

Flowers for Mother's Day

This is a special card for a special person. Painted using the One Stroke technique, it's simple to do and once the technique has been perfected, can be made in minutes.



GO

- 1 First practice all the strokes described previously on your practice paper.
- 2 Transfer the outline of the pansy onto the mountboard using tracing paper or transfer paper.
- 3 Begin with the two top petals. Double load your brush with White and Dioxazine Purple with the white at the top. Place the brush with the edge vertical, apply slight pressure and ruffle the brush while forming a pivot stroke. Make one stroke from the position of 12 o' clock to 3 o' clock (to the right) and a matching stroke from 12 o' clock to 9 o' clock (to the left). See painting strokes and painting diagram.

- 4 Now paint two more ruffled pivot strokes to overlap the first set and finally one to form a large wedge shape, remembering to reverse the colours so that the purple forms the bottom edge and the white the inner part.
- 5 With liner brush loaded with Black, paint a series of very thin strokes radiating away from the centre. See themain picture.
- 6 Next load liner brush with Cadmium Yellow and paint centre and then paint on top with Golden Yellow. Finish by loading liner brush with White and making two small comma strokes away from centre on top of the Golden Yellow.
- 7 Using the liner brush and Pine Green, paint in all the stems. You may need to add a little water to the paint, which will help you to complete the stroke in one go without running out of paint.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Wet palette: to make a wet palette, all you need is a flat kitchen sponge and a piece of greaseproof paper. Wet the sponge and wring out so it feels damp, but not dripping with water. Wrap a piece of greaseproof paper around the sponge and place in the lid of a waterproof container (sandwich box). This ensures any paint placed on the palette does not dry out for a considerable time.

Double loading: place a thumbnail amount of paint on a plate or ideally a wet palette. First wet your brush and wipe any excess moisture away by squeezing between kitchen towel. Scoop up the first colour with the corner of the brush, turn it over and repeat with the other corner of the brush. Place the brush on the palette and pull it towards you, then turn it over and brush away from you, keeping the colours in the same order. This evenly distributes the paint so you can form strokes easily. You will need to load up your brush in this way for every stroke.

Pivot stroke: double load your brush as described above. Hold the brush vertical, just touching the surface

to be painted. Apply pressure away from you while turning the wrist and bring back to original position as soon as wedge shape is achieved.

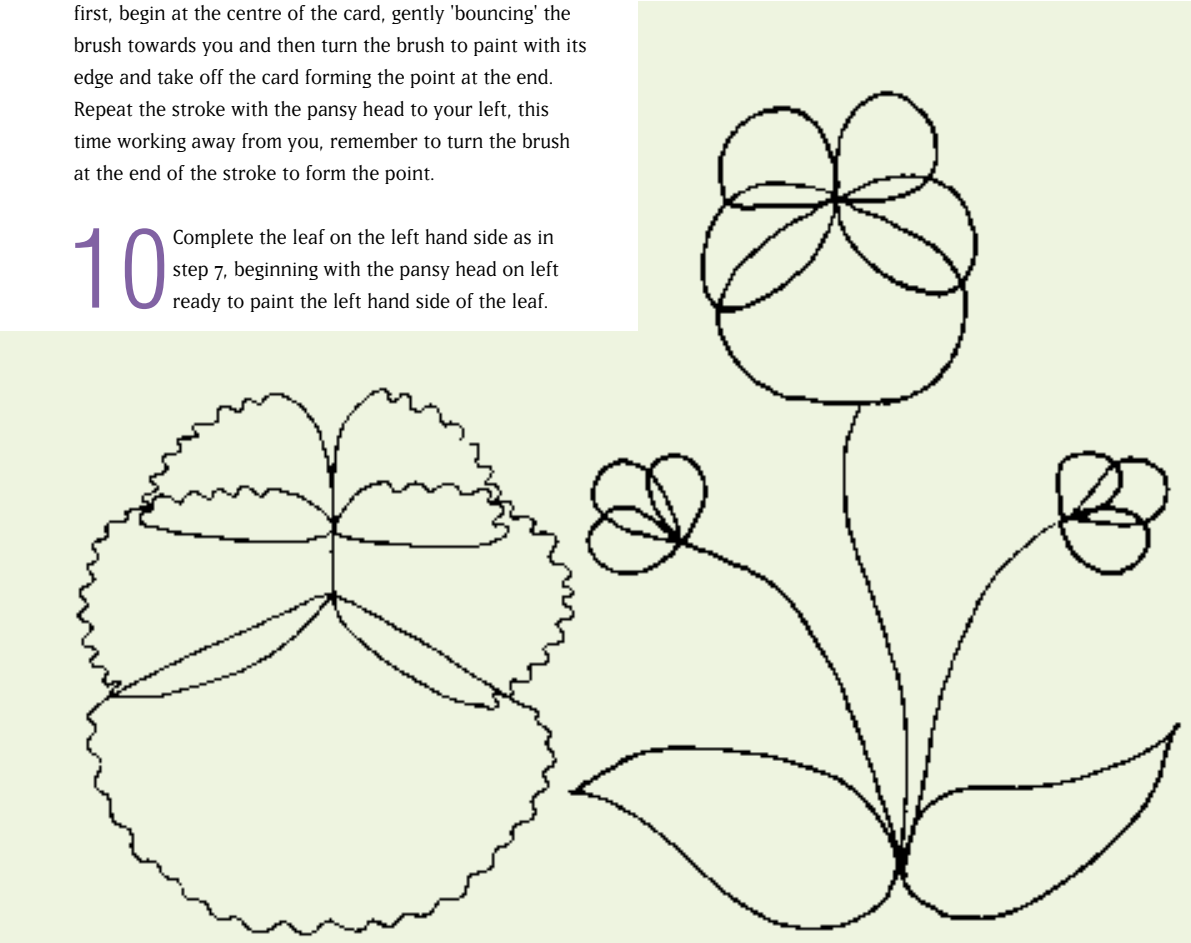
Ruffle stroke: double load your brush and practice this stroke in a straight direction while applying slight pressure, ruffling i.e. swaying side to side as you apply paintbrush and pressure to surface.

Comma stroke: once your brush is loaded, hold the brush vertically and then tilt it towards your shoulder. The stroke is made by the pressure applied; so you should press the brush onto the surface, pull it towards you and lift to make a fine line in a continuous movement. Practice this stroke in three directions, to the left, to the right and straight down.



- 8 For the flower buds, double load as before with white and purple. Begin with the centre bud, which is formed with a ruffled pivot stroke. Paint two further ones, one slightly to the left and one slightly to the right. To add the green leaf covering, load the liner brush with green and make three comma strokes, one either side and one in the centre.
- 9 To paint the leaves, double load with white and green. The leaves are painted in two halves. To paint the leaf on the right hand, turn the card so the pansy head is on the right. Paint the left hand side of the leaf first, begin at the centre of the card, gently 'bouncing' the brush towards you and then turn the brush to paint with its edge and take off the card forming the point at the end. Repeat the stroke with the pansy head to your left, this time working away from you, remember to turn the brush at the end of the stroke to form the point.
- 10 Complete the leaf on the left hand side as in step 7, beginning with the pansy head on left ready to paint the left hand side of the leaf.

- 11 To frame the painting, use a border punch and punch along one edge match the pattern as you go. Discard the straight strip, which is punched out with the pattern and cut the paper with a craft knife a few millimetres away from the pattern. Cut to length and glue to the card.
- 12 Cut card to twice size of mountboard, score and fold in half and glue to back of mountboard to form card.



TECHNIQUE:
One stroke painting

SKILL LEVEL:
Challenging ●●●

MAKE IT
in an afternoon

CREATED BY
Geraldine Curtis

- GET READY...**
- ✓ DecoArt Americana acrylic paints in the following colours: Titanium White, Dioxazine Purple, Red Violet, Primary Yellow Lamp Black, Pine Green
 - ✓ Flat brush (size 10)
 - ✓ Liner brush
 - ✓ Practice paper
 - ✓ A6 mountboard in various colours
 - ✓ Pearlised paper
 - ✓ A4 card to match pearlised paper
 - ✓ Fiskars Diamond border punch
 - ✓ Craft knife and mat
 - ✓ Paper glue

SOURCE
The full range of DecoArt paints from The Stencil House:
☎ 0115 942 4600
🌐 www.stencilhouse.co.uk

For Decoart products:
🌐 www.decoart.com

For a list of qualified Brushstrokes teachers:
🌐 www.decoartlearnto paintuk-.com

Pack of Kanban mountboard from all good craft shops.
For your nearest stockist:
☎ 01274 582415
✉ sales@kanbancardandpaper.com

Pearlised paper is from Paperchase:
☎ 020 7467 6200 or
📍 213 Tottenham Court Road, London.
Mail order ☎ 0161 839 1500

Fiskars border punches are available from all good craft shops. For details of Fiskars stockists:
☎ 01656 655595.
Visit Fiskars UK website at
🌐 www.fiskars.com