

Watercolor Christmas Cards

Demonstrated by
Mary Churchill



How to do a hand-made Christmas Card demonstrated by Mary Churchill

SUPPLIES

Watercolor paper, cut to 4.5 x 11 inches

Folded size: 4.25 x 5 inches

Watercolor paints and brushes

Paper towels

Pencil

Optional: a hair dryer to speed up the work

The size of this card is based on the size of the envelope, which is an invitation envelope size, 24 lb. Bright White Wove (also comes in color). Available at local stationery supply stores.



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DRAWING

Tape your card to a board using masking tape. Tape two sides and the bottom leaving an equal margin under the tape (1/4"). Tape across the fold leaving the same amount of margin. Leaving this white border around the image frames your painting.

Draw a preliminary sketch on your paper. Be sure to make it dark enough to be able to follow as you paint. If you are an inexperienced artist, choose a subject which is not too detailed until you are more experienced.

Be sure a have a thickly folded paper towel to wipe brushes or clean up excess water.



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PAINTING

I do not wet my card paper because it is so small and my paints are wet. I like to use flat brushes with sharp edges for this type of project. I always use quality paints, as these tend to have more life than children's paints.

As a rule, I keep the colors simple (red, blue and yellow) and mix to get the colors I need. However, additional colors can enhance the image. For example, "Paynes Grey" is useful for shadows where the subject is white. I use "Burnt Sienna" for wood objects or for dirt. The sky in this image is made with "Cerulean Blue" and "Cobalt Blue".

Remember, things reflect colors from and onto each other. I often load multiple colors on to my brush for a soft, blended effect.



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LAST NOTE

At this point, you might want to write a greeting on the inside of your card.

This can be created with the sharp-edged small brushes that you painted with, calligraphy pens, or even a rubber stamp.

Plaid makes a nice lettering brush. If you prefer to use a lettering brush, we recommend Plaid brushes.

To fold your card, use a stylus or the back of your scissors and a ruler to make a score line, then fold along the line.



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Mary's Brief Bio

Mary Churchill loves to share the techniques of watercolor and acrylic paintings with those who appreciate artistic beauty. She loves teaching, especially children.

Her favorite subjects for painting are children, animals and the sea.

Mary has studied at Fleisher's Art Memorial and the Philadelphia College Museum of Art, and with New England area artists.

Her works can be found in Italy, Ireland, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Arizona, as well as New England.

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To learn more about Mary Churchill, visit:

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