

## How to make your own pastels.

1. Use leftover ends, garish colours or overly saturated hues. In fact any pastel hard or soft that is surplus to requirements.



2. Using a pestle and mortar grind the pastel pieces into dry loose pigment. Mix any colours to achieve a result that fits your pallet. The dry mix will display the finished colour of the pastel stick(s) you are about to make. Using a glass chopping board and decorators' knife work through the dry mixture to reduce the particles further. The finer the powder the softer the pastel will be.



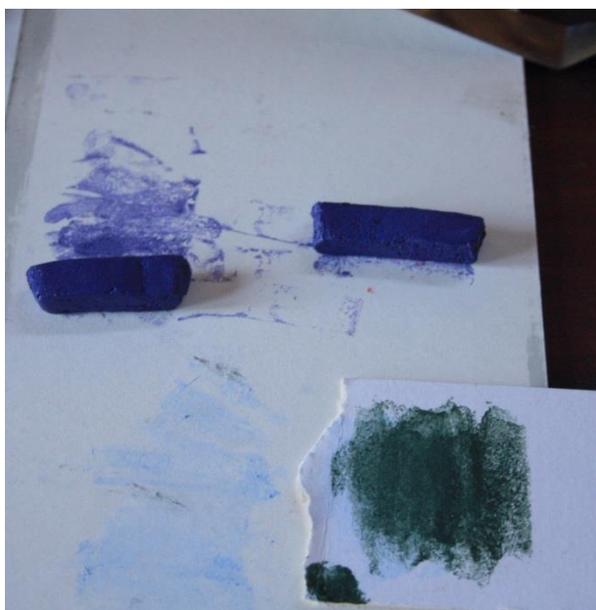
3. Reserve a portion of this pigment to stiffen the mixture in case you over wet it. The same function can be served by adding precipitated chalk (calcium carbonate) and talc mixed 3 parts chalk to 1 part talc. This is also a cheap way of making the pastels bigger and the talc will make them softer. Do not add more than is necessary to stiffen the mixture or the finished pastels may crumble.



4. After the 45 mins have elapsed cut the pate into pastel sizes that suit your pallet. The same knife will do this. If the mixture sticks to the knife wait a further 15 mins.



5. Separate the pastels, take a narrow piece of mount board about the width of a pastel and gentle roll off the rough edges on a clean piece of mount board. Just enough pressure to round off, too much rolling will hollow out the pastel.



6. Leave to dry overnight. If you wish to go further and make a tonal range of the same hue, purchase a few inexpensive black and white pastels (Inscribe, Jaxell or similar). Once dry, take one of your new pastels break in 2 and repeat the process adding a white stick to half and a black stick to half.



The options are infinite.