



Decorative Art Studio & School

www.we-r-art.com

Painting a Dew Drop On Anything!

By Brenda S. Rickman copyright 2002

If you can remember five simple steps, **you can** paint dewdrops on any surface and in any color!

Without going into a lot of scientific jargon, let's just remember that light strikes **ON**, **INTO** and **THROUGH** a water droplet. It also has a **SPARKLE** and a **SHADOW**.

"Object" refers to the petal, fruit, leaf, etc. that you are painting the dewdrop on.

1. We start with the **Shadow** part. Use a good flat or angle shader brush and make a *transparent back-to-back float* (use extender) with your shadow color. (This is the same shadow color you used on the object that the drop is laying on.) See figure 1.

Pick up more extender when you do the inside of the droplet but not more paint. You want the inside to be not as dark as the cast shadow.

Be sure to follow the shape of your drop as it fits to your object. See figure 1 & 1A. (Note how your eyes are already filling out the shape of the droplets even though there is no paint other than the background color on the right side.)

2. Now we'll do the **Into** portion of the drop. Same brush, do a transparent float of your object's base color that you have lightened with some of the object's highlight color. Make your mix just light enough to see but not so light as to jump out at you. See figure 2 & 2A.

3. Next, comes the **On** portion of the light. This is a float of the highlight color you used on your object. Try not to make this float as wide as the previous one. Notice that this float doesn't go the entire length of the dewdrop. See Figure 3 & 3A.

4. Now we do the **Through** part. Using a very fine detail brush loaded with extender. Paint a comma stroke of a transparent secondary sparkle with your highlight color. See figure 4 & 4A.

5. Once these steps have dried well, use your detail brush to add a very small **Sparkle** of white on top of your drop opposite the shadow side. Use a bit of water or extender in your paint to keep from leaving a ridge.

Do each step once then let that layer dry very well! Repeat as needed. Overworking is what usually causes that flattened dull look.

Be sure to analyze your object to determine the shape of the drop. Falling water will follow the

contour of the object that it lies on and will always be rounder toward the lowest part of the object. (Let gravity be your guide.) Standing water will always be flattened toward the top of the water level.

Be sure to determine your light source so as to place your first shadow on the correct side of the drop.

I hope you've had fun painting this dewdrop and will try painting many more using different color backgrounds. Just remember that the **rules never change** just the colors.

Hugs and Happy Painting!

Brenda S. Rickman

Copyright 2002. You may use this lesson for personal growth. Please do not make copies for your friends. Please contact www.we-r-art.com for quantity discounts on this mini-packet.

