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Opening extract from

Complete Book of Art Ideas

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Acrylic paints

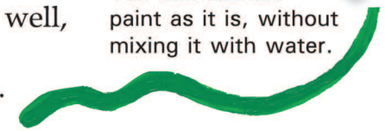
Acrylic paints are very bright and easy to mix. They can be used in a variety of ways to get different effects.



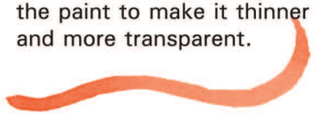
Using acrylics

Squeeze small blobs of acrylic paint onto an old plate or palette. Mix them with water, or use them straight from the tube. Wash your brushes well, because the paint is waterproof when it dries.

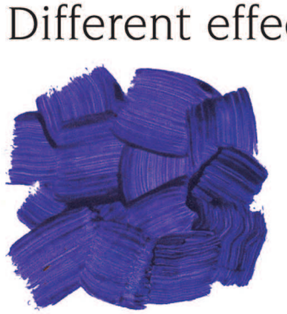
You can use the paint as it is, without mixing it with water.



Or, you can add water to the paint to make it thinner and more transparent.



Different effects



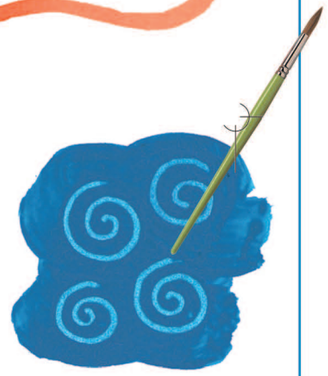
Using paint straight from the tube, try short brushstrokes with a flat-ended brush.



Paint a patch of colour in thick paint, then scratch into it with a piece of cardboard.



Cut notches in a piece of cardboard. Scrape it across the paint to make lines.



Use the pointed end of a paintbrush to scratch swirls into thick paint.



For a criss-cross effect, press the edge of a piece of thick cardboard into the paint.



To get a textured pattern, scratch into thick paint with the prongs of a plastic fork.



Mix paint with a little water to make it watery. Do wavy lines in different colours.



Paint lines with watery paint. Let them dry. Add shapes with thick paint on top.

This picture was created using papers decorated with patterns made in thick paint, using the techniques shown on the opposite page. Shapes were cut, then glued together to make a collage.