

SEEING THE SHAPES

OF A HORSE'S HEAD

Brenda Hoddinott

B10 BEGINNER: LEARN TO SEE

An illustrated discussion surrounding a photo of a horse's head focuses on the process of breaking down a seemingly complex subject into simple shapes. Step-by-step illustrations, then take you through the process of using your vision to render a sketch of a gorgeous horse.



This lesson is divided into the following six sections:

- ✿ **INTRODUCTION:** provides a brief overview of the process of drawing a horse's head from identifying shapes to rendering a sketch.
- ✿ **SPOT THE VARIOUS SHAPES:** A series of photos demonstrate how to see various shapes on the head of a horse.
- ✿ **SKETCHING THE SHAPES YOU SEE:** When you can clearly identify the diverse shapes that come together to render the horse's head, then you sketch them.
- ✿ **OUTLINING THE HORSE'S HEAD:** You use your visual skills to transform a bunch of shapes into an outline of a horse's head.
- ✿ **ADD A FACE AND SHADING:** You complete the horse's mane, eyes, ears, snout, and jaw, and add a few shading lines.
- ✿ **CHALLENGE:** Challenge yourself to draw a profile view of a horse's head from a different photo, using the skills taught in this lesson.

The process of drawing any subject becomes less intimidating when you understand how to render the proportions properly, and can draw the fundamental shapes of the various parts in their correct places.

Suggested supplies include: paper, HB and 2B pencils, kneaded and vinyl erasers, and a pencil sharpener.

This lesson is recommended for beginner level artists with basic drawing skills, as well as home schooling, academic and recreational fine art educators.

11 PAGES – 33 ILLUSTRATIONS

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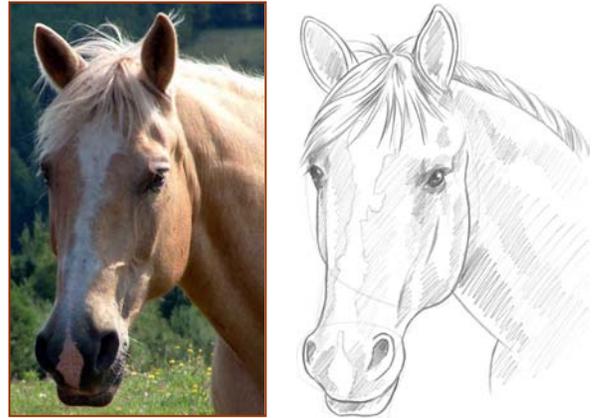
INTRODUCTION

This lesson takes you step-by-step through the process of establishing accurate proportions and drawing a simple horse's head, by examining the shapes of its individual parts.

Proportion is the relationship in size of each of the various parts of a drawing when compared to others.

Seeing and sketching precise proportions is the foundation of drawing. To accurately render proportions, artists need to study their subjects very carefully. A simple method of rendering proportions is to visually break the whole object down into simple shapes. *Shape* refers to the outward outline of a form. Basic shapes include circles, ovals, squares, rectangles, and triangles.

ILLUSTRATION 10-01



SPOT THE VARIOUS SHAPES

In this section, a series of photos demonstrate how to see the various shapes of the horse's head. When you can clearly identify the diverse shapes that come together to render the horse's head, then you can begin to draw. First, I lighten the photo in Photoshop so you can see my outlines.

- 1. I see the large upper section of the head as a vertical oval-shape.**
- 2. Her snout is a horizontal oval-shape.**
- 3. I visually connect the upper section of the head to the snout with two lines.**

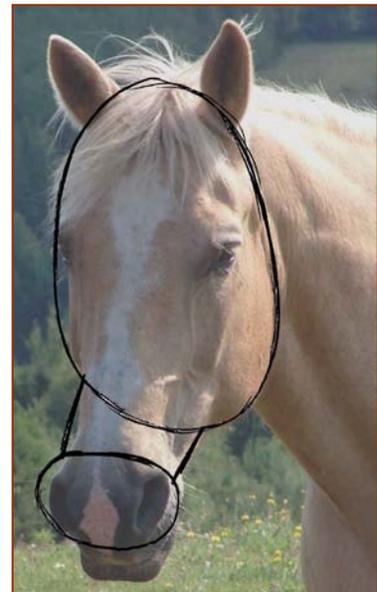
ILLUSTRATION 10-02



ILLUSTRATION 10-03



ILLUSTRATION 10-04



4. I see the lower jaw as a rectangular shape below the snout.
5. The ear on the left is triangular and the one on the right is closer to an oval.
6. I check out the shapes of her neck, and make a mental note of where the outlines connect to the upper and lower sections of the head.

ILLUSTRATION 10-05

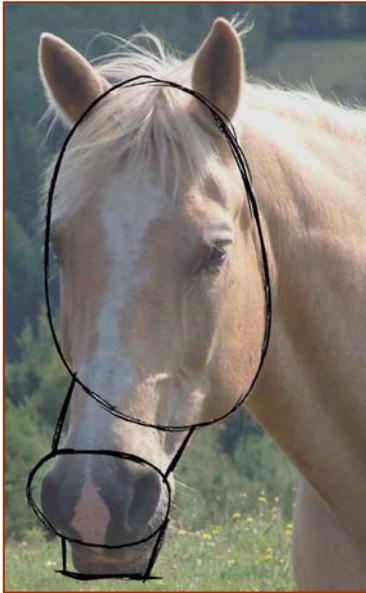
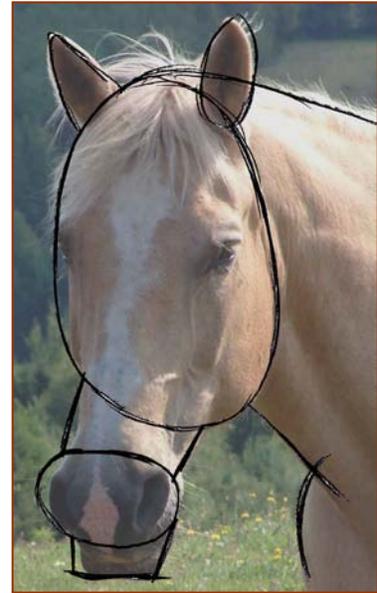


ILLUSTRATION 10-06



ILLUSTRATION 10-07



TIP With lots of practice, you will see shapes in your drawing subjects very quickly – almost instantly. However, beginners need to take a few minutes to closely examine all parts of their subject before ever touching pencil to paper.

SKETCHING THE SHAPES YOU SEE

Time to put your new skills into action and draw! Keep the following in mind as you work:

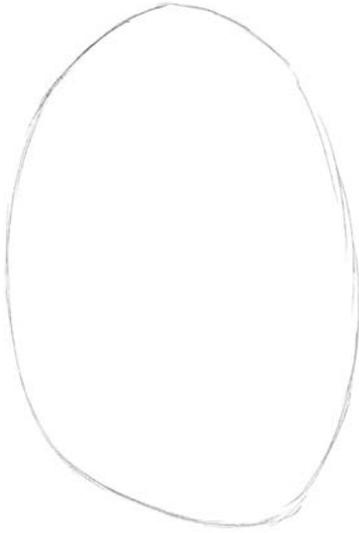
- ✿ Don't press too hard with your pencils! No matter how careful you are, accidents do happen, and you may need to erase sections you aren't happy with.
- ✿ Draw slowly! Accuracy is more important than speed. Your speed will automatically improve the more you practice.
- ✿ If you're not happy with some of the shapes you draw, simply erase that section, redraw the lines, and keep on going.
- ✿ Continuously check whether the sizes and proportions of each section are correct, and adjust as needed.

1) Sketch the shapes of the various parts of the horse's head with an HB pencil.

To help you draw the shapes accurately, the reference photo is on each page.

STEP 1

The head is a large vertical oval-shape.



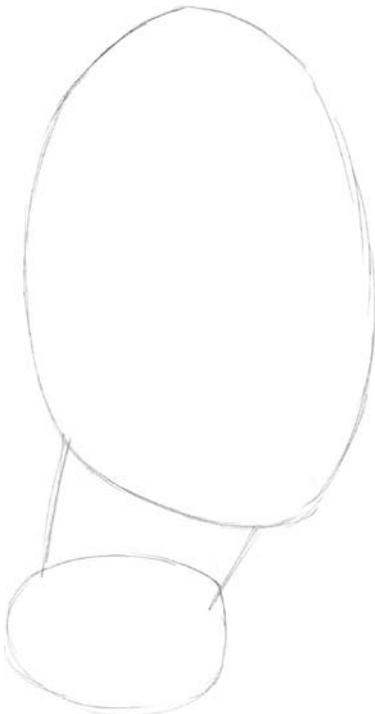
STEP 2

The snout is a horizontal oval-shape.



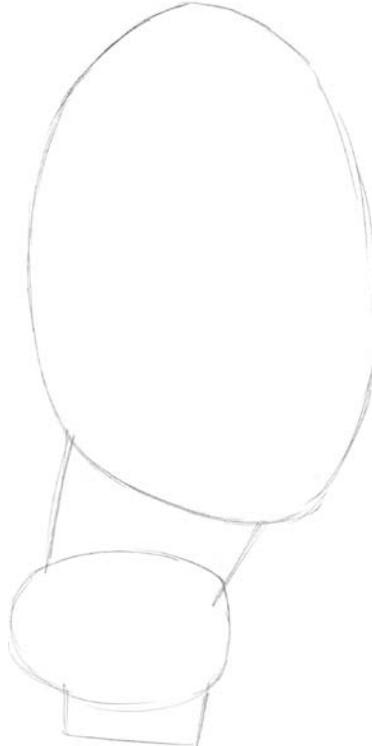
STEP 3

Two lines join the head to the snout.



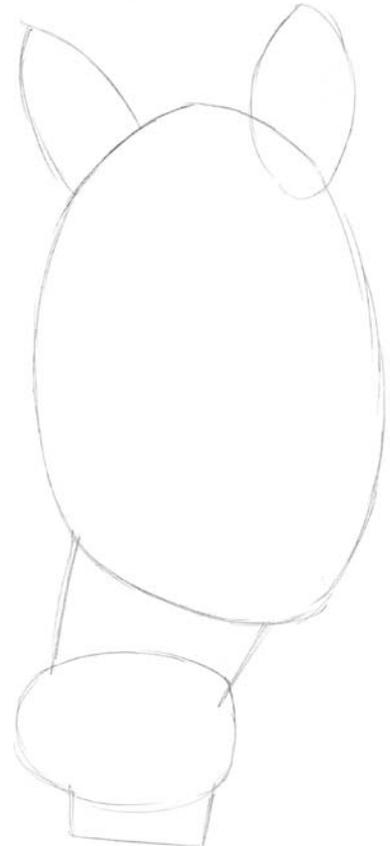
STEP 4

The lower jaw is a rectangular shape.



STEP 5

The ear on the left is triangular and the one on the right is an oval.



STEP 6

The outlines of her neck and chest are added.



OUTLINING THE HORSE'S HEAD

In this section, you use your visual skills, and either a HB or 2B pencil, to transform a bunch of shapes into an outline of a horse's head. Very few text instructions are offered from this point onward.



TIP

Do not simply draw over the shapes you sketched in the previous section! Rather, examine the photo very closely, and draw the outlines as they are in the photo.

STEP 7

The ear-shapes are refined.



STEP 8

The sides of her face look more like in the photo.



TIP

Constantly compare both my drawings and yours to the photo!

Pay close attention to the lengths of the various lines and the directions in which they curve.

STEP 9

The snout is outlined.



STEP 10

Curved lines join the head and snout.



STEP 11

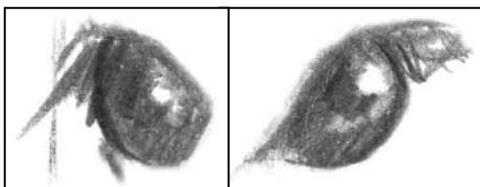
The inner rim of the ear is added.



ADD A FACE AND SHADING

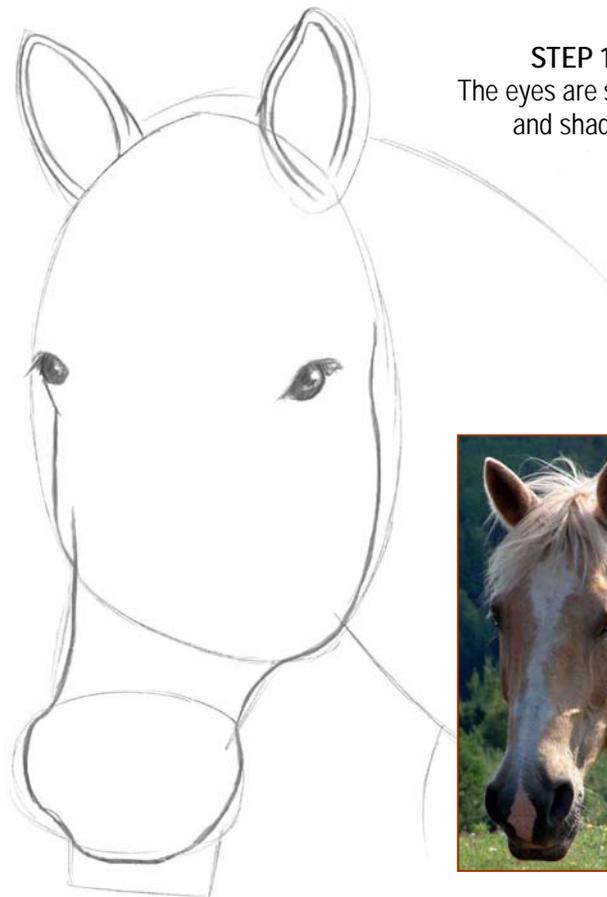
In this section, you complete the horse's mane, eyes, ears, snout, and jaw, and add a few shading lines. Use either a HB or 2B pencil.

TIP Examine the eyes; note how very tiny they are compared to the size of the head. Don't forget to leave a small white section in each eye! Also, the eyelashes are drawn downward, not upward!



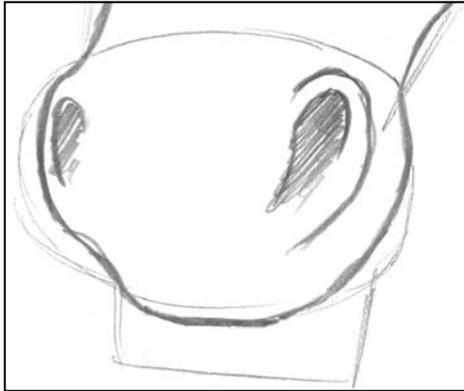
STEP 12

The eyes are sketched and shaded.



STEP 13

The nostrils are outlined and the inner sections are shaded.



STEP 14

The section of the horse's mane, which falls down over the forehead is added



TIP

The shading lines of the mane, curve in various directions, and are many different lengths and thicknesses.

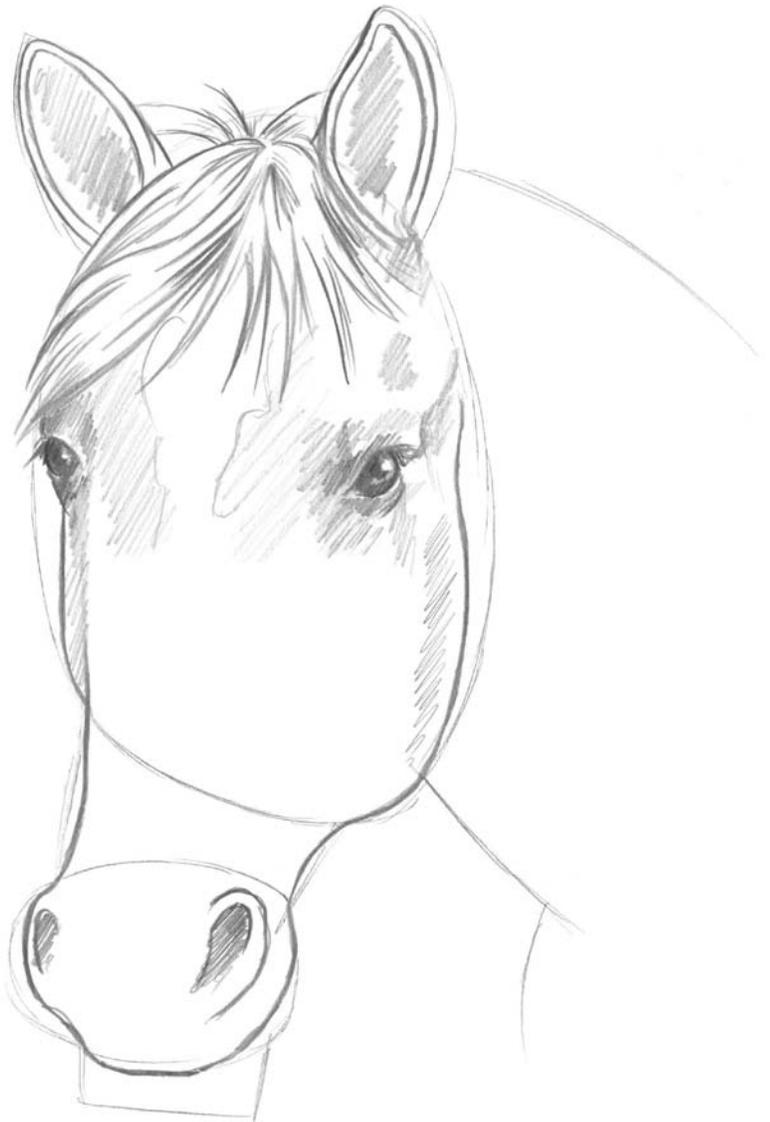
STEP 15

Shading is added inside the ears.





STEP 16
Shading is added to the upper section of the face and around the eyes.



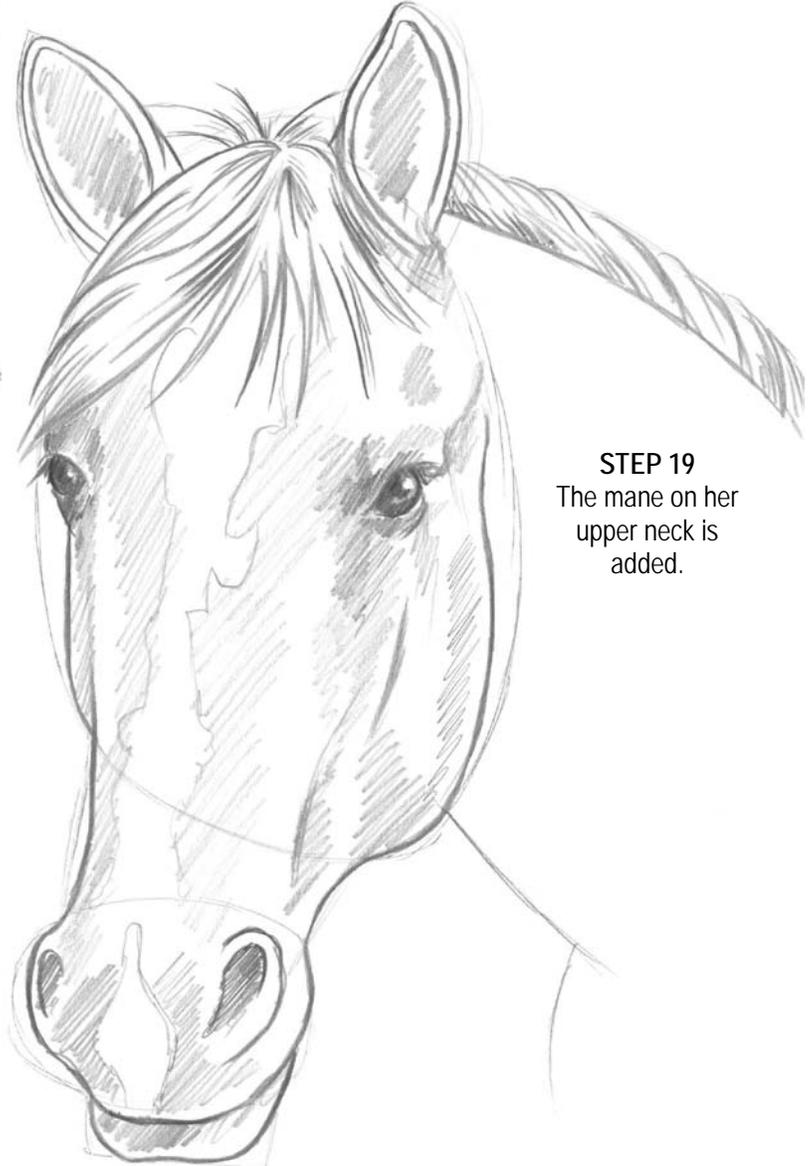
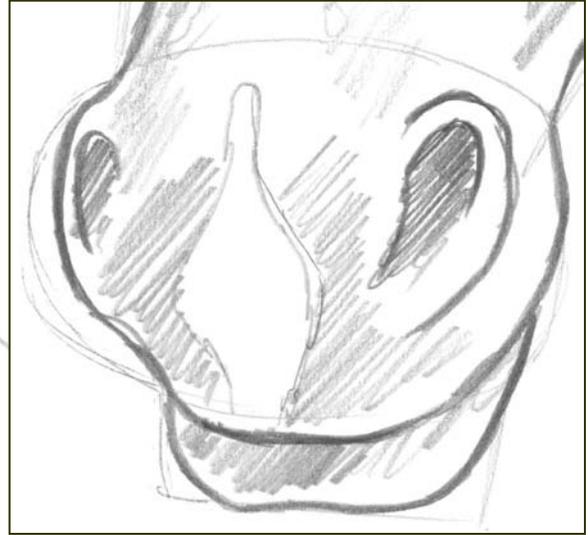
STEP 17
The lower section of the face is shaded.



INFO The method of shading with diagonal lines (used for the horse's face) was very popular with many of the masters of the high renaissance, including Leonardo da Vinci.



STEP 18
The lower section of the jaw is outlined and shaded.



STEP 19
The mane on her upper neck is added.





STEP 20
The sketch is completed by adding shading to her neck and chest.



Erase any fingerprints, smudges, and/or sketch lines that you don't like with your kneaded eraser molded to a point (or a sharp edge of your vinyl eraser).

Sign your name and put today's date on the back of your drawing.

CHALLENGE

Challenge yourself to draw a profile view of a horse's head from this photo, using the skills taught in this lesson. You will draw only one eye and one nostril, making the project a little easier.

TIP Remember, seeing is the most important aspect of drawing. Closely examine the shapes of the individual parts of the head before you begin sketching.



BRENDA HODDINOTT - BIO

As a self-educated teacher, visual artist, portraitist, forensic artist, and illustrator, Brenda Hoddinott utilizes diverse art media including graphite, technical pen, colored pencil, chalk pastel, charcoal, conté crayon, and oil paints.

My philosophy on teaching art is to focus primarily on the enjoyment aspects while gently introducing the technical and academic. Hence, in creating a passion for the subject matter, the quest for knowledge also becomes enjoyable.

>Brenda Hoddinott<

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, Brenda grew up in the small town of Corner Brook. She developed strong technical competencies with a personal commitment to self directed learning, and the aid of assorted "Learn to Draw" books.

During Brenda's twenty-five year career as a self-educated civilian forensic artist, numerous criminal investigation departments have employed Brenda's skills, including Royal Canadian Mounted Police and municipal police departments. In 1992, Brenda was honored with a commendation from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and in 1994, she was awarded a Certificate of Membership from "Forensic Artists International".

Her home-based art career included graphic design, and teaching recreational drawing and painting classes. As supervisor of her community's recreational art department, Brenda hired and trained teachers, and designed curriculum for several children's art programs. In 1998, Brenda chose to end her eighteen-year career as an art educator in order to devote more time to writing, drawing, painting, and developing her websites.

Drawspace <http://www.drawspace.com> incorporates her unique style and innovative approach to curriculum development. These sites offer downloadable and printable drawing classes for students of all abilities from the age of eight through adult. Students of all ages, levels and abilities have praised the simple step-by-step instructional approach. This site is respected as a resource for fine art educators, home schooling programs, and educational facilities throughout the world.

LEARN-TO-DRAW BOOKS BY BRENDA HODDINOTT

- ✚ **Drawing for Dummies:** Published by Wiley Publishing, Inc., New, York, NY, this 336 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.
- ✚ **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Drawing People:** Published by Alpha - Pearson Education – Macmillan, Indianapolis, IN, this 360 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.