



Desert Light Watercolor Inking Tutorial PDF

Hello Creative Heart! Let's get to it.

What You'll Need:

- * wooden board
- * 140 lb. cold press watercolor paper (I used Strathmore)
- * watercolor paints & larger "round" brush (I used Staedtler)
- * paint tray (more wells= more fun)
- * precision masking tape (you can also pay more for white artist tape)
- * sponge & water
- * Pilot Precise extra fine rolling ball pen (black ink)

Step 1: Decide on your size. I went small with a 5x7. Grab a 5x7 photo and trace around it in pencil on your watercolor paper.

Step 2: Tape your watercolor paper to wooden board.

Step 3: Wet & squeeze out your sponge then wipe over your watercolor paper. This is to avoid buckling. Let dry.

Please Note: There are more in-depth processes for wetting & stretching. To learn more, here are a few more YouTube videos you can watch.

1. Crystal Beshara- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyTxuzCdXAU>
2. Blick Art Materials- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9c6OWKyYNKI>
3. Aquila Watercolor- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1Syp4uW9Qs>

As you can see there are a lot of different opinions out there! Try out different methods and go with what works for you.

Step 4: Squeeze your paint into your tray. You don't need a lot if you're going small. Less than the size of a pearl. Once your paper is dry, take your brush, dip in water, then swirl around in your colors you've chosen. Make sure to clean your brush in the water dish between wetting each color.

If you'd like to learn more about types of watercolor brushes, here's an article by Blueprint- <https://shop.myblueprint.com/art/article/types-of-watercolor-brushes/>

Step 5: Paint! Have fun! Don't worry about being perfect just get the paint on the paper! The only way to truly begin to understand watercolor paint is by USING it. Tutorials will only teach you so much. The best teacher is paint paint paint, mess up, paint some more. To have the most success with this type of watercolor inking, allow for contrast. Let some areas be dark and others be lighter. Let everything dry completely.

Step 6: Get your pen and (starting in the upper left-hand corner) start outlining the paint shapes you find. Ink in the obvious ones first, then the lighter ones will start to appear. This part is really cool. It's also the most time-consuming. You'll want to be careful of smearing your ink with your hand during this step.

Step 7: Show your brush some love! Clean it with mild soap and cold to warm water (never hot). Pat dry then reshape. Keep your brushes in a jar with the bristles facing upward. Do not store in a container until completely dry.

To learn more about brush maintenance, here's an article by Winsor & Newton: <http://www.winsornewton.com/na/discover/tips-and-techniques/other-tips-and-techniques/care-and-cleaning-of-brushes-us>

Step 8: If there is some warping to your finished and completely dry painting, you can place a piece of paper on top, then cover with a heavy book.

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial! I would love to see what you create. Send me your results or questions to jeffcoat4747@yahoo.com.

Happy creating!
-Christy