

Melting Some New Colors

by Wendy Manning

I wanted some paler colors, so I picked up some extra Holbein whites and went on a bit of a mixing spree. Thought you might like to see.

1. Put pieces in a foil-wrapped gravy ladle, in a foil-lined saucepan



2. Melted them together, stirred with a disposable chopstick



3. Poured into a foil mold in an old cheapo softies box



4. Four new colors, lumpy shapes but they work fine



The colors mixed easily, and I didn't notice any smell. They were all Holbeins. I have done this with my Specialists, too, to get some rich dark greens. I haven't mixed brands.

The heat source was the electric stove. I had the burner on medium and watched it pretty closely. It took 5 min or so for them to melt, and I did one at a time. This was my second go- first try was also successful, with dark Cray-Pas Specialists.

They hardened very quickly, in minutes. I took them out of the molds within half an hour, left them overnight but probably could have used them right away.

Holbeins are quite uniform in consistency and hardness, as are Specialists. I do not know how well Senneliers would work... there is such a variety of consistency and hardness with them.

Oil Pastel Primer

After discussing this, Carly Clements tried melting some new colors. Here is her experience.

I picked up was some large 'soft crayons' in a roll up stick that looks like a big fat lipstick tube. I rolled the crayon up and took it out of the tube.

I melted a white Specialist with a bit of opera pink in the foil. It was the consistency of creamy whipped cream so it didn't pour really well but I scooped it into the tube with a plastic spoon.

You're right about the drying....it dries almost too fast! I can roll the new stick up out of the tube but I decided to wait an hour or so before taking it out to see how it works but the color is really nice....a pale clear pink! I've needed that for my sky colors but didn't have one light enough in value. Hope this one works!!

One thing I learned when putting the softened oil pastel into the tube, you have to bump it on the table each time to make it all settle to the bottom.

Please be careful with any heat around oil pastels!!