



## Free Pastel Pencil Starter Guide — Just for You!

If you're excited to start drawing with pastel pencils but don't know exactly where to begin, I've made something special for you. I created a **free Pastel Pencil Starter Guide** that gives you everything you need in one cozy, easy-to-follow PDF.

This guide is perfect for beginners who want clear steps, simple explanations, and a little creative encouragement along the way.

### What's Inside the Free Guide?

Here's a little peek at what you'll find inside:

#### ✓ The tools you actually need

No overwhelm, no long shopping lists — just the essentials to get started.

#### ✓ How pastel pencils work

A simple explanation of layering, blending, and building soft colors.

#### ✓ Step-by-step beginner tips

Clear guidance so you can make your first marks with confidence.

#### ✓ Common mistakes to avoid

Because we all make them, and it's nice to skip a few.

#### ✓ Easy practice exercises

Small, fun ideas to help you warm up and get comfortable.

✓ A friendly, encouraging tone

It feels like I'm sitting next to you with a cup of tea, cheering you on.

## 🌈 Why You'll Love This Guide

It's short, simple, and made with beginners in mind.

No complicated art jargon.

No pressure to be perfect.

Just a soft, friendly introduction to a beautiful medium.

Whether you want to draw animals, flowers, portraits, or just relax with colors, this guide will help you take your very first steps.



### 🖍️ 1. The Tools You Actually Need (and how to use them)

You don't need a big, expensive art stash. Just a few basics — and here's how to use them:

#### **Pastel Pencils**

Choose a small set (12 or 24).

They work best when you use **light pressure** and build up slowly.

## Textured Paper

Pastel pencils need “tooth” — tiny bumps that hold the pigment.

On smooth paper the color slides off, so always choose textured paper like Mi-Teintes or Pastelmat.

## Sharpener or Craft Knife

Pastel cores break easily.

Here's how to sharpen safely:

1. Hold the pencil still
2. Move the knife away from you
3. Shave off small pieces of wood
4. Shape the tip with sandpaper

## Blending Tools

- Paper stump = soft blends
- Cotton swab = small areas
- Fingers = only if you want a rougher look

## Kneaded Eraser

This is your magic tool.

You can shape it to a point and gently **lift pigment** to create highlights.

## 2. How Pastel Pencils Work

Pastel pencils are soft, dusty and blendable — but they need a gentle touch.

### Layering

This is the secret to smooth color.

1. Start with a very light layer
2. Add a second layer in the same direction
3. Add a third layer crossing the first two
4. Deepen shadows slowly

### Blending

Blend only the **top layer**, not everything underneath.

Use tiny circular motions for soft transitions.

### Light to Dark

Always begin with light colors.

Dark colors are powerful — once they're down, you can't make them lighter again.

## **Top to Bottom**

Work from the top of your paper downward so you don't smudge your drawing.

## **3. Step-by-Step Beginner Tips**

Here is your first mini-lesson — the exact steps to make your first marks:

### **Step 1 — Test your pencils**

Make small swatches of each color.

Try light pressure, medium pressure, and heavy pressure.

### **Step 2 — Practice blending**

Choose two colors.

1. Draw a stripe of color A
2. Draw a stripe of color B next to it
3. Blend only the edge where they meet

### **Step 3 — Build a simple shadow**

Pick one color and:

1. Make a light base layer
2. Add a second layer on one side
3. Blend softly
4. Add a third layer only in the darkest area

### **Step 4 — Add highlights**

Color a small square.

Use your kneaded eraser to tap a soft highlight into it.

## **4. Common Mistakes to Avoid (and what to do instead)**

 Pressing too hard

**Do this instead:**

Use whisper-light layers and build up slowly.

 Over-blending

**Do this instead:**

Blend only the top layer, not the whole drawing.

✗ Starting too dark

**Do this instead:**

Begin with mid-tones and add shadows later.

✗ Using smooth paper

**Do this instead:**

Choose textured paper so your colors actually stick.

✗ Smudging your drawing

**Do this instead:**

Place a scrap sheet under your hand.

## 5. Easy Practice Exercises

These are simple, calming exercises to help you get comfortable:

### **Exercise 1 — Soft Gradient**

1. Draw a light blue stripe
2. Draw a pink stripe next to it
3. Blend the edge
4. Add a second layer to deepen the transition

### **Exercise 2 — Highlight Lifting**

1. Color a small square
2. Shape your kneaded eraser
3. Tap gently to lift a highlight

### **Exercise 3 — Your First Mini Drawing**

A simple feather or leaf:

1. Light sketch
2. Base layer
3. Shadows
4. Blend
5. Highlights

## 6. A Friendly, Encouraging Tone

This guide is written to feel soft, simple and supportive.

No pressure.

No perfection.

Just you, your pencils, and a quiet moment to create something beautiful.

You're doing great already — you showed up, and that's the first step.



## Next Steps

I hope you enjoyed this freebie! If you're interested in learning more, here are some additional resources:

- **Visit my website:** [www.artybyesther.com](http://www.artybyesther.com)
- **Follow me on social media:**  **Arty By Esther**

Thank you again for your interest!

With all my love,  Arty By Esther

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