

Christmas Gift Tag Directions

All Gift Tags

Step 1 - Prepare Work Surface

Cover your work surface with a disposable covering and fill a glass or cup with water.

Step 2 - Cut Watercolor Paper

Cut four tags to 3 1/2" x 2" in size or cut three to 3 1/2" x 2" in size and create the fourth tag by using a 3 1/2" tag punch.

Step 3 - Hole Punch and Twine

Punch a hole along the top center of each tag using a 1/8" hole punch and then tie a piece of twine through the hole punch (this step can be saved for the end).

Candy Cane Tag

Supplies Used:

Watercolor Pencils: Ice Grey, Red, and Black

Round Brush(es): #2

Other Supplies: Winsor & Newton 0.5 Fineliner Fine Point Pen

Step 1 - Draw Candy Cane

Use the tag created from the 3 1/2" tag punch or one of the four 3 1/2" x 2" tags if the tag punch was not used, and with an HB pencil, freehand draw the candy cane or use the provided outline as a guide. The outline can also be transferred onto the working paper by using a lightbox or a well-lit window.

Step 2 - Lettering

Using the 0.5 Fineliner fine point pen, carefully outline the lettering for "candy cane".

Step 3 - Apply First Color

Using handwriting pressure, apply **Ice Grey** along the left and right edges of each white stripe on the candy cane, with your strokes being about 1/16" wide on each side.

Step 4 - Activate Ice Grey Pigment

The Ice Grey pigment applied in the previous step will be activated with water to become watercolor paint. Start by wetting the Round #2 brush with water, wipe off excess water and then apply it to the Ice Grey pigment. To fully smooth and dissolve the pencil strokes, lightly move the brush back and forth a few times over the same area. Add more water to the brush as needed.

Step 5 - Apply Second Color

Using handwriting pressure, apply **Red** to the red stripes: both to the thicker stripes and to the thinner stripes the are red in color.

Step 6 - Apply Third Color

Using slightly lighter than handwriting pressure, apply an even 1/8" wide layer of **Black** to one side edge of both the thick and thin red stripes. This color will be placed on the left side edge of the stem portion of the candy cane and it will be placed on the right side edge for the curved portion of the candy cane to darken the inside edges of the candy cane.

Step 7 - Activate Pigment on Red Stripes

The Red and Black pigment applied in the previous step will be activated with water to become watercolor paint. Start by wetting the Round #2 brush with water, wipe off excess water and then apply it to the pigment, working from light hue to dark hue (red to black) To fully smooth and dissolve the pencil strokes, lightly move the brush back and forth a few times over the same area. Work from stripe to stripe, and clean your brush in between each stripe to ensure that black pigment left on the brush from one stripe does not influence or darken the red portion of the next stripe.

Step 8 - Clean Up Stripes

If the red stripes appear wider than the white stripes, you can use a clean but wet #2 brush to smooth the edges, running the brush in a vertical manner along the left and right sides of the candy cane, going over the side edges of both the white and red stripes.

Wreath Tag

Supplies Used:

Watercolor Pencils: Light Green, Lush Green, Midnight Blue, and Olive Green

Round Brush(es): #4

Other Supplies: Winsor & Newton 0.5 Fineliner Fine Point Pen

Step 1 - Draw Wreath

Using one of the four 3 1/2" x 2" tags and with an HB pencil, freehand draw the wreath by using a milk gallon cap. Place the solid side of the cap on the tag. Center the cap toward the top of the tag, and then carefully trace around it. The outline can also be transferred onto the working paper by using a lightbox or a well-lit window.

Step 2 - Apply First Layer of Color to Wreath

Using handwriting pressure, make a series of Vs with the bottoms points of each V being spaced only 1/16" from each other. The bottom point or base of each V should be placed on the outline for the wreath created in the last step, and one side of the V should be drawn to the left of the wreath outline and the other side of the V should be drawn to the right of the wreath outline. Make one set of five Vs using **Light Green**, and then directly adjacent to the Light Green, create another set of five Vs using **Lush Green**, and then do the same with **Midnight**

Blue. Repeat this process until you have placed a series of Vs using each color two times. You should have just enough space to create six sets of five Vs in this order: Light Green, Lush Green, Midnight Blue, Light Green, Lush Green, and Midnight Blue.

Step 3 - Apply Second Layer of Color to Wreath

Using slightly heavier than handwriting pressure, and continuing with drawing Vs, apply **Olive Green** over the entire wreath. Apply the Vs in an overlapping manner over the Vs applied in the previous step, not worrying about or trying to line up the Vs made with Olive Green in this step with the Vs applied in the previous step.

Step 7 - Activate Pigment on Wreath

Use a round #4 brush and a hatching motion when activating the dry pigment and turning it into watercolor paint.

Start by wetting the brush with water and wipe off the excess before applying the wet brush to the dry pigment. First perform a series of hatching strokes around the entire wreath by going in one direction of the Vs, starting from the middle of the wreath and pulling your strokes to the outside portion of the wreath, or to the left, extending some of the lines past the carets drawn in step 1 and 2 to create wispy lines that look like greenery. Repeat this process all around the wreath, rotating the tag as you go to help with control and precision. Do not try to fully dissolve the dry pigment in this step using a back and forth motion and also do not try to exactly go over every V applied in the last two steps. For this particular tag, having some undissolved pigment adds texture to the greenery.

Then, apply a second series of hatching strokes around the entire wreath in the same manner but going in the opposite direction. For the second series of hatching strokes, once again start in the middle of the wreath but pull your strokes in the other direction of the Vs previously drawn, or to the right, so that you have a series of hatching strokes that go toward the left and then another series of hatching strokes that go toward the right.

While the wreath is still wet, fill in any negative space or make your wreath more full by pulling your wet brush in a hatching motion to create more thin, wispy, and lighter valued greenery from the wet paint that is already on the paper.

Step 8 - Lettering

Using the 0.5 Fineliner Fine Point Pen, write “merry.” directly underneath the wreath and then write “To:” in the lower left of the tag and “From:” on the lower right of the tag.

Ornament Tag

Supplies Used:

Watercolor Pencils: Black, Lush Green, True Blue, Red

Round Brush(es): #2 and #4

Other Supplies: Winsor & Newton 0.5 Fineliner Fine Point Pen

Step 1 - Draw Ornaments

Use one of the four 3 1/2" x 2" tags, and with an HB pencil, freehand draw the ornaments or use a cap from a plastic water bottle to draw the ornaments. Place the solid side of the cap on the center of the tag and carefully trace around it with a pencil. Create the other two ornaments by overlapping the circles slightly to the upper left and upper right of the center ornament. Then, draw on the caps and string for each ornament. The outline can also be transferred onto the working paper by using a lightbox or a well-lit window.

Step 2 - Lettering

Using a 0.5 Fineliner fine point pen, carefully outline the lettering for "joy".

Step 3 - Apply Color to Cap on Center Ornament

Using handwriting pressure, apply an even layer of **Black** to the cap on the center ornament and then use Black to draw the string for the center ornament.

Step 4 - Apply Color to Center Ornament

Using handwriting pressure, apply an even layer of **Red** to the center ornament.

Step 5 - Apply Second Color to Center Ornament

Using slightly lighter than handwriting pressure, apply **Black** to the entire left side of the center ornament, with your strokes extending toward the center of the ornament by 1/8" in width.

Step 6 - Apply Pigment to Caps and Strings of Recessed Ornaments

Wet a Round #2 brush, and without wiping the wet brush on the rim of the glass container, wipe the wet brush on the tip of the **Black** pencil only 3-5 times and then carefully paint on the string on one of the recessed ornaments. Rewet brush, wipe wet brush on tip of Black pencil 3-5 more times, and then paint in the cap on the same recessed ornament. Repeat this process with other recessed ornament.

Step 7 - Apply Pigment to Recessed Ornaments

Wet a Round #4 brush, and without wiping the wet brush on the rim of the glass container, wipe the wet brush on the tip of the **Lush Green** pencil 3-5 times and then paint in the green ornament as much as possible until little to no pigment is deposited from the brush to the paper because the brush becomes too dry. When this happens, place the brush in the container of water for just a second, and without cleaning it or wiping it along the rim, use the wet brush to further deposit a light valued green color onto the remainder of the ornament. Only add more pigment from the tip of the pencil to the ornament if absolutely necessary, as this ornament should be a lighter value than the front red ornament.

Repeat the above process to the other recessed ornament, only use **True Blue** instead of Lush Green.

Step 8 - Activate Pigment on Main Ornament

Start by wetting the #2 round brush with water and wipe off the excess before applying the wet brush to the dry pigment. First activate the cap and string of the red center ornament.

Then, wet the #4 round brush with water and wipe off the excess before applying the wet brush to the dry pigment. Use the wet brush to activate the center red ornament, working from light value to dark value. Lift some pigment on the right side of the red ornament using a paper towel if a lighter value is desired.

Mistletoe Tag

Supplies Used:

Watercolor Pencils: Caramel, Umber, Black, Grass, Lush Green, Olive Green, Pink, Carmine, and Red

Round Brush(es): #2

Other Supplies: Winsor & Newton 0.5 Fineliner Fine Point Pen

Step 1 - Transfer the Outline

Using one of the four 3 1/2" x 2" tags and an HB pencil, transfer the outline to the tag or freehand draw the mistletoe by using the outline as a guide. The outline can also be transferred onto the working paper by using a lightbox or a well-lit window.

Step 2 - Lettering

Using a 0.5 Fineliner fine point pen, carefully outline the lettering for "mistletoe".

Step 3 - Apply Color to Stems

Use handwriting pressure in this step and start with a sharp point on your pencil. Apply a single, even layer of **Caramel** to the entirety of the stems. Then, using **Umber**, outline the upper half of the stems, carefully going over the Caramel applied in the previous step.

Step 4 - Activate Pigment on Stems

Start by wetting a #2 round brush with water and wipe off the excess before applying the wet brush to the dry pigment. Using the tip of the brush, and working from light hue to dark hue (Caramel and then Umber), carefully apply the wet brush to the stems, going over each portion of the stem only one time and adding water to the brush whenever it becomes too dry to activate the pigment and turn it into watercolor paint.

Step 5 - Apply Color to Leaves

Using handwriting pressure, fill in the seven leaves using the following seven color combinations, working from the far left leaf to the right:

1. one layer of **Grass** plus one layer of **Olive Green**
2. one layer of **Lush Green** plus one layer of **Olive Green**
3. one layer of **Olive Green**
4. one layer of **Caramel** plus one layer of **Olive Green**

5. one layer of **Grass** plus one layer of **Lush Green**
6. one layer of **Lush Green** plus one layer of **Caramel**
7. one layer of **Grass** plus one layer of **Caramel**

Step 6 - Activate Pigment on Leaves

Start by wetting a #2 round brush with water and wipe off the excess water before applying the wet brush to the dry pigment. Activate the pigment on each leaf by moving brush in a back and forth motion to dissolve the dry pigment and turn it into watercolor paint, cleaning your brush in between each leaf.

Step 7 - Apply Color to Berries

Using handwriting pressure, apply an even layer of **Pink** to each berry. Then, apply an even layer of **Carmin** to the upper half of each berry. Finally, using slightly heavier than handwriting pressure, apply **Red** only to the very top edge of each berry in a single stroke following the curve of each berry.

Step 8 - Activate Pigment on Berries

Start by wetting a #2 round brush with water and wipe off the excess water before applying the wet brush to the paper. Activate the dry pigment on one berry at a time, work from light hue to dark hue, and clean your brush only after activating the dry pigment on every couple of berries. After activating all the berries and while the pigment is still wet, draw a small circle that is 1/16" wide using **Carmin** on the center bottom of each berry. Then, place a small dot that is 1/32" in size at the very bottom of each berry, placing it directly over the **Carmin** circle just drawn on each berry.