

The Basics of Working with Prismacolor Premier Colored Pencils on Fabric

Supplies

- Prismacolor Premier Colored Pencils
- Blending stumps/tortillons
- Jaquard Colorless Extender #100
- Loktite FunTak Mounting Putty
- Paint brushes
- Foam core board

Some Basic Tips:

- Don't use a pencil with a sharp tip. This will leave lines.
- Always use a hand pencil sharpener. The lead in these pencils is soft, and will easily break.
- Avoid dropping the pencils – the lead is soft and might shatter.
- Use FunTak mounting putty to dab up stray pencil marks.
- Use blending stumps to blend colors once applied to fabric. The blending stumps can be sharpened with an emery board/fingernail file. Be sure to remove to remove any color remaining on the stump before switching to another area. Use the emery board to do this.

Let's Get Started!

- Lay out your fabric on a clean, smooth surface. A foam-core board works well for this. Any texture in your work surface might show up in your coloring and might not “blend.”
- Work from light to dark colors. Keep a piece of paper or fabric under your working hand to prevent smearing previous work areas or getting color on your hand and transferring it to another area. Use mounting putty to remove any stray color.
- Use a light hand to color. Do not press hard. You can always go back over an area to make the color more intense.
- Use round, circular motions. Lines may not blend, leaving streaks.
- Use the stump to blend as you go, blending light colors first, then darker colors.
- To shade, start with lighter colors first, then blend, then add darker colors and blend again.
- When you are pleased with your coloring, use Jaquard Colorless Extender #100 to fix the colors. Again, work from light to dark to avoid transferring colors. Put a piece of freezer paper under your fabric. The extender will soak through, and you could end up with color on the surface below your fabric. Use good quality brushes, such as sable #6 and #12, and be sure to clean them and reshape them when you are finished applying the extender.
- Hang your piece to dry for several hours.
- Heat set your piece by ironing at the setting appropriate for your fabric. The finished product is washable. I recommend washing with cool water and a very mild soap and line drying.

Watch Crabapple Hill's Tutorial

Go to Crabapplehillstudio.com, click on videos, and watch the tutorial “Colored Pencil Tinting Technique.”