

THE ART SHERPA PRESENTS:

HOW TO PAINT



HOW TO PAINT: BLACK FUR: 101 PART 1

8 STEPS



THE ART SHERPA



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VIDEO CHAPTER GUIDE:

Below are the timestamps we inserted in the tutorial video so that you can easily coordinate using the book and the tutorial video simultaneously.

STEPS:	TIME:	DESCRIPTION:
INTRO	:51	IS IT BLUE BLACK OR BROWN BLACK?
	1:37	HOW TO MIX FUR COLOR
	4:33	WHAT BRUSHES ARE BEST TO USE
	6:35	
STEP 1	11:11	PAINT THE GROUND
STEP 2	11:30	THE DARKEST LAYER
STEP 3	11:57	BRUSH THE FIRST GRAY IN
STEP 4	12:36	FIND THE FLOW, MORE GRAYS
STEP 5	13:07	REPLACE AND FIND NEW SHADOWS
STEP 6	14:06	DETAILING THE HIGHLIGHTS
STEP 7	15:35	THE HIGHLIGHT FOR REGULAR DAYLIGHT
STEP 8	17:20	BRIGHT SHINE REFLECTION AND DETAILS
	20:26	WHAT IS NEXT AND THE CUTEST DOGGOS

PAINT AND TOOL GUIDE

Use this paint legend below to understand the symbols that I use to give you important painting information.

PAINT:

- Ultramarine Blue = UB
- Mars Black = MB
- Titanium White = TW
- Fluid White Paint = FWP

BRUSHES:

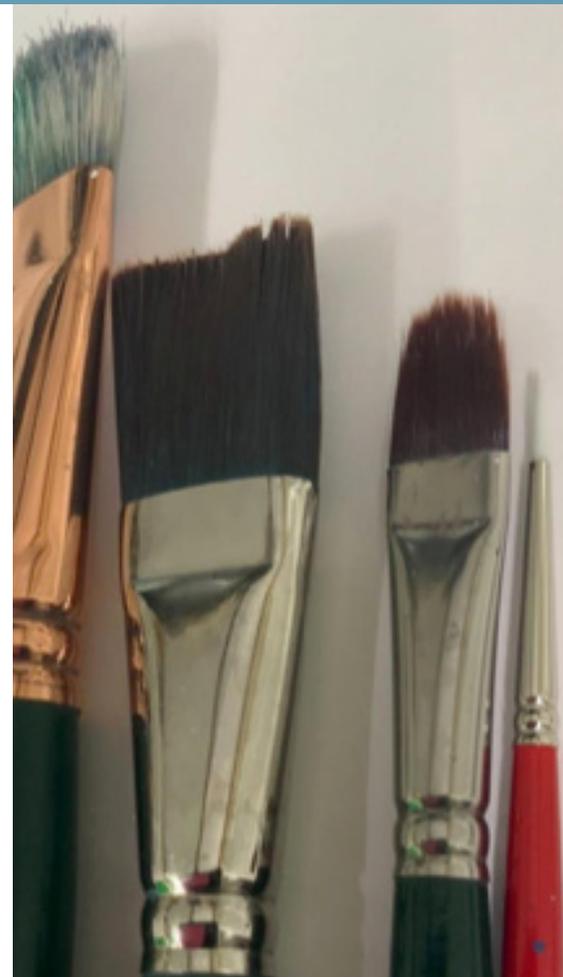
- #2 Hog Fan Brush, small
- #8 Hog Bright
- #26 Synthetic Bright, 1" wide
- ½" Grass Comb
- #1 Detail Brush

TOOLS:

- Artist Knife
- Practice Canvas or Multi-Media Paper

TECHNIQUES YOU WILL USE IN THIS PAINTING:

- S Strokes
- Curved Strokes
- Expressive Painting Strokes
- Being Painterly and Loose
- Finding value
- Dry brushing
- Color theory
- Directionality
- Blending wet into wet
- Color Mixing
- Fur



STEP TIPS:

The number 1 question I get asked is:

“HOW DO I PAINT MY PET?”

You asked and today, we are going to take the first step in answering that question by focusing on black fur.

The first thing you have to decide is if your pet has black fur; do you see blue-black fur or do I see brown-black fur. Blue-black fur is deep, dark, and shiney while brown-black fur is matte and soft. Today's tip will address pets with blue-black fur and we will address brown-black in another tip that will be scheduled soon.

TW + UB + MB is a mix that artists frequently to create a neutral grey. To darken this mix, you would add more MB, to add more blue, you would add UB, and to lighten, you would add TW.



Don't worry if you don't have these exact colors, you want a black a blue and a white, and while your mixes might be slightly different, you will still be able to paint black fur with any version of these colors. I am using the colors from my 2021 acrylic palette for the convenience of my community who already use this palette.

You will want to mix 3 versions of the black fur color, so with an artist's knife, mix one part MB with one part of UB and mix for the darkest fur value. Take some of this mix and add a little UB to this mix for the middle fur value. Bring some of this color over and add a lot more TW to it for your light fur value. We now have 3 values, but because we can always add more TW to the lightest value, we can create brighter highlight colors when we need.



STEP TIPS CONTINUED:

My demonstration today will be on Fabriano Black Black paper, but that was only because I thought that it might allow you to see the demonstration easier.

With all brushes, you want light pressure and to use curved and "s" strokes, with feathered edges. Don't be afraid to use the edge of the brush and to flick the brush at the end of the stroke and to twirl the brush for extra effect. Remember to wash your brushes after every painting session to extend their lifespan. Each of these brushes does different effects so the more you practice, the more success you will have when you feel you are ready to paint your beloved friend.

THE HOG BRUSH COVERS LARGER AREAS BUT HAS A SHARP EDGE, SO YOU WOULD NEED TO COME BACK AND FEATHER.

THE GRASS COMB WITH FLUID GIVES YOU THE NICEST HAIR EFFECT AND ALLOWS YOU TO PAINT LAYERED FUR EASILY.

THE FAN BRUSH DOES HEAVIER FUR AND HELPS IN BIGGER AREAS.

THE FINE LINER, ESPECIALLY ON SHINY FUR, ALLOWS FOR GREAT HIGHLIGHTS.



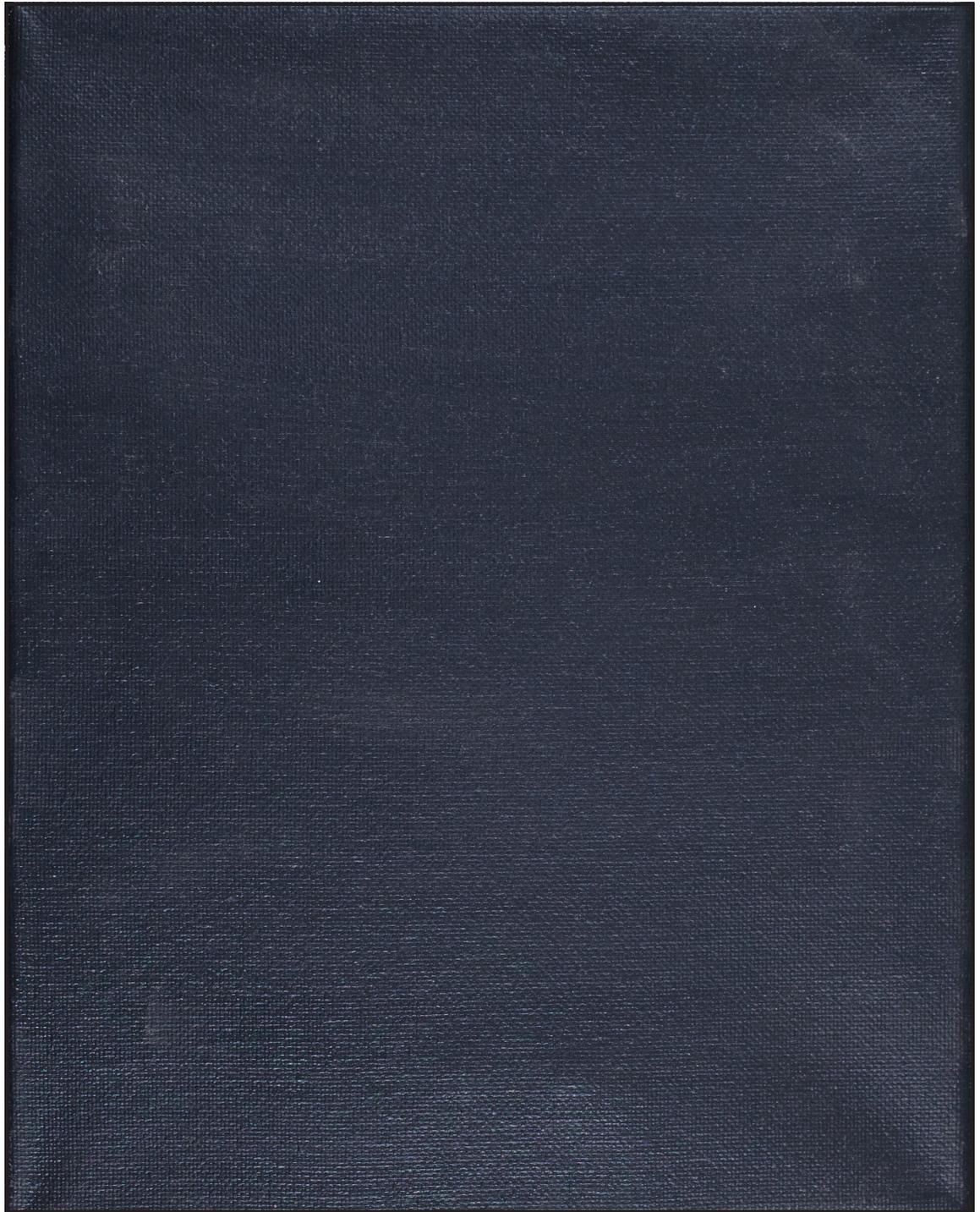
STEP TIPS CONTINUED:

I wanted to give you a brief synopsis of the steps in my tip tutorial today. This mini book of the tutorial, and the steps in it, have an enhanced description of everything along with all the resources.

STEP 1 - PAINT THE GROUND

STEP DISCUSSION

- With the 1" Synthetic Bright and the mid value with a touch of white, cover the canvas.



STEP 2 - THE DARKEST LAYER

STEP DISCUSSION

- With the #10 Bright Hog and the mid value, paint those shadow shapes of the fur, dark on dark, with very brushy strokes.



STEP 3 - BRUSH THE FIRST GRAY IN

STEP DISCUSSION

- With the #2 Hog Fan, we will add the first first sheen of the fur, filling in the area around the darker shadows, shimmer and sheen, brushing in the direction of the fur growth layers.



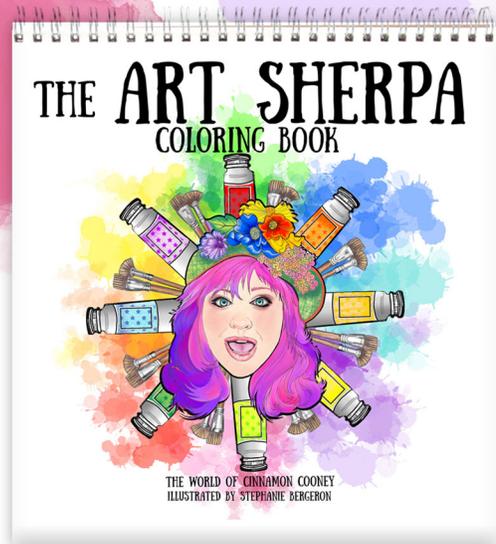


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STEP 4 - FIND THE FLOW, MORE GRAYS

STEP DISCUSSION

- Continue with the Hog Fan to add more shimmer and sheen as you actually start to see how black fur comes to life. This is diffused lighting of the shape and flow and everything flows in the direction you would expect.



STEP 5 - REPLACE AND FIND NEW SHADOWS

STEP DISCUSSION

- Switch to the ½" Grass Comb and the darkest value to define and imply shadow around the highlights. Fur can split and open, fur is fluid, and much like a river. I alternate the brush between using it flat and at an angle.



STEP 6 - DETAILING THE HIGHLIGHTS

STEP DISCUSSION

- We will continue with the Grass Comb by adding light and diffusing with the mid-gray and the highlighted gray values as we add more layers. Look for the flow and form of the fur, find the shadows and the highlights, seek unexpected highlights. Try to image a diffused day, no spotlight; this is the most common environment for a pet painting. Focus on structure and a more generalized sense of the fur. You can come back and add shadows if you need to.



STEP 7 - THE HIGHLIGHT FOR REGULAR DAYLIGHT

STEP DISCUSSION

- This was probably my favorite step, and on the Grass Comb with the lighter values, we want to really find and define the shape. The light value will show as whiter in this tip because of the dark values of both paint and paper. Make strokes that feel like fur families, following the direction of the flow of the fur with your “s” and curved strokes as you form highlights. Do make breaks between sections and come into the deep areas and add a hair of two that might be lighted. These little elements really create the shape.



STEP 8 - BRIGHT SHINE REFLECTION AND DETAILS

STEP DISCUSSION

- For the bright highlights, we want the Detail Brush and FWP to create the personality with little hairs in families that come together and bring the fur to life. The superstars of the fur. Working little elements of strokes to create a lot of definition and structure. Not too white; do tone the FWP down with the gray on a black or dark dog.





Remember that we are just practicing today, but if you do intend to paint your friend, you may want to start taking pictures so that you have a reference that you can use when you are ready. References are always helpful, even when practicing.

I hope this tip helped you to have a better understanding of both fur and painting blue-black fur. We're definitely not done, there is more to come, so check out what's next...

BIG ART QUEST 2021

LEARN TO PAINT DOGS



DOGGO, FLOOFER, WOOLFER, PUPPER

BIG ART QUEST 2021:

"IT'S ALL GOING TO THE DOGS"

BAQ2021 is a regular ongoing class with a focus on painting dogs. We will paint many types of dogs and fur building a deep understanding of man's best friend.





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