10) Water brush

Sources (among others):

https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-use-a-waterbrush-2579371

https://stampinwithkjoyink.typepad.com/stampinwithkjoyink/2018/02/page/2/

A waterbrush is unlike any other brush. It consists of a familiar-looking bunch of bristles at the one end, but the handle isn't solid wood or plastic. Rather it's a container or reservoir designed to hold water. The two bits screw together, and the clip-on cap stops the water leaking out when you're not using the brush.

As you use the waterbrush, water gradually seeps down from the reservoir onto the bristles. This means the brush bristles are permanently moist or damp.

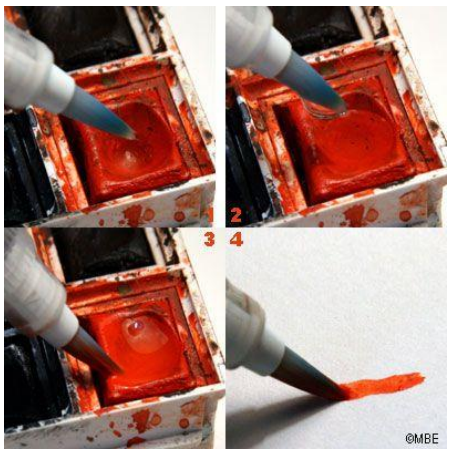
Different brands of waterbrush look more or less the same, and all work on the same principle. The size and shape of the water reservoir will differ between brands, as can the size of the brush bristles.

Controlling the Flow of Water Down a Waterbrush

To get more water in the water brushes bristles, you squeeze the water reservoir. Basically, you move your hand up a little way along the brush handle, then squeeze with your fingers. How much additional water is pushed down onto the bristles depends on how hard and long you squeeze the water reservoir. The water will drip off the brush onto your paper.To avoid puddles of water on your paper, move the brush as you squeeze the reservoir.

When you're adding additional water to paint already on paper, be careful not to squeeze too hard or long, or you can end up with too much. If this does happen, use a corner of a clean cloth, or a dry brush, to soak up the excess water. With practice, you'll soon learn to judge how much water you're going to get.

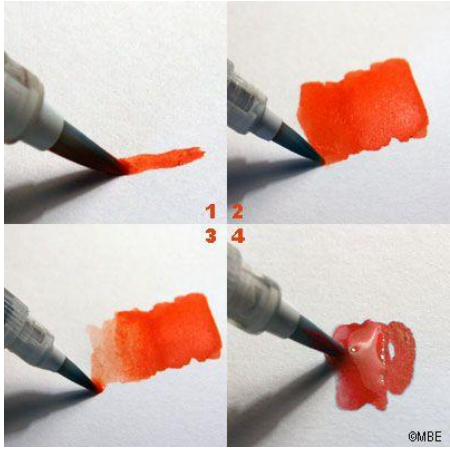
Using a Waterbrush with Watercolor Paints



A waterbrush is ideal for using with watercolor paints, and eliminates the need for a separate container of water. This makes it really useful for plein air painting or sketching on location..

To use the watercolor paint, simply dip the waterbrush in and out the paint, like with a normal brush. If you're used to using a sable-haired brush for watercolor, you'll find that the synthetic bristles of a waterbrush don't hold as much paint, so you'll find yourself dipping the brush into the paint more often.

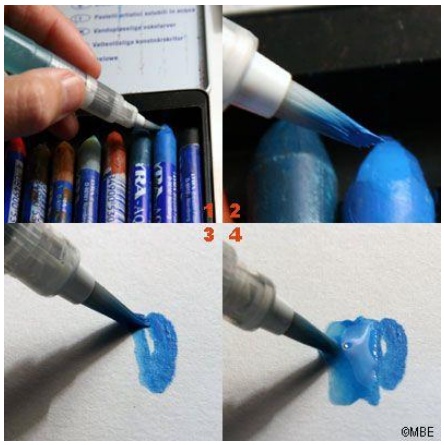
Using a Waterbrush Flat and Graded Watercolor Washes



It's when you're wanting to paint a graded wash (Photo 3) that the uniqueness of a waterbrush makes a huge difference. You start by picking up some paint and laying this down, then simply continue painting without adding fresh paint or clean water, or rinsing the brush. The water in the waterbrush gets added to the paint as you're working, gradually lightening the color to create a graded wash.

Be careful that you don't squeeze the water reservoir and end up with a puddle of water on your paint (Photo 4).

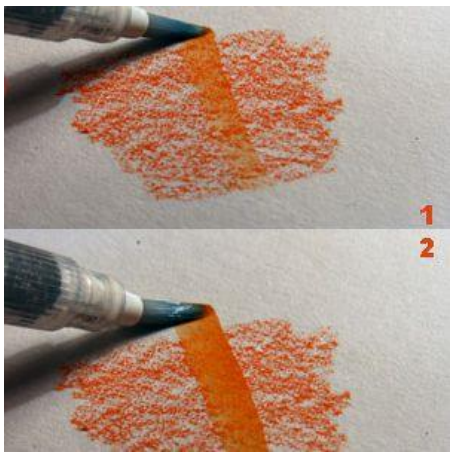
Lifting Color from Watersoluble Pencils



A waterbrush can also be used to lift color directly from watercolor pencils or watersoluble crayons. Simply place the bristles against the pencil, then move it back and forth until you've got enough paint on the brush.

It will take a little trial-and-error to know just how much paint you've lifted, but always remember you can add more water from the brush while you're painting.

Turning Watercolor Pencil into Paint with a Waterbrush



A waterbrush is ideal for turning watercolor pencil into watercolor paint. You simply run the waterbrush over the watersoluble pencil, and the water in the bristles turns it into paint. The advantage of doing this with a waterbrush rather than an ordinary brush is that you don't have to stop to load the brush with water.

Photo 1 shows watercolor pencil with a waterbrush run across it just once. Photo 2 shows it having been done several times, which is why there's more paint 'activated'.

Using dye inks with the waterbrush

You can dab a little ink from any water-soluble ink pad on a hard surface (for example the lid of the ink pad) and use it as paint for your water brush! The big “Stampin’Up” inkpads can even be squeezed a little, and when you open them there is already ink for you to use on the inner side of the lid!

How to Clean a Waterbrush

To clean a waterbrush, start by wiping off any excess paint on a tissue or cloth (Photo 1). Then squeeze the water reservoir so some water runs into the bristles (Photo 2). Wipe the bristles again (Photo 3). Repeat a couple of times, and your waterbrush will be clean (Photo 4).

Material:

- Dye ink
- Water brushes with water
- Toilet paper/rag
- Suitable cardboard
- Aquarel pencils