

New Product Review

by Jan Jones

Finesse Colored Pencil Blender Pen



Marketing Information by Global Art Materials, Inc.

“Finesse™ Blender Pens for Colored Pencils are an indispensable tool for colored pencil artists. The two different tips on the pen can be used to blend color, soften edges, and generally smooth textures. Colored pencil can take on an almost paint-like appearance.

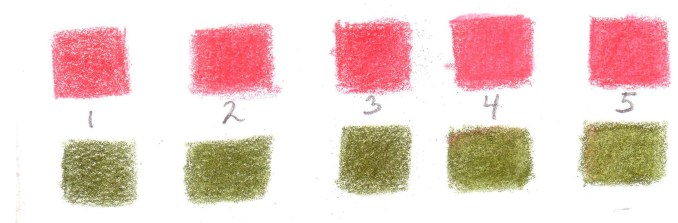
Finesse™ pens contain a colorless, alcohol-based solution that is designed to work specifically with wax-based pencils. Their formula is low-odor, fast-drying, and acid-free.

Many artists prefer to keep several on hand to blend different color values cutting down on cleaning time. Finesse™ pens are available in a 3-pen value pack and also sold individually.”

Jan's Comments

I'm a sucker for new products. I bought this Finesse Colored Pencil Blender Pen from Dennis at DK Art Supply within seconds after he showed it to me. He didn't even have to twist my arm because I think I always have this deep-seated hope that a new product will be the magic bullet that turns me into a fabulous artist! I must be an eternal optimist.

I painted five sample squares of Carmine Red and 5 squares of Marine Green, trying to keep the same pressure from square to square:



#1 -- original color

#2 -- Prismacolor Colorless Blender

#3 -- scumbled with a bristle brush

#4 -- turpenoid applied with a waterbrush pen

#5 -- the new Finesse Blender Pen.

The scanned color squares don't depict the subtle differences that you can see in my original. In the original, the #4 turpenoid square is a darker more intense color than the #1 and #5 square. This is a typical result when using turpenoid. The Finesse blender #5 square is closer to the original color but more dense – to me that's a good thing. The Finesse applies very easily with the bold tip and since it is alcohol-based, it dries more quickly than turpenoid. Also, it easily eliminated white specks. I used the fine point tip once or twice and think it will be useful for fine stems, branches, lines, etc. I am interested in learning how long the solution in the pen will last and if I can easily clean the tip when switching colors. Bottom line: Even if it doesn't make my art as good as Renoir's, I'm glad I bought it and will use it regularly.