

Today we're going to be looking at how to sketch, shade and blend a drawing of a nose. So for the purposes of showing, you I'm going to use a photograph but obviously you can use a live person, or take a photo of them and do it from there.

So, look at your subject and notice the shape of their nose; notice where the nose starts. It comes out of the forehead so starts high up, much higher than people think it does so angle out from the forehead and if you think about it starting above the eyebrows. Its also really quite wide. You have to have a good look to see how wide it is against the rest of the face. A good thing to judge it with is the eyes.

So, it's helpful if you imagine two lines being drawn from the outside of the nose at its widest point up to the forehead and past the eyebrows. That gives you guides to work within. If you're using a photo, you can use a ruler with it. And if you are doing it with a person. Hold your pencil out and hold it vertically. So, you can move your finger up and down so you can kind of judge the measurement against the eye so you can work out how long and wide it is compared to the eyes. If not, you can just draw two vertical lines down, I guess.

Okay, so we're having a look to see exactly how wide it is. Most people think the nose is narrower than it actually is. We're looking at what's really there, rather than what we think is there coming from above the eyebrows, that's the root of the nose. It angles out from there. By the time you've got your lines in for the width of the nose and put a line along the bottom too. You're creating a kind of box for the nose to be contained within. You're going to be shading within this box, and it may look too wide or tall, but just trust your measurements.

Now you've got your box, we're going to have a look at the circles on the nose. Start with the tip of the nose and try to create a circle that encompasses the whole of the nose and have two smaller circles either side to be the nostrils. Draw the circle for the tip first and the side ones will overlap a little bit. If you were drawing a line through the centre of the circles, it would be straight. You can see that I made my first circle a little small. You want the whole bulb of the tip of the nose within it. Don't be worried about putting a couple of circles in because these are just guides. Keep them light, and you'll be able to rub them out later.

It's worth getting to know parts of the nose. If you know how the anatomy of the nose works, you can start to look at each part of it, so you know how the nose works, and see where parts end and change into something different. Just to familiarize yourself with the anatomy of what you're drawing.

I would start to draw the guidelines with a HB pencil, it's not too hard so it doesn't make lines that I cannot rub out. But it's still hard enough to be nice and neat and be light with it. If you use a pencil that's too soft it'll smudge, which can make it difficult to rub out.

So, you've got your open-ended box with circles in it. You can draw the lines across I mentioned before that goes through the centre of the circles. Take your time to measure and make sure you measure what's really there, not what you think should be there. Just double check to make sure you're happy and have your horizontal line. If you've already got the eyes on your drawing, just measure again, make sure you've got it right in terms of the length and width.

So, you can see the lines I drew on the picture to show you compared to my drawing. So the drawing is the only part you'd be doing, although you can draw them on the photograph to start with if you want. I wouldn't advise tracing though, some do it, but I think it makes it look unnatural. It also stops

you learning how to measure things. You want to learn to measure by eye and using your pencil. So try not to trace.

I'm getting you to put a lot of lines in, though they're going to be rubbed or blended out. We don't have lines on our faces, well not many. We do have a few lines on our faces but generally we're not made of line marks. We're seeing the difference between light and dark. Where things are highlighted by light, and it's the difference between those we perceive as being a line so these lines are all going to disappear.

Next, we're going to have a look at the nostrils. So, if you have a look at the line that I've drawn there, it looks a bit like a seagull flying and that's what you're going to draw so you wanna be having a look at the shape compared to the circle that you've drawn on the outside, and the middle line that you've drawn across. So, you kind of want the tip of it to be wings, if you like. Look at the shape of the tip of the wings, down to the bottom of the tip of the nose and then up to the opposite tip of the wing if you're thinking of it as being a bird, so look carefully, again measure, put in what's really there not what you want to be there and just take your time. Once you've got your foundations right, it's going to make things easier for getting your nose right.

Also, put in the column of the nose, so you're going to be looking at the route where it begins and coming out of the forehead, and the shape that is. Then looking at the shape as it goes all the way down to the tip. So just sketch that in so you've got an idea of the shape, and the angle you're looking for. Next, look at the shape of the wings of the nose, and you're going to make the guidelines there and compare the angle with your vertical line that you've got there on your grid box. Use your pencil, how far away from the vertical as the angle of the nose wings, and draw that in. So, you can make those lines quite long too as you're going to rub them out. You've got the angle of your nostrils and the angle of the wings, and the column that's going up the centre. You want to have all this ready before you start to shade.

Just roughly check that you've got it right too, by dividing your nose into thirds. Not always but usually the wings of the nose, are a third of the nose length in an adult, so it's worth just dividing it up quickly into thirds and checking you're not way off. If it seems about right, then you're probably right. This does depend on the person, and with a child, it's more like half the nose are the wings. In that case make sure you half it and make sure it's not bizarrely out. You can use your pencil again, to split the nose up to check if you need to.

Now, we're going to have a look at how to start to shade in now you've got the basic guidelines down.

I'm going to start shading it, you can put the red sheet over and you can see the tones, or you can use your phone and add a filter to the image.