

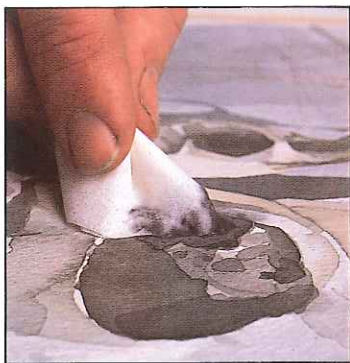
LIFTING OUT

In watercolor, ink, and pastel painting, lifting out simply means removing small areas of color, using a soft brush, a sponge, or a tissue. The technique has several uses: to correct mistakes; to lighten a color; to create a soft, hazy form; to add highlights; and to breathe air into a too-solid area of the painting.

Watercolor

Damp paint can be lifted out quite easily, but dry paint may need to be coaxed off gently with a soft brush. Remember, too, that some watercolor pigments have more staining strength than others — alizarin crimson and sap green, for example, will always leave a residue of color. Bear this in mind if you wish to lift out color to regain the white of the paper.

Use the lifting out technique on good quality paper only; soft paper will “rough up,” and by lifting out you may make a hole in your picture.



Tissue paper

When working with lots of wet washes, tissue is useful for wiping areas that have become too wet, and for controlling the flow of paint. Use a blot-and-lift motion with the tissue — rubbing may damage the surface of the paper. Tissue paper can be used to lift out amorphous shapes in a wet wash — when painting clouds, for example. Use this technique judiciously, however; when overdone it looks slick and unconvincing.



Blotting paper

Blotting paper is thicker and more absorbent than tissue and, once dry, it can be re-used. If you wish to lift out a small, precise area, hold the corner of the blotting paper against the surface until the excess paint is absorbed.



Lifting out • Pastel

To lift off excess color in pastel, use a delicate scrubbing motion with a soft brush, blowing away the surplus dust as you work.

To lift out color in small areas, use a kneaded eraser pulled to a point.