

Prismacolor 101



The following are tips and tricks for successfully using Prismacolor.

- **Burnishing** is when you layer and blend all the colors together while using *heavy* pressure. This is the final step because it diminishes the paper's tooth.
- **Tooth** refers to the texture of the paper. Your paper needs tooth or else the pigment will not be able to layer/blend.
- <u>Bristol board</u>, Strathmore brand (weight 80) is the best paper to use. The more weight (weight = paper thickness/ thinness) the better.
- <u>Color in small circles</u>. Avoid scribble motion.
- <u>Use an electric eraser</u>. Sakura brand is the best. You can use a nail file to "sharpen" the tip of the eraser.
- <u>Rubbing alcohol can help blend</u> because the solvent breaks down the wax pigment, turning it into "paint" like.
- Spray fixative to avoid waxing. <u>Waxing</u> is a white haze that appears in heavily worked areas.
- Every time a pencil drops onto the floor or table, the lead inside breaks. To "glue" the lead back together, place pencils outside on a hot day or on a heating pad. This will melt the wax inside the pencil thus fusing it back together
- If you are using a reference image, pixelate it! This will help with color matching because it breaks down/simplifies the colors in the image.
- To prevent sweat and grease from smearing your work, place a paper towel under your hand.
- As you are working, write down the colors' name on the back of your paper. If you take a break or run out of class time, you will need to know exactly which colors you used for when you return.

Prismacolor Blending/Shading Guideline

The following are color families with exact Prisma names that you may consider using when blending/shading.

<u>RED</u> Spanish Orange
Poppy Red
Crimson Red
Shadows: Tuscan Red & Indigo Blue
GREEN
Apple Green
Grass Green
Dark Green
Shadows:

Shadows: Tuscan Red & Indigo Blue ORANGE Canary Yellow Spanish Orange

Orange

Shadows: Tuscan Red & Indigo Blue

> <u>BLUE</u> True Blue

Peacock Blue

Indigo Blue

Shadows: Tuscan Red & Indigo Blue YELLOW Canary Yellow Spanish Orange

Golden Rod

Shadows: Tuscan Red & Indigo Blue

> <u>VIOLET</u> Parma Violet

> > Violet

Violet Blue

Shadows: Tuscan Red & Indigo Blue