



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

[Home](#) > Pastel & Colour: Tinting your paper

---

[Return to article list](#) [1]

# Pastel & Colour: Tinting your paper



---

[Basic Knowledge](#) [5]

Rate this article

Give Pastel & Colour: Tinting your paper  
4/5

Rate

---

For a truly personalized result, certain artists prefer to tint their medium themselves. Play your hand!

## What you need to know

Tinting your paper has two benefits:

- Optimizing the background tint reduces the risk of overloading your drawing material.
- You can create several areas with different colors on the same sheet of paper.



## 1. Creating a background with dry pastel

- Reduce your pastel to powder by scratching it with a knife over a plate.

- Dip a rag or a piece of cotton wadding into the powder and rub it over the entire paper surface, pressing down enough to tint all the high and low points on the paper.
- Use sweeping circular or crisscross motions if you want to create a textured background.
- For a perfectly smooth finish, stump with a big paintbrush.

**Trick of the trade:** by stabilizing the background with fixative ? or pressing a blotter down hard on the tinted paper ? you can keep the pigments from mixing with the ones you use for your work.



## 2. Original tints

?

**Dry or oil pastels can be used afterwards with these two techniques.**

- Go for transparency by using a watercolor or highly diluted India ink wash. Allow to dry completely before applying pastels.
- Imitate oriental tradition: rub white paper gently with moist tea leaves (or teabags). This will cover it with a very delicate tint!

**Note:** if you plan on using a wet technique, select water resistant paper, such as watercolor paper, and stretch it first to keep it from buckling.

### Suggested products

**Canson® Mi-Teintes®**



[VIEW THIS PRODUCT](#) [6]

## See also

### Pastel & Colour: Working with a wet paintbrush



In the presence of moisture, pastels become pasty. When you moisten them more, you can use them as light washes.

[DISCOVER](#) [7]

---

## Links

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

[2] [//twitter.com/share?url=https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/659&text=Pastel & Colour: Tinting your paper](https://twitter.com/share?url=https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/659&text=Pastel%20&amp;Colour:Tinting%20your%20paper) <https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/659> via @CansonPaper

[3] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/659>

[4] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/print/659>

[5] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/typology/basic-knowledge>

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

[7] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/pastel-colour-working-wet-paintbrush>