

Ten Top Tips using Charcoal Pencils

by David Bellamy

- 1** Explore the potential of these pencils by simply scribbling on smooth cartridge paper and then blending with a paper stump or finger to soften the result.
- 2** To create a sense of space and depth add closer detail with a darker charcoal pencil.
- 3** Use a Derwent paper stump to blend in adjacent areas.
- 4** Create highlights by removing charcoal with a Derwent kneadable eraser.
- 5** To make a thin light line, drag a Derwent rubber shaper across the charcoal, or alternatively use the edge of a Derwent plastic eraser.
- 6** Apply a Derwent embossing tool across the paper to create an indent. Apply charcoal over the indent and it will remain white. This is an excellent technique for veins on leaves or whiskers.
- 7** With the embossing tool, keep the indented lines simple, rather than trying to create intricate effects.
- 8** Lay a patch of charcoal on the paper and using it as a palette pick up some charcoal with a wet Derwent waterbrush.
- 9** Produce easy wet-on-wet effects by lifting charcoal from the tip of the pencil using a waterbrush and apply to a wet surface.
- 10** The Derwent eraser shield is remarkably effective for creating sharp-edged light images in a patch of charcoal: simply lay it over the required position and apply an eraser.

