



Published on *L'atelier Canson* (<https://www.cansonstudio.com>)

[Home](#) > Pastel & Colour: Blending and stumping colors

---

[Return to article list](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

# Pastel & Colour: Blending and stumping colors



---

[Professional Tips](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

Rate this article

Give Pastel &  
Colour: Blending and  
stumping colors 5/5

?

Rate

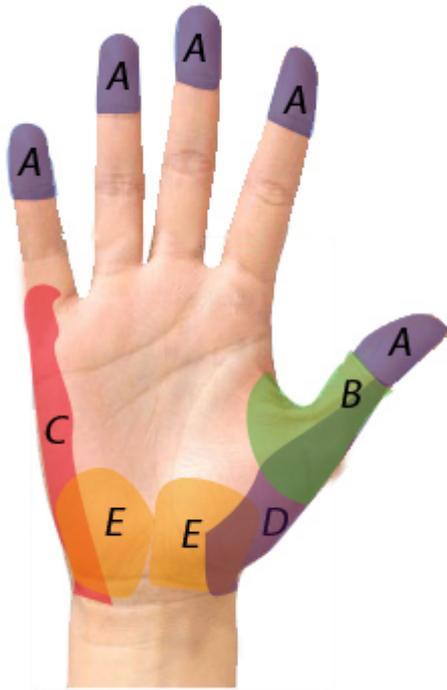
---

Pastels require stumping with your finger, a rag or a stump! Your work will be stronger, more sensitive, and gain in subtlety.

## What you need to know

By mixing and stumping colors, you can:

- Move wide masses of pigments with the palm of your hand,
- Homogenize the break between two shades with your finger,
- Use a rag to soften a hue that's too strong,
- Blur surface pigments with a paintbrush without changing earlier layers,
- Subtly work on a very small area with a stump.



## 1. Blending and stumping dry pastels by hand

- A. Use the ends of your fingers to mix, stump and blend colors. They allow you to do very precise work in small areas.
- B. You can make more sweeping circular motions with your thumb.
- C. The edge of your hand on the little finger side is good for quickly blending large areas.
- D. Use the edge of your hand on the thumb side for fan-shaped sweeps and to work on large horizontal areas.
- E. Use the two pads of your palm near your wrist for circular stumping.

**Keep in mind:** the moisture and light oily layer on your hand help to naturally fix pastels to the paper.

## 2. Mixing oil pastels

There are three possible methods:

- Once you have applied the colors to the paper, blend them by wiping a rag moistened with white spirit over that area. Then work on the blended, diluted colors with a paintbrush.
- Blend the colors with your finger to blur the contours.
- Use your fingernails to recreate clear separations.

## Suggested products

### Canson® Mi-Teintes®



[VIEW THIS PRODUCT](#) [6]

## See also

### Pastel & Colour: Sketching successfully



While it is quite possible to create a work off the cuff, doing a preliminary drawing is always advisable.

[DISCOVER](#) [7]

## Links

[1] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/technique/pastel>

[2] [//twitter.com/share?url=https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/657&text=Pastel & Color: Blending and stumping colors](https://twitter.com/share?url=https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/657&text=Pastel%20&Color:Blending%20and%20stumping%20colors) <https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/657> via @CansonPaper

[3] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/657>

[4] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/print/657>

[5] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/professional-tips>

[6] <http://en.canson.com/pastel-colour/canson-mi-teintes>

[7] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/pastel-colour-sketching-successfully>