A FREE PRINTABLE FROM ARTSYDEE

Wobbly Watercolour Botanical Bookmarks

Eight bookmark outlines to print, paint and cut out: lavender, leafy sprigs, wildflowers and leaves



Painted references, to show one way the colours could go.

Inside

2 printable A4 sheets · 8 bookmarks, about 4.6 × 20 cm (1.8 × 7.9 in) · how to paint them

You'll need

A4 watercolour paper, a round brush, your paints and a pair of scissors

HOW TO PAINT THEM

Big brush, lots of water, and stop early

1. Print and tape down

Print at 100% on A4 watercolour paper, or thick cartridge paper if that's what your printer will take. A strip of masking tape round the edges stops the sheet curling as it gets wet.

2. Flowers first, nice and wet

Load a round brush with lots of water and a little paint and drop the flower colour in first: purple for the lavender, red for the poppy, blue for the cornflowers. Let it bleed past the pencil line. That wobble is the charm.

3. One or two strokes per leaf

Press the belly of the brush down and lift as you pull, and that's a leaf. Don't fill the shapes in neatly, and leave little slivers of white paper showing.

4. Drop a second colour in

While a leaf is still damp, touch in a second colour, a little blue-green into the sage or some golden ochre into a leaf tip, and let them mingle on the paper.

5. Dry, cut, punch

When it's completely dry, cut along the dashed lines. Punch the little circle and thread through a ribbon or a loop of twine.

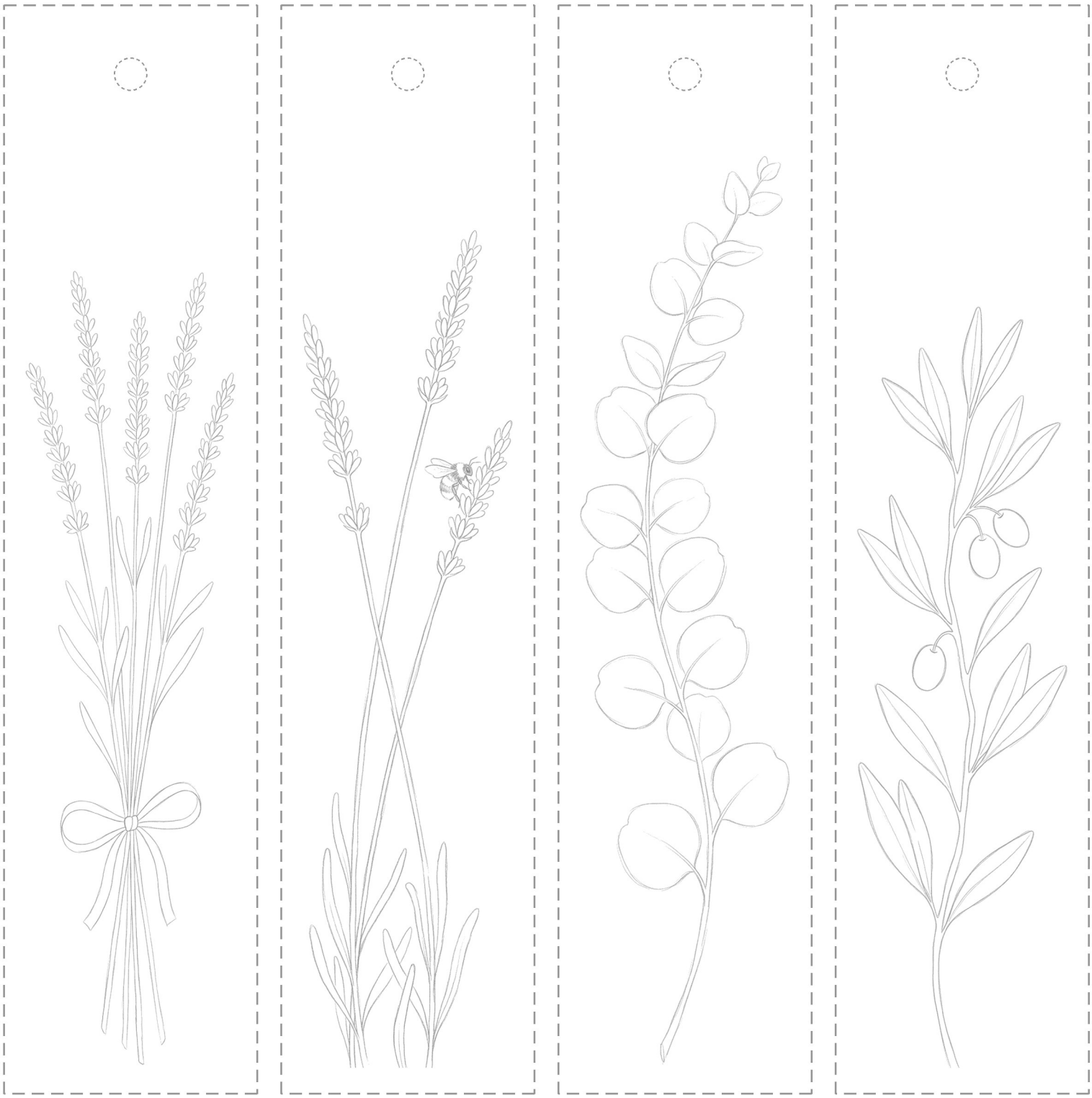
Which colours?

The painted references use a soft lavender purple, a cornflower blue, a soft blue-green, a sage green, a fresh leaf green, a soft poppy red, a buttercup yellow and a golden ochre. Whatever is in your own box will do.

If a colour runs too far

Blot it straight away with a corner of kitchen roll, or leave it be. A wobble or a bloom is what makes it look hand-painted.

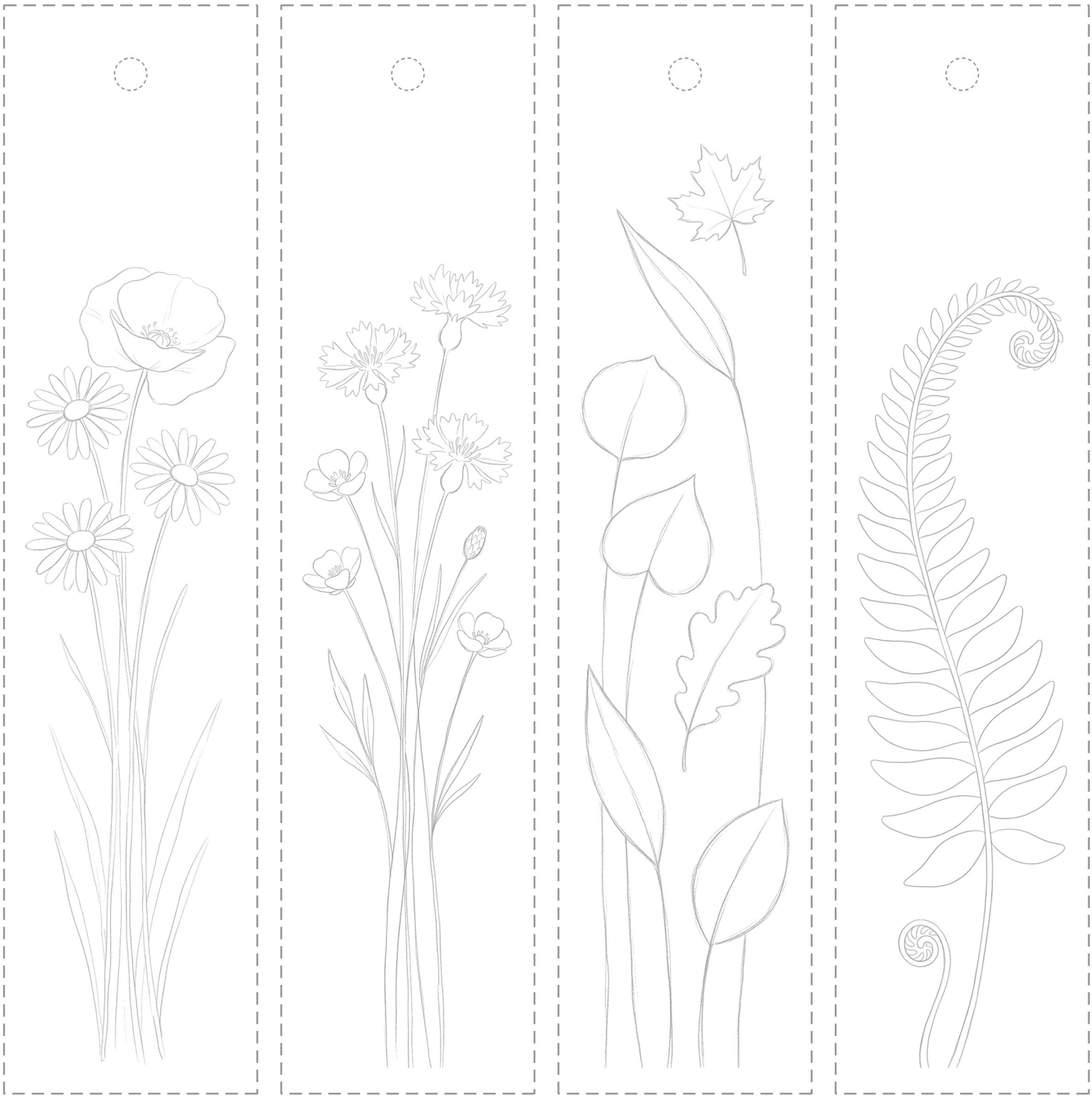
Lavender & Leafy Sprigs



Print at 100% (not “fit to page”) on A4 watercolour paper.
Paint first, let it dry, then cut along the dashed lines.
Punch the little dashed circle for a ribbon or tassel, if you like.

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Wildflowers & Leaves



Print at 100% (not “fit to page”) on A4 watercolour paper.
Paint first, let it dry, then cut along the dashed lines.
Punch the little dashed circle for a ribbon or tassel, if you like.

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Printing your pages

A quick guide to the questions people ask me most. Keep it by your printer!

1 No printer?

No problem. Put the files on a USB stick or email them to yourself, then print at a library or a print shop (for example Ryman in the UK or Staples in the US). Ask for "actual size" on matte paper.

2 What size are the pages?

My pages are A4. If your paper is a different size, choose "Fit to page" (or "Scale to fit") in the print box, so nothing gets cut off.

3 Too big or cut off?

Check the paper size in the print box matches the paper in your tray. Then choose "Fit to page" and turn off "borderless" printing.

4 Which paper?

Journal pages: matte paper, 120–160gsm. Covers and envelopes: thin card, if your printer takes it. Glossy paper is not good for glue or paint.

5 Watercolour templates

Only feed watercolour paper through a printer with a rear or manual feed (check its heaviest paper). Or print on ordinary paper and trace the lines onto watercolour paper at a sunny window or on a lightbox.

6 Print one test page first

Check the size and the colours on one page before you print the whole set. It saves paper, ink and tears.

7 Saving ink

Use "draft" or "economy" mode for background papers you'll write over, and print only the pages you need by typing a page range in the print box.

8 Booklet or two-up pages

If your kit has a booklet version, print it double-sided with "flip on short edge", then fold the sheets in half and nest them together.

9 No need to print at all

You can open the PDF or the image files on an iPad in an app like Goodnotes or Procreate, and journal or paint straight onto the pages.

Still stuck? Email me at info@artsydee.com with a photo of what's happening, and I'll help.

Happy making, Dee x · *artsydee.com*

IF YOU ENJOYED PAINTING THESE

Twenty more wildflowers to paint



A Wildflower Meadow is twenty British wildflowers drawn as soft pencil outlines, ready to print and paint: the poppy, cornflower, ox-eye daisy and buttercup from your bookmarks, plus foxglove, harebell, cow parsley, scabious and more.

You get an A4 PDF and all twenty as separate PNGs, so you can print one at a time. £9 (about $12), an instant download.

Have a look inside:

payhip.com/b/dQ3W1

You're on my newsletter now too, so look out for more easy painting ideas in your inbox.

Paint as many bookmarks as you like and give them away. Please don't share or sell the file itself.

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