

Ten Top Tips using Watercolour Pencils

by Graham Brace

- 1 Create your own dry and wet colour chart to aid your colour choice.
- 2 Use the tip of the pencil like a water colour pan to increase colour tone and density.
- 3 To widen your colour choice, experiment with different colour combinations. Great fun and full of surprises!
- 4 Create intense colour marks by applying dry pencil over wet washes.
- 5 When over-drawing with dry pencil on a wet area, ensure you use a blunt tip to avoid surface damage.
- 6 To produce texture or mottling, scrape flakes from the tip with a craft knife or rub the tip over a sandpaper block, allow settling and dissolving on a wet area of paper. Alternatively flick colour off tip with wet toothbrush.
- 7 When working dry on wet, regularly clean your pencil tip by scribbling on dry paper to minimise unwanted colour contamination.
- 8 Allow wet areas to dry completely before over-working finer detail with dry pencil.
- 9 Lift out highlights and unwanted colour with a plastic eraser or battery eraser.
- 10 Experiment with a natural sponge or wet cloth over dry marks to blend colour and create washes.

