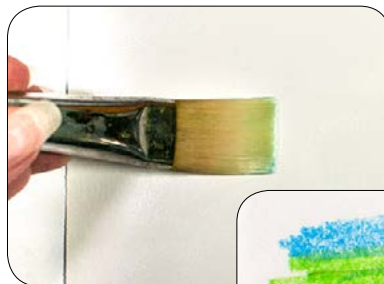
You can skip the brush or pen and color wet directly with the watercolor crayon. There are several ways to do this.

Wet Paper Backgrounds: Use a wide flat brush to lightly coat the paper with water or color the area with a blender pen. Color on the wet paper with a watercolor crayon.

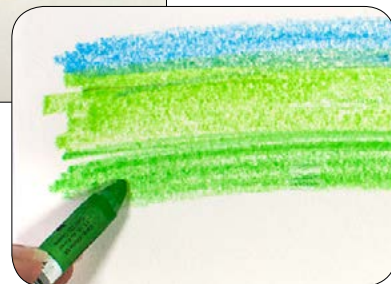
Inside a Stamped Image: You could also stamp an image with waterproof ink and use a heat tool to make sure the ink is dry. Mist the image with water. Then color directly on the wet paper with watercolor crayon. Alternatively, try coating the area you want to color with clear water-based blender pen and then color on the prepped area with the watercolor crayon.

Dip in Water & Then Color: Or simply dip the crayon tip in water to dampen it and color on your surface. Re-wet the crayon as needed.

Next: [Watercolor crayon artwork and a Sponsor page.](#)



Wet paper then color with watercolor crayon.



Dip crayon in water. Color on watercolor paper with wet crayon..



Nancie Waterman's Artwork

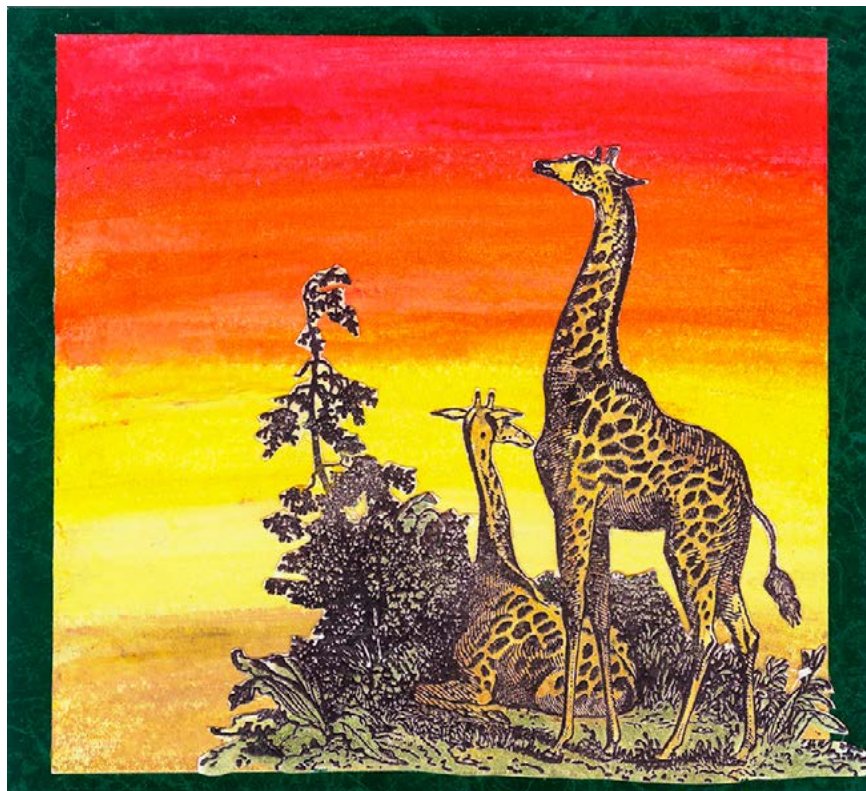
Supplies: Stamps (Giraffe Scene - Beeswax), Watercolor paper, Cardstock (white, glossy marbled hunter green), Embossing ink (Ranger: black), Embossing powder (clear), Heat tool, Watercolor crayons (Lyra Aquacolor, Caran d'Ache Neocolor II), Flat wide paintbrush, Water in cup, Dove Blender pen, Scissors, Paper adhesive (Xyron.)

"Stamp giraffe scene in black embossing ink and emboss with clear powder on white cardstock. Color on top of embossed lines with watercolor crayon. Use a blender pen to pull off embossing to color inside stamped impression. Cut out."

"Create background by wetting watercolor paper with a wide flat brush and water. Dip crayons in water and color on wet background. Brush again with water. Build color until satisfied. Allow to dry."

"Mount giraffe scene to crayon background and then to glossy green marbled cardstock."

Finished Size: 5 1/2" x 6"





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Color On A Stamp

You can also use a watercolor crayon to directly color a stamp so that you can stamp with crayon color instead of stamp ink. Because you need water to transfer it from stamp to paper, the result is a soft watercolor look. There are several ways to do this:

Color Stamp Dry: With some softer watercolor crayons, you may be able to color on a dry stamp. Then mist the stamp lightly with water and stamp on your surface.

If you spray the stamp directly, the stamped impression will tend to be wet and even drippy. If you instead spray a mist of water into the air and let the misty air fall onto the stamp (like you would apply perfume), you can often get a nicer, less drippy, impression. Alternatively, you might skip the misting and stamp on paper prepped with water or a blending pen.

Tip: If you are worried that a very wet stamp will drip if you flip it over to stamp it, leave it face up on the table and press the watercolor paper down onto the colored stamp surface. Gently press to transfer the ink and then remove the paper.



Color on dry stamp with dry crayon.



Mist lightly with water.



Stamp on watercolor paper.

(Leaf: PSX)



Wet stamp surface with water.



Color with watercolor crayons.

(Leaf: PSX.)



Stamp on watercolor paper.

Wet Stamp First: Sometimes it is easier to color on a wet stamp than dry coloring. Different amounts of water can create different looks. If you use a minimum of water, the impression is crispier. With a lot of water, the impression becomes a looser more watery look.

Wet a finger and run it over the dry rubber stamp. Then color on the stamp. Or spray a very light mist of water on the rubber. Then color on the stamp.

Once the stamp is colored, you may be able to immediately stamp on the paper if the color is wet enough. If not, lightly mist the stamp and then stamp on paper.

Tip: You can usually get at least two or three impressions out of each stamp coloring by lightly misting the stamp with just a little more water between each stamping. Each impression will get a little bit lighter.

Tip: Once you have stamped with watercolor crayon, you could then use a wet brush or waterbrush to move the stamped color on the paper for an even wetter, looser look.

Color Stamp Wet: To apply wet color, dip the crayon in water and then color on the stamp.

Or if you want to color small areas on the stamp accurately, load color onto a waterbrush or blender pen by touching the tip to the crayon and use it to color the stamp.

Mist with water if the stamp has gotten dry as you have colored it. Then stamp on paper.

Next: *Artwork created using watercolor crayons.*



Dip watercolor crayon in water.



Color stamp with wet crayon.



Stamp on watercolor paper.

(Leaf: PSX.)

Tip: There are stamp sets with a solid stamp and a coordinating outline image. (Stampin' Up calls these "*Two-Step*" stamps.) These can work nicely when you use watercolor crayons to stamp the solid image and then, once the color is dry, use stamp ink to stamp the corresponding outline image on top.

Tip: Try stamping various crayon colors on white paper, but also try it with lighter colors like white or yellow or with metallic colors on dark papers for dramatic looks!

Wanda Hentges' Artwork



Supplies: Stamps (Studio 490 Wendy Vecchi), Ranger's Specialty Stamping Paper, Lyra Aquacolor Crayons, Mister bottle with water, Ranger Archival Ink (Jet Black), Pitt pen (black), Smooch Pearlized Accent Ink (Gold Lane), Ranger Detail Waterbrush, Craft Sheet, Heat tool.

"Cut paper to size. Color flower stamp with watercolor crayons. Spray stamp with water from a distance two to three times. Stamp flower onto paper. Spray stamp again just one time with water and continue stamping flowers without adding more crayon or water. The flowers will get lighter as you stamp giving the design more depth. Dry flowers with a heat tool."

"Because the flower is not a solid image, I used the waterbrush to pull color from the stamped lines to the inside of the petals and leaves — just a little to spread the color around. You need to be careful not to brush away the outline. Dry again."

"Add dots of Smooch to the center of the flowers and dry. Stamp words in black ink and dry. Draw frame with black pen."

"Scribble a little crayon on your craft sheet, pick up color with the waterbrush and tap the waterbrush against your finger to add little speckles of color and dry."

Finished Size: 3 ½" x 2 ½" (ATC)

Hanni Vanziel's Artwork

Supplies: Stamps (A Stamp in The Hand), Watercolor Crayons (Lyra Aquacolor, Caran d'Ache Neocolor II), Watercolor paper, Cardstock, Ivory Soap (bar), Water, Brush, Make-up sponge, Stamp ink (Ranger: Adirondack Terra Cotta dye ink), Paper adhesive.

"This technique was published in a Somerset Studio Gallery Volume IV, by artist Leslie Altman. She uses watercolor pencils. I tried it with the crayons, and it works as well."

"Drop some water on a bar of Ivory bar. Use a brush to mix water and soap. Use the same brush to apply a soapy film to the stamp surface (solid stamps work best). Rub watercolor crayon colors into this soapy film. The soapy film brushed onto the stamp causes an even application of the crayon colors. It prevents the water from beading up. Slightly spritz with water and stamp."

"Tear around stamped image and sponge Terra Cotta dye ink on torn edges. Make background by scribbling yellow and orange watercolor crayon on watercolor paper. Spray with water and let dry (overnight is best.) Edge layer with same color. Layer pears onto this background and then layer onto card."

Finished Size: 6 1/2" x 5"



Using the Shavings

Because crayons are simply wrapped in paper that can be torn away as needed (and not in wood like colored pencils), if you sharpen the crayon or shave off flakes with a sharp knife, you wind up with usable bits of crayon.

Apply Shavings to Paper: One way to use shavings and other bits of watercolor crayon is to sprinkle them on paper. Then mist with water or brush with water to dissolve them, creating an impromptu background.

Make Watercolor Paint: Or do what Lindsay Weirich does in her Frugal Crafters' ["Watercolor Crayon Tutorial" YouTube video](#) and use a craft knife to sharpen your watercolor crayon over a paint palette well to catch shavings. Add water to the bits of color to make paint.

Next: [A page from one of our Sponsors.](#)



Place watercolor crayon shavings on watercolor paper. Mist with water. Allow to dry.



Place watercolor crayon shavings in palette well. Add water to create a paint.





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Experiment With Watercolor Crayons

As you can see, there is a lot that you can do with watercolor crayons. Keep playing with them and you are likely to come up with even more ways to use them. When you see watercolor pencils or Gel-Sticks/Gelatos used in a project, try using watercolor crayons and see what happens, as they often can be used in similar ways. Have fun!

Learn More: See my September 11 2013 blog post comparing “*Watercolor: Pencils vs. Crayons vs. Gel-Sticks*”. Also, Caran D’Ache offers a *pdf brochure* on both Neocolor I (regular wax crayons) and Neocolor II (watercolor crayons) on their website that includes brief instructions for quite a few ways to use these products. Derwent has a pdf brochures on their Artbars on the *Artbar page of their website*.

Next: *Artwork created with watercolor crayons.*





Hanni Vanziel's Artwork

Supplies: Stamp (Dancing Girl - Angi-B, Word - Inkadinkado), Watercolor paper, Watercolor crayons, Water in spray bottle, Stamp ink (Tsukineko VersaFine: black), Gel pen (white), Corner rounder, Hole punch, Fibers (purple.)

"Scribble 4 1/2" x 2 1/4" watercolor paper with watercolor crayons. Spritz with water until the whole surface is wet — no puddles. Let dry overnight."

"Stamp dancing girl and word in black ink. Apply some white dots with a gel pen for some sparkle. Punch a hole in the bookmark and attach the fibers."

Finished Size: 4 1/2" x 2 1/4" (Bookmark)

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Hanni Vanziel and Wanda Hentges

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Username: *crayon0920* **Password:** *watercolor0920*

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