

Knowledge organiser - Oil pastels



Definition

Pastels are made from ground pigments mixed with a binder then pressed and dried to hold their form. The type and amount of binder defines whether the pastel is hard, soft, or oil based.

Origins

The actual word "pastel" comes from the Italian word *pastello*, and means paste.

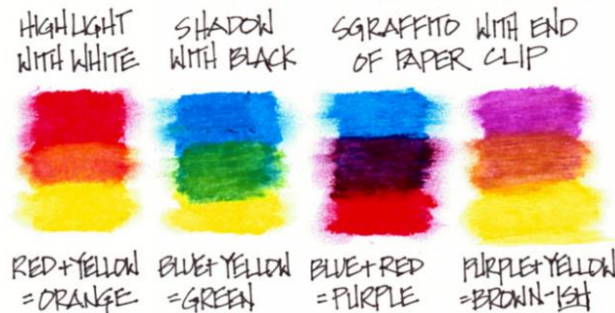
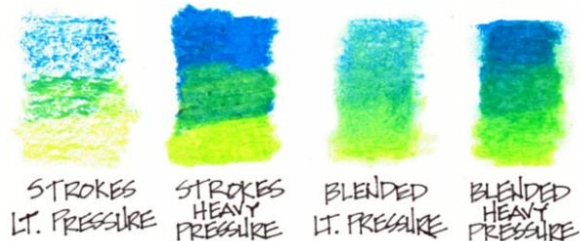
Variations

There are four specific types of pastels:

- Oil pastels
- Soft pastels
- Hard pastels
- Pastel Pencils

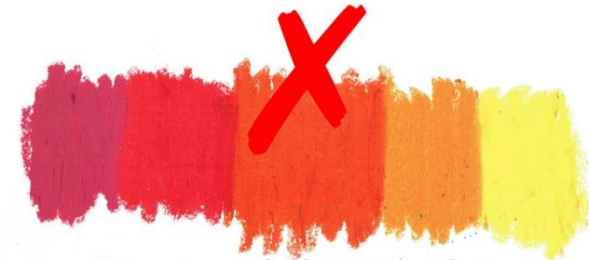
Application

Oil pastels are made from an oil binder, which keeps them always "wet." When you use them, you'll notice that they apply to paper differently. This also makes them unique from all the other pastels. Which also means they're typically only used with each other. But, this creamy texture makes them fun to shade with.



Technique

1. Build the pastels from light colours to dark colours.
2. Then use your lightest colour to smooth and blend.



Here we can see a line between the colours.



These colours have been blended smoothly.

The most important skill to learn is blending. Blending means to mix the colours smoothly. When colours have been blended properly, you should not be able to see a line between them.