

DERWENT

Skintones

using Coloursoft pencils



General principles required to create multicultural skintones using Derwent Coloursoft Pencils

Projects created by Bob Ebdon

The Skintones projects are designed to give you a greater understanding of using these six colours to create multicultural skin tones. The three projects will guide you through step by step instructions to learn how to blend the colours to create new colours and tones.

Outlines

At first, if you feel more comfortable working directly from the outlines instead of drawing freehand, trace the image onto your sketching paper from the template provided in each project. As you get more confident you can sketch the basic outline yourself.

Take your time

Remember not to rush your drawing, it is important to give yourself enough time to work through each stage of the project. You will be layering the colours over each other a lot, and moving through the colour palette more than once. Perhaps start with the Young Boy project and work towards the more challenging characters.

Use a very sharp point at all times

This is the only way that the colour will get down into the recesses of the paper. If the pencil goes blunt you will see a patchy result. Use a Derwent Helical Sharpener to achieve the perfect point.

Use a very light touch

Coloured pencils blend by layering colour in very light layers. For the first few layers you should take care NOT to press too hard and make marks on the paper, you may find it easier to keep the tone smooth and light by using the pencil on it's side, but practice keeping a light even touch to produce a smooth finish.

Do not panic

If you make a mistake or put too much colour down, don't worry, you can lift off excess colour using the kneadable eraser, pencil eraser, or battery operated eraser all of which can also be used to put in highlights.

Final image

It is a good idea to refer back to the final image in the series as you are working through each project, so that you can keep in mind the end result.

Practice makes perfect! As ever, the more you draw the more your pictures will improve, you will learn a lot as you work through each project, and it is a good idea to try each project more than once (in fact as many times as you like!) – you will be amazed how much you improve each time.

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Work from light to dark

The basic principle is to start with a light colour EVERYWHERE, except where the pure white highlights will be and gradually darkening the colours where required by adding other colours in tonal order. The chart on the right shows the tonal order you should use for Coloursoft Skintones starting with Cream and ending in Brown Earth.

Blending Colours

If you do not have the colour you require in the 6 pencils you will have to mix it e.g. Dark Terracotta and Pink will give you several tones in-between. Most ordinary flesh tones can be mixed using these 6 pencils but if you want to use others the chart shows you linked colours. Remember however to always progress from light to dark in tonal order. Of course for bright red lipstick or blue eyes other colours from the Coloursoft range will be necessary. There 72 colours in the complete range.

Use a good quality heavyweight paper

You will be putting lots of layers on and perhaps erasing and blending so the paper will need to withstand this punishment. Use Derwent Sketching Paper (165gsm).

Tonal Order



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Young Boy Step by Step by Bob Ebdon



Step 1

Draw the outline as light as possible – a kneadable eraser can be used to remove any heavy pencil marks so you are left with a faint outline. This is really important in such a pale picture where dark lines would stand out a mile. There is a larger version of the outline drawing if you want to trace it.

Step 2

Using the cream pencil go over the drawing very lightly avoiding the highlights, lips and eyes. The highlights are on the nose, beside and under the eyes, over the eyebrows and on the top of the chin. Remember to use a light touch and a sharp pencil to get a smooth finish. Note that the flesh tones go well up under the hairline.

N.B. This image has been emphasised so you can see where the cream has been added. Your picture needs to be much lighter.



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Step 3

Apply Pink almost everywhere, including areas on the lips. This colour will need to be smooth and filled in, an excellent tool for smoothing and blending colour is the stipple brush from the Derwent Essential Drawing Tools. Alternatively you could try the Derwent Blender pencil which will smooth and blend the colour evenly or even the rubber shaper from the Essential Drawing Tools set that merges colours together with ease. Just hold it vertically and scrub round. You will probably need to come back to pink and add more layers later, as this is just about the natural flesh colour for children.



Step 4

Take the Blush Pink pencil and put colour in where the area needs to be either pinker; cheeks and lips, or darker; sides of head, under chin. Again you could blend with the stipple brush, blender pencil or rubber shaper.



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Step 5

Ochre comes next, but before that we're going to add some marks using another one of Derwent's Essential Drawing Tools – the embosser. Essentially this is a small ball-bearing on a stick, and is used to impress lines into the paper, which will show up white when colour is added across them later. Impress small stitches in the neck of the T-shirt, small highlights in the eye corners, some fine hairs near the ears, and some "fuzz" on the cheeks. Now apply Ochre to the shadows on the face; under the hairline, the nose, ears, neck and t-shirt. You will see the embossed lines begin to emerge.



Step 6

Next is Brown Earth, but be very wary of adding much of this to the face – in children it just tends to make them look dirty! Carefully draw in the eyebrows and eyelashes, the hair, and the T-shirt. Put in some Brown Earth on the neck too, which is probably allowed to look dirty!



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Step 7

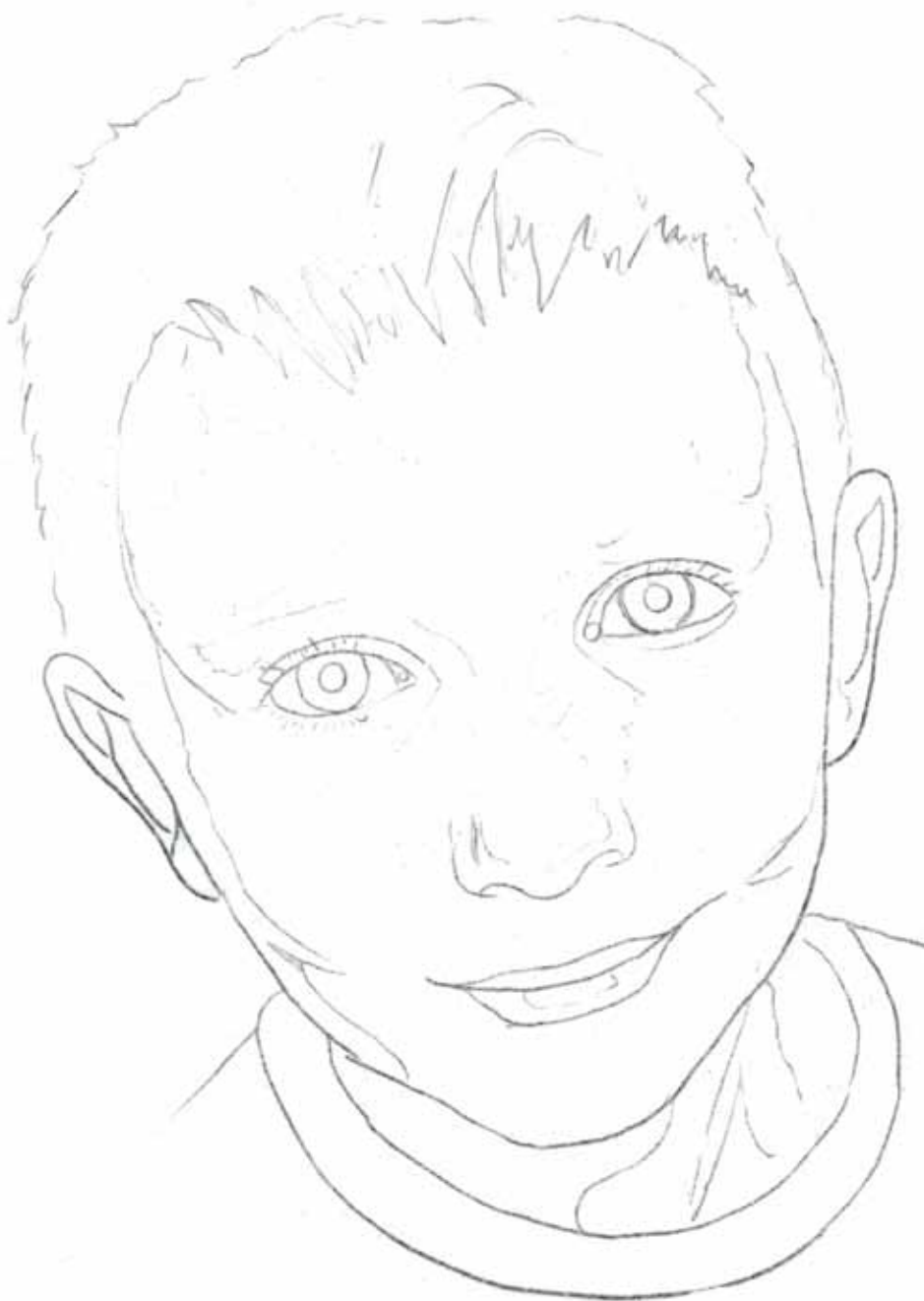
The blue eyes were put in using Indigo, with some Dove Grey for the shading in the "white" of the eye, and Black for the pupil. But you could finish off the project with brown eyes using Dark Terracotta and Brown Earth. Use the blender over all of the colours to make him as smooth as possible.



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Young Boy

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Man in Cap Step by Step by Bob Ebdon

Step 1

Draw the outline very lightly using a HB pencil. Lift as much graphite as you can from the outline with a kneadable eraser before starting to add colour. The picture here has been emphasised so that you can see it, yours will be much lighter. There is a larger version of the outline drawing if you want to trace it.



Step 2

Cover lightly with Cream. The image here has been emphasised so that you can see where the Cream has been added however you do not need to press too hard. The only places where Cream has NOT been used is in the highlights, which will stay white paper until much later on.



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Step 3

Cover most of the Cream with Pink – the areas that you don't cover will end up slightly more yellow, so look for the suntanned areas on the man's face and apply Pink to start to bring his colouring out. Some Pink was also added to the lips here



Step 4

Next comes the Blush Pink, which starts to warm him up nicely. Put some Blush Pink into the top lip, while leaving the lower lip mostly Pink. At this stage go back to the Pink and Cream, and add more layers to start to reduce the highlights and smooth out the colour.



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Step 5

Next comes the Ochre, re-emphasising the more yellow/orange areas. Go back to Blush Pink and Pink if he gets a bit too orange.



Step 6

To help see where the image is going, skip Dark Teracotta and go straight to the dark tones of Brown Earth. The initial marks with Brown Earth are to draw in the hair, and eyebrows. Apply it to the shadowed areas; under the chin, and the cap, for example, and in short stabbing strokes to show stubble around the chin and upper lip. You will also need a sharp point to draw in the wrinkles.



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Step 7

Continue with Brown Earth to suggest his clothes and cap, then apply Dark Terracotta to the facial area to warm him up. To achieve the mottled complexion on his cheeks, make lots of small scribble marks.



Step 8

To finish off the portrait, we'll do some blending. Go back and rework all of the colours into the image a bit more, then use a blunt Derwent blender pencil to smooth out and blend the colours where he needs to look smooth. (NOT on his mottled cheek, for example.) The blender makes the colours look more intense, as well as much smoother.



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Man in Cap

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African Woman Step by Step

by Bob Ebdon



Step 1

Draw the outline very lightly using a HB pencil. Lift as much graphite as you can from the outline before starting to add colour. There is a larger version of the outline drawing if you want to trace it.

Step 2

Using the cream pencil go over the drawing very lightly avoiding the highlights, lips and eyes. The highlights are on the nose, beside and under the eyes, over the eyebrows and on the top of the chin. Remember to use a light touch and a sharp pencil to get a smooth finish.

NB: Cream does not scan well so the colour has been emphasised in this picture so you can see where the cream has been added.



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Step 3

Use the Pink pencil next. Use more pink on those areas that will land up being the darkest.



Step 4

This lady does not need to be too pink so skip the next colour which is Blush Pink and go straight to Ochre. Use it sparingly on those areas that will end up redder i.e. cheeks but put plenty around the eyes and chin. The Derwent stipple brush from Derwent Essential Drawing Tools is useful for blending, if you want to create a very light feathered texture. The Derwent Blender pencil and the Derwent rubber shaper (from the Essential Drawing Tools) are both excellent tools for blending. I would suggest you try them all out to find the one that suits you best.



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Step 5

Jump another colour now, do not use Dark Terracotta and go straight to Brown Earth so her skin will be more brown than red. Use a very light touch. Fill in the lips at this stage use Dark Terracotta on the top lip and Blush Pink on the bottom.



Step 6

Still using Brown Earth fill in the eyes and the braids and add more Brown Earth on the face to build up the shadow particularly around the eyes. Use Dark Terracotta sparingly on one side of the face to create more shadow.



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Step 7

Finishing touches. Use the Ochre pencil in areas under the eyes and on the forehead. You can use a Derwent Blender pencil to smooth out all the colours and make them look stronger. Rose was added to make her lips bright red and Dove Grey to create shadows in the whites of the eyes.



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African Woman