

Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolors - Valentine's Day Cards

Supplies Needed:

Winsor & Newton Cold Pressed Water Colour Paper, 9x12 - *cut sheet to have (3) 4x6 pieces*
Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolors Sketchers' Pocket Box Set
Winsor & Newton Cotman 1/2" One Stroke Flat Brush
Winsor & Newton Cotman #10 Round Brush
Winsor & Newton Cotman #2 Round Brush
Winsor & Newton Drawing Ink in Gold
Winsor & Newton Art Masking Fluid
Recollections Metallic Marker in Silver
Recollections Metallic Marker in Gold
Toothpick
Cotton Swab
Paper Towels
Saucer or Cup Filled With Water
Palette to Hold Paint (for 8 Colors)
Ruler
Graphite Pencil (any "H" graphite pencil is recommended; the higher the number the better)
Hair Dryer or Heat Gun

Preparation Steps for All Valentine's Day Cards

Step 1 - Prepare Work Surface

Cover your work surface with a disposable covering and fill a glass or cup with water.

Step 2 - Cut Watercolour Paper

Cut a 9in x 12in sheet of watercolor paper to create three 4x6 pieces of paper. Use any remaining paper trimmings to test paint consistency or to practice any strokes used in this project.

Step 3 - Mix Paint Colors in Palette

Using the 1/2" One Stroke Flat Brush, begin by mixing 8 colors with an equal paint to water ratio.

Red: 4 parts Alizarin Crimson

Light Pink: 1 part Alizarin Crimson and 2 parts Chinese White

Mulberry: 2 parts Alizarin Crimson and 1 part Ultramarine

Light Mulberry: 2 parts Alizarin Crimson, 1 part Ultramarine, and 2-3 parts White

Purple: 2 parts Ultramarine and 1 part Alizarin Crimson

Light Purple: 2 parts Ultramarine, 1 part Alizrin Crimson, and 2-3 parts White

Dark Turquoise: 2 parts Viridian Hue and 1 part Ultramarine

Light Turquoise: 2 parts Viridian Hue, 1 part Ultramarine, and 2-3 parts White

"Be Mine" Valentine's Day Card

Step 1 - Transfer or Freehand Draw Outline

Use a Lightbox or well lit window and a graphite pencil to transfer the provided outline and lettering or freehand draw the outline and lettering by using the provided outline as a guide.

Step 2 - Create and Paint on Solid Wash of Color

On a new section of your palette and with your #2 round brush, take a couple scoops of the light purple color that has already been mixed and add water to it until it is one part paint to five parts water.

Using the 1/2" one stroke flat brush, paint on a light purple wash to the entirety of the "Be Mine" card.

Let the paint sit on the paper for a minute to give the paper a chance to begin absorbing the paint and then use a blow dryer to speed along the drying process.

Step 3 - Add Paint to Hearts

With directions being given from the perspective of looking at the card, work from the far left heart to the far right heart.

The order of color placement working from left to right will be:

1st Heart: Light Turquoise

2nd Heart: Left Side - Dark Turquoise; Right Side - Dark Purple

3rd Heart: Left Side - Light Purple; Right Side - Light Mulberry

4th Heart: Left Side - Mulberry; Right Side - Red

5th Heart: Pink

Directions will be shared for the first two hearts and then follow the same process for the remaining hearts. It is important to move quickly and before the paint starts to dry so that the colors will flow and merge into each other.

Place a wet #10 round brush in the the **Light Turquoise** and apply it to the first, far left heart.

After applying Light Turquoise to the far left heart, very quickly clean the brush and then place it in the **Dark Turquoise** paint and apply it to the left half of the second heart. Do not move your brush over the two colors that have started to bleed into each other to prevent them from mixing together in a non-organic way.

Clean your brush and then plan it in the **Dark Purple** paint on palette. Apply this color to the right half of the second heart. Allow the Dark Purple and Dark Turquoise paint to merge into each other on their own.

Repeat the above process to the remaining hearts following the outline for color progression listed at the beginning of this step.

To allow the various paint colors to organically bleed into each other, allow the paint on the hearts to dry naturally, versus using a blow dryer to speed the drying process along.

Step 4 - Lettering

Using the Recollections Metallic marker in **Silver**, carefully draw over the lettering outline. Two layers of this color may be applied if desired.

"XOXO" Valentine's Day Card

Step 1 - Transfer or Freehand Draw Outline

Use a Lightbox or well lit window and a graphite pencil to transfer the provided lettering, or freehand draw the lettering by using the provided outline as a guide.

Step 2 - Create the Gradient Wash Background

The gradient wash will be created using the 1/2" One Stroke flat brush and five of the paint colors on your palette. The colors will be applied in this order:

Top Layer: Mulberry
Second Layer: Red
Third Layer: Pink
Fourth Layer: Light Purple
Fifth Layer: Dark Purple

Snapshot of the Process: Each section or strip of color will be approximately 3/4" in total width. Each color will be applied by painting on horizontal "stripes", starting at the top of the paper and working down toward the bottom of the paper. Take care not to go back and forth over a stripe more times than necessary; instead, apply each stripe just long enough to evenly cover the paper. After creating stripes that are 3/4" in width in one color, you will clean your brush and apply a new color just under and just touching the previously applied color. Try not to move your brush back and forth where they meet.

Place a wet 1/2" flat brush in the **Mulberry** paint on your palette. Apply the paint to the top of the card in a horizontal manner. To add interest, leave approximately 1/4" on both the far left and right side of the card without color and the very top of the paper by approximately 1/16". (Each stripe should have a varying starting and ending point so that it creates movement on the card.) Move in a horizontal direction from left to right with your strokes. Apply a second stripe in this color by working in the same direction until it equals 3/4" in total width..

Clean your brush and then place it in the **Red** paint color and then apply a new set of stripes to the card. Apply red directly under and barely touching the bottom edge of the Mulberry color. Apply it so that it is close enough that the two colors meet and blend together, but avoid going back and forth over them several times with your brush. Once the Red stripes are approximately 3/4" thick, clean your brush and repeat this same process with the remaining colors outlined above.

Give the paint a few minutes to settle into the paper before speeding along the drying process by using a blow dryer. When the paint is fully dry, move on to the next step.

Step 3 - Painting on the Lettering

Use the gold drawing ink and a #2 round brush to paint on the "XOXO" lettering. Using a toothpick, stir the gold drawing ink thoroughly to mix the gold with the other liquid in the bottle.

Dip the number two brush in the gold drawing ink, and then paint on the lettering, working a section at a time, and breaking each individual letter into smaller parts if necessary to help with control, and using only the tip of the brush when painting on the drawing ink.

Begin by painting on the thinner of the two lines of the first X. Paint the other line of the X in the same manner and then go over it again to thicken the line up a bit. Add more gold drawing ink to your brush as often as necessary.

With the first O, carefully go over the entire O in a thin line, and then thicken up the left half of it with another layer of drawing ink.

Repeat the above process with the second X and O.

Bonus "You and Me" Valentine's Day Card

Step 1 - Transfer or Freehand Draw Heart Outline

Use a Lightbox or well lit window and a graphite pencil to transfer the provided outline for the heart or freehand draw the heart by using the provided outline as a guide. Do not draw on the lettering at this point, as masking fluid tends to lift graphite.

Step 2 - Apply Masking Fluid to Heart

Use a q-tip to paint on the masking fluid to the entirety of the center heart. A toothpick may be helpful to manipulate the masking fluid into a point at the bottom of the heart.

Allow the masking fluid to fully dry before moving on.

Step 3 - Apply Light Paint Colors

This is a great card to use up any leftover paint that is still on your palette. A flat brush will be used to paint on the strokes using all the colors that were mixed at the beginning. Apply the light colors that are left on your palette first and then apply the remaining dark colors over top after the light colors have dried. The masking fluid will protect the center heart from receiving or absorbing any of the paint colors, so do not be afraid to start or end a stroke on the masking fluid. To make sure there is plenty of movement with this design, place your strokes so that they go in all different directions: vertically, horizontally, and diagonally.

Use the 1/2" One Stroke flat brush to apply the paint. The brush stroke is performed by placing the brush on the paper, pulling the brush in a single direction, and then lifting up on the brush as you finish the stroke to give the end point of the stroke a wispy and soft edge. The strokes should all be approximately 3/4" to 1" in length.

Apply the light colors first. You may start with any of the light colors: **Pink, Light Purple, Light Mulberry, or Light Turquoise**. Start by applying 5-10 strokes of one color before doing the same with the next color, cleaning your brush in-between colors. Do not overlap these light colors but try to place them randomly and all over the paper. Allow the paint to fully dry.

Repeat the process of applying strokes but use the darker colors on your palette now: **Red, Dark Purple, Mulberry, and Dark Turquoise**. Once again apply your strokes in various directions. It is okay to place the dark colors over top or overlapping the previously applied light colors. Because the light colors are dry, the colors will not bleed into each other. Allow the paint to fully dry.

Step 4 - Remove Masking Fluid

Carefully remove the masking fluid by rubbing one edge of the heart gently with a paper towel and then gently working all around the edges of the heart. Keep gently lifting the masking fluid, working around the heart and toward the center of the heart. The masking fluid will roll into a ball as you do this, and you should be able to gently lift the masking fluid when you arrive at the very middle of the heart.

Step 5 - Lettering

Use a Lightbox or well lit window to transfer the provided lettering or freehand draw the lettering by using the provided outline as a guide.

Using the Recollections Metallic Marker in **Silver**, gently draw over the outline. If desired, go over the outline again using the Recollections Metallic Marker in **Gold**.

Finally, draw a loose heart using the silver marker around the white heart on the card and then draw another loose heart using the gold marker. Use a loose wrist when drawing these hearts and do not try to line them up perfectly with the white heart on the card.