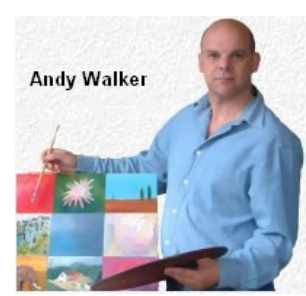
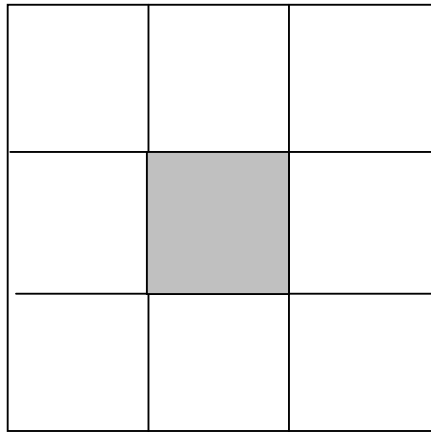


Hints and Tips

to improve your drawing and painting.



Eight Squares Exercise



Each small square is 4cm x 4cm

This exercise is great fun, is relaxing to do, and will teach you lots about colour mixing and brush strokes. I use this exercise when teaching groups and everyone loves doing it!

Step 1.

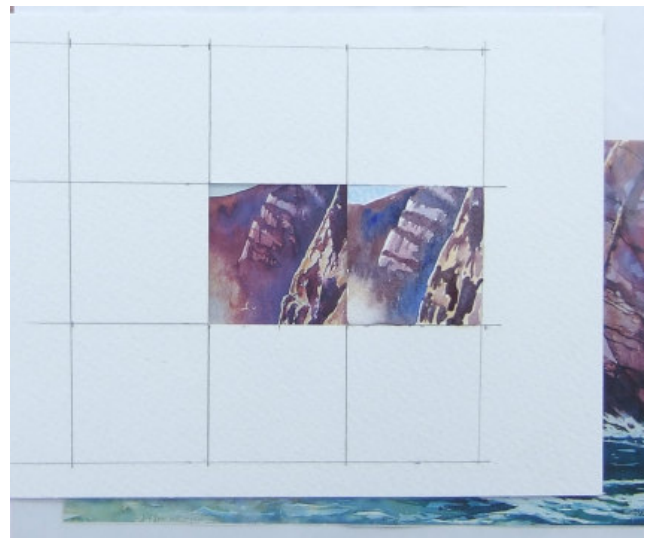
Cut a piece of watercolour paper to about 15 x 20cm (6" x 8") and then draw a grid of nine 4cm (1 1/2") squares as shown. Cut out the central square to leave a grid of eight squares around a central hole.

Step 2.

Find some watercolour paintings in books, magazines or on the internet. Try to find a mix of different styles.

Then place your paper on top of a painting, and carefully copy what you see through the hole onto one of the eight squares. Either drop your paper down randomly onto the painting and copy whatever it lands on, or cheat a little by moving it around until you find a 'good' area.

Try to copy the colours as accurately as you can, and see if you can work out how the artist achieved some of the effects. Look out for areas of paint that run into each other, crisp edges, different brush marks etc..



Step 3.

Choose a different style of painting and copy another square. Continue doing this until all eight squares are finished.

Here's my completed sheet.

The benefits of this exercise are many. You will learn how to mix colours and tones, how to use your brush marks creatively, how different effects can be made, and how various styles can be used to paint a picture.

Because you are just working on small areas of a painting you will find that you are not under as much pressure as if you were trying to complete a picture, and so you can just relax and enjoy the experience!

Have fun and learn much!

