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This technique, called *sgraffito*, allows you to partially bring out a color by scraping the one on top of it. Use the tip of a knife or a utility knife to create the patterns you want. Have fun!

What you need to know

- *Sgraffiti* are especially well-suited to oil pastels, preferably applied in thick layers.
- This method is also useful with dry pastels, provided you fix the first color before applying the second one.

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1. The basic technique

?

- Press down hard on the paper with your stick to apply an ample block of color, covering the raised grain and the hollows.
- Overlay with a second solid area of color, choosing a sufficiently contrasting color to achieve a clearly visible effect.
- With the tip of a knife or a utility knife, streak the surface with fine lines to remove the pigments from the top layer: the underlying color will reappear
- Use the flat side of the blade to remove more particles and create irregular marks, spaced more or less

far apart.

Note: Apply the pressure of the blade evenly, to keep from damaging the paper. Choose thick paper.

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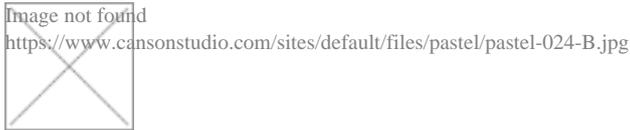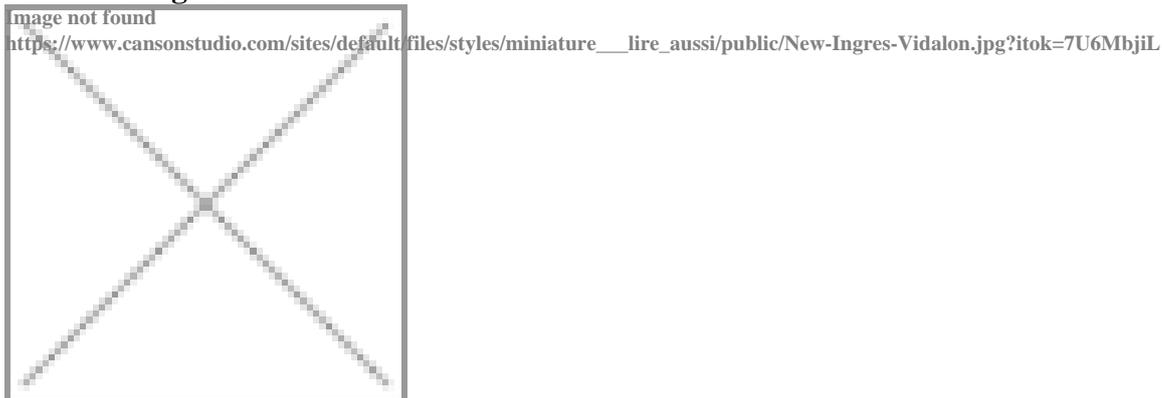
2. Endless variations

- Do you have the basic technique down pat? Try some new effects:
- Overlay three or more colors and streak more or less deeply to display different shades.
- Use heavy grain paper to obtain irregular scratches.
- Cover an already streaked surface with a new block of color.
- Change the direction of your scratches, crisscross them, randomize them? Anything is possible!

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Pastels are rather laid back: they blissfully embed themselves in the contours and hollows of the support

medium. Applying an acrylic primer before adding colors will allow you to create visual effects. An intense result!

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