

# Leaf Wreath

Wreaths are both beautiful and versatile. They look great on invitations with lettered quotes written inside or on their own. You can also tweak the colors and types of leaves to make them suit a particular season or holiday. Although wreaths are impactful once finished, they are deceptively easy to create. If you can paint a leaf, you can paint a whole wreath.



## TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Pencil (4H)
- Brush Pens
- Blending Palette
- Round Brush (size 4)
- Water Jar
- Watercolor Paper
- Paper Towel
- Fineliner Pens (sizes 01 and 03)
- Drawing Compass (or bowl or something round)

## PROJECT COLORS



## STEP 1

Using your 4H pencil, draw a light circle onto watercolor paper. You can use a compass, an upside bowl, or anything else circular as a guide. Just make sure you leave enough of a gap between the circle and the edge of your paper. You don't want to run out of room for your leaves. Next, lightly sketch the same sort of leaf all the way around your circle and fill in any gaps with stems. You could sketch the stems first and then the leaves, but I actually find it easier to do it the other way around.



## STEP 2

On your blending palette, mix a generous amount of Dark Jade (177) with just a little water. Separately, mix a smaller amount of Hunter Green (249) with a drop or two of water. Lastly, mix up some Light Ochre (991) with just a drop of water. Now, using the wet-on-wet technique we talked about in Chapter 3, paint each leaf with Dark Jade (177). While the leaf is still wet, touch a tiny amount of Light Ochre (991) into its tip and a drop of Hunter Green (249) near the stem. This technique gives you a greater variety from leaf to leaf, and the results look more like traditional watercolor. Wait for the ink to dry completely before moving on to Step 3. Use this time to clean off your blending palette with a damp paper towel.



## STEP 3

Next, mix some Chocolate (969) with just a touch of water on your blending palette. Paint in the stems between your leaves.



## STEP 4

Mix more Hunter Green (249) with barely any water at all, and paint in some shadows wherever the leaves are overlapping. This will help differentiate each one and keep them from blending into one green mass.



## STEP 5

I outlined my wreath with a size 03 fineliner pen and added detail to each leaf (size 01). This step is optional, and you can choose to stop at Step 4 if you'd like.

