Colored pencil information, basics along with techniques and blending types.

**Colored Pencils (wax or oil based)** – Boxed sets of colored pencils are convenient but buying colors individually gives you control of the colors you use. The more colors you have in your palette the more freedom of choice you have in your artwork.

Quality colored pencil brands are:

Prismacolor Premier Colored Pencils – wax base
Prismacolor Artstix Colored sticks – wax base
Derwent Artists Colored Pencils – wax base
Derwent Coloursoft Colored Pencils – wax base
Caran d'Ache Luminance Colored Pencils – wax base
Talents Van Gogh Colored Pencils – wax base
Caran d' Ache Pablo Colored Pencils – oil base
Faber Castell Polychromos Colored Pencils – oil base
Lyra Rembrandt Polycolor Colored Pencils – oil base

Prismacolor Verithin Colord Pencils are the equivalent of the "Premier" line except the lead is "hard".

I recommend "wax" based pencils, but the choice is yours based on the "feel" of the brand you like.

If you are just starting out I would stay with Prismacolor, Derwent or store brand waxed based pencils.
Oil based colored pencils are workable like wax based colored pencils – do not mix oil or wax!

**Art Sticks** – Prismacolor offers art sticks that are merely colored pencil pigments formed into a stick format rather than being formed to fit in a wooden shaft. These are useful when amassing color for stains and rough overlays without wasting pencils with constant sharpening.

**Paper-** (acid-free) 90 to 300pd (approximately 30" x 22". Papers I would look at are:

a. Arches hot-press*
b. BFK Rives vellum surface
c. Fabriano Tiepolo
d. Lenox White vellum finish
e. Pescia smooth surface
f. Saunders Waterford Series hot-press
g. Somerset radiant white satin*
h. Stonehenge smooth*
i. Strathmore Bristol vellum surface*

*Denotes paper sheets I would start with – just pick one brand you like.

**Tracing Paper (recommended a roll)** - Use tracing paper for problem solving, designing and line drawing.

**Transfer Paper/ Graphic sticks** - Use graphic sticks, a color close to your image (once I have my final drawing laid out - on the back side of your tracing paper I lay down a covering of graphic to transfer my image/drawing onto the final piece of paper). Now, art supply stores sell "transfer paper sheets and rolls" – if you feel more comfortable using it that is fine.

The reason I use a "colored" stick or colored pencil is by using a color close to your reference you will "eliminate" muddy color from your drawing when using a soft graphite pencil or stick graphite.

**Tape** - Scotch Magic Tape and 1" Drafting Tape

**Miscellaneous** - Q-tips, cotton balls, rags, Xacto knife, small plastic container(s), watercolor brushes (2-pointed round #4 and #8), portable (battery operated) electric pencil sharpener.
**Solvent** – Clear Turpenoid (Odorless Mineral Spirits) or Gamsol (90% Alcohol – Hospital Strength – never purchase anything less, its to weak).

I redo and redrew – cleaning up lines as I go until I get to a final drawing I like. Now I have a scanner and a photo manipulation program so I can enlarge the drawing to the size of my drawing paper (allowing a border around This becomes my "master".

**BLENDING TECHNIQUES**

**Overlaying** - Applying colored pencil strokes to create a color blend or building layers. This process is much the same as mixing colors on a painter’s palette. But colored pencil hues are mixed on the paper. The colored pencil painting is also the palette. Remember paper has "peaks and valleys", so you need to keep a "loose" or "light stroke" when laying color down.

FYI: Very sharp pencil points create delicate color blends. Dull pencil points produce a color blend that is course in texture.

**Hatching, Cross-Hatching and Textures** - A method of creating light and dark values and color blends using linear pencil or pen strokes. Colored
pencil hatching strokes can be a means of mixing two or more hues to create color changes.

1. **Hatching**: Parallel pencil strokes spaced close or widely apart.
2. **Cross Hatching**: Sets of lines are hatched over the other pencil strokes in different directions.
3. **Textures**: Mix colors using varied marks such as dots, ticks or circular strokes creating a visual texture.

**Liquid Solvent Blending Staining** - Staining is a method of creating a solid color background or a multicolored under painting using a solvent. After applying thick strokes of colored pencil or art sticks to the paper, saturate a watercolor brush with solvent and spread the loaded brush over the colored pencil overlay. Using a little pressure, rub a terrycloth rag into the softened colored pencil overlay in circular motions to create a stain of color on the surface of the paper. Another method is to dip the cloth into the solvent and rub directly onto the color overlay. The stained paper can be used as a background or as an under painting. Draw over the stained paper or erase as needed. (Turpenoid is my preferred solvent for staining because it liquefies colored pencil strokes quickly. I fine Alcohol removes the wax, it's your preference.)
Solvent blending and staining example –

**Wet Brush Blending**
- For a loose painterly effect, apply solvent with a round acrylic or watercolor brush. Work over colored pencil strokes spreading and dissolving the wax colors on the paper.

**Damp Brush Blending**
- For a more controlled solvent application, use a Filbert brush. Dip a Filbert brush into the solvent and blot the brush onto an absorbent rag to soak up the excess solvent. Blend colors with dampened bristles over colored pencil strokes. The Filbert brush can be used in place of a clear blending marker.

**Damp Brush Scumbling**
- Dip a Fabric Dye Brush in solvent and blot on an absorbent cloth to soak up excess solvent. Scumble or scrub into the colored pencil overlay with more control of solvent effects. Damp brush scumbling can be used in place of a clear blending marker.

**Clear Blending Markers**
- There are two types Prismacolor's Clear Blender marker and Clear Blender pen.

Used for blending, smearing and creating textures. Clear blending markers provide a controlled means of dissolving colored pencils. As you rub overlaid colors with the marker, the pencil strokes break down into a blurring effect. The colors seem to smudge and blend in the area of the clear blending marker application. To replenish dry markers, fill pen reservoir with hospital strength denatured alcohol. Pull pen tip out and pour solvent in through a small funnel applicator. Colored pencils leave a residue on the marker tip that can stain other areas of the artwork. To
prevent artwork from accidental blemishing, use a new marker or have 3 markers – one each for light, medium and dark colors.

Damp Brush Example:

Close-up –
Clear Blending Markers Example –