

Colored Pencil Techniques

Now that you have the tools that you need, here are “how to” techniques.

Hold the pencil in the normal writing position, approximately perpendicular to the paper surface.

Pressure Add color gradually with as little pressure as possible and a needle sharp point. Controlling the pressure of the pencil is vital for colored pencil application.

Light touch - Use a light touch when applying the **first** color of a layering sequence, rendering light values.

Normal touch – Work with a normal pressure when rendering the middle values of a composition

Heavy touch – Use a heavy touch when burnishing an area, working on the darkest values in a composition, or applying the **last** stages of a layering application.

Strokes The most common and effective strokes are linear and small circular strokes. Light elliptical or flat circular motion close together and overlapping. Linear strokes are only used in areas with contours.

Layering With other mediums you blend colors before you paint, with colored pencil you mix colors directly on the art. Example red over yellow appears orange.

Start Coloring

Choose a colored pencil (make sure it is sharp) and a piece of paper. Make light elliptical overlapping strokes. Fill each square using the various pressures. Increase the pressure in each box.



1 = very light 2 = normal 3 = heavy



Then practice layering and blending using different colors. Use sharp red, yellow and blue pencils. Color the first box yellow with a circular stroke and a moderately light pressure. Then color over the box with your red pencil. The box should look orange. The second box, color yellow and then blue, making green. The third box, color red and blue, making purple.

Practice, Practice,