

Paint Your Own Decorations

Christmas Card



This card uses the technique of scratching into wet paint to create a Christmas tree, which is then covered with brightly painted decorations. It is easy to paint and you can use your own decorations for inspiration, making the card uniquely yours!

The techniques involved are very simple – watch the video to see how it is done and then follow the steps below to create your own version.

You will need:

Paper: Good quality watercolour paper (140lb/300gm is best)

Paints: Ultramarine blue, yellow ochre, and a variety of others from your paintbox.

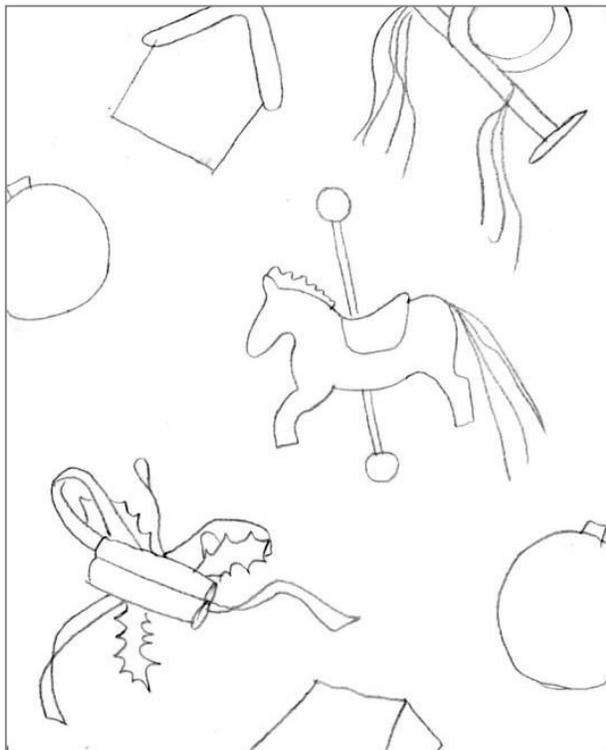
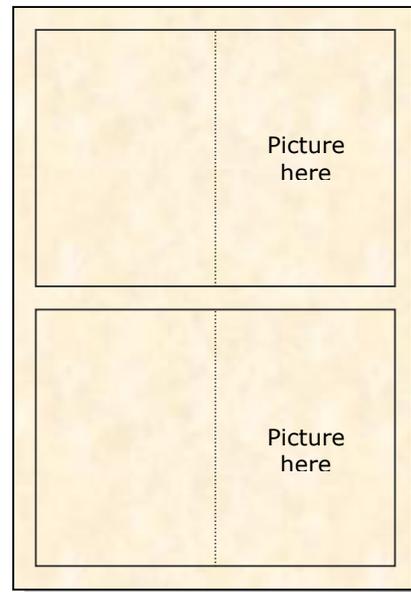
Brushes: A large round for the background, and a small round with a good point for the decorations. An old brush for the masking fluid.

Other: masking fluid and masking tape

I used a piece of watercolour paper that was 11" x 15" and was able to paint two cards alongside each other as shown here.

Measure the size of your envelopes and then draw two rectangles on your watercolour paper which are just a little smaller, one above the other.

The picture is painted in the right half and the card will be folded along the middle line.



Sketch in the simplest outline with a pencil as shown here. Use these decorations or choose some of your own.

Use an old brush to paint masking fluid onto all the decorations and leave them to dry.

Wash the brush with warm soapy water immediately after using it to get rid of all traces of the latex masking fluid before it dries and ruins the brush.



Put a strip of masking tape down the fold in the card and then use your biggest brush to apply a quick wash of a green made from ultramarine blue and yellow ochre all over the background. As soon as you have done this and before it begins to dry, scratch into it with the end of a small brush or a toothpick to create the dark pine needle effect.

Watch the video to see how this is done.

When this is completely dry, apply two more washes of paint in slightly different colours, one next to the other and allow them to merge wet in wet. Make one a yellow green and one a blue green by adding more yellow ochre and more ultramarine blue respectively. Once again scratch into them before they dry to make even more dark pine needle lines.

When the paint is completely dry, remove the masking tape and rub off the masking fluid to leave the shapes of your decorations.





Now you can really go to town painting in your decorations. Use bright and light colours to contrast with the dark background. You can spend as much or as little time as you want over this, making the designs more or less detailed as you wish.

You may well need to tidy up the edges a bit where the masking fluid has been painted on. Just use some of your background colour and a fine pointed brush for this.

Finally add in a few shadow shapes around the decorations to help them blend into the background.

Cut out and fold your card, and give it to someone you love!

Other Options:

If you don't want to use masking fluid for this, then draw your decorations onto a separate piece of watercolour paper. Paint the background onto your card, covering the whole front of the card. Then paint your decorations, cut them out and glue them onto the background. You could use decoupage sticky pads to give the decorations a 3-dimensional feel.