



Before you begin

It is worth while practising these short exercises before you paint your actual cards. You will then have more confidence to paint your cards.

You will need : watercolour paper, a few bright and strong colours. I used phthalo blue (or ultramarine blue will do), phthalo green (or viridian), alizarin crimson, cadmium red, a bright purple, and yellow ochre. All the cards in this set were painted using these colours.

You will also need a couple of brushes of a size suitable to paint the shapes you draw (not too big and not too small. I used no.4 and no.8 round sable brushes).

Other materials: a drinking straw and a paper clip or toothpick.

Note : All of these paintings were done with the paper flat on a table top, and not on a slope as is usual for watercolour painting.



Technique 1

Wet into very wet

1. Draw some simple Christmas shapes onto a piece of watercolour paper.
2. Then use clean water to thoroughly wet each shape. Make sure that there is a good shiny film of water on the shape.
3. Then drop in a strong mix of one colour of paint. Clean your brush and pick up another colour and drop this alongside the first so that the edges mingle. Resist the temptation to mix the two, just let it happen naturally.
4. Continue adding colours until the shape is filled.
5. Repeat this process for the other shapes you have drawn.





Technique 2

Wax resist

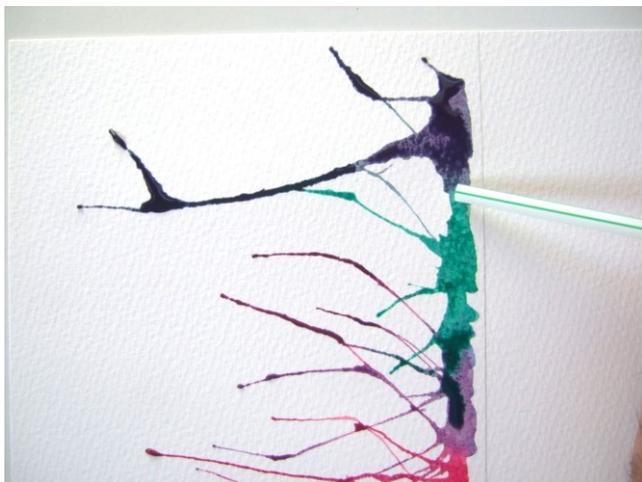
1. Draw a holly leaf onto your paper with a pencil.
2. Use a candle to draw on the veins on the leaf.
3. Paint over the whole leaf with a variety of colours. The veins should show up as white.
4. Draw a Christmas tree with the wax candle.
5. Paint over the tree and see it emerge like magic!



Technique 3

Digging in

1. Paint a random patch of colour onto your paper.
2. Before the paint dries, press into it with a paper clip or a toothpick to create dark lines.



Technique 4

Blowing

1. Paint a loose line of colours onto your paper, making sure that each colour forms a puddle of paint.
2. Blow across these with a drinking straw to create branches.

You now have all the techniques you will need to paint the cards.