

Colored Pencil Blending With Gamsol

This "magical" liquid and blending technique create a soft, almost watercolor-like look using regular colored pencils!

Materials Needed:

Inky Antics Stamps**†

Dye-Based Ink Pad

Prismacolor Pencils**

Gamsol Odorless Mineral Spirits**

Blending Stumps**

Sandpaper Pad** or Emery Board

Magic Rub Eraser

**Available through Inky Antics

Call (800) 945-3980 or order online

† Image used below is 0772F Turtle, shown at 75%

Inky-structions:

1. Stamp your image with a dye-based ink pad, and allow a few seconds to dry. (Note: You may prefer to use waterproof ink, but it isn't critical. Any quick-drying, non-smearing dye ink should work. Clearsnap Vivid, Stewart Superior Memories, and Ranger Archival are all good choices.)
2. Choose the colored pencil(s) you'd like to use for the first area of your stamped image. To give a richer appearance, we suggest selecting two shades within the same color family for each area of the stamped image (e.g., Apple Green and Olive Green for the green parts, Light Umber and Dark Brown for the brown parts).
3. With the lighter shade of pencil, place a line of color along the inner edge of the image. Add lines of color where shadows should occur, as well, such as any stippled or cross-hatched parts and within creases (of a dress, for instance).
4. Place the tip of a blending stump against the sponge applicator of the Gamsol bottle. You want to dampen the stump with the mineral spirits without getting it too wet. You'll develop a feel for the right amount as you practice, but for now, start with less and build from there. If your stump is oversaturated, dab it on a piece of scratch paper a few times before proceeding.
5. With light pressure, push the stump back and forth a few times over the lines of colored pencil. This will break down the wax in the color and allow the pigment to "move" on your cardstock. As the lines of color begin to soften, move the stump in small circular motions to pull the pigment toward the center. The color should appear darker along the edges and lighter near the inside, creating a shaded appearance. Re-dampen the stump, as needed, while you blend.
6. If you're using two shades of color for each area, repeat the process with the darker shade of pencil. Adding a second shade isn't essential, but it is a nice option if you have time to try it. For parts that may have gotten too dark, you can use the eraser to remove excess color.
7. When you're ready to move on to the next area of your image and change colors (such as switching from green to brown), you will first need to clean the stump with an emery board or sanding pad. Hold the stump at an angle so you maintain a pointed shape on the tip as you sand off the old color.
8. Continue coloring and blending each area of the image until you're done.

