

Easter Card for Intermediate Level Watercolor

By Deb Watson

Painting fur can be a challenge, so starting small makes it much easier. This Easter card tutorial has some realism basics while still creating a beautiful image.

Suggested Colors:

- Phthalo Blue
- Quinacridone Red
- Yellow – any bright yellow
- Brown – Burnt Sienna
- Black
- Green – Mix your own or use tube greens
- Golds – Quinacridone Gold or mix brown + Yellow

Painting Steps:

Step 1 – Draw or trace the outline onto your watercolor paper with graphite paper.

Step 2 – Paint the background.

- Mix puddles of the color or colors you want for your background. Use a light background with a darker bunny or a dark background with a lighter bunny. Don't divide your paper into equal halves or thirds. I did $\frac{1}{4}$ blue and green down to the foreground.
- Wet the background with clean water and drip off the excess.
- Paint your colors on and turn to mix or move color, not your brush.
- Add darker color above the eggs and blend the top edge into the background.
- When the shine leaves the wet paper, sprinkle on table salt.
- Dry and brush off the salt.

Step 3 – First wash of color on the eggs.

- Mix three light, pretty colors for your eggs.
- Wet each egg below the light area at the top, then paint your color on.

Step 4 – Paint body of bunny.

- Paint the body brown, lighter under the head.
- Add a darker shadow under the head, especially on the left side.
- Do two small darker brown from the middle to the grass.
- Add fur texture with small short strokes of darker color, if desired.

Step 5 – Paint the ears.

- Paint the inside of the ears orange/red, leaving a line of white unpainted fur around the edges.
- Paint the brown fur part.
- Add darker brown along the inside edge of the brown and along the head.
- Add fur texture with small short strokes of darker color, if desired.
- Paint a dark line around the outside of the white on the outside of each ear.
- Paint a darker color on the inside of the ears, leaving some of orange/pink color in the middle.

Step 6 - Paint the head.

- Paint everything with light brown except the white spot and white fur under the mouth. Dry.
- Second wash is darker brown and goes on the forehead and around the muzzle.
- Paint the nose and area under the middle of the nose.
- Third wash – darkest brown – short hairs on forehead, darker shadows on the sides of the muzzle and for a dark line for the nose and lips.
- Paint the eyes black. When dry, add a tiny white dot to each one.

Step 7 – Finishing Details.

- Eggs – paint a very light wash of color on the sunlit part of each egg and use opaque white to clean up top lines if needed.
- Flowers – use opaque white to define the petals on the closer flowers. Paint a brown or orange middle.

Step 8 – Paint the Foreground

- Paint your foreground any color you like – yellow, gold, green.

Card Size Outline

