



**DERWENT**

**TEN TOP TIPS  
USING CHROMAFLOW  
PENCILS**

# DERWENT

## CHROMAFLOW PENCILS

# TEN TOP TIPS

- 1** Chromaflow are a waxed-based pencil and work best on a smoother paper such as a cartridge paper or Bristol paper with a very slight surface. Avoid using a super smooth surface though as the wax in the pencil will create lumps on the surface which will cause uneven blending later on.
- 2** Avoid using shiny card stock or lower quality crafting papers for craft projects as these have a varnish type surface on them that wax-based pencils such as Chromaflow does not like and will create uneven laydown of colour and patchy blending.
- 3** Chromaflow works best when used sharp. This is because the pigment sinks into the valleys of the paper rather than crushing the paper. This will result in losing surface and being unable to build up layers. Layers improve blendability which is what is desirable when using colour pencils.
- 4** Using Chromaflow sharp also reduces the risk of wax bloom. Wax bloom occurs when a pencil has either been used too heavily, too blunt or in very humid conditions which causes the wax binder to rise to the surface and appear like a white haze. If this occurs, simply wipe away with a soft tissue and spray lightly with a fixative.
- 5** To create seamless transitions of colour lightly overlap two colours using sharp points and a light pressure, with elliptical pencil strokes lay one colour down first then overlay the second colour slightly overlapping the edge. Repeat the elliptical stroke with the second colour this will pull the waxy layers of colour together for a seamless blend.
- 6** Chromaflow are a softer pencil with a narrower barrel, they are more suited to a small handheld bladed sharpener. Make sure



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**6** the blade is sharp by checking your pencil shavings are long and unbroken resembling apple peelings. If they begin to become ragged or split the pencil itself replace the sharpener as it is blunt. Pencils are fragile and Chromaflow are a lighter wood and like sharp blades.



**7** Chromaflow blend really well when there is enough pencil on the paper. There has to be sufficient wax and pigment to be able to 'move' and blend the colour. If your pencil layer is too thin it won't move around the surface or blend with the colour next to it properly.



**8** The white pencil in Chromaflow can be used as a blender pencil, it is a very creamy pencil and works fantastically for pulling layers of pigment and smoothing pencil layers and uneven blended areas. Use sharp to prevent any pigment clumping. The area will lose its vibrancy slightly, simply reinstate the colours that you were blending with a sharp point and light pressure, and you will achieve a smooth seamless blended appearance.



**9** The best erasers to use with Chromaflow are polymer erasers such as the Derwent USB eraser, the slim eraser or pencil eraser that has the dusting brush on the end. This is particularly handy as you can use it for pencil crumbs too rather than sweeping them away with your hand and creating colour transference or smudging.

**10** You can avoid smudging or colour transference by placing a sheet of tracing paper or glassine paper under your drawing hand. This will prevent smudging the pigment onto the clean surrounding paper. Avoid using scrap paper or printing paper as this is not shiny or waxed and will smudge the colour pencils.

