

Tip #5

Spatter!

Art #5-1 and #5-2

Here's a great little texturing tool that's useful for all kinds of things -- sand on a beach, rust, a suggestion of foliage, or just a little textural interest. The first illustration is a detail from an opaque acrylic, the second is watercolor, also a detail of a larger piece.

Use spatter with watercolor, acrylics, even watercolor pencil -- just touch your wet brush to the tip of the pencil, lift enough pigment to spatter with, and away you go!

You can use a variety of brushes to apply spatter, essentially droplets of paint of varied sizes. Generally speaking, the wetter and more loaded your brush -- and the larger your brush, the larger the individual droplets.





Art #5-3

Some people prefer an old toothbrush or a boar-bristle oil-painting brush - my favorite spattering tool is a stencil brush, as shown at left. You can get tiny ones or huge ... just try them to see which feels best to you, and gives you the effects you're after. Load the brush, then run your thumb over the edge - hold it close to your paper, at an angle, or straight on to try out different effects.

Be sure to vary the placement of the spatter - don't use it all over your painting, and don't make your spacing too regular. For best results you may wish to blot, here and there, so some droplets are lighter than others, and vary the mixture of your paint so the color is a bit different. Play with it, it's FUN.

Look for more information on spattering in my North Light books, *Creating Textures in Watercolor* (<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0891344179/002-7020527-6491246?v=glance>) and *Watercolor Tricks and Techniques* (http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0891344470/qid=1098124129/sr=1-30/ref=sr_1_30/002-7020527-6491246?v=glance&s=books).

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