

Ten Top Tips using Pastels

by Tiffany Budd

- 1 Use the corner of the square blocks to produce fine lines and the flat edge for larger marks.
- 2 The pastels work best on a paper that has a tooth or fine grain. This intensifies the colours.
- 3 To create a deeper, richer painting, use coloured paper. This works as a form of under painting.
- 4 Keep a colour index of each pastel and how it works on each paper.
- 5 To avoid smudging, place a piece of paper or kitchen towel under your hand while working on the rest of the drawing.
- 6 There are two types of blending with the pastels. You can either blend using a paper stump or finger to create a smooth finish, or use the texture of the pastel unblended. This works well for creating foliage, reflections and features. It's nice to combine the two.
- 7 You can create a pencil tip on the blocks by scraping the end of the pastel with a craft knife.
- 8 Use the left over pastel dust to add interesting textures using a brush or your finger.
- 9 If you choose to fix your pastels, use a good quality fixative, not hairspray as this can yellow in time. Using fixative is personal preference.
- 10 You can create your own colours by mixing pastels on a textured surface and then transfer the colour using your paper stump or finger.

