

Using colour swatches for coloured and pastel pencils

Choosing your colours

Colour swatches.

For each of my sets of coloured pencils I produce colour swatches (see right).

Taking some strips of drawing paper, I divide each strip into individual sections and using firm pressure I apply each colour to a separate section, along with it's name. The colour runs right to the edge of the strip and this allows the strip to be placed onto your reference photo, (see below), so that you can check which colour is the best match for your use.



Some sets give each pencil a number as well as a name, so it can be useful to also include these on the swatch strips.

Manufacturers will sometimes change the names of their colours, but the numbers remain the same, so if you have noted the number you can successfully identify the colours that you need.