



Snowman Card - Watercolor Pencils

Designed By: Jean Rood

Level: Easy



Materials List

Loew-Cornell, Inc.

#995, Watercolor Pencils
#384, Brush Tub II
#392, Graphite Transfer Paper
#DES, Double Ended Stylus
#92, Fine Line Painting Pen
#341, Tracing paper

Loew-Cornell® La Corneille® Brushes

7550-1/2, 3/4, Glaze/Wash
7500-2, 4, Filberts
7000-3, 5, Rounds
7350-1, Liner

Micron pigma pen - Black .005 mm
Acrylic artist's inks in desired colors
Watercolor paper or cards

- Example done on Sue Scheewe 185 1b.
watercolor cards from Martin F. Weber.

General Techniques for Watercolor Pencils:

Dry paper/dry pencils - This is the technique used on this card. The pencil is used for coloring, just as crayons would be used. You may layer colors one on top of another, side by side, or leave white spaces for highlighted areas. Do not place the color too heavily, but make it loose and irregular. This will create areas of highlight and shadow. Color the entire picture, and then blend the pencil color with water and a round brush. As in watercolor, do not blend areas that lie next to each other until the first area is dry, or the colors will run together (e.g. the 4 areas that touch on the hat). Colors should be moved around with just the tip of the brush, and every space should not be covered, so it doesn't look like a coloring book (unless this is how you want it to look!).

Dry paper/wet pencils - This gives a softer, diffused effect to the color, like an oil pastel, but it also makes the pencils very soft. With all wet pencil work, you need a second set to go back to the dry pencil techniques, or let the pencil dry completely before using again. Wet pencil techniques also tend to make the pencils break more when sharpening.

Wet paper/ dry pencils - Here the paper is wet first, and the pencil color will run a bit when it touches the paper so the colors will run together if they touch. Different degrees of pencil hardness will determine how much the color will run. This technique is good for blurred effects like foliage and background flowers.

Wet paper/wet pencils - This technique will give the most blurred effects of all, and is better for background areas such as foliage. Sometimes you still need to do some blending work with a brush to soften all the areas.

Completing the Card:

Transfer the main pattern lines.

Dry Paper/Dry Pencils were used for the card. Scribble the color and wash any *blue* around the upper 2/3 of the design for the background. A little *Blue Violet* is nice here and there in both the sky and on the snow. Shade around the lower portion of the snowman's body & head with *Silver Gray*.

Use any color combinations for the hat, scarf, and birdhouse. The colors in this example are as follows:

- The tree, scarf, and lower half of hat band are *Sap Green*.
- The hat, buttons and eyes are *Black*, but not too dark, with a little *Blue Violet* on the left side of the hat and brim. The upper half of the hatband is *Blue Violet*.
- The birdhouse is *Indian Red*. The pole, opening, roof and twig arms are *VanDyke Brown* with a little *Indian Red* mixed into the roof.
- The tree trunk is *Van Dyke Brown* and some branches are also added to the tree. The branches will fade out a bit when you wash the *Sap Green* part of the tree. This is where you could use the wet paper/ dry pencil technique adding branches a little bit here and there while the *Sap Green* is still damp.
- The carrot nose is *Dark Orange*, star is *Lemon Yellow*, and bird is any *blue*, with a *Yellow* beak.

All of the inkwork detail is done with the Black Micron pen when the paper is dry. The mouth and fringe is done only with pen, while the twig arms have brown color under the penwork. The tree linework

should be very loose and sketchy, and none of the penwork should be too perfect. Let there be broken lines and skips here and there.

The borders on the edge were done with a ruler and the Fine Line Painting Pen. Ink colors used here are *Purple Lake* and *Pearlescent Galactic Blue*. Regular inks are too thin, but these acrylic

inks are perfect. Thinned acrylic paint can also be used in this pen. Fill it with the tip of a liner brush, and because the pen is gravity fed, the ink or paint does not run out even when the pen is turned upside down. If the tip is kept damp by propping it on a damp paper towel, the ink or paint does not dry up. Let each ink line dry before replacing the ruler or it will smear.



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