



Randal Gordon McClure

Custom Made Color Chart Blanks

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A Few Instructions for Doing the Color Charts:

1) When the set of chart blanks arrive, to protect the adhesive grid, store inside at room temperature. Once completed, charts that have dried for a few months are very rugged.

2) **It is best to use your oil or acrylic paint as it comes straight from the tube.** Mediums can be used sparingly to establish a workable consistency if necessary. Thinners and water should not be used or adhesion can suffer. This is true whether doing charts or in general painting. With acrylics or water-based oils, when even a modest amount of water is used, distilled or well water is best. City water often contains surfactants and detergents, (residues of substances used in the maintenance of municipal water systems) and can cause paint to bead.

3) A small palette knife can be quite useful for mixing and applying paint.



4) **A "dominant mixture" is roughly 75% dominant color to 25% other color (3 – 1).** This mixture is then gradually lightened with white for a total of five values. Above each specific column, you can use a Sharpie to label or abbreviate the color mixture. Example: V + CR would mean Viridian (dominant) mixed with Cadmium Red.

5) **Mixtures should be OPAQUE** when placed into a square. Use your white paint to obtain the desired lighter value, ("a tint"), rather than allowing the white ground to influence the value; or you won't fully see the influence of the white pigment in creating the lighter tints.

6) Removal of the mask after the paint has dried can be difficult, so peel off the mask and discard as soon as a chart is completed, setting it off to dry. **You can use push pins, tacks, or small nails to hang charts on the wall to dry.**



7) After the charts have dried thoroughly, (which is three months minimum for oil), you can *optionally* give them a protective coat of non-yellowing, acrylic picture varnish, such as [Gamblin Gamvar](#) or Liquitex Soluvar. If you do varnish, (I don't), be certain they are bone dry before stacking, otherwise they could stick together.

8) **Alla Prima II**, by [Richard Schmid](#), devotes an entire chapter to doing the vital charts.