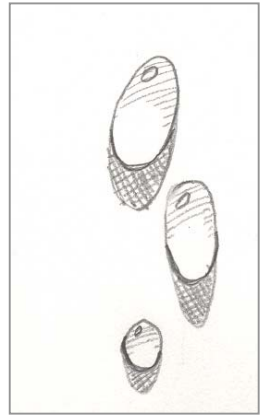


## Painting Raindrops

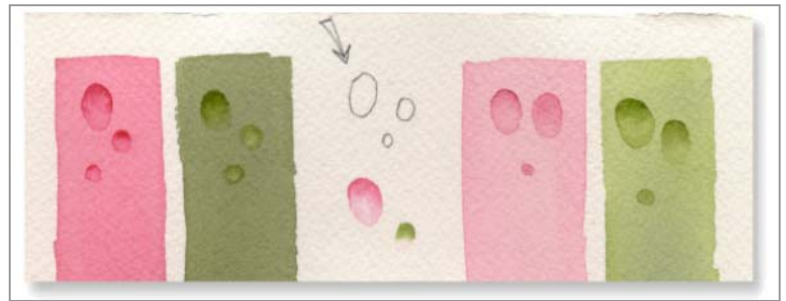
We'll start by looking at the anatomy of a drop. They can be almost any shape but are commonly thought of as either round or oblong ovals. The drop is darker nearest the light source and lighter away from the light source. That's because the light is shining into the drop and is "caught" and contained by the drop's shape. The cast shadow is the same width as the drop and the shape of the shadow is determined by the angle and direction of the light source in relation to the angle of the surface the drop is sitting on. The cast shadow is often darkest next to the light side of the drop (opposite the light source) however sometimes there may be a little refracted light present in the cast shadow when the source is extra bright or is near the drop.



**Drops Step 1** – Let's start with a few practice drops. Paint a couple of patches of color; one the color of your rose and another the color of your leaves on a piece of practice paper. Use a scrap or small piece of good paper so you will get the feel of what you are doing. Dry thoroughly.



**Drops Step 2** - When the area is dry, lightly draw the raindrop shapes on your practice paper, just the drop – not the shadow. Or you could paint them freehand. Wet the area inside the drop with clear water. Using a brush slightly on the dry side, and more paint than water, add the leaf or flower color to sunlit end of the damp drop. (You may want to tilt the paper



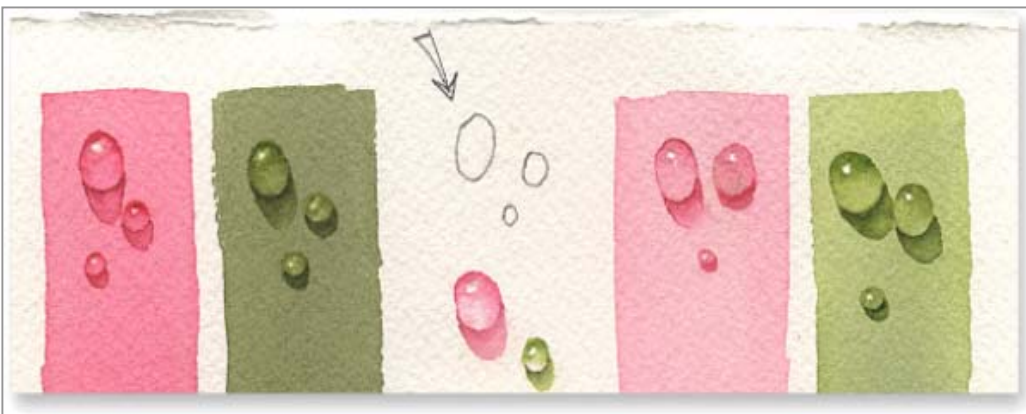
slightly toward the sunlit end and gravity will help keep the color from spreading too far. In the image (above left) the top drop shows too much water, center shows correct amount of water and bottom shows a partially dry drop. **Now, let them dry.**

In these examples on the right the arrow indicates the sunlight will be coming from the upper left. Approx. 11 o'clock.



**Drops Step 3** – Add the crescent shaped cast shadow to the other end of the raindrop.

**Tip: The shadow should be 4 times darker than the light area of the drop. (40% rule)**



**Drops Step 4** – Create the reflection of the sun by lifting a highlight from the darkened end of the droplet using a small stiff brush. Or you can use a sharp point of a knife or Xacto to "prick" a highlight. The size of your drop might dictate what tool you use for creating the highlight.