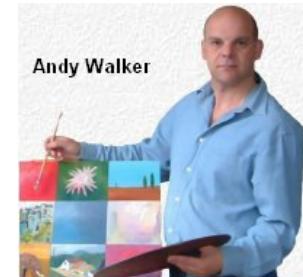


Hints and Tips to improve your drawing and painting.



Make life simple - Paint in easy steps

Paintings don't have to be complicated to be effective or eye catching. Here's a simple way of controlling the painting process that eliminates guesswork and allows you to create a well constructed picture with ease. The key is firstly to produce a good tonal value drawing (in other words a sketch in black, grey and white that looks good), and then to paint from this in 3 easy stages. Let me show you how.



Here's my reference photo, and a small tonal sketch I made from it. The house is basically the same, but I've changed the foreground hedge into a fence to provide more contrast (there's a lot of trees and bushes already in the picture). I also made the trees more varied in tone.



Now for the painting. Don't look at the photo, just use the sketch.

Step 1. Light tones.

Start with the lightest tones, painting a warm colour (pale yellow ochre) on the sunlit areas and a cool colour (pale cerulean blue) on the shaded areas.

While this is drying, mix up some medium tone colours

- * Purple shadow colour (ultramarine blue and cadmium red)
- * Green (ultramarine and yellow ochre)
- * Red-brown (burnt sienna and yellow ochre)

Test them on your paper to see if they dry to a mid tone.



Step 2. Mid tones.

Add the mid toned colours where you see them in your drawing, allowing them to merge in places. Leave to dry.

Step 3. Dark and details.

While step 2 is drying, mix some nice darks (dark green – ultramarine and burnt sienna with a touch of cadmium yellow; dark brown – burnt umber and ultramarine; dark purple – a darker version of the shadow purple). Test them on your paper and if they dry dark enough then paint them in. Follow your tonal sketch as accurately as you can. If your picture works in the sketch it will work in colour.

Finally add a few details as you feel necessary, but not too many. Resist fiddling and you will end up with a simple, clean and effective painting. You can use this method for painting anything.

