

Colouring a Heartease

Some tips on taking colours straight from Nature to create a blended pencil drawing on parchment.

*Photos and instructions by Robyn Cockburn,
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What you need:

1. Blendable coloured pencils – mulberry, violet, lilac, yellow and black (although in the water colour example I didn't have these and substituted pink, red, purple, yellow, black and white)
2. A blending medium
3. parchment
4. a pattern to trace
5. a coloured picture to guide your colour placement

I have used Prismacolor Premier Colored Pencils in this example. Another popular brand is Faber Castell Polychromos Pencils. You can use any blendable pencils. Another brand is Crayola Crayon Pencils. I have even used the cheapo water colour pencils (see at the end to compare the results).

You can blend with various blending media.

1. White spirit. You can use mineral turpentine or Gamsol odourless white spirit. Either a blending stump or cotton bud dampened with one of these will blend your colours together. These work with my cheapo water colour pencils. (See the end of the tutorial for extra tips with water colour pencils).
2. Baby oil or lavender oil. Also with a blending stump or cotton bud. Use sparingly – too much will soften your parchment and it won't hold any embossing that you do.
3. A blending pencil. This is not as effective with water colour pencils but is great for Prismacolor Pencils.

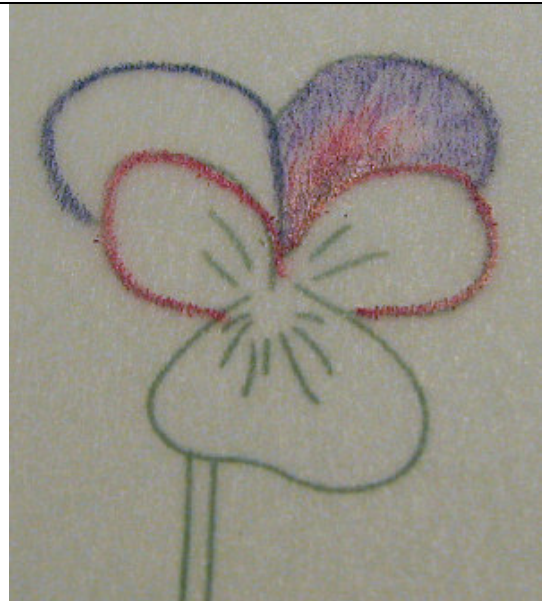
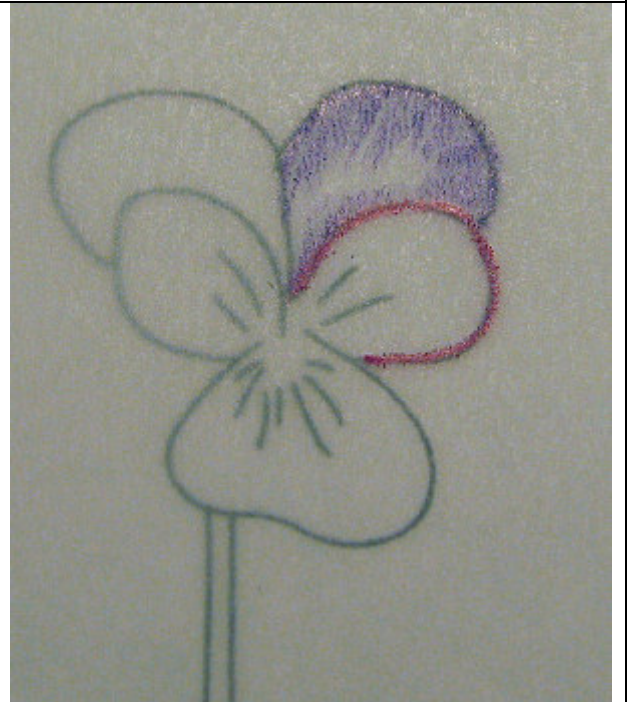
Blending does work on other smooth white papers. You can only emboss parchment though to give the full 3D effect shown here.



1. Tape your parchment over the pattern.

2. Using mulberry and violet blendable pencils outline the top edge of the two petals as shown.

3. Feather strokes of violet in from the top edge.



4. Fill the remainder of the top petal with mulberry.

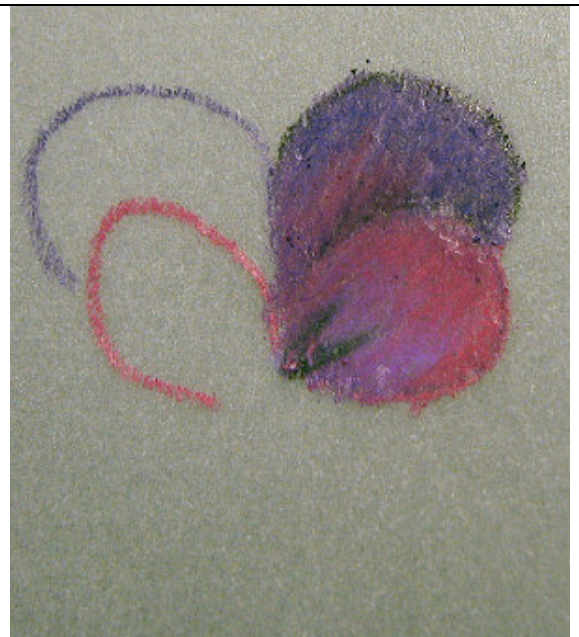
5. Use black to mark the veins in the second petal.

6. Add a little black behind the middle petal, towards the outside of the flower.



7. Feather some mulberry in from the edge of the middle petal. Feather some lilac out from the centre of the same petal.

8. Deepen all of the colours so that no blank parchment shows through.





9. Colour the centre yellow.

10. Add veins in the lowest petal, shading them from black to mulberry.

11. Outline the lower petal with mulberry.

12. Add more veins.

13. Feather mulberry, then lilac inwards from the bottom edge of the petal.



14. Fill the spaces in the lower petal with yellow.

15. Deepen all of the colours in the lower petal so that no parchment shows through.



16. Complete the remaining petals as per the first two.






17. Use the blending pencil to blend the colours in all of the petals. The blender strokes should be in the same direction as the original pencil strokes.

18. On the reverse emboss the petals. (See next photo).

The shine from the flash highlights the embossing in this photo.

The reverse – showing the embossing. The embossing does not reach the edges of the 4 upper petals as these all curve away at the edges.



	<p>Heartsease vary in colour from one flower to the next – but always with the same range of colours. If you have some in the garden use them to inspire your choice of colours – or search on the internet – there are bound to be plenty of images to show the wide variety in these little flowers!</p> <p>Note how the colours look different when the parchment is placed on a different colour background!</p>
<p>Prismacolor Pencils</p> 	<p>Water Colour Pencils</p> 

Water colour pencils don't have the same excellent colour lay down that Prismacolor pencils do so to achieve the intensity of colour that I have in the sample above I basically followed the same instructions but I

1. blended with a cotton bud dampened with mineral turps
2. after one pass of blending (while the parchment still has traces of turps on it) I recoloured with the pencils
3. I also pressed the pencil tip against the dampened cotton bud to soften it and then added more colour to the flower again
4. if necessary I blended again with the cotton bud and again with softened pencil tips

A few passes like this added much more colour to the paper than a single pass with water colour pencils. I embossed on the back as per normal.