

Ten Top Tips using Aquatone

by Malcolm Cudmore

- 1** Rotate the Aquatone stick in your hand while you use it – this way it will require far less sharpening and there will be no wastage.
- 2** When you sharpen the sticks, keep the shavings in pots (Grate 'n' Shake and Shave 'n' Save) for diluting into washes for even less wastage!
- 3** Make colour charts with all the colours in your set and keep them in a sketch book for regular reference while you work.
- 4** Use the point of the stick for making precise marks and details.
- 5** Use the side of the stick to lay down colour and tone quickly.
- 6** Adding water to your dry marks will bring the colour to life and make it brighter.
- 7** Working the dry stick onto patches of wet paper will give soft-edged, but vibrantly coloured marks.
- 8** For really vibrant colour, work directly off the end of the stick onto your paper with a damp brush.
- 9** Dried Aquatone washes or marks can be re-wet for adjustment later.
- 10** Make up a small collection of short lengths of your favourite Aquatone colours. Keep them in a Derwent pocket wrap together with a waterbrush and a small block of watercolour paper for an ever-ready outdoor sketching kit.

