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# Pastel & Colour: Blending and stumping colors

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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.

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## 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.

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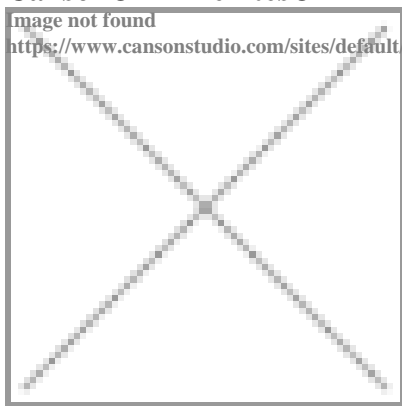


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While it is quite possible to create a work off the cuff, doing a preliminary drawing is always advisable.

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