A FREE CHRISTMAS WATERCOLOUR TEMPLATE

Paint a Little Christmas Tree

One free template to print on watercolour paper, and ten minutes with a big wet brush



A painted reference, to show one way the colours could go.

Print at 100% on A4 watercolour paper, then paint along.



HOW TO PAINT IT

Three wet tiers, then a gold star

1. Light green first

Load a big brush with a light green and plenty of water, and paint the top tier of the tree in one go. Stay roughly inside the pencil line and don't fuss over the edge.

2. Drop in the darker greens

While the tier is still shiny-wet, touch a mid green along one side and a deep green along the scalloped bottom edge. Let them bloom into the light green on their own.

3. Leave little gaps, then the next tier

Leave a few specks of paper unpainted, they read as sparkle. Paint the middle and bottom tiers the same way, each one just touching the tier above.

4. Let it dry, then baubles and star

Once the green is completely dry, paint the baubles in bright red and golden yellow, each with a tiny dot of white paper left for a shine. Golden yellow for the star.

5. Trunk and pot, then stop

One stroke of warm brown for the trunk and a terracotta for the pot, with a little darker brown dropped into one side. A few dark green marks under each tier, then put the brush down.

Which colours?

Two or three greens (light, mid and deep), a golden yellow, a bright red, and a warm brown with a terracotta for the pot. Any student set has everything you need.

Printing

Print at 100% (turn off "fit to page") on A4. Watercolour paper if your printer will take it, fed one sheet at a time.

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 THAT ONE

There are nineteen more in the full set

Twenty easy Christmas paintings

each one quick, simple and festive



Easy Christmas Watercolour Templates is twenty quick Christmas subjects drawn as soft pencil outlines: the little Christmas tree you just painted, a holly sprig, a robin, a red bauble, a loose wreath, a candle, a poinsettia, a gingerbread man, a snowman, a stocking and more. Each one is paintable in a few minutes.

Every template comes with a painted reference and a colour inspiration card. The full set is £14 in my shop:

payhip.com/b/9uPUr

Love painting from templates? New watercolour template sets go up on my Patreon too, with painted references so you can see where the colour goes.

patreon.com/Artsydee

See it on the blog: artsydee.com/watercolor-christmas-tree/

Paint what you like with this page and sell what you make by hand. Please never sell or share the file itself.

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