

HELPFUL TIPS

Blending paint is easiest when all the paint you're trying to work with is still wet. This means moving quickly and deliberately! This is one of those things that takes practice.

Begin with your base color, then switch to your new color and make sure you go back and forth over the line between both colors enough times that the paint begins to blend together. The key is to stop before the paint begins drying on your brush, or you'll begin to see clumpy, chunky paint as you're actually cooking it with the friction from your brush. If your paint is turning matte, it's time to stop blending.

If your colors didn't blend the way you were expecting, you've got a few options. You can embrace that this is likely the background, and will probably be covered up, and decide not to let it stress you out. You can repeat the exact same step, over what you just did, with fresh paint. Or, you can take a clean brush, clean clear water, and use just a small amount of water to "wake up" the existing colors and try blending them again.

If you repeat with too much water you may find your colors lightening and becoming more pastel, as your white canvas shows through. If that's the case, you'll need to let that dry and go back over with more color to restore the boldness of your painting, if desired.

If your paint is blending and you DON'T want it to, it is probably too wet. Wet paint blends, dry paint covers. Dry your canvas by taking a break, grabbing a snack, and coming back when your paint is matte, or by employing the use of an emergency blow dryer. I try to guide you through the painting in such a way that by the time we circle back around to steps that were previously very wet, they'll have dried, but it's not an exact science. Use your judgement and give your painting a break when needed.

Remember, practice makes perfect. Don't give up and don't be afraid to try a few different techniques if you don't succeed on the first try.