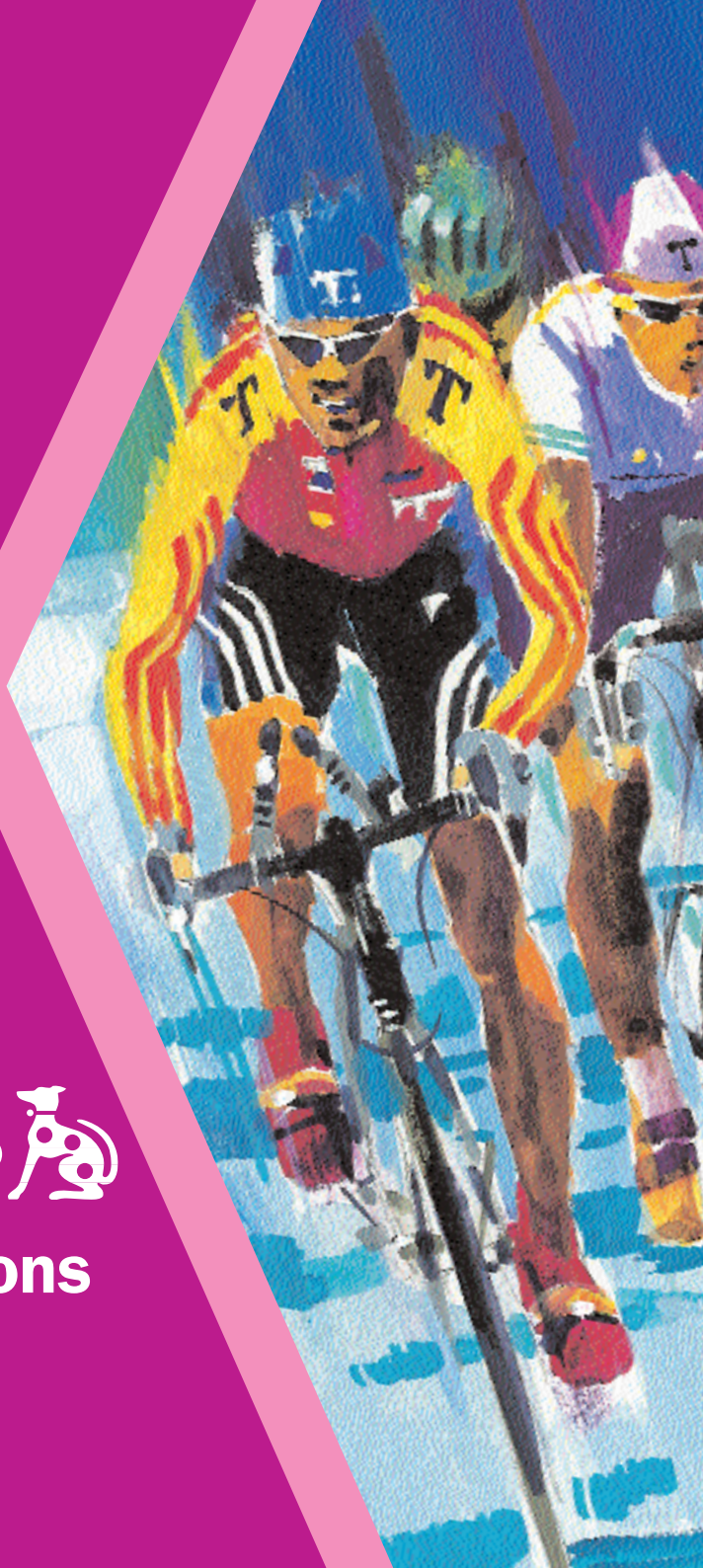


**REEVES**   
S I N C E 1 7 6 6

# Instructions

Notice d'utilisation  
Anleitungsheft  
Libro de instrucciones  
Libretto d'istruzioni  
instructiefolder





*The Reeves Gouache Studio Set is the ideal first step for the beginner to discover the delights of this popular and versatile painting medium. The tubes have been carefully selected to form a palette from which all the most frequently used colours can be mixed.*

*It is very important that the beginner should become experienced at colour mixing from a basic palette, and not be confused by the huge number of colours that can be available.*

*Every artist has an individual style, but there are certain rules of painting that the beginner should follow in order to achieve worthwhile results. If you are new to painting the following tips may be useful.*

## **THE NATURE OF GOUACHE COLOUR**

Gouache is a water soluble paint which is favoured by designers because of its ability to create beautifully even areas of bright colour without streaking.

It is not to be confused with watercolour, though both are water-based media. Watercolour should be used thinly and transparently, but Gouache should be applied in opaque washes, very much in the style of oil colour. Like oil colour, it is capable of covering over other colours, which is useful for correcting mistakes or lightening areas.

Gouache is a very practical medium – brushes are easily cleaned with water, which is also used to thin the colour.

The technique of painting is broadly similar to that of oil and acrylic colour, but it does not stay wet enough to blend colours in a painting. Instead, areas are often butted together using a technique similar to that of paint by numbers. Gouache is also not suitable for applying very thickly to create texture.

## **PREPARATION**

The board supplied is ready to be painted on. It should be kept as flat as possible to prevent the colour from running. It is a good idea to have a plastic or disposable table cloth, a jar of clean water and a kitchen roll for wiping brushes.

If you are indoors, make sure you have enough natural light to the front or side of you.

Gouache dries quite quickly, so only squeeze out small quantities of colour at a time. Unlike watercolour, the colour cannot be re-activated once it has become hard.

## COLOUR MIXING

Before you begin painting it is best to practise a few basic exercises. Firstly try painting a flat wash. To best achieve a flat wash of colour, make sure you have mixed enough colour on the palette to cover the area. The consistency of the colour should not be thick, but not watery either.

Apply smoothly and quickly with a large, well loaded brush. Test the colour strength on a scrap of paper first.

Knowing how to mix colours and how much paint to use can only come with experience and experimentation. Red, Yellow, and Blue are called the Primary Colours. This means they cannot be mixed from other colours.

Your set of colours can be mixed to form a comprehensive range, but remember that sometimes it may be necessary to mix 3 or even 4 colours to achieve a result.

As a very basic guide remember that;

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● red + ● green = brown ●

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● red + ● yellow = orange ●

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● red + ● blue = purple ●

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● blue + ● yellow = green ●

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● blue + ● green = turquoise ●

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Once you have achieved the correct colour, you must then achieve the correct tone (or shade) i.e. the strength of the colour.

Remember that black is not the only way of darkening a colour. It can make colours look dirty. Try experimenting with browns and blues. They darken colours in very different ways to black. Conversely, try lightening colours with yellow or white, or a combination of the two. It is advisable to make notes to remind you how to achieve various colour mixes.

Experiment on a piece of scrap board by trying to accurately mix the colours of objects around you. Always mix the colours thoroughly. Try both supplied brushes. They will make very different types of mark on the board.

Add water to the mix to thin the colour.

Remember that Gouache is

capable of being used thinly like watercolour or opaquely like oil colour. Finally there are no shortcuts to learning about colour mixing. It is inevitable that you will make mistakes, but some of them may be happy ones!

## COMPOSITION

Choosing subject matter is a very personal thing. If you are inexperienced, avoid complex compositions, you will become frustrated and abandon the picture! It is better to tackle a simple scene and do it well.

Before committing yourself to paper, consider the scene from different angles and distances until you settle on the best viewpoint. Work out which section of the scene you are going to paint and then lightly, with a soft pencil sketch out the basic lines of the composition. Do not concern yourself with too much detail at this stage. Correct any mistakes with a soft putty eraser to avoid tearing the paper surface, and never use an eraser on wet paper.



## PAINTING

Whether you are painting a still-life, a figure or a landscape the same rules apply. The pictures opposite show how a painting is built up in stages.

**1** Simple tonal sketch of the composition in diluted yellow ochre and brown. Allow to dry. The artist has made a feature of the dramatic sky by keeping the horizon line low in the composition. The farm building provides a useful focal point.

**2** The sky area is blocked in with thicker paint applied with the square ended brush. A basic mix of blue & white is used for the sky and yellow and white for the clouds. The darker areas of sky are created by mixing the blue with a touch of crimson to make purple, and applied on top of the existing blue sky, once it has dried. Areas of white are also added into the clouds to create highlights. Remember gouache dries quickly. Here the artist has applied the paint in an impressionist way, adding layer on layer with no attempt to blend colours together whilst wet. The basic underpaint of the path and grass areas is blocked in with mid green and cream.

**3** The background trees are created by adding blue with the green mix, giving the impression of distance. The basic underpaint of the farm buildings and large tree is added. (It's advisable to allow the sky to dry before adding tree detail).

**4** More layers of tone have been added and the picture is now at full strength. The medium allows both dark and light areas of detail to be painted on top of the undercoat, as shown clearly in the foreground grassy area. As a general rule, undercoat layers should be thin, with the consistency of the paint increasing for the top layers. Areas of detail have now been added to the farmhouse and the large tree. The paint has been scraped on sparsely to create the broken texture of the tree's leaves. Finishing touches are added with a small brush. The picture is impressionist in style, so no attempt has been made to paint individual leaves or blades of grass etc.

## FINISHING TOUCHES

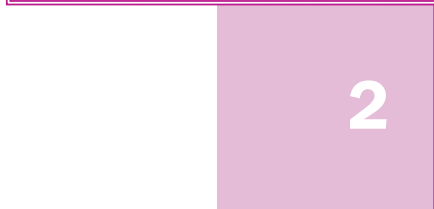
Gouache paintings are traditionally framed under glass, with a bevel-cut card mount, unlike oil paintings. The mount stops the glass touching the picture and causing damage. Most professional artists allow a small margin on their paper rather than painting to the edge. This is useful for testing colours prior to painting, and also helps the framer to site the mount. Mount cutters and mitre saws can be purchased from artist suppliers if you wish to make your own frames.

## CARE OF EQUIPMENT

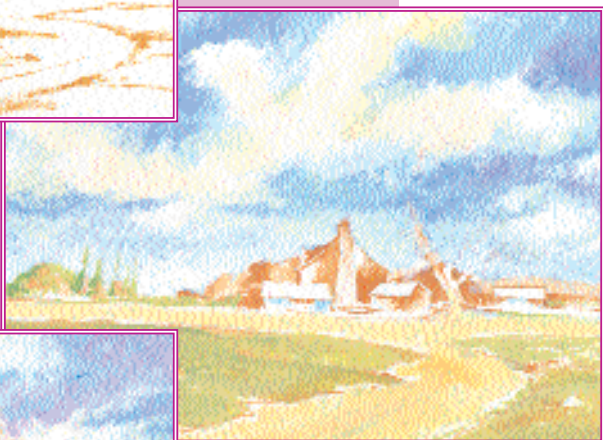
Never stand brushes upright in water jars. This ruins the bristles. Always thoroughly clean brushes in soap and water at the end of the day and restore their shape before putting them away. Do not contaminate the purity of your paints by dipping brushes into them, or by using the wrong tops. Always use the palette for mixing. Make sure the tops are firmly screwed onto the tubes to avoid drying out.



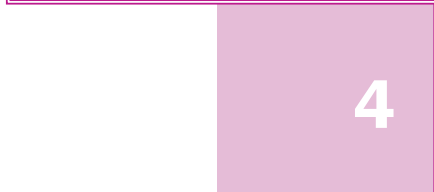
1



2



3



4



$$\text{Red Circle} + \text{Green Circle} = \text{Brown Circle}$$

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$$\text{Red Circle} + \text{Yellow Circle} = \text{Orange Circle}$$

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$$\text{Red Circle} + \text{Blue Circle} = \text{Purple Circle}$$

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$$\text{Blue Circle} + \text{Yellow Circle} = \text{Light Green Circle}$$

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$$\text{Blue Circle} + \text{Light Green Circle} = \text{Teal Circle}$$

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