



From Archive to Design

Part 1: Start Simple – Ideas for Exploration

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You have your base design. Now, it is time to play.

The goal here is not to create a perfect piece of art right away. It is about gathering experiences, testing what feels right, and seeing what naturally emerges. Don't worry about a final collection yet; just enjoy the process of exploring.

Here are a few simple ways to experiment with your design in the next few days:

- **Play with scale:** Change the size of the shapes. Try them big and bold, or small and delicate.
- **Vary the lines:** Experiment with different materials and tools. Make your lines thick, thin, organic, or ultra-clean.
- **Work with contrast:** Explore light and dark contrasts. In the extreme, take it all the way to high-contrast black and white.
- **Focus on a simple color contrast:** Pick just 2 or 3 colors. At this stage, avoid working with a full color palette – keeping it simple keeps the joy alive and prevents overthinking.
- **Switch up your techniques:** Try out different mediums. Use watercolors, collage, cut-outs, your Gelli plate, or Posca markers to see how the character of the shapes changes.



A Few More Ideas to Spark Your Creativity:

- **Repeat and reflect:** Take a single element from your design and repeat it as a simple, standalone motif or create a scattered, all-over pattern.
- **Crop and zoom:** Look at your design through a viewfinder or crop it digitally. Focus on just a small section or a specific intersection of lines.
- **Reverse the roles:** Swap the background and foreground colors. If your original shape was dark on a light background, try making it light on a dark ground.

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Your only homework:

Test as many options as you like. Document your experiments freely without any pressure. Step by step, a common thread will naturally reveal itself and guide your collection.

Have fun creating!

