Colored Pencil Flowers: Layering, Blending, and Burnishing

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A single petal is drawn with a light pink base and a magenta mid-tone on its lower half. The midline is left pale. Describe two blending passes and one burnishing choice.

Answer: Pass one: alternate light pink and magenta strokes across the boundary. Pass two: drag pink upward into the magenta with light pressure. Burnish the pale midline with the pink pencil using firm small circles, leaving the lower magenta textured.

Reason: Alternating strokes soften the boundary without adding a new hue; burnishing the lit midline increases smoothness where light hits.

Check: Squint at the petal: the transition should look gradual, and the midline should be lighter than the lower half.

Task 2

Two overlapping petals share a seam. The upper petal is yellow, the lower is orange. Where should the darkest mid-tone go, and how do you avoid a dark seam?

Answer: Place the darkest orange mid-tone on the lower petal under the overlap. Keep a thin uncolored gap at the seam until the shadow direction is decided, then blend yellow into orange lightly across the seam.

Reason: Overlapping petals cast shadow on the lower petal; a gap prevents accidental dark lines before the shadow is planned.

Check: Check that the seam is soft and that the darkest area sits under the upper petal, not along the entire seam.

Task 3

A flower center is drawn as a small circle. You want a smooth burnished center using yellow and brown. Give a three-step order and one check.

Answer: Step one: light yellow base over the whole center. Step two: brown mid-tone in the lower half only. Step three: burnish the upper half with yellow, leaving the brown textured. Check that the center reads as a rounded form, not a flat disc.

Reason: Limiting brown to the shadow half preserves the lit upper area; selective burnishing keeps contrast.

Check: Squint: the upper half should be lighter, and the brown should not cover the entire circle.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Your petals look chalky after four layers. State one correction and one prevention step.

Answer: Correction: lift excess pigment with a clean eraser and reapply one thin pass at lower pressure. Prevention: keep each layer light and stop before the paper surface looks crushed.

Reason: Chalkiness often comes from heavy pigment in few passes; thin layers and lower pressure improve smoothness.

Check: Test on scrap paper: a thin pass should look even, and the paper texture should remain visible.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Base layer is light and even, with visible paper texture.
- [ ] Stroke direction follows petal form consistently.
- [ ] Mid-tone is placed on a logical shadow side.
- [ ] Blending between adjacent hues is gradual, not striped.
- [ ] Burnishing is selective and does not flatten all contrast.
- [ ] Value order is clear when squinting.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in palette or edge sharpness are accepted if layering logic remains visible.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?