

Loish Patreon ♥

TUTORIAL CHEAT SHEET // ELEVATING YOUR SKETCH BY ADDING COLOR

TOOLS

All of these can be swapped for cheaper alternatives!

> MOLESKINE & 2B MECHANICAL PENCIL

I use these to create the sketches.

> IPHONE 13 PRO & EPSON V550 PHOTO

I use these to digitize the sketch.

> PHOTOSHOP

I use this to add color.

KEY LESSONS

- How to **combine digital and traditional** to get the best of both worlds.
- How to **clean up your traditional sketches** using digital software.
- How to **add color digitally**, using layer mode and color modification tools.

OTHER RESOURCES

> CREATING LIGHT & FLOWY SKETCHES

This tutorial runs you through my full sketching process.

> MAKING SCANNED LINES TRANSPARENT

This demo shows you how I use masks and levels to create transparent lines from a scanned image.

BENEFITS OF EACH MEDIUM

01 // TRADITIONAL

- It automatically has texture and personality.
- It has a handmade look and feel - especially if your image shows the edges of your sketchbook and the tools you used.
- The artwork tends to have a better sense of scale and proportion.

02 // DIGITAL

- It's easy to add neat and clean color.
- It's easy to paint light values on a darker base and have that stand out.
- There's more possibilities for adding bright glows and lighting effects.

TIPS // ELEVATING YOUR SKETCH

MAINTAIN BALANCE BETWEEN MEDIUMS

Each medium brings its own strengths to the table. Try to pick a well-developed sketch so that you don't end up painting over it later on.

BUILD UP YOUR COLORS & VALUES GRADUALLY

Take a step back if you've gone too far. This way, you can get vibrance and color without killing the personality of your original sketch.

RENDER IN A WAY THAT HONORS YOUR SKETCH

For example: if you used cross-hatching in your sketch, try a similar way of painting your colors on top. This creates more consistency.

SECTION	TIMECODE	DESCRIPTION
INTRO	00:44	How I developed this workflow over time.
	05:37	Other artists who use this technique in an appealing way.
BASICS	06:25	Benefits of this specific workflow
	07:27	Benefits of traditional media
	09:50	Benefits of digital media
DEMO	12:28	Full walkthrough of the workflow
	39:49	Recap of the workflow
TIPS	40:44	Workflow tips

DEMO // STEPS

01 // DIGITIZE YOUR SKETCH | TIMECODE: 12:39

- Choose a sketch that is well developed, but could also benefit from an extra pass of color and detail.
- Bring it onto your computer by either:
 - Photographing it: You can use your smartphone or a camera.
 - Scanning it.

02 // CLEAN UP YOUR SCAN OR PHOTO DIGITALLY | TIMECODE: 19:52

- Desaturate your image to get rid of yellow or blue tints.
- Adjust the contrast with levels.
- Use the spot healing brush or clone brush to clean up any imperfections.

03 // ADD BASIC COLOR | TIMECODE: 29:10

- Add a new layer on top of the sketch and block in the basic silhouette.
- Experiment with layer modes to blend it in with the sketch below.
- Use color editing tools to modify the sketch.

04 // ELEVATE WITH EXTRA DETAIL | TIMECODE: 31:49

- Start painting on top of the image to push the detail further.
- Use overlay to add shimmering or iridescent color effects to your drawing.