## Contents

Introduction ..... 3
Overview ..... 4
Basic Watercolor ..... 7
Techniques ..... 11
Proper Care ..... 16
Contact Information ..... 17
Bonus! Free Printable* ..... 19

## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the Color Swell 36 Pack of Watercolor paints by Swell Goods, and for your support in our growing family owned business. We are artists who understand that there is a demand for quality, cost effective products that inspire creativity and fun. We sincerely thank you as we drive towards our mission of $100 \%$ customer satisfaction and hope that this e-book can provide a helpful overview for watercolor painting tips, techniques, and project ideas perfect for any beginner or classroom setting.



## Overview

## Preparing Work Area

Learning to use watercolor is the beginning of an exciting and intriguing artistic journey. These watercolor painting tips will help you avoid basic mistakes and get better results right from the start. After unboxing your Color Swell Watercolors, you will want to prepare a work area where you can set up your supplies. Our products are all washable, but it is best to lay down some newspaper or magazines to catch any spills or excess paint. We chose to set up outside.
$\checkmark$ Supplies to Get Started:


Paper Towel (Wiping off Paint Brush)


## Choosing the Right Paper

The paper you choose can have a large effect on the quality of your work．Watercolor pigments do not respond well on certain surfaces，making some techniques difficult to perform． There are lots of different types of watercolor paper available to watercolorists，and even after you＇ve narrowed down the selection to the best varieties，it often boils down to personal preference and is best to learn on a few test pieces before investing in a pack of quality watercolor paper．Most watercolor paper is white or cream because it allows light to reflect off its surface which gives the transparent watercolor paint a luminescent look．Many watercolorists will also leave sections of the paper to show through as a substitute for white paint．But，you can buy watercolor paper in different colors or tints and create different moods and effects．Paper comes in many forms such as pads，sheets，rolls，and blocks．


## Basic Watercolor

## Understanding the Color Wheel

Learning how to use and navigate through the color wheel will not only help you with mixing colors, but also for selecting colors in your paintings.
The Primary Colors, consist of three colors; Yellow, Red, and Blue. Named primary because there are no two colors that can be mixed to create these colors.
The Secondary Colors, also consist of three colors; Orange, Violet, and Green. These colors are made by mixing equal amounts of two primary colors located closest to each other on the color wheel.
The Tertiary Colors, consist of six colors; Yellow Green, Yellow Orange, Red Orange, Red Violet, Blue Violet, and Blue Green. These colors are made by mixing a secondary color with the closest primary color on the wheel.



## Swatching Your Watercolor Palette

One way to try your paints is to create a test swatch to see how the paint mixes and dries in different color shades.
A test swatch uses either grids or shapes to capture different colors as you experiment with mixing paints, this is all about playing with them. Create patterns, shapes, words, all to get comfortable with the process of mixing water, paint and different brush strokes. Ideally a test swatch can be a reference to remind you of what each color looks like when it dries as sometimes the color looks different on various types of paper.

With your watercolor set tray now open, you will want to wet your brush and start by mixing the water in one color oval to activate the pigment. Remember to rinse your brush in the jar of water between each color and wipe off on the paper towel for now. Using a piece of scrap paper, start by testing each color's hue by adding different amounts of water to your brush. Paint should never be thick as watercolors are meant to have a more translucent, light look. When paint layering is too heavy it tends to look flat and without dimension.

## Blending

Learning how to work with watercolor paints, color blending and layering are all techniques that take practice to achieve certain effects or styles.
On a piece of watercolor paper draw a couple of rectangles to practice the first method of blending. Try going over the rectangle with just a wash of water first, and drop color into the wet area. While the area is still out drag the color out to achieve a gradient washed out look. Adding more water to an already wet area with lighten the color even more.

Repeat that same process in the second rectangle but this time add a different color on the opposite side. While the area is still wet pull therm towards each other to achieve a soft blend of the two colors.



## Layering

Watercolor is all about layering colors on top of each other and starting from the lightest color to darkest. The more water you add the lighter the color shade.

## Marks

There are many types of marks you can make along with gradients of color. Experiment on a test paper to get a feel for different styles. There is no right or wrong way to do this! What makes watercolor paint different than acrylics or inks is that it can be easy to fix mistakes. If the area is still wet you can add water and dab it with a paper towel, and go back with more paint.


## Techniques

As you get comfortable testing out and playing with your watercolor set, here are some techniques to experiment with as you take on new paintings.


## Salt

Salt is fun technique to use in creating unique textured backgrounds, and is often used in add dimension to paintings of skies or water. To use the salt (best to use sea salt) first choose one or two colors and paint a rectangle or shape. While the paint is still wet, sprinkle a little salt over the area. Try letting the paint dry partially and notice the difference in texture you create. The wetter your painted area, the more your salt will spread. After the paint dries completely, use the back of the brush to flake away the salt

## Water Drops

Start by apply a wash of water onto a rectangle or shape with a strong, even amount of water. Then load your brush with water and color and let the paint drip onto the wash while it's wet. Tapping your brush down towards the paper can drip the paint into new shapes



## Tissue

For this technique, you will start by filling in the next rectangle with a wash of colors allowing the surface to be wet and saturated with color. Crinkle up a piece of tissue paper and place it on top of the wet paint. Position the tissue over the complete area and softly press down onto the paper with the palms of your hands to get the best coverage. Allow to dry slightly and then slowly lift the tissue from the paper.

## Transparency

Since watercolors have a transparent quality you can create beautiful layers and density in your work. We chose to paint this star, but you can experiment with different shapes and colors. I started with a very light red color and painted my first layer. It is very important to let each layer dry completely before adding another color or your colors will blend together. Add another line overlapping first layer, and let that line dry, etc. You can repeat this process as many times as you like.



## Pen \& Ink

Using a permanent pen, doodle and draw any design that comes to mind. After the ink dries, fill in color as you would a coloring book. This is a good test of brush details.

## Crayon Resist

By using a crayon you can create a wax resist technique that starts with drawing a design and pressing firmly onto the paper. A white crayon works best but any color will do. After you have an image, apply the wash of color(s). The paint will not penetrate the areas covered with crayon leaving a cool design.


## Splatter

This technique is awesome，but can make a mess．Its best to cover any areas of your paper that you don＇t want to be splattered，or anything else in the work area．Make sure that your other test shapes are not wet if you are using the same piece of paper．Load up the brush with water and paint，then hold it over the top of your paper．By tapping your brush you can watch the paint splatter onto your paper．Rinse your brush，and choose your next color and splatter away． Sometimes it can help to let the paint dry between each color．


## Proper Care

One of the best qualities of watercolor paints is that they can dry and then later be reactivated with water. Our watercolor sets are designed for multiple uses with the proper care. When cleaning up your work area it is best to rinse your brush completely of any paint with fresh water, and allow it to dry in the air fully before returning to the watercolor tray. If you have used the plastic tray to mix color, its best to wipe clean with a paper towel and let the color tray dry before closing up the lid. Storing your watercolors in a room temperature environment can help ensure many uses and future paint projects.

## Contact Us

We hope you have found this overview helpful on your journey to becoming a skilled and talented watercolorist. Below are a few worksheets you can print out as a reference while testing your paints. From the team at Swell Goods thank you for choosing Color Swell Watercolors.
If you have any product questions, photos or stories to share we would love to hear from you
\& we will follow up with you as soon as possible!
Collin Phelan | CEO, Swell Goods LLC
(6) colorswell.com
f facebook.com/colorswellart

Check out all our other Color Swell art products on Amazon!
 $12-$
COLOR SWELL


COLORED PENCILS


a AMAZON.COM/SHOPS/COLORSWELL

## ¿Bonus - Free Printable

Create your own Color Wheel \& your own Color Swatches!


|  | $Y$ | $Y O$ | $O$ | $R O$ | $R$ | $R V$ | $V$ | $B V$ | $B$ | $B G$ | $G$ | $Y G$ |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Y |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| YO |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $O$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| RO |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $R$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| RV |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| V |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| BV |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| BG |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| YG |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

