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Opening extract from

Art Skills

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Published by

Usborne Publishing Ltd

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Techniques for trees

The next four pages show you lots of different ways of drawing, painting and printing trees. When you try any of these techniques, you will get a better result if you make your tree bigger than the ones shown.



This oil painting of olive trees, by Vincent van Gogh, was painted in 1889. Van Gogh used lots of short lines to build up the shape and colour of the trees and the sky.

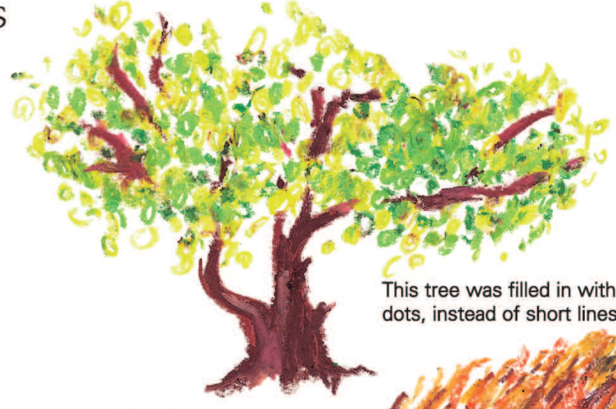
Oil pastel trees



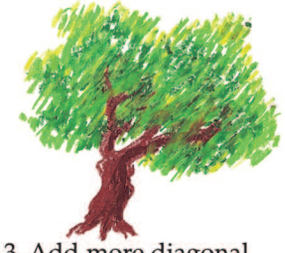
1. Draw a twisted tree trunk using dark brown oil pastels. Add several short branches.



2. Draw lots of short diagonal lines with a green oil pastel, overlapping the branches.



This tree was filled in with dots, instead of short lines.



3. Add more diagonal lines for the leaves, using a lighter green and a lime green pastel.



Use orange, brown and rusty pastels for autumn leaves on a tree.

Pen and ink



1. Use brown ink to paint a very simple trunk with three thick branches coming from it.

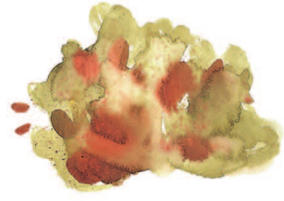


2. Use green ink to paint a wavy line for the top of the tree. Then fill it in, leaving some small gaps.



3. Use a felt-tip or an ink pen to draw loopy lines around the edge of the tree and around the gaps.

Brushed branches



1. Paint a patch of green and brown watercolour paint. Spatter it by flicking the bristles of your brush.



2. Leave it to dry, then use different shades of brown watercolour paint to paint the trunk.



3. While the trunk is still wet, paint the branches by brushing the paint up onto the leaves.

Chalk pastel leaves



1. Paint a trunk with yellowy-brown watercolour paint. Add some branches, too.



2. Draw lines using a light green chalk pastel. Add some darker green lines on top.



3. Gently rub the tip of your little finger down the lines to smudge the chalks together.