

How to use metallic colored pencils drawing on dark or black paper



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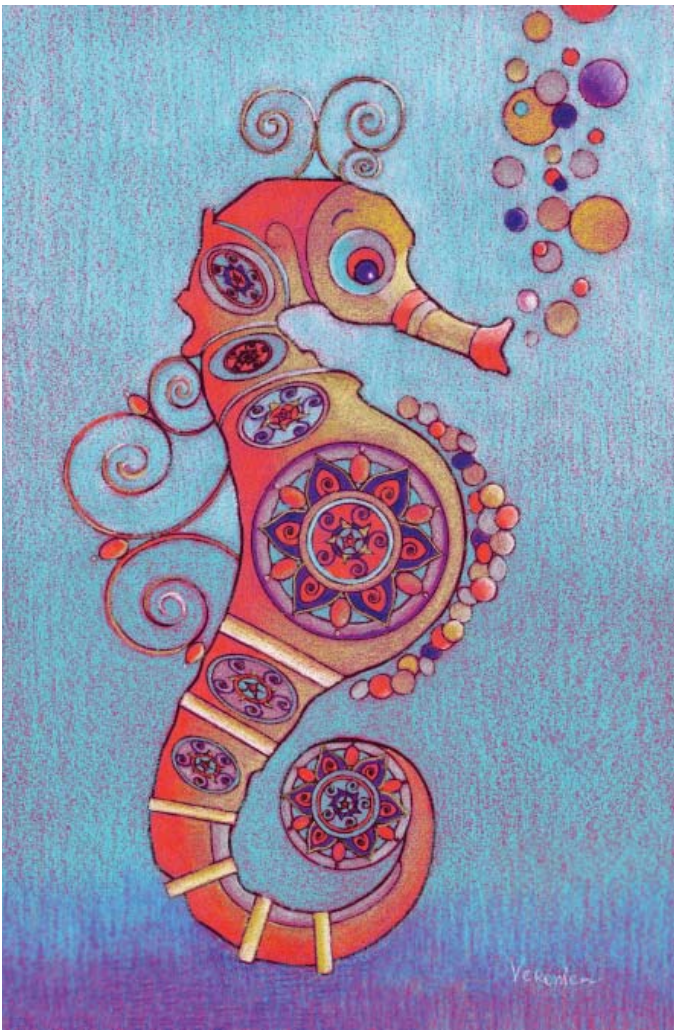
My dear friend,

Thanks for downloading this guide. I hope it's helpful in your creative endeavors! Feel free to share your results with me.

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Characteristics of metallic colored pencils



What you'll learn:

1. Properties of metallic pencils and what it means for your drawing.
2. Papers that work well with metallic colored pencils.
3. Tips how to use them correctly.

Colors & Brands

You can create unique pieces using metallic colored pencils, although shading with them can be tricky to get the desired effect. In this guide I'm going to show you the best ways of using them correctly.

First, let's look at available colors and brands of metallic colored pencils. There are gold, silver, copper and bronze. The quality of pencils varies depending on the brand, and here I mention major manufacturers of the professional metallic colored pencils - Caran d'Ache, Derwent, and Prismacolor Premier.

Swiss-made Caran D'ache Luminance and Pablo colored pencils are of superior quality with strong and soft leads. Prismacolor Premier sells the 1-2-star lightfast metallic silver and gold metal colored pencils as open stock and in large boxes. English-made Derwent metallic pencils come in sets of 12 and 6 colors.

In the following pictures you'll see how the same metallic colors look very different applied to various colored papers and mixed with other colored pencils.

What is lightfastness?

Lightfastness is the ability of your colored pencils to withstand the prolonged exposure to light and humidity. The best pencils have 1-2 lightfastness rating and the worst have 3-5 lightfastness rating. I've seen my colors literally disappear off my drawing even under the UV protective fixative. So, if you keep art as a hobby and don't care about the fading, the rating may not be your concern, but if you draw professionally always check the ratings!

Metallic colored pencils are mostly lightfast, but you must check the ratings with every manufacturer to be certain. The **lightfastness color charts** can be downloaded from the manufacturers' websites. The Prismacolor one can be found here: http://www.primacolor.com/Style%20Library/PrismaColor/media/promotions/PrismaColor_Lightfast_Color_Chart.pdf



The colorless pencil blender blends the rough spots in your shading. You may find it handy, if your paper has texture. I recommend using the **Caran d'Ache full blender**. The company claims that this blender offers superior protection against water and UV light, which is an additional benefit to using this product.

Metallics & photography

Metallic pencils & photography

The metallic gloss is obvious when you rotate your paper and see the shiny effect at different angles, but it's not as reflective when photographed. I prefer scanning my artwork to preserve the shine, although some of it still gets lost.

In this drawing the entire background is shaded with metallic gold pencil placed over other colored pencils. It adds color and dimension to my background, but the sheer reflectiveness of metallics is almost lost. As a result, if your drawing contains a lot of metallic pigment, your artwork may lose its feel when you publish it online that can be seen in person only.



Gamsol is a solvent that you can use blending your colored pencils including the metallic ones, although if paper is smooth, pencils layer evenly and blending becomes optional.

Loew-Cornell transfer paper is greaseless, smudge-proof, and doesn't bleed through paint. Easy to erase, I use it often to transfer the outlines. It comes in a few sizes, including a single 18×36" sheet, a perfect size for creation of a large-scale artwork.

Don't forget to spray the **final fixative for dry media** over your finished drawing!

Metallic colored pencils shaded on white vs. colored papers



The best way to understand and remember how these pencils appear on paper is to create your own color swatches and refer to them every time you draw.

Metallic pencils on white paper

In the image above, you can see the color swatches I've made with Pablo bronze and Pablo gold, and Prismacolor gold and Prismacolor silver.

In the second row, I blend them with a solvent.

In the last row, I layer them with other colored pencils, with the metallic pencils applied on top of the colored pencils. The last color swatch in this row is silver shaded over gold.

Metallic pencils on colored paper

In these examples (left), I've applied the same metallic pencils over six different colored papers. Notice that the best use of the metallic pencils happens on dark and black colored papers, rather than on light or white papers.



In this drawing I shaded some accents using Caran d'Ache **Pablo Gold**. It's important to apply metallic colored pencils on top layer of the drawing to get the most out of it. The surface is a very dark green mat board.



In this drawing I used **Prismacolor Premier silver** colored pencil to draw the sea horses in the background. The surface is light grey paper but the silver effect still shows up a bit because of the solid colors next to it.

Paper properties



There are three properties of papers that are the most important to consider, working in colored pencil.

1. Paper's weight. The thicker the drawing paper, the better.
2. Paper's color. The use of colored papers speeds up your drawing considerably and creates a wide range of color combinations that are often impossible to achieve drawing on white paper.
3. Paper's smoothness. The smoother the paper, the better it is for shading in colored pencil. While Bristol smooth papers may be too glossy for you, Stonehenge is supreme. While it has a very slight texture, it lends itself to a perfect shading that doesn't require any additional blending.

I find Canson Colorline to be the best colored papers. I used to draw on Mi-Teintes paper that has a lot more texture than the Colorline or Stonehenge. I like them for a range of bright colors. I always draw on a smooth side. If you can find such vibrant colors as raspberry or violet that have the velvety smooth finish of Stonehenge, you hit the jackpot. Overall, I highly recommend drawing on **Canson Colorline** or **toned Stonehenge paper**.

To read more about drawing papers, colored pencils and techniques, visit my website VeronicasArt.com.



Best ways to use the metallics



To preserve the sheer of the metallics:

1. Apply metallic colored pencils in your last layer in the entire background or as a detail.
2. Don't try to achieve the metallic feel by shading the metallic objects with them. The metallic appearance of spoons and other shiny objects is achieved via a close observation of reflected colors in such objects, and they are drawn with regular colored pencils. Usually, I burnish the surface of the shiny object completely to achieve the metallic appearance without using metallic colored pencils. (See the picture above).
3. Draw with the metallics on dark colored paper. Black colored paper gives a wild result, as you can see in the color swatches above.

Veronica Winters Complete Colored Pencil Techniques in 90 days: Comprehensive video course in realist colored pencil techniques

This colored pencil techniques video course focuses on major colored pencil techniques and drawing concepts via 16 step-by-step video demonstrations, examples, action steps, and explanations. In this class you'll study composition, light and color harmony. You'll see different formulas for depicting various objects realistically. You'll acquire knowledge how to use tools to create various textures, to blend colored pencils and to describe almost any form realistically.

I give students lineart, materials list and a color chart for every lesson in a downloadable file. Every video lesson is between 25-90 minutes long on average. This course is based on the Colored Pencil Manual art book published by Dover Pub. This video course also features two bonus demonstrations. I recommend to watch one lesson a week to have enough time to practice the steps.

In the image you can see all the lessons with demonstrations.

Direct link to the video courses:
<https://veronica-winters-art-school.teachable.com/>



Veronica Winters Complete Colored Pencil Techniques in 90 days:

know where to start, learn crucial colored pencil techniques,

improve your art, make yourself proud & inspire.

Video course | www.VeronicasArt.com

Portrait Drawing: Creating Emotion in Colored Pencil

video course

The first part gives you a brief introduction to the anatomy of the face and facial features, proportions and values.

The second part shows you tips on model posing and photography, how to make line art for your projects, and to pick materials for the artwork.

The third part has several 1-hr lessons in colored pencil portrait drawing. While two demonstrations don't have the downloadable reference (for privacy reasons), these video lessons are thorough and show lots of tips and tricks how to approach drawing realistic and vivid portraits in colored pencil on colored and white papers. They also include the materials section in the beginning of each video. Please watch the preview of one of the videos to get a good idea about the structure of the lesson.



5 x 1-hr videos + bonus portrait drawing videos

Uncover the secrets to portrait drawing in colored pencil! This unique video course builds up in progression to prepare students to see and capture light on a model, and then draw portraits from pictures using various papers. The projects consist of narrated video recordings where the artist draws on various surfaces and explains valuable colored pencil techniques. Most portrait drawing demonstrations include a downloadable reference.

This course has downloadable color charts/ color list for every demonstration.

<https://veronica-winters-art-school.teachable.com/>



