SUNSETS AND SEASHORES

Introduction

Few things capture the imagination and arrest the casual viewer like a sunset on the ocean. As the sun sinks below the horizon, both sky and sea are set ablaze with resplendent hues of orange, yellow, pink, and purple. Sunsets on seashores are truly one of nature's greatest spectacles.

Throughout the history of art many artists have felt compelled to capture those beautiful scenes. Bill Alexander with his "mighty paintbrush", Bob Ross with his happy little sunsets, and more recently, Christian Riese Lassen with his bold color combinations.

In this class we will learn to create these images for ourselves and we will be using Mr. Lassen's images as our inspiration.

You can learn more about Mr. Lassen at www.lassenart.com

Copic Colors Used For The Class Page
(Refer to the color conversion chart for non Copic alternatives.)

B00	YG41	C2	
B01	YG45	C4	RV21
B02		C6	
B04	Y21		R12
B05		W5	R20
B06	E29	W6	R22
B39		W7	R89
	BV00	W10	

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:
White gelly roll pen, white gouache, white colored pencil, pink colored pencil, orange colored pencil, yellow colored pencil

Chapter One:
Coloring The Base Colors

For this class I'll be using a minimalist black and white line drawing on copy paper. I was tempted to use no line drawing at all and just build the image out of color and shape but I opted for a drawing with the fewest amount of lines possible.
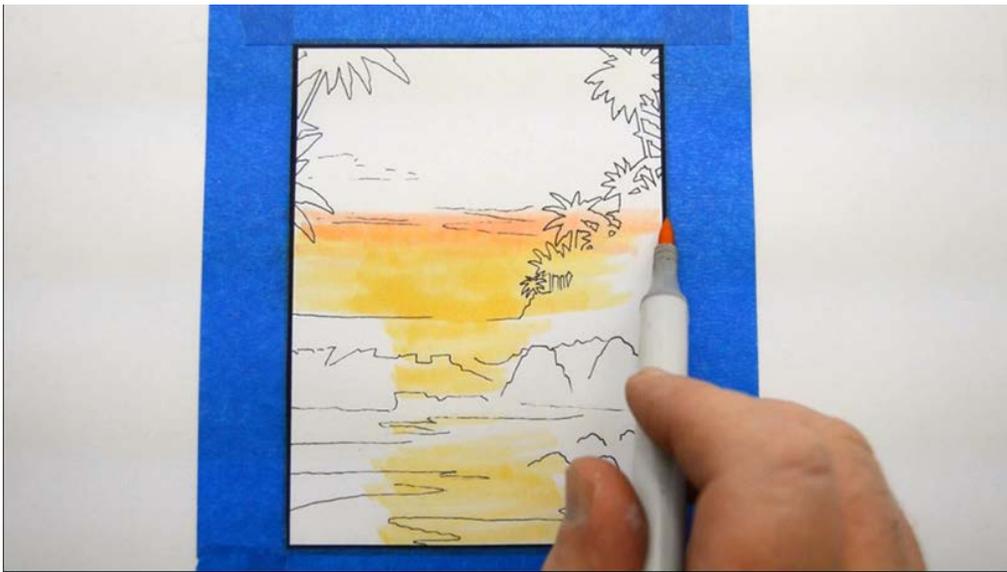
I'm using 3m low tack masking tape to keep the edges of the drawing clean.

I add Y21 to the center of the image, making sure to get a decent amount of overlap on the right hand tree area.

I carry the Y21 to the center to the bottom of the image. I'm using the side of the marker and making light, quick overlapping strokes.

I add R12, which in most cases would be considered a "flesh tone" to the top edge of the Y21 in the center of the image...

...and to the outside edges of the Y21 at the bottom of the image.
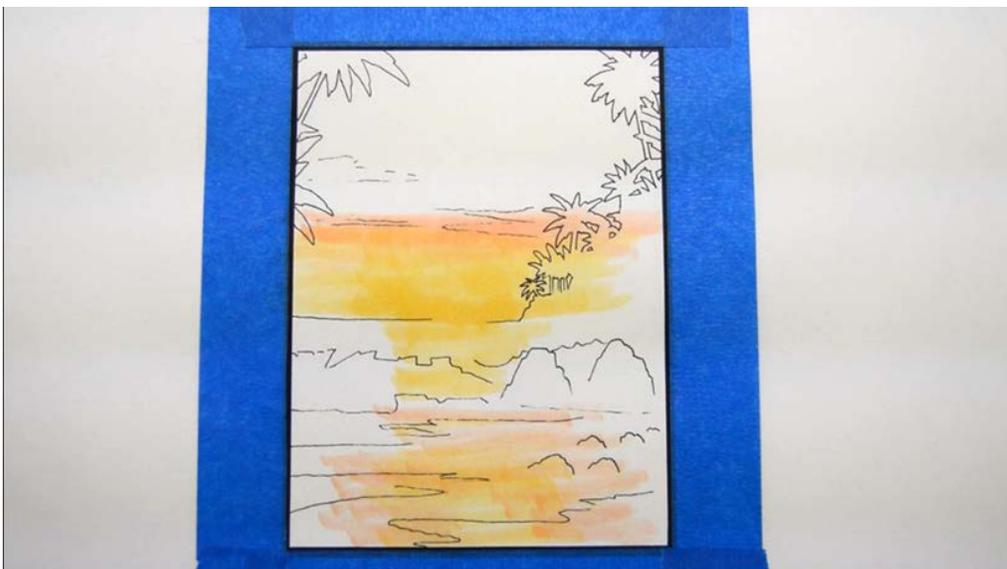
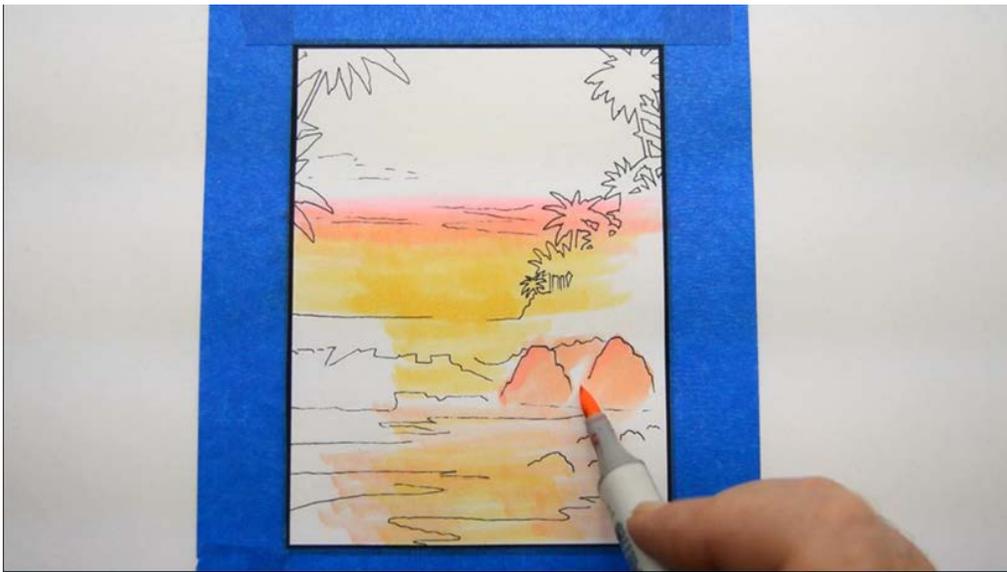Notice how lightly applied and "broken" the R12 is.
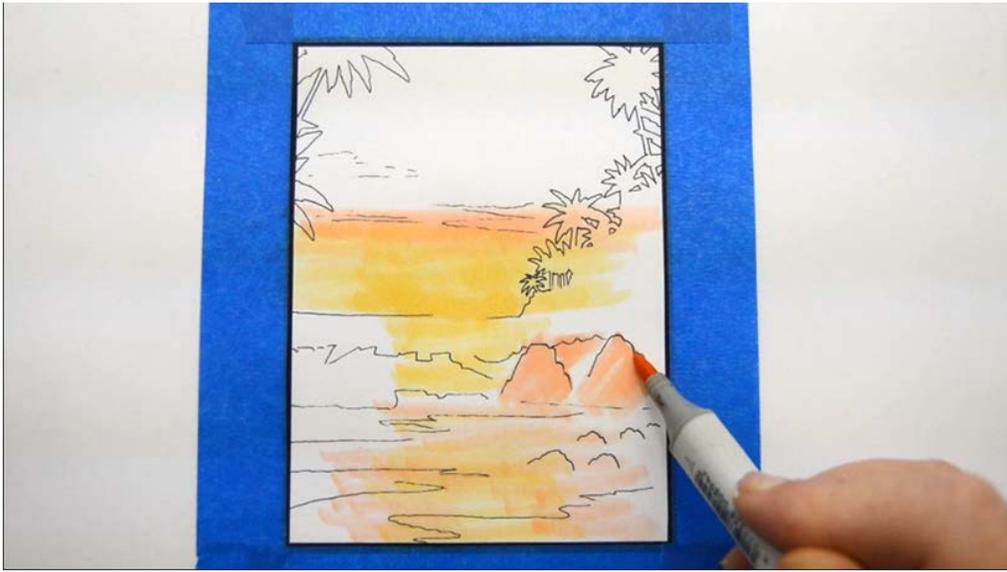
Continuing with the R12 I color the foreground rocks.
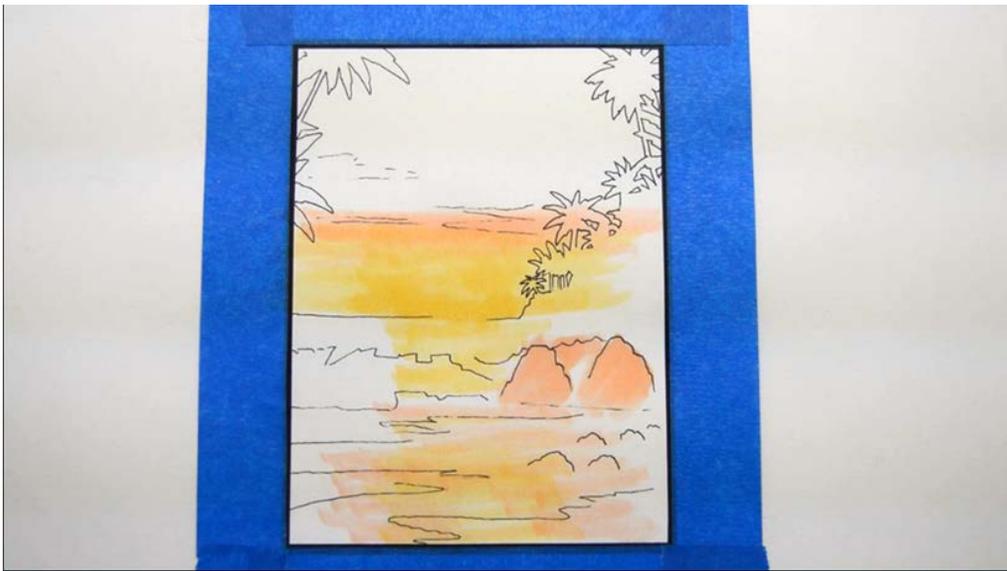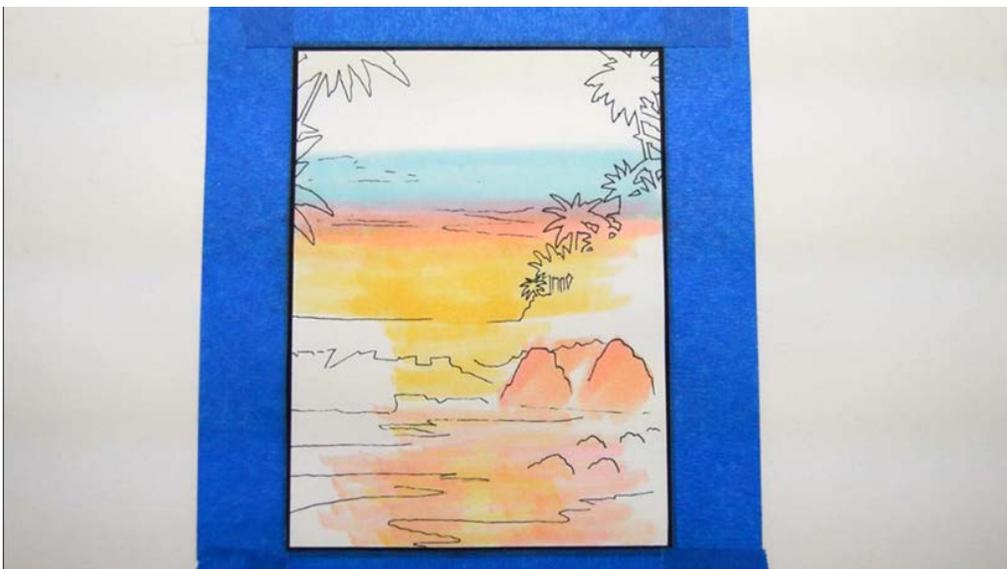

After the R12.

I add RV21 to the top edge of the R12 in the center section of the image.

I also add RV21 to the left edges of the rocks...

...and to the bottom section of the image. (RV21)

I add B00.

Notice the beautiful mixed purple where the B00 overlaps the RV21!

I add B01 above the B00...

...and to the bottom half of the image using quick, light strokes and the side of the marker. (B01)

I add B02 to the sky above the B01.
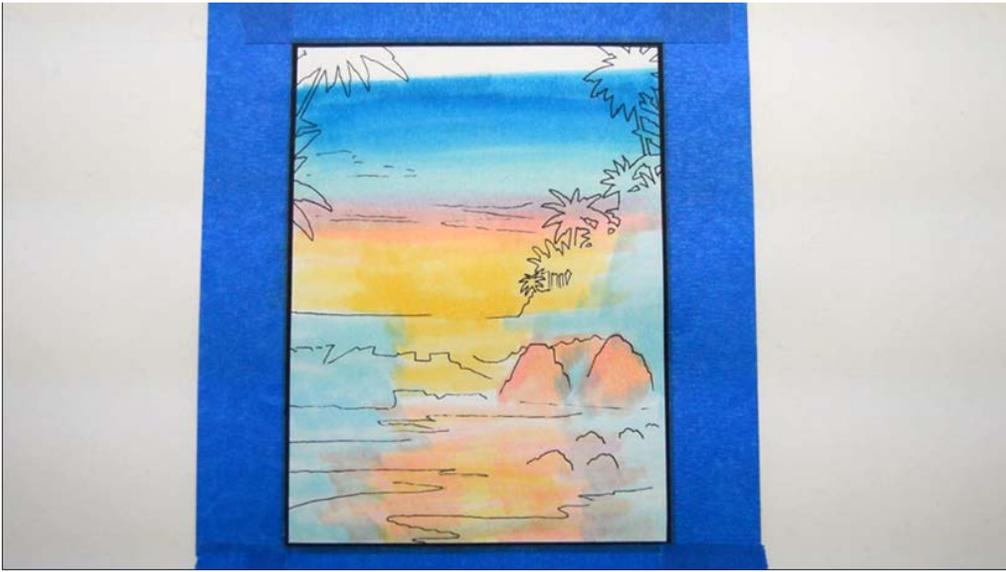
I then add B04...

B05...

...and B06.

I soften some of the transitions between the various blues with B02...

...and B01.
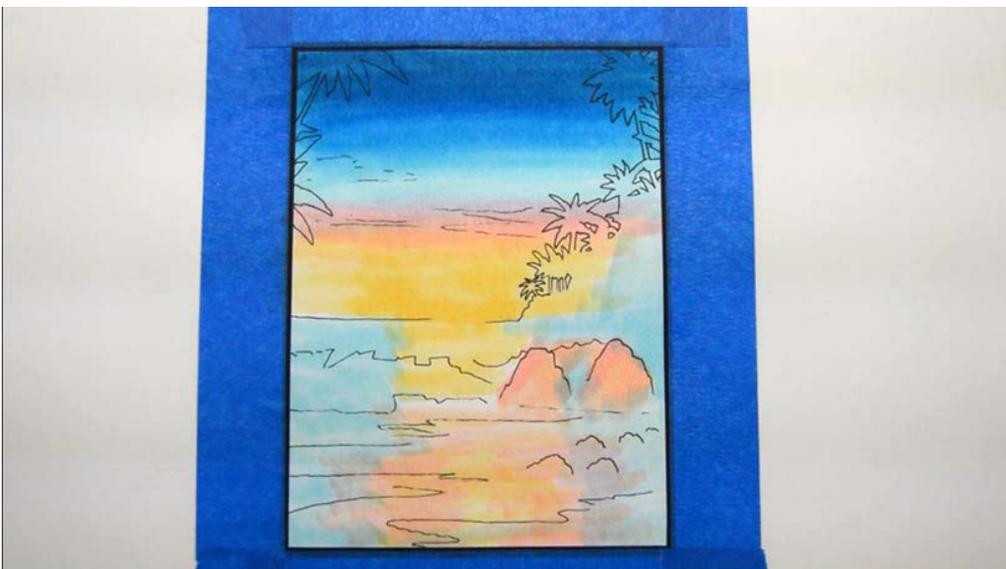
This completes the base colors and establishes the overall color scheme.

Chapter Two:
Coloring The Background
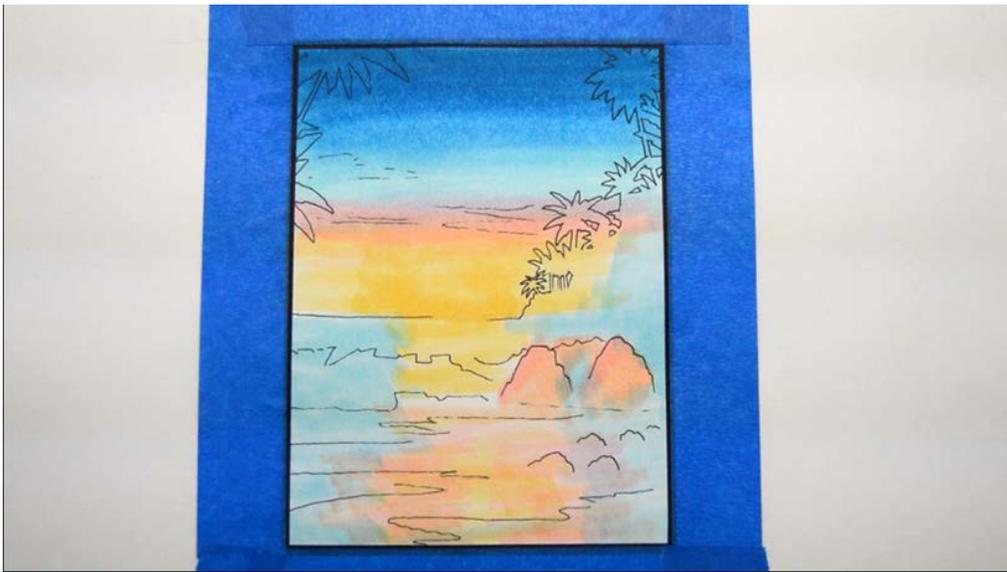
With the base colors in place we can now begin to add detail to the background.

I begin by coloring the trees with R22.
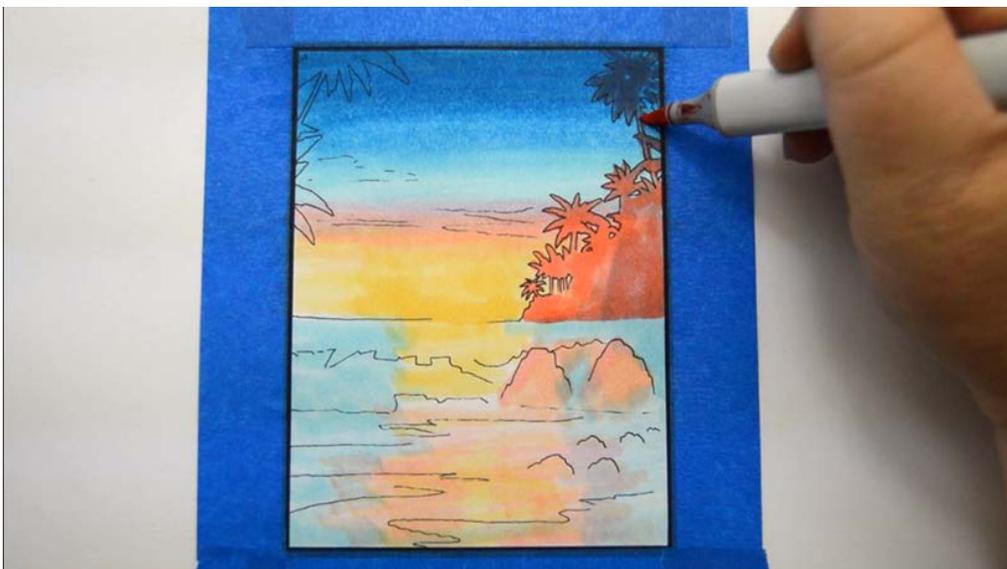
Notice how different the color looks when it's layered over the blue base colors. (R22)
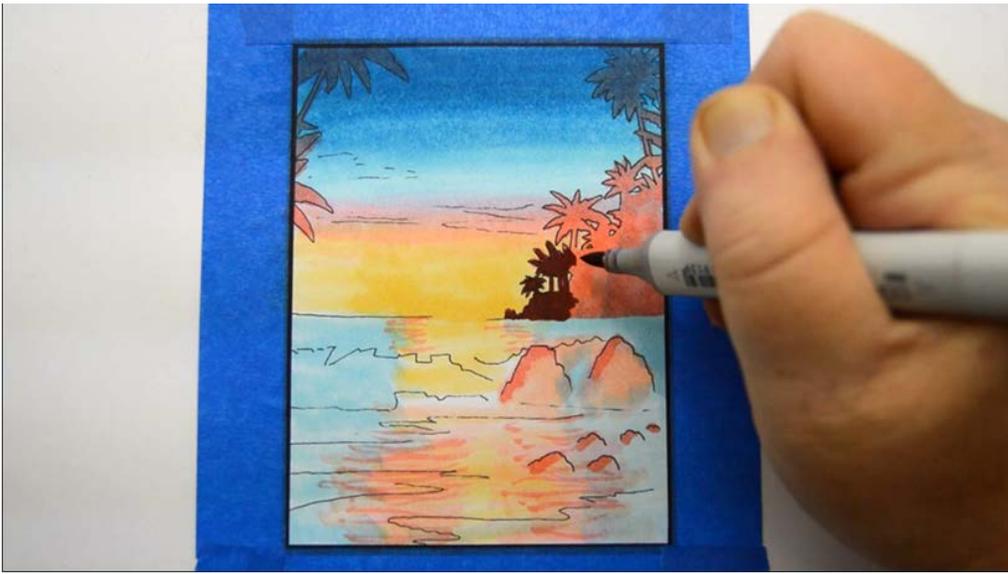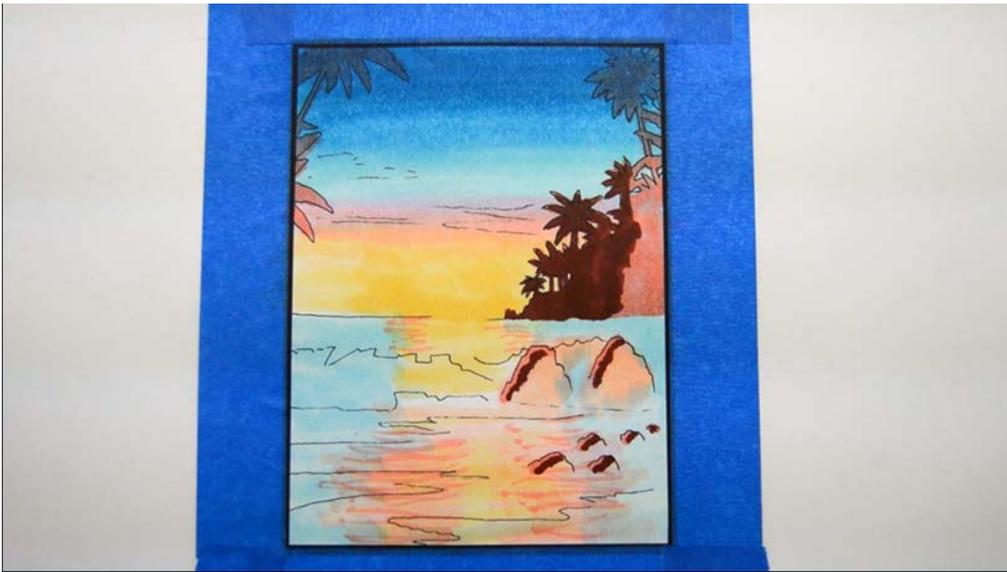
R22

R22

R22

13
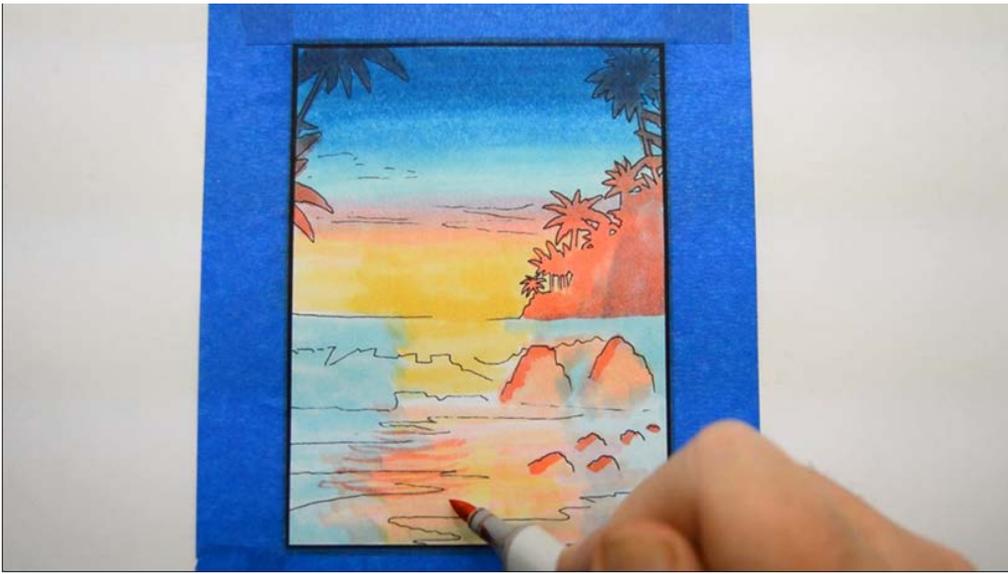
R22

R22
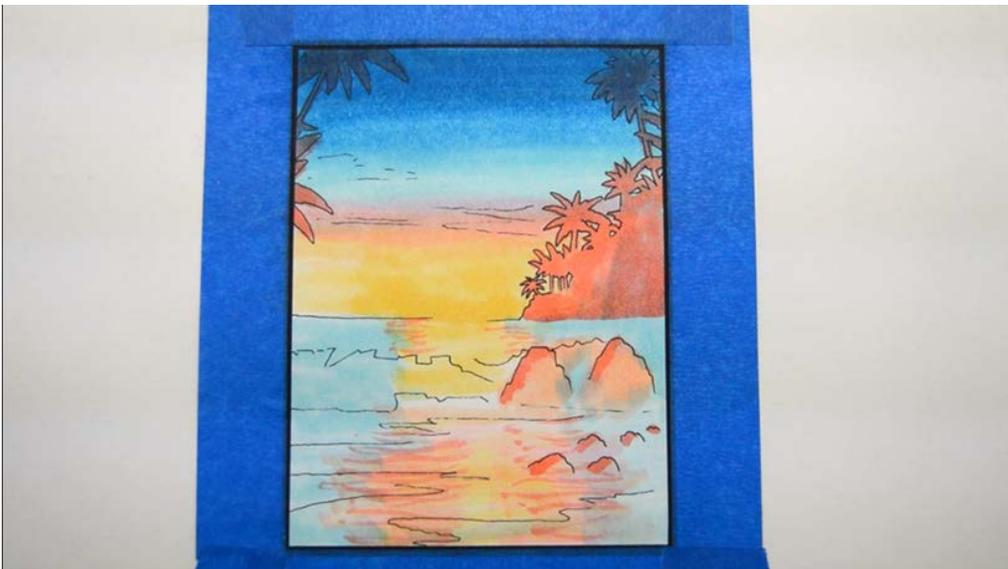
After the R22.

I darken a portion of the right hand tree line with R89.
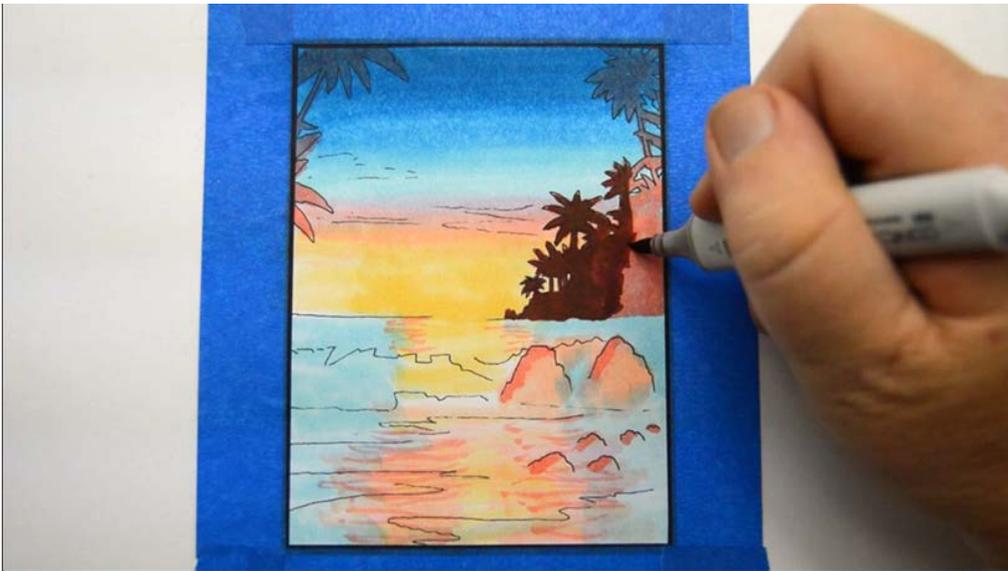
R89

R89

After the R89.

I add W7 to the tree line.

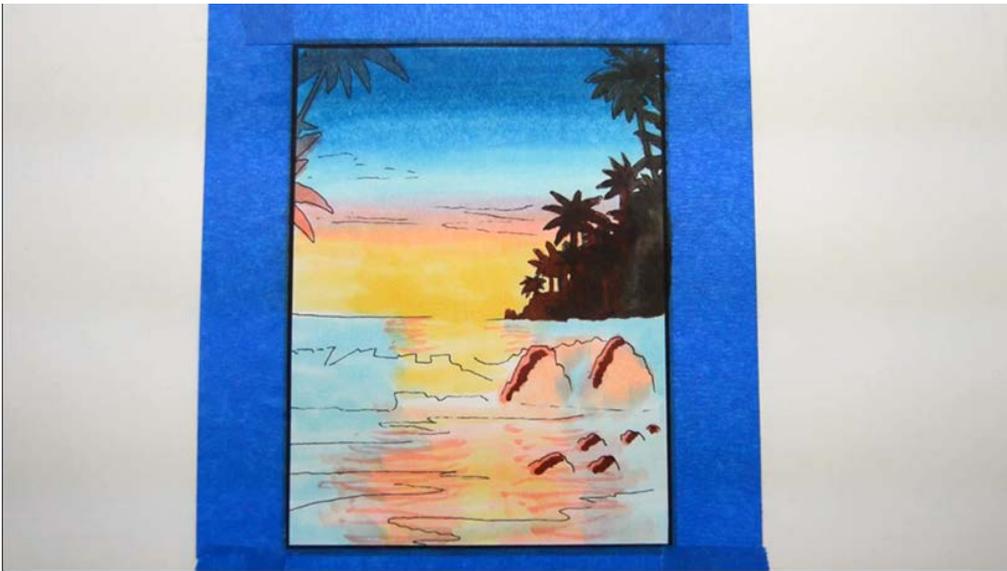I'm actually making tree shaped marks with leaves and trunks. These don't need to be detailed but "drawing in" additional trees like this helps make the picture look deep.
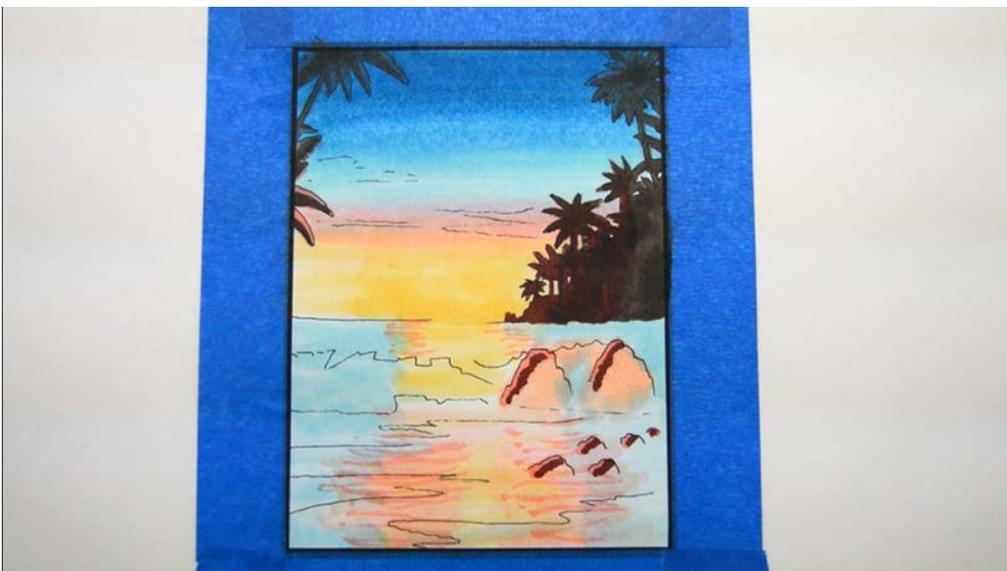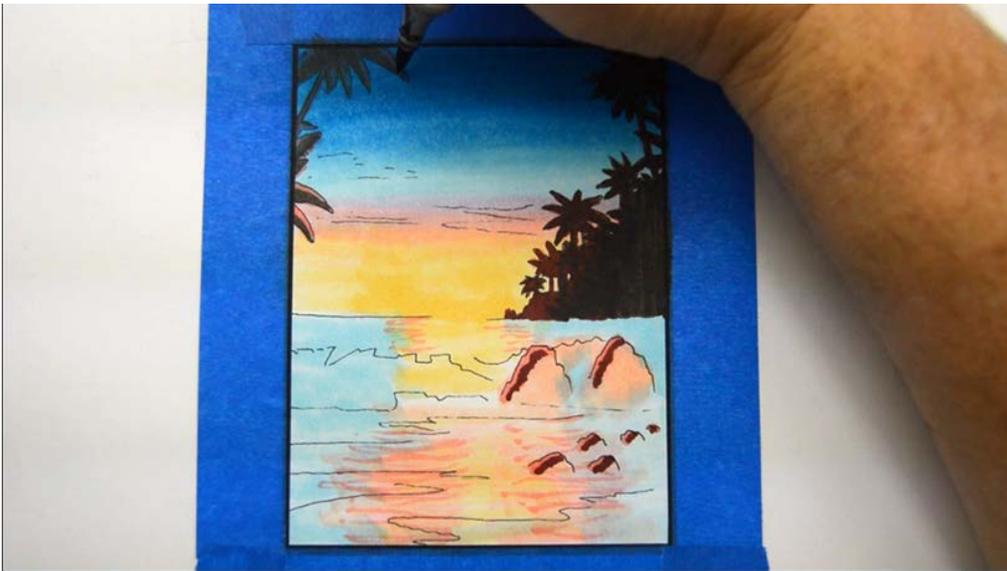
W7

W7

It's subtle but nice.

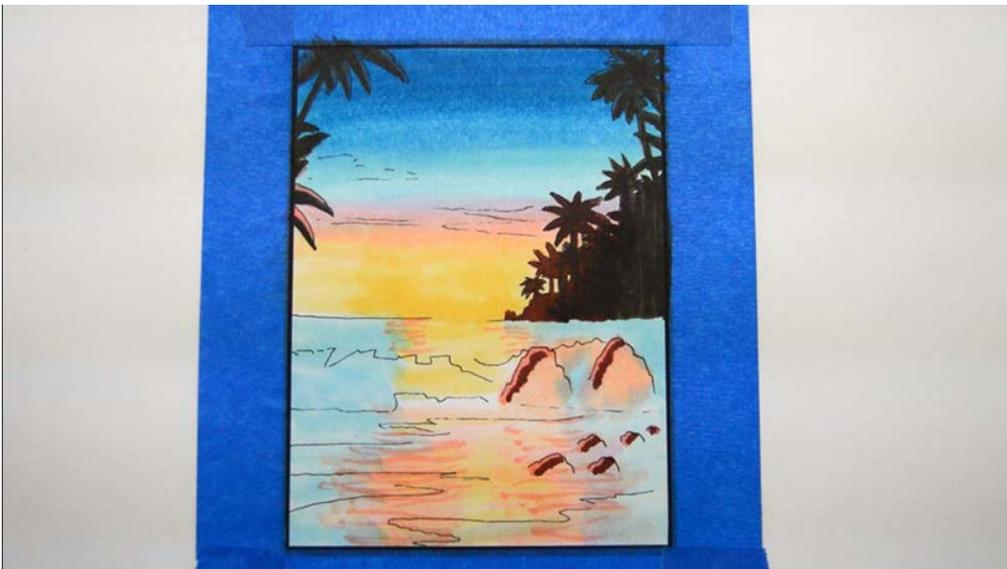I add W7 to the trees on the left of the image.

Notice how some of the original base colors show through the W7 in both of the tree areas.
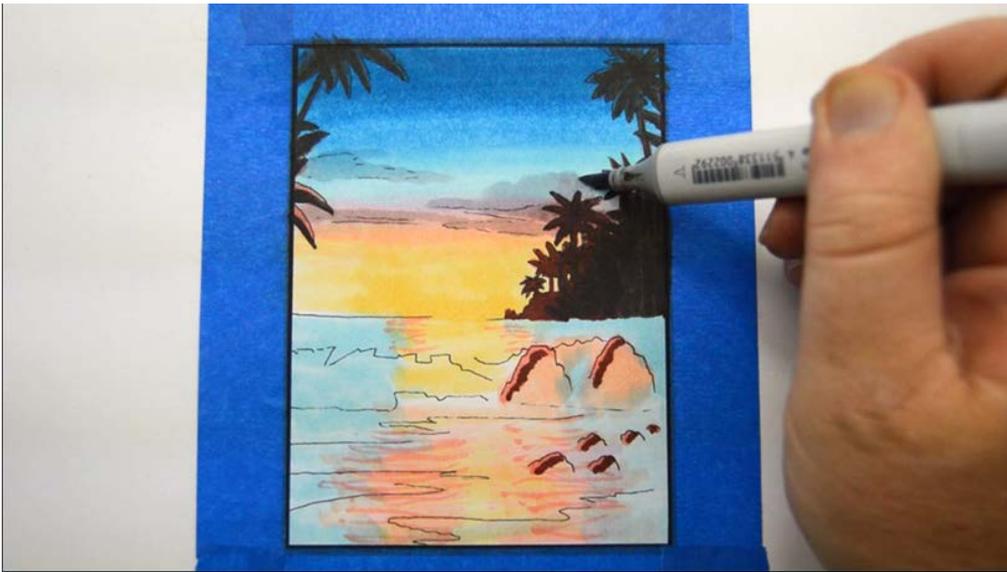
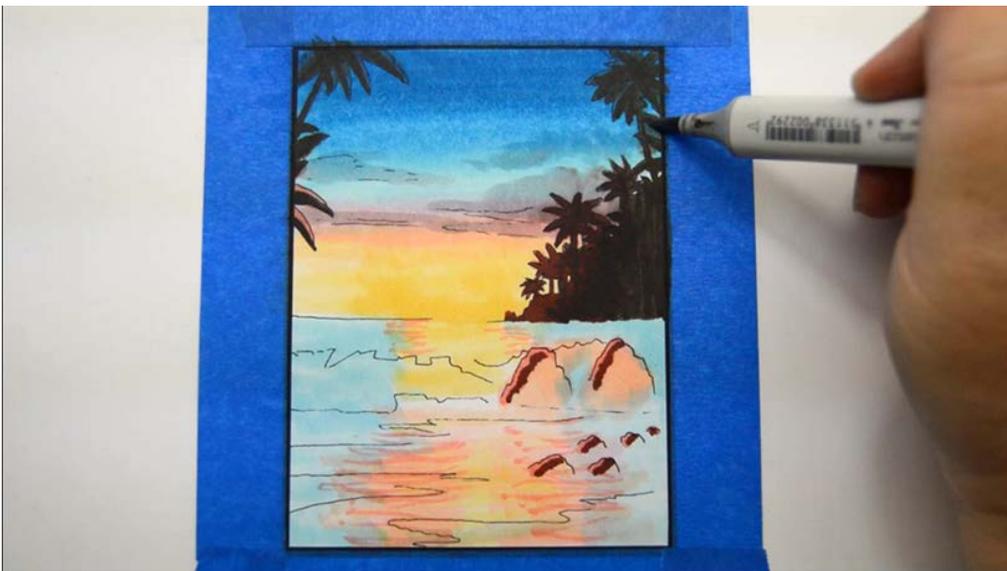Using the same "drawing in" technique I add more tree shapes with W10.

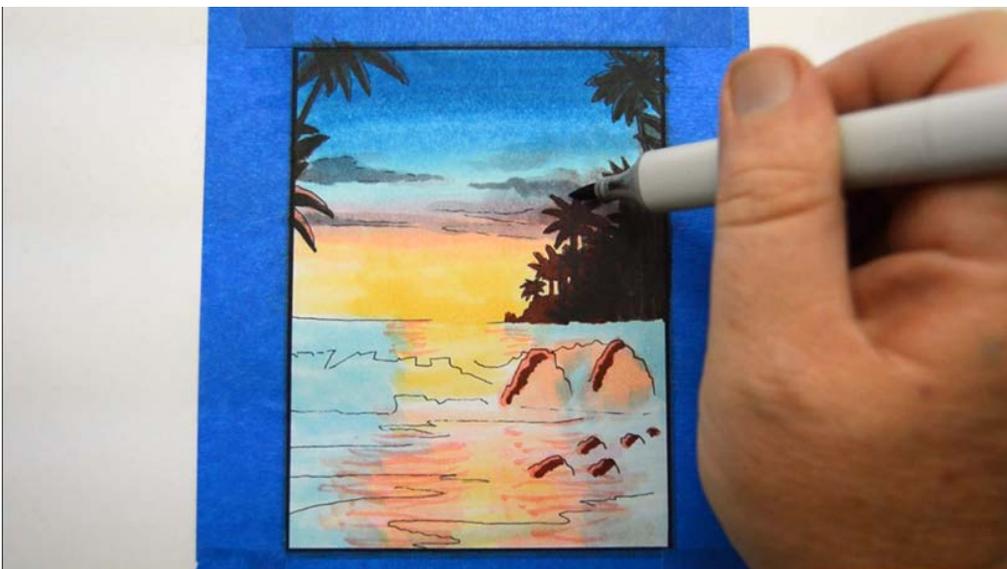I add dark accents to the left side trees. (W10)

Be sure to watch the video for a clear view of coloring these areas!

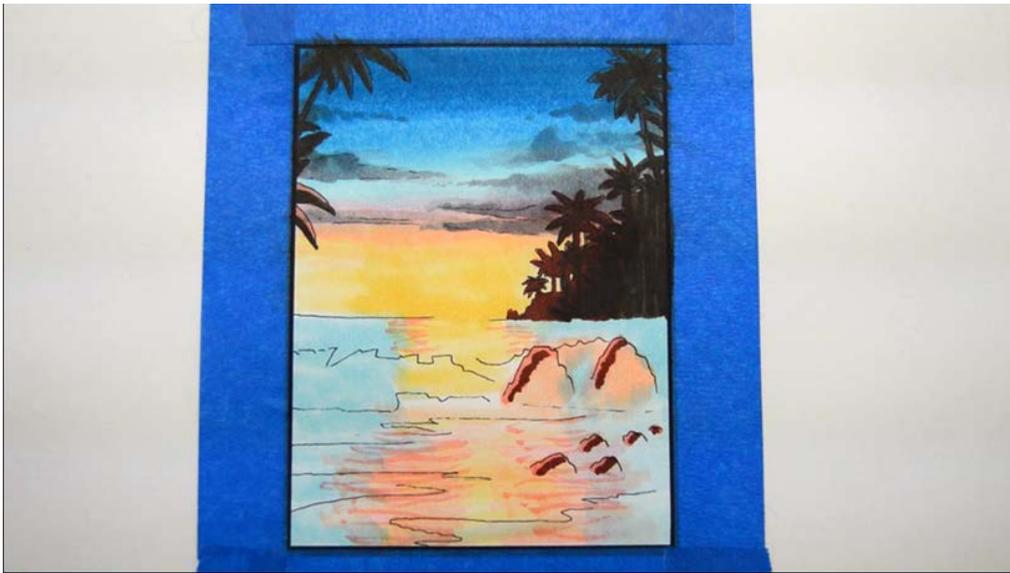I begin to add some clouds to the sky with C2.

Don't be afraid to color right over the trees! Also notice that I keep my C2 clouds confined to the "lighter" blue portions of the sky.

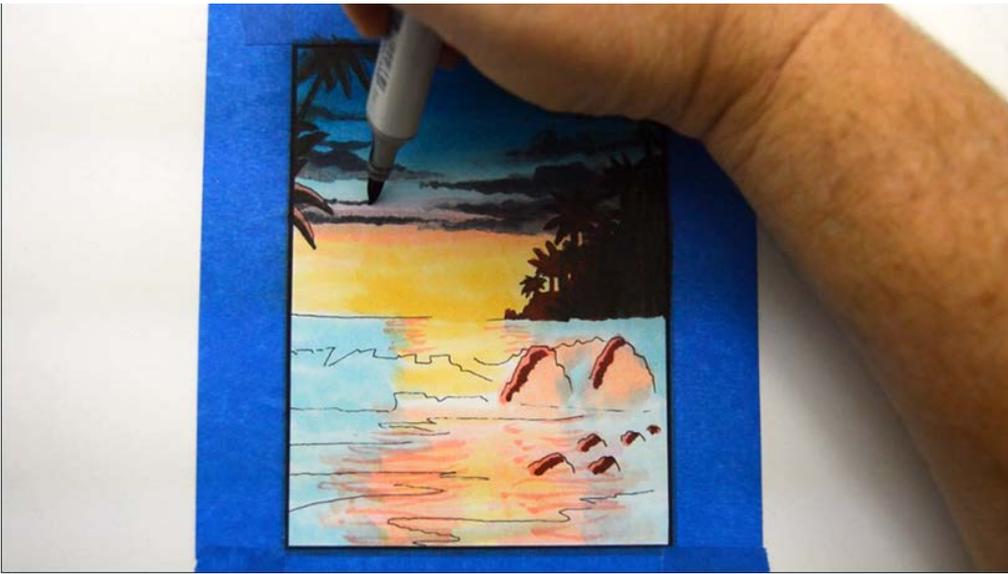I add darker cloud shapes into the C2 clouds with C4.

I also create some new cloud shapes with C4 in the "mid tone" area of the sky.
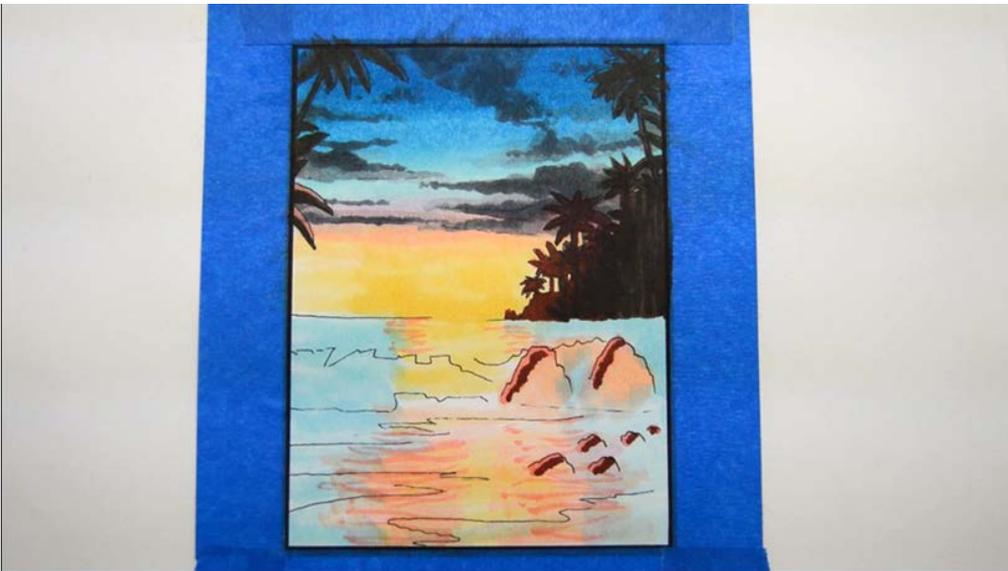

After the C4.

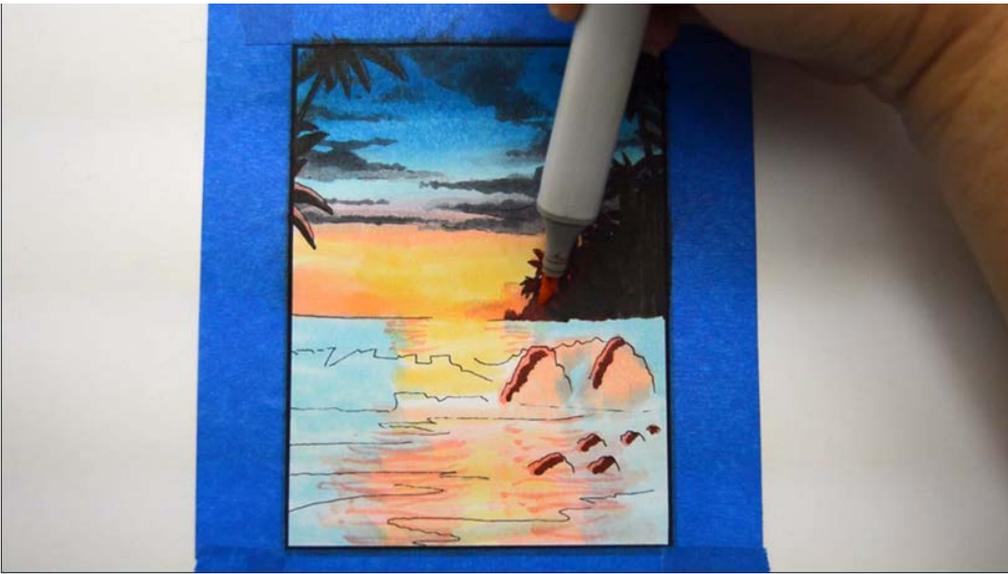I add even darker C6 areas to the cloud shapes.
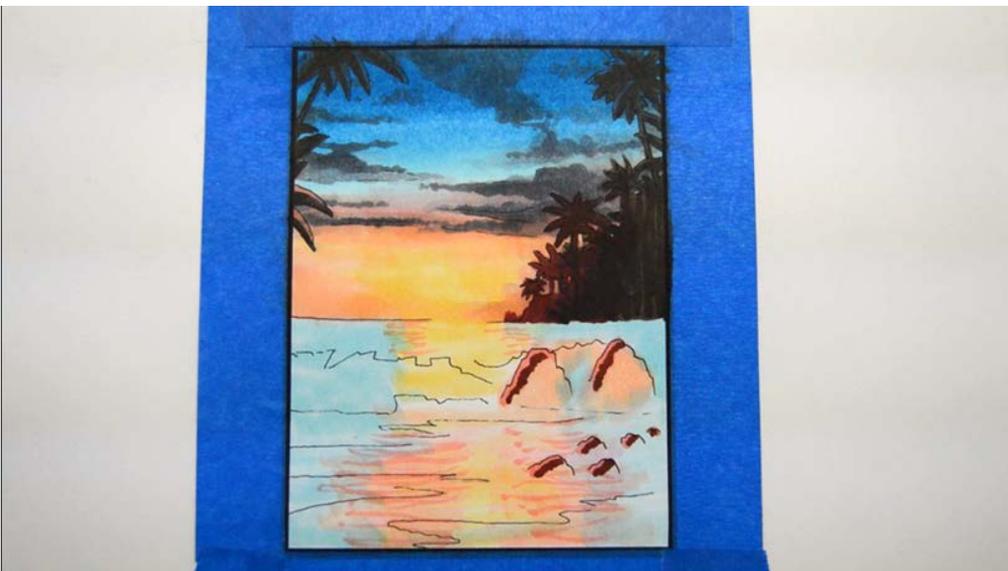
I add a new cloud here ...(C6)

...and here. (C6)

After the C6.

I add R20 to the horizon line above the sea...

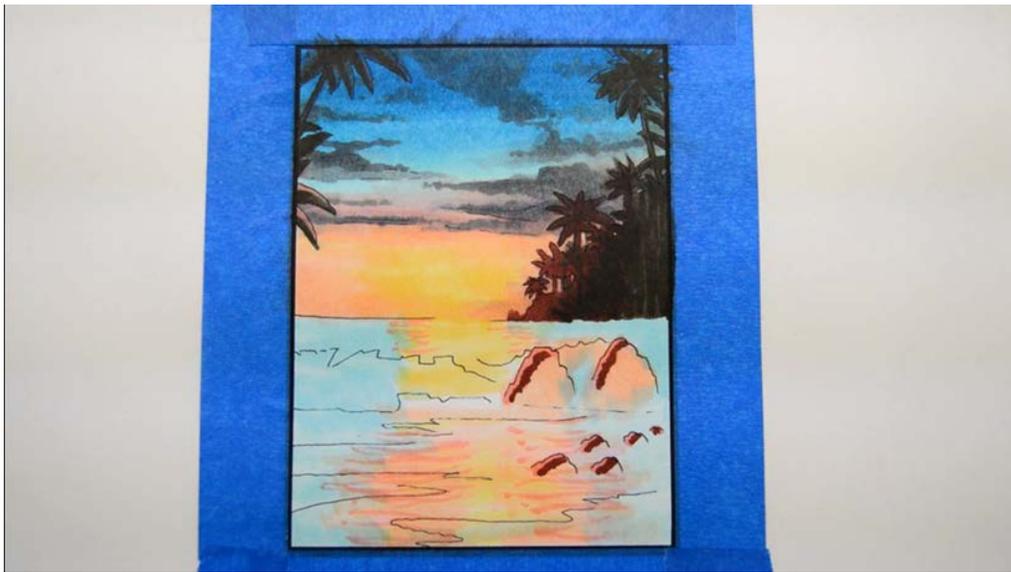...and to the transition area between the yellow and blue parts of the sky.
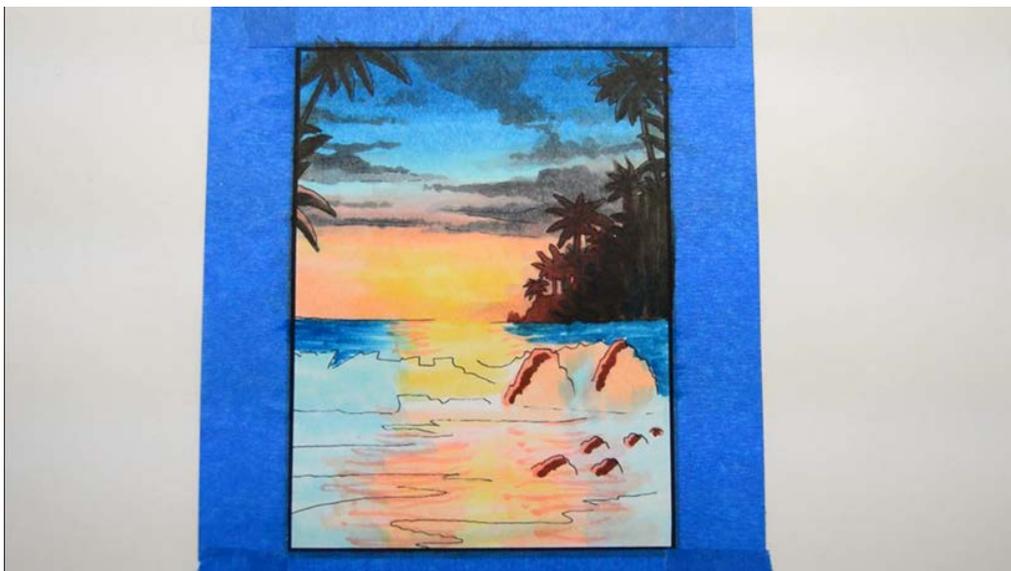
The background is now more or less complete.

Chapter Three:
Coloring The Foreground

With the background complete we turn our attention to the foreground elements in the bottom half of the image.

I add B06 to the top portion of the water, leaving some of the under color to show through and act as highlights.

Continuing with the B06 I add vertical shapes to the waves crashing against the ground plane.

I also add dark accents to the
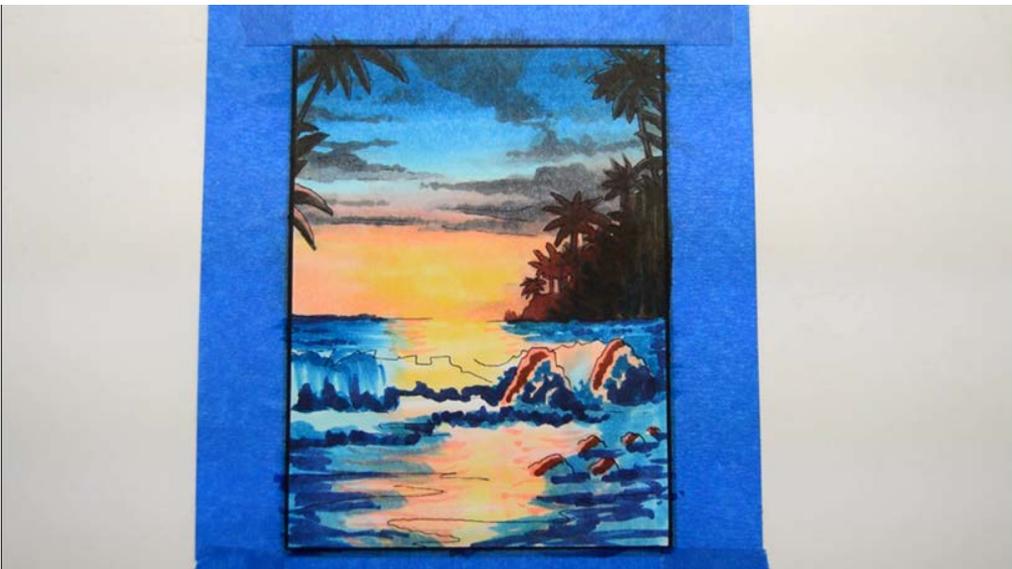waves and rocks. (B06)

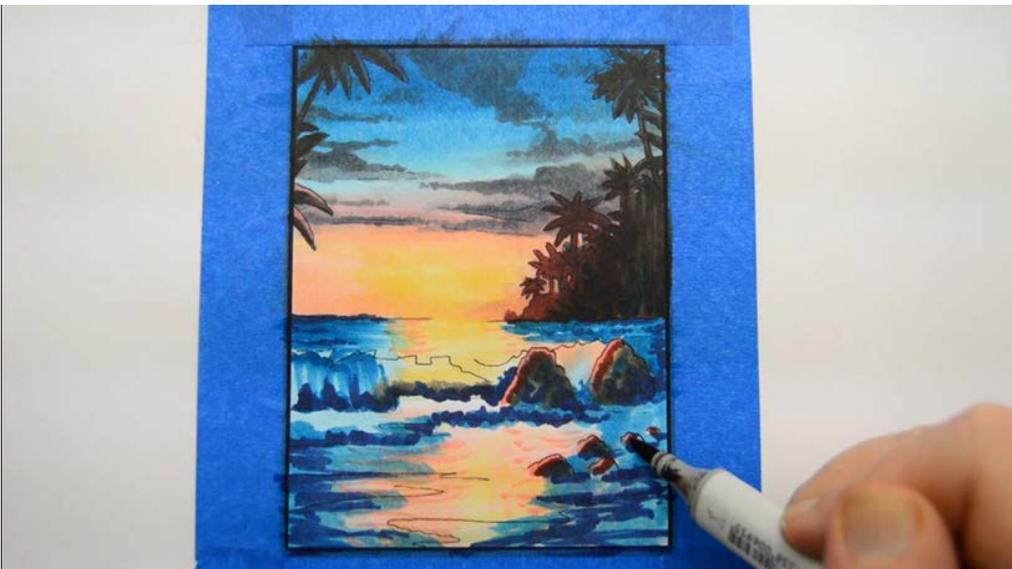B06

B06

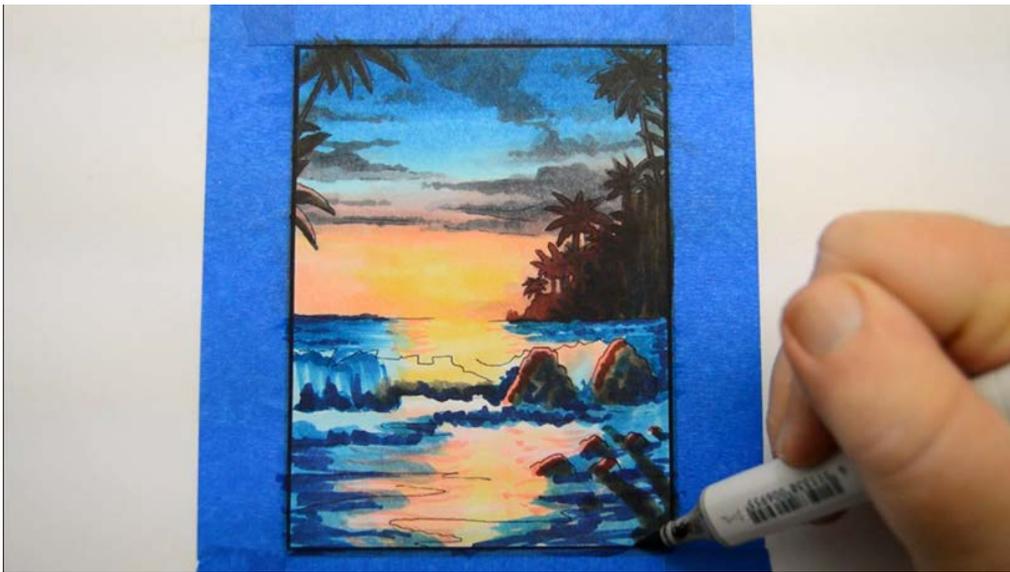I add darker accents with B39...

B39

After the B39.

I add W6 to the "eye" of the larger wave...
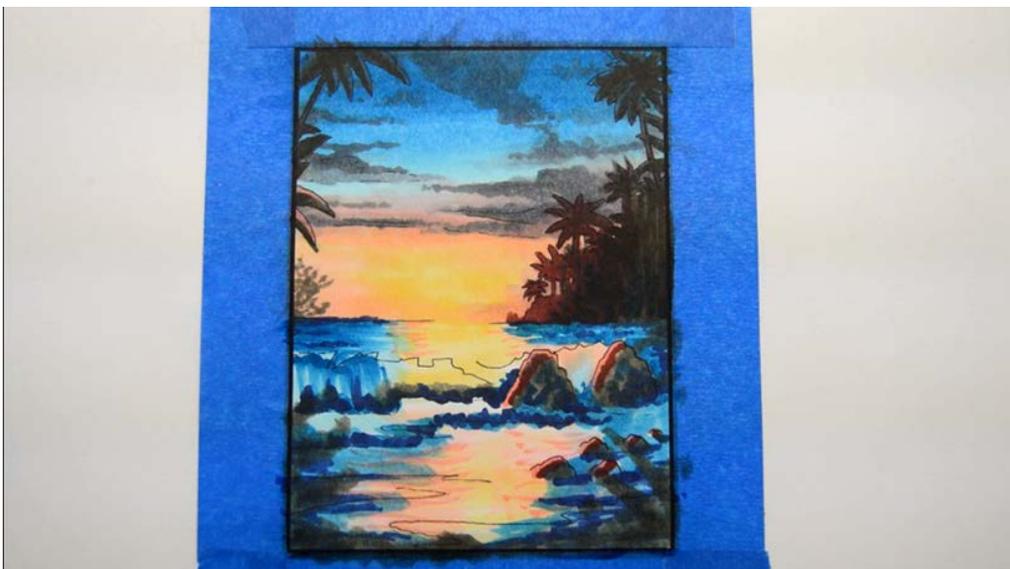
...and to the rocks... (W6)

W6

Continuing with the W6 I "draw in" some extreme foreground plant shapes.

W6

After the W6.

I add a little more definition to the foreground plants with E29...
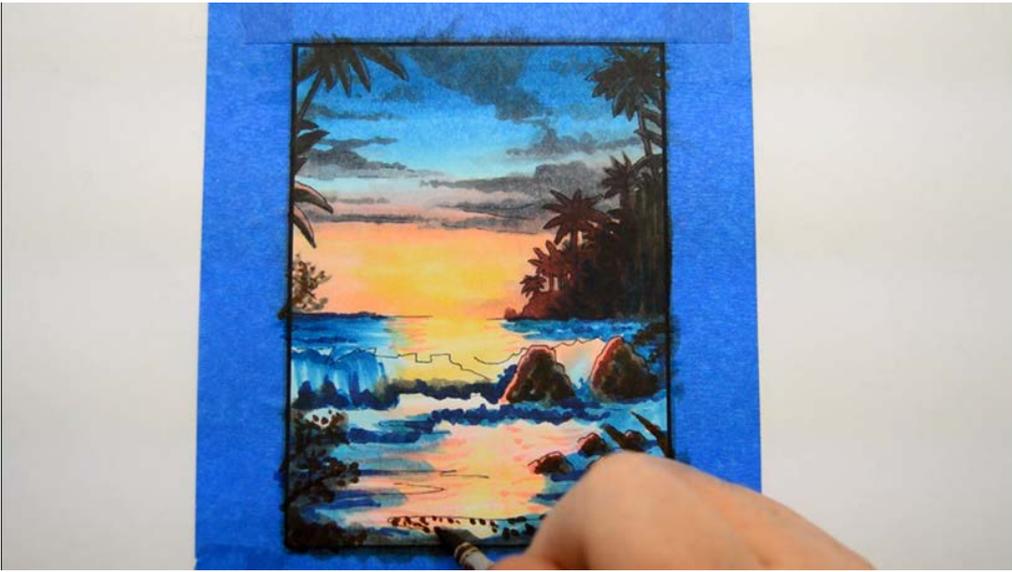

E29

E29

E29

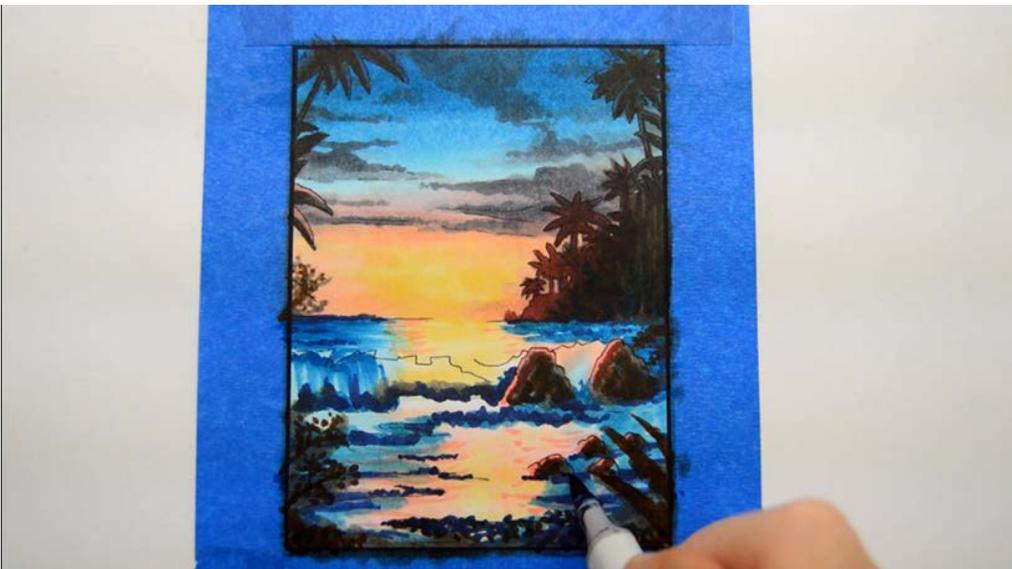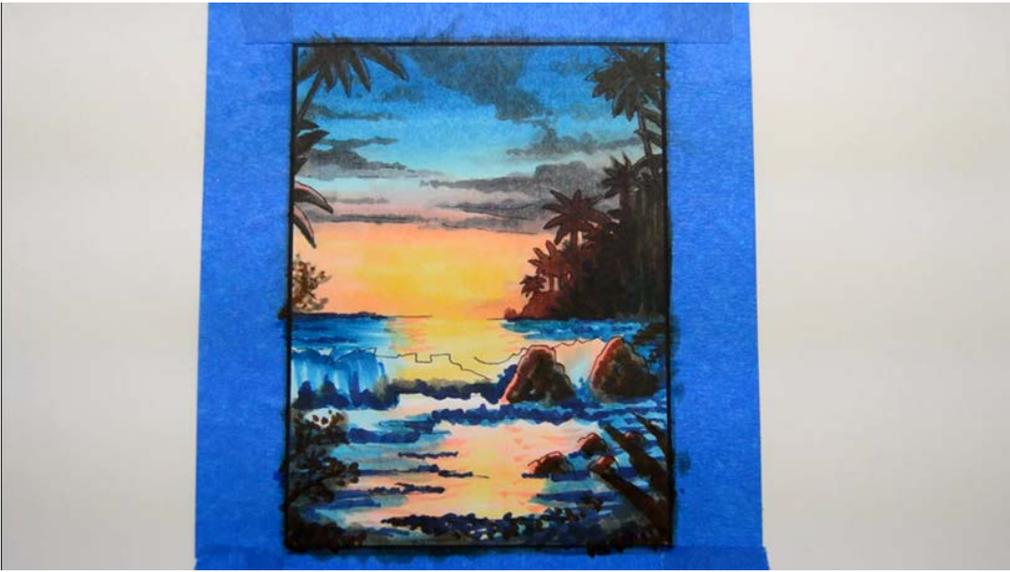I add dark accents to the rocks...
(E29)

E29

I then add some texture accents in the extreme foreground with E29.

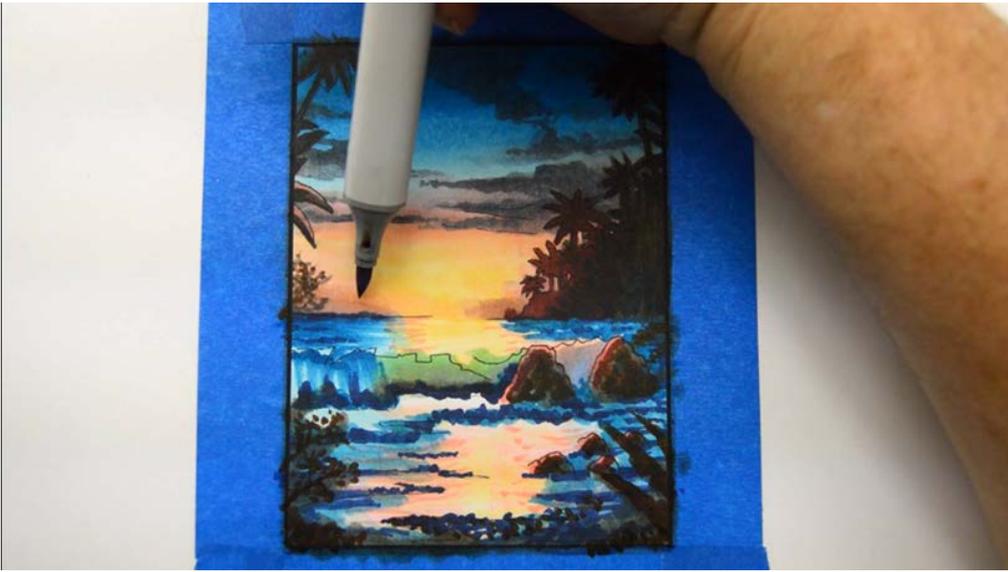I go even darker with B39...

B39

After the B39.

I add YG41 to the eye of the wave...
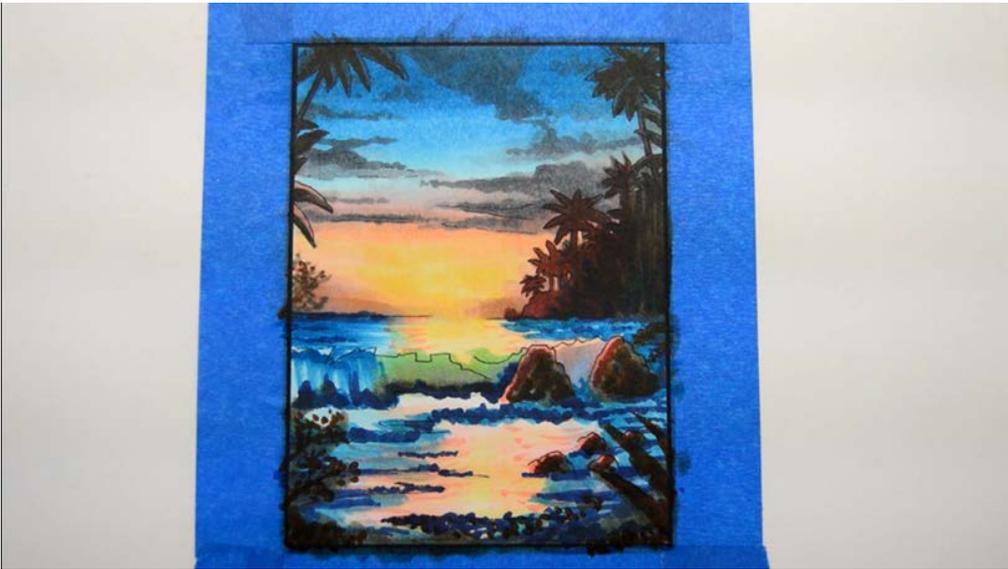

...then desaturate it just a bit with BV00.

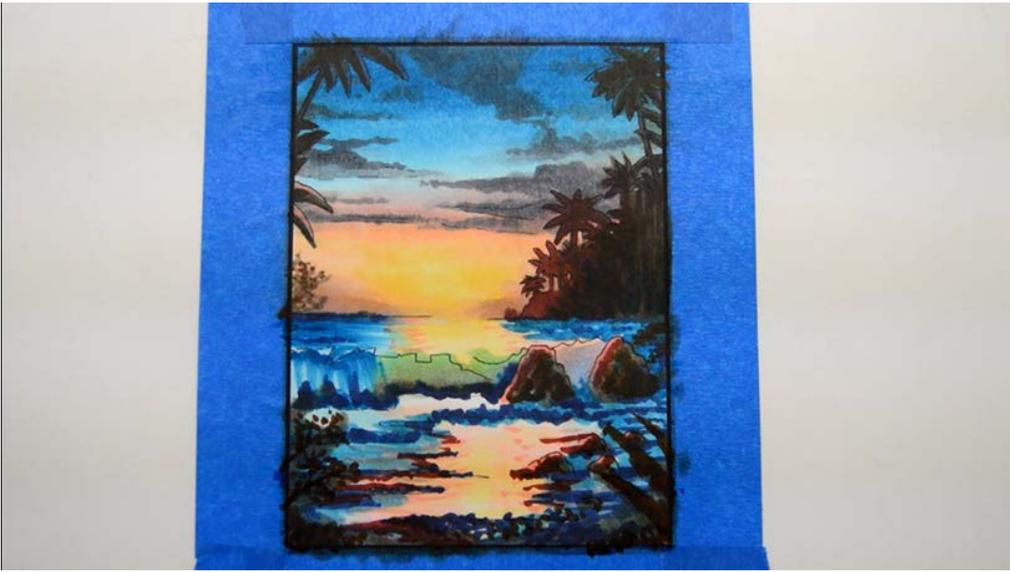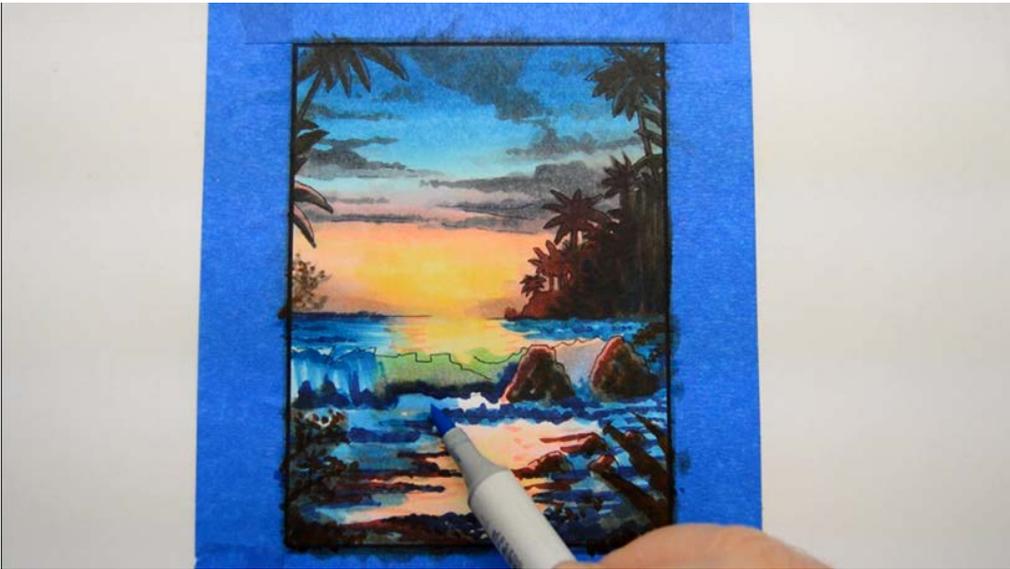I add BV00 just above the horizon line.

After the BV00.

I add small areas of R89 to the ground plane.

After the R89.

I add an overall "glaze" of B02 to the bottom part of the image, excluding the yellow and green areas.
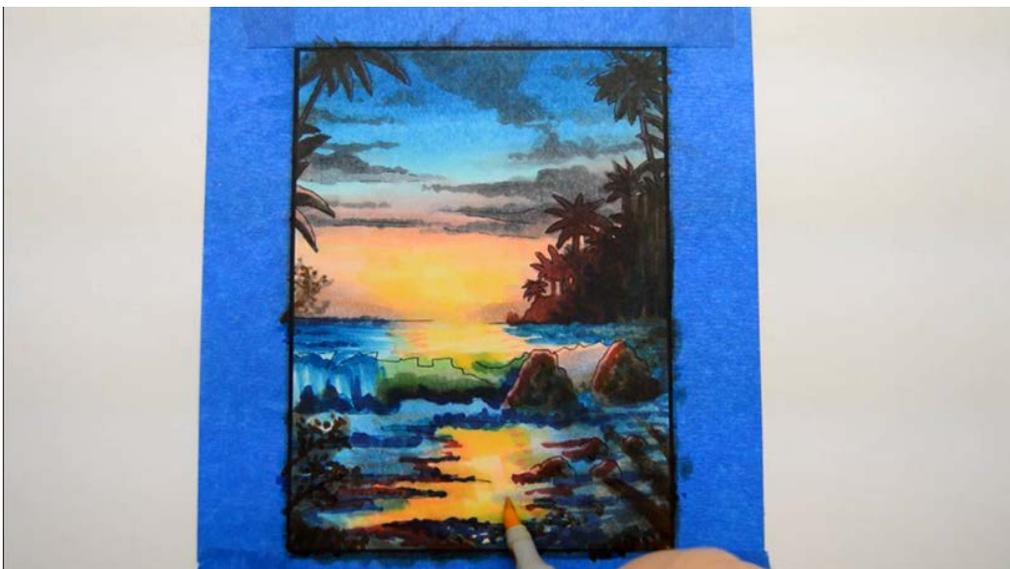
B02

B02

I then add a darker YG45 to the eye of the wave.

I strengthen some of my yellows with Y21...
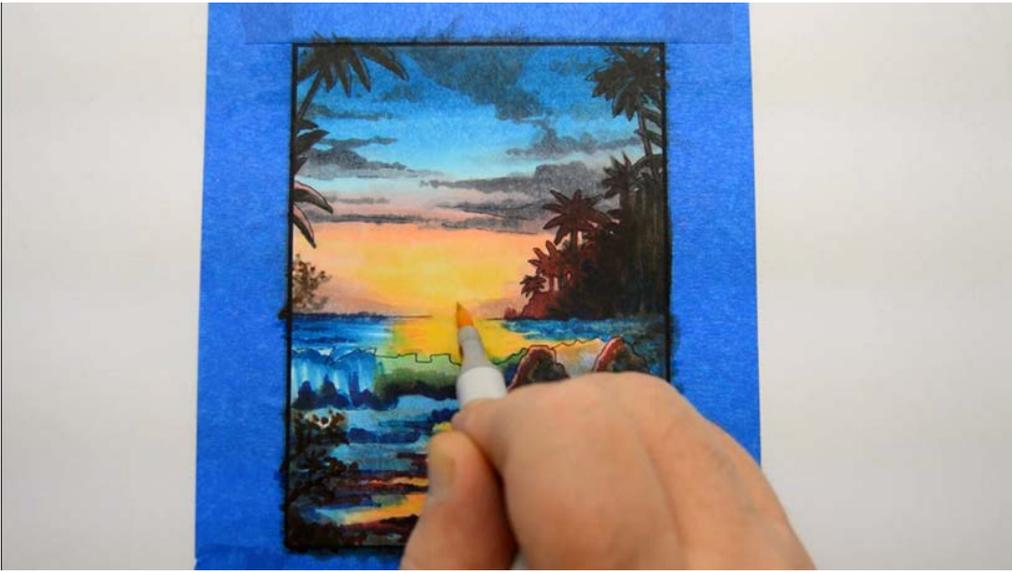
Y21

Y21
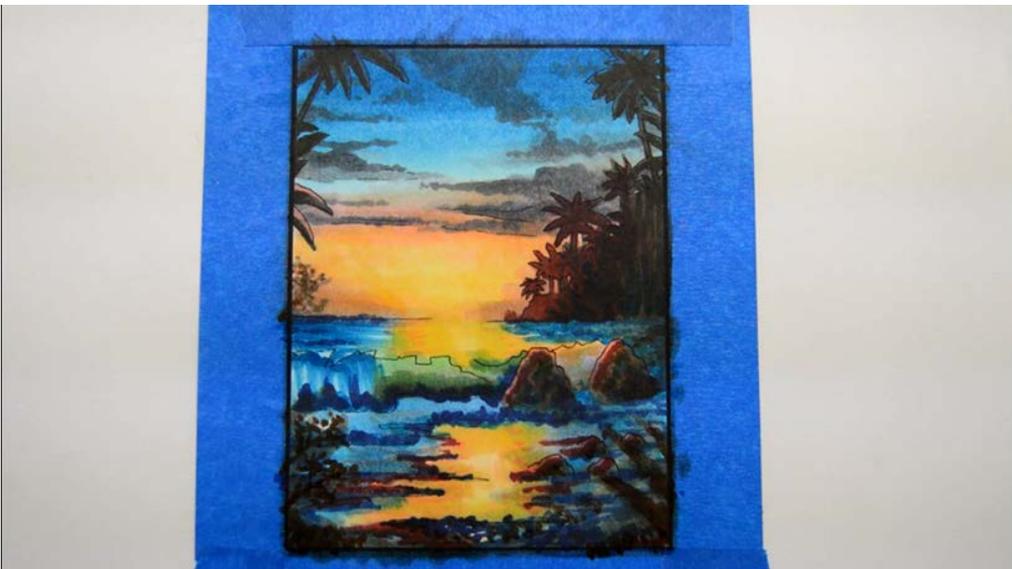
Ready for highlights!

Chapter Four:
Finishing The Image
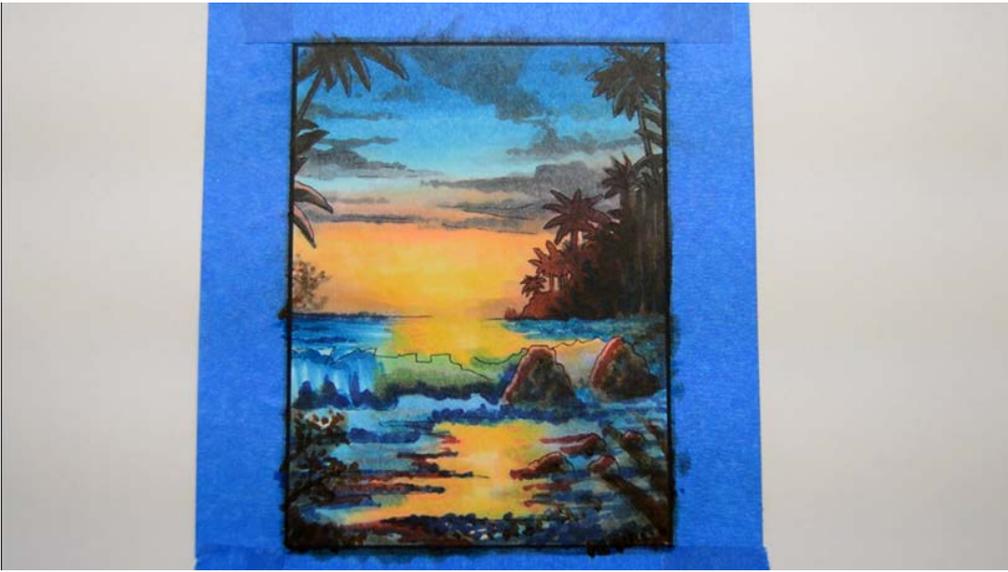
Before we begin adding highlights and finishing the image, I'd like to take a moment to appreciate how rough and unblended the work appears at this stage. We will do no further blending! It's amazing how much of a difference white highlights will make!

Using a 0.8 White Gelly Roll Pen (GRP), I "draw in" the setting sun and highlight the yellow parts of the water.
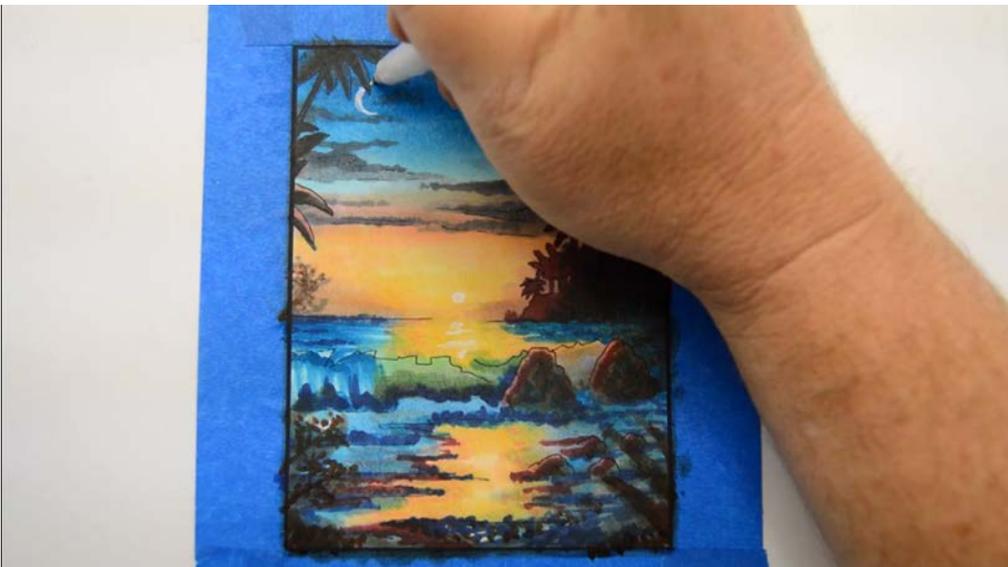
I add a crescent moon. (GRP)
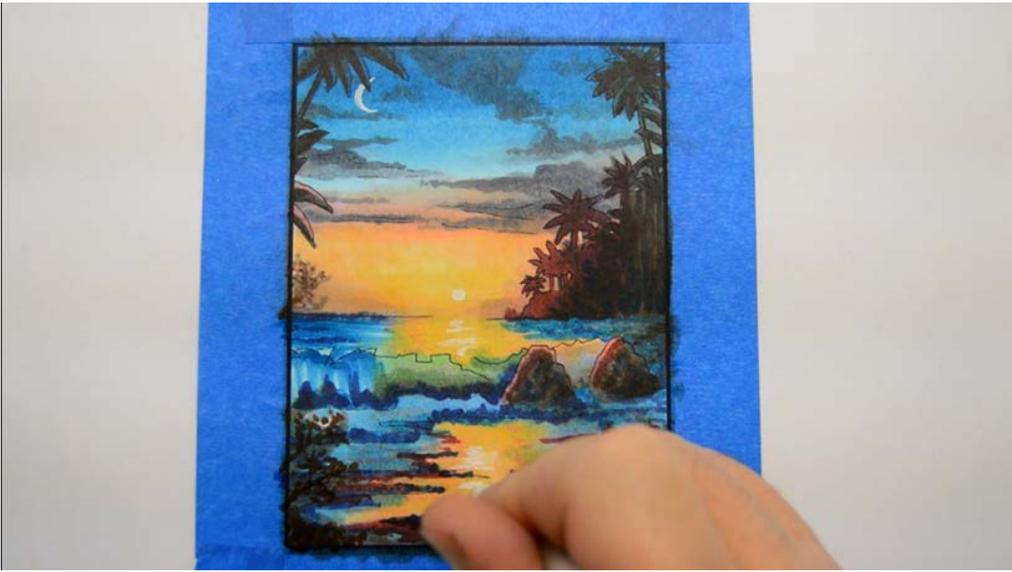
GRP

I add small highlights to the rocks... (GRP)

...then add some scribbles to indicate the foam at the tops of the wave. (GRP)

GRP

GRP

GRP

GRP

I begin to add some white
details inside the waves. (GRP)

GRP

I then add some highlight areas to the ground plane. (GRP)

I add some light, wispy clouds... (GRP)

...then add some more details to the waves. (GRP)

Ready for white gouache.

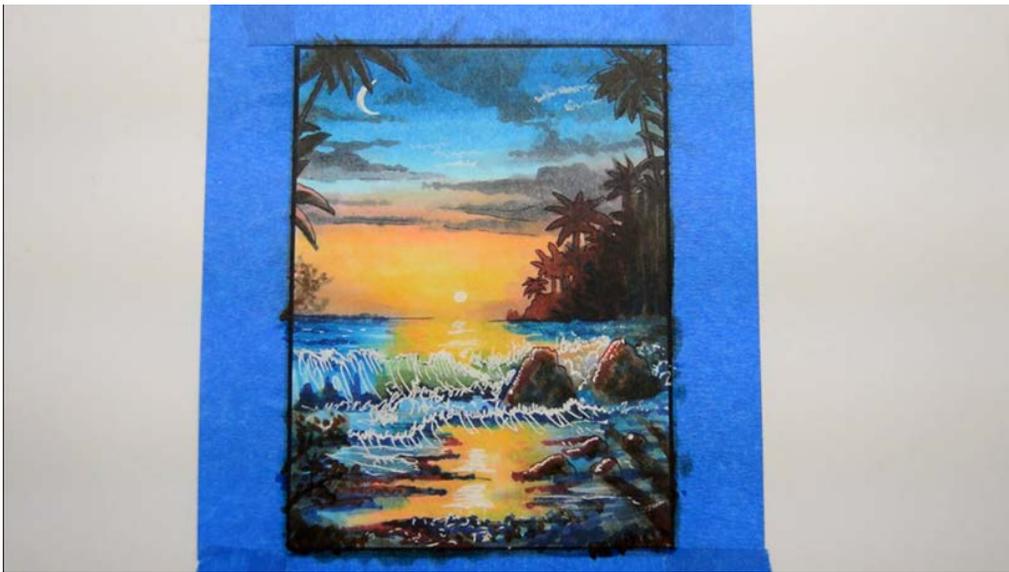Please note that your image may look slightly different than mine. Consequently, your use and placement of whites may be different as well. Use your best judgment based on your own image and place your whites where you think they should be!

Switching from the Gelly Roll Pen to white gouache, I add additional whites to my image.

I may or may not use my finger to "smudge" some areas of white gouache depending on the effect I'm going after. Please watch the video for more detailed instruction on this!
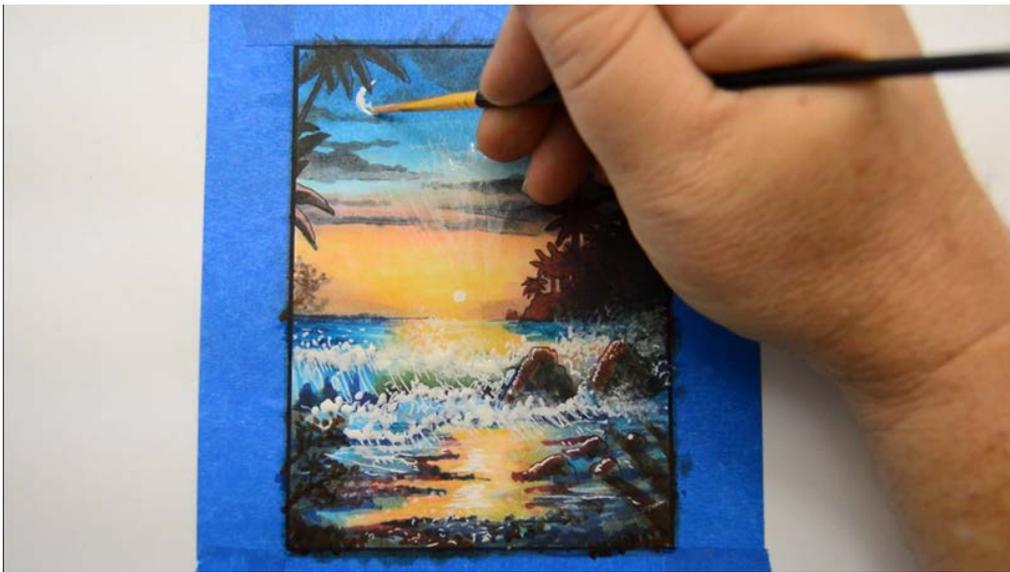
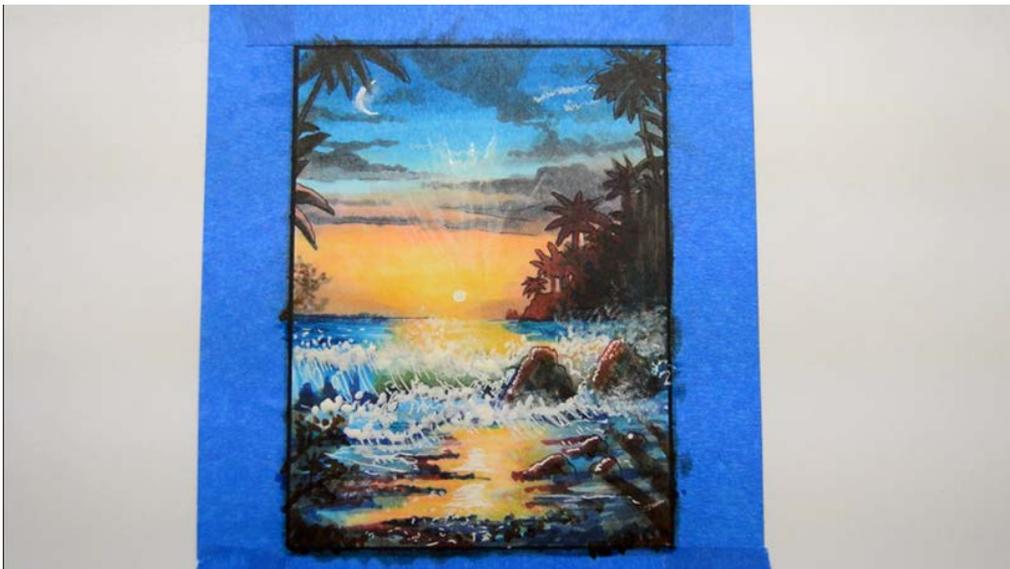I add some "sea spray". (White gouache)

White gouache

Using a very dry brush with very little gouache on it I add some "rays" above the sun. You may want to skip this step and add these "sun beams" with colored pencil as discussed in the video.

I add a haze around the moon with white gouache, but again, white colored pencil may work better for you for this task.
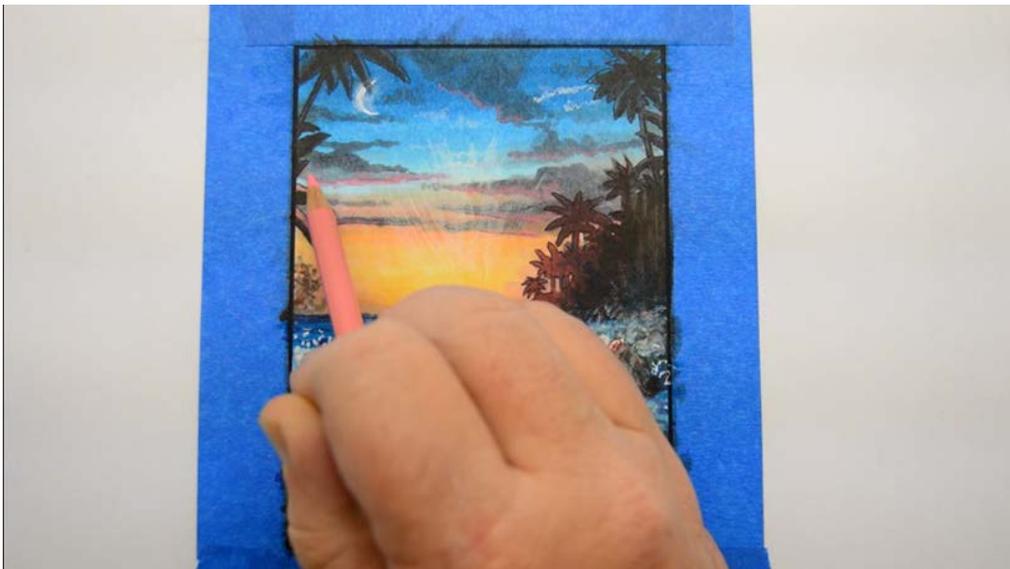

The white gouache application is complete. We will now make final adjustments and add our final color accents with colored pencils.

Using light pressure I add some water running off the rocks with white colored pencil.

Using very light pressure I add more strength to the sun beams. (White colored pencil)

I add pink accents to the bottoms of the clouds with a pink colored pencil.

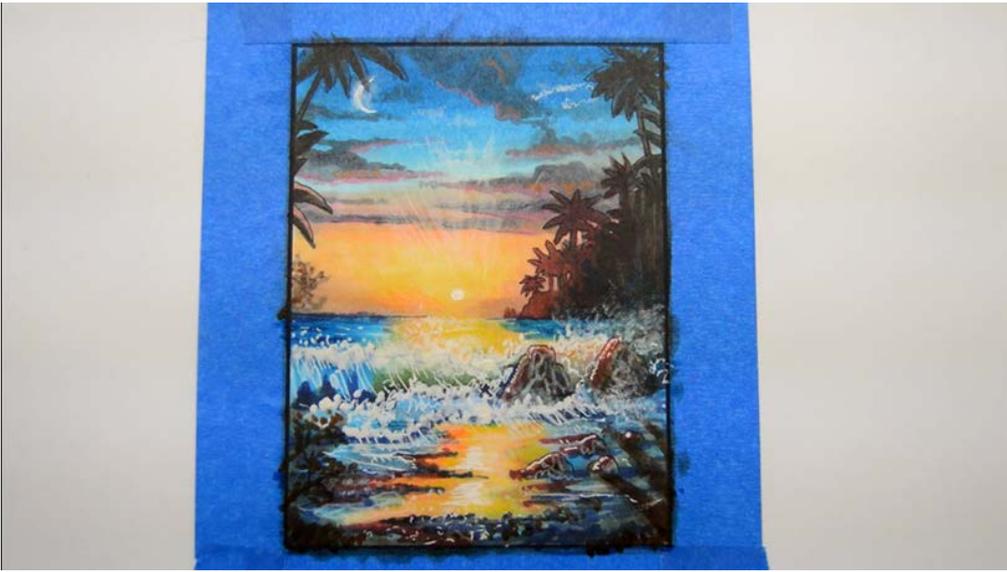I then add accents with orange colored pencil here...

...and there.
(Orange colored pencil)

I add small touches of orange to the clouds...

...then strengthen some of my yellows with a yellow colored pencil.

After the colored pencils.

Remember, your image may need more or less or none of these additional color accents!

I remove the tape...

...And the image is complete!

So there you have it! A beautiful sunset scene that is quick and easy and sure to impress.

Above all, please remember that this class is all about big bold color and happy little accidents. Explore... have fun, and enjoy!

Until next time...

Christopher Kerry