

The Art Sherpa Presents  
*Acrylic August-Day 27*  
*Little Bird*

*Chirpington*

Name credit to Patron: Reta Bates



11 Steps

Difficulty: Intermediate - 2 Hoot 🦉 🦉

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# PAINT AND TOOL GUIDE

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

## PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Phthalo Green = **PG**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**

## BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Angle
- Large Synthetic Oval Mop
- Medium Synthetic Round
- Medium Hog "D"
- Medium Hog Round
- Small Synthetic Round
- Medium Synthetic Grainer

## TOOLS

- 8x8 Canvas (If you notice that your canvas started to warp, as sometimes happens, just turn the canvas over and put it back side forward on your easel, then mist the back of the canvas. It usually resolves itself. Let it dry before you proceed.)
- Optional: Sta-Wet Palette

## SYMBOL GUIDE

- > Less than previous amount
- < More than previous amount
- + Equal amount

## Techniques You Will Use In This Painting

- Color Theory
- Being Painterly and Loose
- Finding Value
- Dry Brushing
- Directionality
- Color Mixing
- Fur

## 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.

Intro	00:00	
Step 1	2:17	Colored Ground
Step 2	4:16	Diffused Background
Step 3	6:20	Sketch Image
Step 4	13:15	Block In Tail
Step 5	15:35	Block In Bird
Step 6	18:45	Head And Feather
Step 7	22:24	Define Branches
Step 8	27:23	Feet And Face Details
Step 9	32:50	Wing Feathers
Step 10	37:03	Body Feathers
Step 11	41:38	Head And Highlight Feathers
	47:25	Sign

# Step 1 - Colored Ground

Timestamp 2:17  
“Before Birdie”

## PAINT

- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Mars Black = **MB**

## BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Angle

## COLOR MIXES

- Payne's Grey = **UB + MB > TW**

## STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Payne's Grey mix**, and then roughly paint the entire canvas until it is loosely covered. Smooth the paint somewhat by applying long strokes, vertically and horizontally. This helps to ensure that the canvas is completely covered. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

## STEP 1 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.



## Step 2 - Diffused Background

Timestamp 4:16

“Multi-tone”

### PAINT

- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Mars Black = **MB**

### BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Oval Mop

### COLOR MIXES

- Light Stucco = **TW > MB > UB**
- Payne's Grey = **UB + MB > TW**

### STEP DISCUSSION

Dampen the brush slightly, and blend the **Light Stucco mix** into the background starting at the top-right corner. Make this light section disappear near the bottom and left edges of the surface. Now, add **Payne's Grey mix** to the dirty brush, and blend it through the bottom-left portion of the canvas. Dust it up into the bright area somewhat, using very light pressure. Dampen the brush as needed. Add Titanium White to the brush and continue to blend until you are satisfied with the background transition and texture. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

## STEP 2 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

## Step 3 - Sketch Image

Timestamp 6:20  
“Bird Nesting”

### PAINT

- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**

### BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round

### COLOR MIXES

- Brown = **BS + MB**

### STEP DISCUSSION

I chose to freehand this image but I have also provided a traceable if you prefer to use that method. There is no right or wrong way to get your image on the canvas. You can grid, transfer, or freehand, whatever makes you the most comfortable. If you are free handing, you have the picture that follows this step, and the traceable to assist you. I drew in only the major objects using a Round brush and Burnt Sienna.

Begin by placing guide marks for the bird. Start with the chest, about an inch and a half from the right edge of the canvas, vertically centered. Make a small belly mark also an inch and a half from the bottom of the surface, half an inch right of the center. Make a small mark for the base of the tail about two inches from the left edge of the surface, just a bit higher than the belly mark.

Then, line in its back, keeping in mind the roundness of the bird. It will start right above the belly mark, three inches from the top, and swoop down towards the tail. Do the same for its chest and bottom, simply connecting the marks.

Now for its head, lightly sketch it up from the chest mark, keeping it slightly low and squared. Its beak will be pointing to the right, so picture the perspective of its head as you sketch it in. You can always adjust as needed. Also make small, brief feather marks along the head and chest. Then, make the pointed tail, going off the canvas just barely.

Also mark in its eye, making a small curved line going left of the beak with the eyeball below, just about in the center of the head. It might almost look like it has a silly eyebrow, but it is placed for later shading. Then, make a wing coming up from the bottom back mark using small strokes.

At this point, I actually erase the tail because I want to paint it in later, but you do not need to.

Load **Brown mix** and make a branch for the bird to stand on. Start below the middle of the belly where feet will be, with lots of little twigs going off and behind. If you want, you can sketch in the feet, but I chose not to at this point because I was using paint. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

### STEP 3 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.



## Step 4 - Block In Tail

Timestamp 13:15

“Sea Feathers”

### PAINT

- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Phthalo Green = **PG**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Titanium White = **TW**

### BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Hog “D”

### COLOR MIXES

- Aqua = **PB > PG + BS**

### STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Aqua mix** and block in the tail, adding a bit more Burnt Sienna along the top of it. Add Titanium White to the brush, and brush it under its bottom. Also use pure Phthalo Blue along the back of the bird and part of the wing. With much more Titanium White, add a little highlight feather along the lower middle of the tail, and dry brush it into the previous light section. Rinse the brush. If needed, use a damp brush to clean up the paint, and blend the tail slightly.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

## STEP 4 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

## Step 5 - Block In Bird

Timestamp 15:35  
“Color Palooza”

### PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Phthalo Green = **PG**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**

### BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Hog “D”

### COLOR MIXES

- Deep Blue = **PB + UB**
- Aquamarine = **PG + TW > CYM**
- Brown = **BS + MB**
- Bright Magenta = **QM > CRM + TW**

### STEP DISCUSSION

Use the **Deep Blue mix** and brush it across the wing. Rinse the brush. Then fill in the back with **Brown mix** and little flicking strokes, blending the color from the wing below into it somewhat. Rinse the brush.

Then using the **Aquamarine mix**, fill in more feathers all along the belly. Rinse the brush.

Now for the chest, use **Bright Magenta mix**, blending it into the color below just barely, stopping right at the neck. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

## STEP 5 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

## Step 6 - Head And Face

Timestamp 18:45

“Peacock Looking”

### PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Phthalo Green = **PG**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**

### BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Hog Round

### COLOR MIXES

- Aqua = **PB > PG + BS**
- Bright Magenta = **QM > CRM + TW**
- Brown = **BS + MB**

### STEP DISCUSSION

Thin Mars Black with water, and fill in the beak using the toe of the brush for precision. Also brush it along the little eyebrow line, and fill in the eye too. Rinse the brush.

Now with **Aqua mix**, bring it up behind the head somewhat. Rinse the brush. Then use **Brown mix** to fill in the rest of the head along the front, dry brushing it into the back and along the top part of the wing as well. Rinse the brush.

Then with the **Bright Magenta mix**, brush it into the cheek. Add Burnt Sienna to the brush, and fill in the rest of the head below the eye and beak. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.



## STEP 6 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer

## Step 7 - Define Branches

Timestamp 22:24

“Twigs And Tweets”

### PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**

### BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round

### COLOR MIXES

- Branch Brown = **BS > MB**

### STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Branch Brown mix**, and bring it along the tops of each twig below the bird. Then add pure Cadmium Yellow Medium to the mix, and highlight the branch. You can size down the brush if you need more precision. Add Titanium White to the mix for the lightest highlights, going over once more. Keep in mind dimensionality, particularly with the twigs that point up, using Burnt Sienna for any shadows if needed. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

## STEP 7 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

## Step 8 - Feet And Face Details

Timestamp 27:23

“A Face For Singing”

### PAINT

- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**

### BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Small Synthetic Round

### COLOR MIXES

- Payne's Grey = **UB + MB > TW**

### STEP DISCUSSION

Now, thin Mars Black with water, and mark in the feet under the bird. They are clasping the twig somewhat. For each foot, make two little claws in front, with one coming from behind and under the branch.

Then, bias **Payne's Grey mix** with Titanium White, and brush it along the top of the beak, and make a small circle for the eye. Tap it into the beak a bit more. Rinse the brush.

Back with Mars Black, make the deepest shadows here, using a paper towel to offload pigment if needed. Rinse the brush.

Now with pure Titanium White and a bit of **Payne's Grey mix**, make a small beak highlight. Also highlight the eye circle just a smidge. It should be a small little halo. Make a highlight glint in the middle of the eye too. Rinse the brush.

Now with just Titanium White, dry brush it barely through the middle of the beak crevice. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

## STEP 8 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer



## Step 9 - Wing Feathers

Timestamp 32:50

“I Wanna Fly High”

### PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Phthalo Green = **PG**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**

### BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Small Synthetic Round
- Medium Synthetic Grainer

### COLOR MIXES

- Light Stucco = **TW > MB > UB**
- Light Blue = **PB > TW**
- Carrot Orange = **CYM + BS > CRM**

### STEP DISCUSSION

Load the Small brush with **Light Stucco mix** and highlight the feet. Rinse the brush.

Now with thinned Mars Black, paint over the feet a tad for the darkest shadows or to knock back the highlight. Rinse the brush.

Switch to the Grainer and load **Light Blue mix**. Brush a handful of feathers along the wing. Add a bit of Phthalo Green to the brush, and make a few more feathers above that. Add Phthalo Blue and go over these feathers to make them pop. Rinse the brush.

Now with **Carrot Orange mix**, brush a few more feathers up the back with short marks. Also make a few feathers behind the wing, on the base of the tail. With a bit of Titanium White on the dirty brush, highlight a few feathers on the back. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

## STEP 9 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

# Step 10 - Body Feathers

Timestamp 37:03  
“Fluffy Fluffy Layer”

## PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Phthalo Green = **PG**
- Titanium White = **TW**

## BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Grainer

## COLOR MIXES

- Aqua = **PB > PG + BS**
- Light Pink = **QM > TW**
- Red Magenta = **QM + CRM > TW**

## STEP DISCUSSION

Add lots of Titanium White to the **Aqua mix** and brush it around the perimeter of the green belly. These will be fluffy little highlight feathers, layered in lines over one another, just dry brushing near the front of this area. Rinse the brush.

Now with the **Red Magenta mix**, brush it through the chest of the bird similarly to before. It will be darker near the bottom of the area, becoming lighter with Titanium White further up. Rinse the brush. Then, dash pops of pure mix along the light feathers. Rinse the brush.

Then, brush **Light Pink mix** along the cheek. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

## STEP 10 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

# Step 11 - Head And Highlight Feathers

Timestamp 41:38

“Time To Fly”

## PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Phthalo Green = **PG**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Titanium White = **TW**

## BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Grainer

## COLOR MIXES

- Light Green = **PG + CYM > BS**
- Aqua = **PB > PG + BS**
- Orange = **CRM + CYM**
- Light Pink = **QM > TW**

## STEP DISCUSSION

Brush **Light Green mix** along the back of the head a bit. Rinse the brush. Then in front of the previous application, make a few marks with **Orange mix**. Add Burnt Sienna to the dirty brush, and blend it along the middle of the head. Add more Cadmium Yellow Medium to the dirty brush, and bias the mix with Titanium White. Then, brush it up and around the front of the head, almost like slicked back hair. Follow the direction of the feathers up and back. Add more Titanium White for highlights nearest the brow area. Use the toe of the brush for the finest feathers and values. Dry brush through the forehead a bit.

Add more pure mix to the brush, and sweep it down and around the beak area, blending it just barely into the other feathers. Grab a bit of Burnt Sienna and dry brush it to the right of the cheek feathers, in towards the beak. Rinse the brush.

Now grab Titanium White, adding a bit of **Orange mix** to the dirty brush. Make light feathers below the beak, down towards the chest a bit. If you overpaint the beak at all, come back with a smaller brush and Mars Black to readjust it. Rinse the brush.

Then with **Aqua mix**, brush a few feathers along the chest below the pink area. Also make a few marks into the pink, and just a few on the side of the head. Rinse the brush. Also add a few more playful marks around the cheek with **Light Pink mix**.

Sign.



## STEP 11 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Traceable

