

Introduction to Watercolours with Daff Workshops

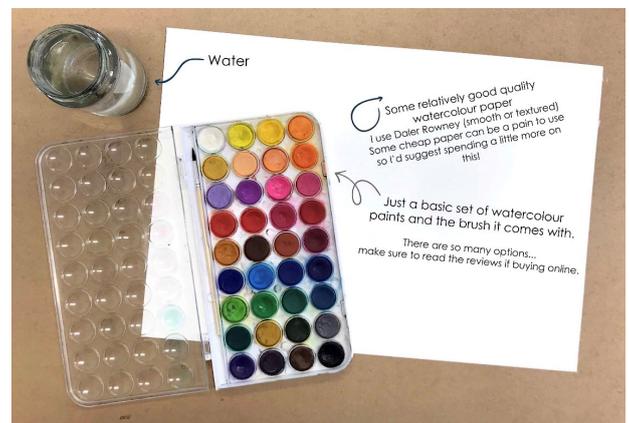
This guide has been put together by Caroline Misselbrook of [Daff Workshops](#). All images contained in this tutorial are copyright Caroline Misselbrook.

Basic Watercolour Techniques

This sheet is a guide to the basic watercolour techniques however, experimentation and an adventurous spirit is key so don't worry if you get things wrong or it takes a while to achieve them. You can also make up your own...the most important thing to remember is to have fun! Watercolour paint has a mind of its own and you can't control it too much. The beauty is in the imperfections, if you over work it the paint will become muddy and the paper will get chewed up. There is also a fine balance between too much and too little water depending on the effect you are trying to master...good luck!

Equipment

- ◆ basic set of watercolour paints and the brush that it comes with
- ◆ water pot
- ◆ relatively good quality watercolour paper, smooth or textured - some cheaper papers can be more difficult to work with



Painting out your colour palette

Painting your colour palette when you first use your watercolour set helps you to gain a better understanding of how much water each colour needs to achieve a nice consistency, how they look on paper and their transparency and opacity.

Shading

Try loading your paint brush with a colour and create a shaded strip, starting at one end of your paper and moving your brush in smooth zig zag strokes until you run out of paint (you may need to collect some more water on your brush if it starts to dry out).

Brush Strokes, Dabbing, Splashes and Splatters

These techniques require lots of experimentation on your part and differ depending on what brushes you use. You can try different materials to dab paint with...how about putting salt on wet paint?

'Wet on Wet', 'Run', 'Wet on Dry' and 'Water next to Wet'

These are quite self-explanatory but again require some experimentation as some colours will react differently when they are dripped on to other colours. When you paint a strip of water and then paint some colour next to it you'll have fun seeing how the water sucks up the paint.

Step by Step Instructions to Paint a Bumble Bee

1. Start by painting a circle of yellow, while it's still wet drip in some spots of orange.
2. Before the yellow and orange paint have dried paint two strips of black on either side of the circle to form the bee's stripes.
3. Create two wing shapes in a colour of your choice and while they're still wet drip little spots of another colour to make a polka dot effect.
4. Add some splatters and splashes to your bee – I love doing this because it creates a nice texture and feeling of movement.
5. Once everything has dried completely you can add all the details: legs, mouth, eyes, cheeks, eyebrows, lines on the wings and antennae.



Take a look at my 9 different bee designs below for some more inspiration when creating your own illustrations! Have fun experimenting with expressions, props, poses, angles, size and shape. I'd love to see what you get up to...share your watercolour paintings with me on Instagram or Facebook by tagging Daff Workshops. Visit: www.daffworkshops.com

