HATCHING
GRADUATED VALUES

Brenda Hoddinott

F-06 BEGINNER: HATCHING

Whether you are trying hatching graduations for the very first time, or simply wishing to improve your current skills in graduated shading techniques, this lesson has something for you.

Graduations are the primary ingredient in realistic shading. Hatching graduations are rendered by varying the density of lines, varying the pressure used in holding pencils, and/or using different pencils. The main goal is to keep the transition between the different values flowing into one another as smoothly as possible.

This lesson is divided into the following three sections:

➢ **BASIC HATCHING GRADUATION:** You render a simple method of graduated values by varying the density (placing lines either far apart or close together) of the hatching lines.

➢ **HATCHING GRADUATIONS:** The process of hatching both smooth and textured graduations, by combining various methods of rendering different values, is demonstrated.

➢ **EXAMINING GRADUATIONS IN A DRAWING:** A drawing of a Dalmatian is examined, and the hatching graduations are discussed.

Suggested drawing supplies include 2H, HB, 2B, 4B and 6B pencils, vinyl and kneaded erasers, and good quality drawing paper.

7 PAGES – 9 ILLUSTRATIONS

This lesson is recommended for artists and aspiring artists of all levels and abilities, as well as home schooling, academic and recreational fine art educators.

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BASIC HATCHING GRADUATION

In this section, you use a 2B pencil to draw a very simple graduation in which different values are rendered by drawing hatching lines of various lengths, either far apart or close together. *Graduated shading* (also known as a *graduation* or *graduated values*) is a continuous progression of different values from dark to light or from light to dark. *Hatching* is a series of lines (called a set) drawn closely together to give the illusion of values. *Shading* refers to the various shades of gray that make drawings look three-dimensional.

1. **Before you begin to draw the graduation, take a few moments to find your natural hand movement.**

    Draw several parallel lines. As you draw, take note of how you make these lines. Try many different ways of moving your pencil, rotating your paper, or changing the angle of your lines, until you find the motions that are the most natural for you.

2. **Draw the first set of hatching lines a little more than halfway across your page.**

    On the left side of your paper, press very lightly with your 2B pencil to draw the lightest lines far apart and few in number. As you get closer to the middle, draw more and more hatching lines closer together. By drawing the individual lines of your hatching in different lengths you can make the transition from one value to the next barely noticeable.
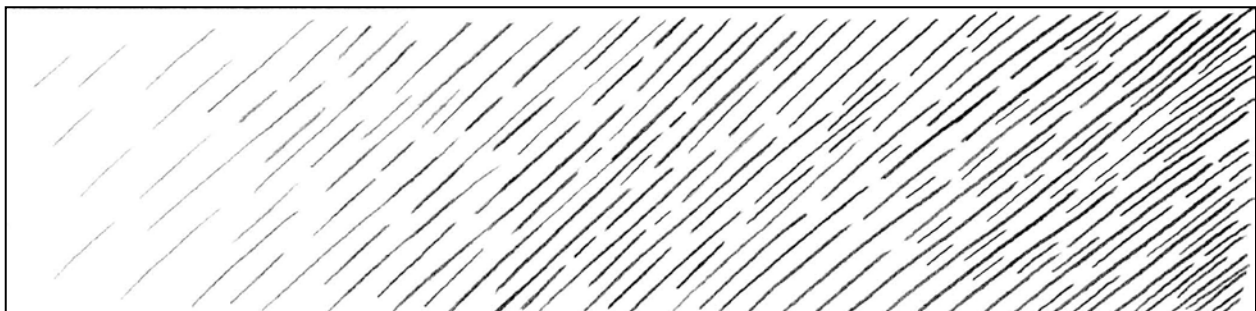
ILLUSTRATION 04-01
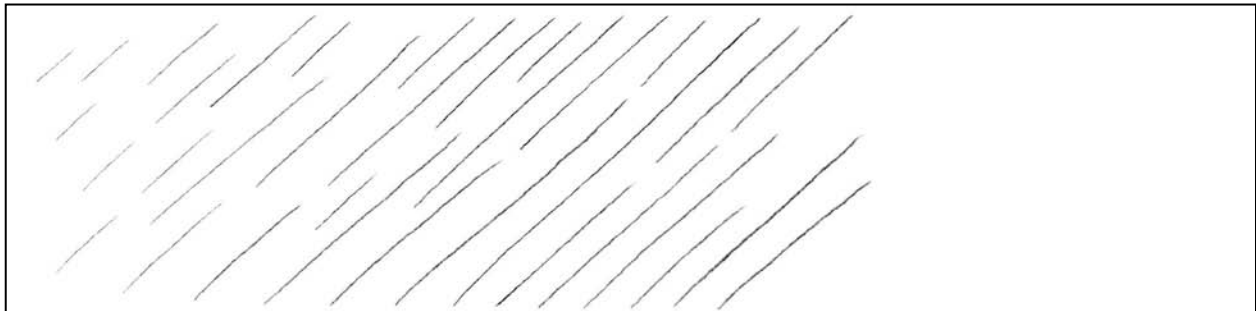
3. **Draw more hatching lines progressively darker and closer together until you get to the end of your drawing space.**

    Try adding a few more short hatching lines in between some of your lines if the transition between your values isn't as smooth as you like.
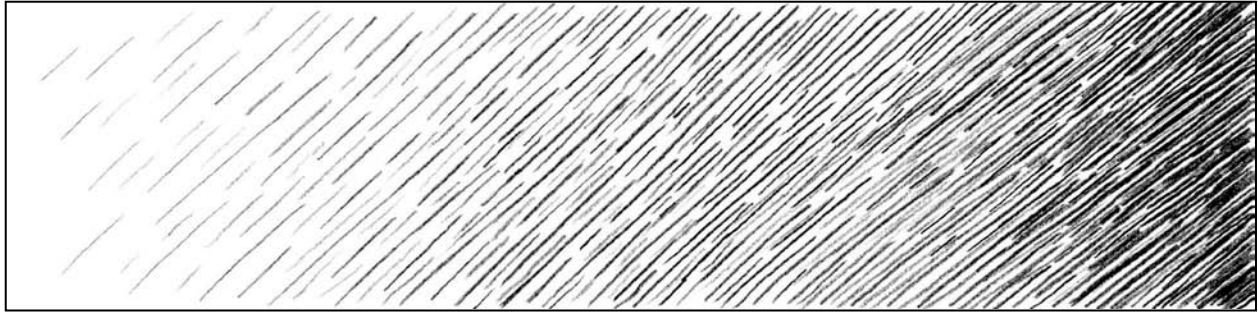
ILLUSTRATION 04-02

4. **Draw more hatching lines even closer together, until the end of your graduation is very dark.**

    Begin making your lines closer together when you get two thirds of the distance toward the right. Note that many more lines make up the dark values, the lines are much closer together, and very little of the white paper is still showing.

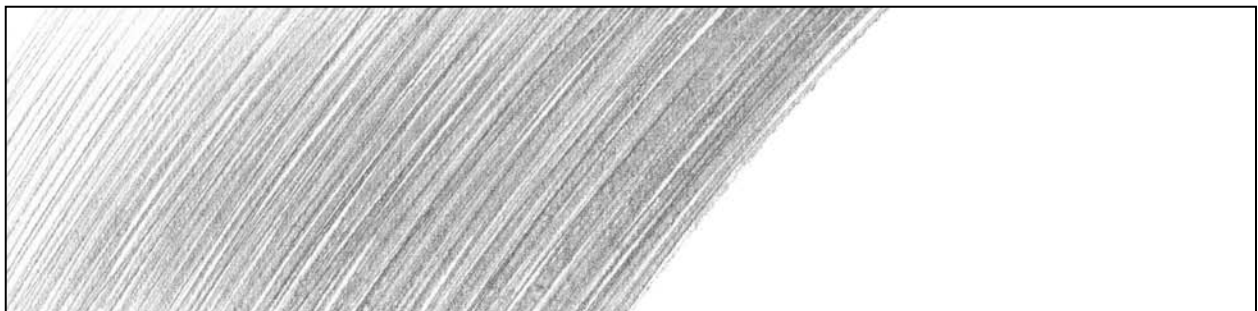ILLUSTRATION 04-03

HATCHING GRADUATIONS

Before you begin this part of the lesson, practice hatching lines with each of your pencils and notice their differences. The 2H is the lightest (hardest) and the 6B is the darkest (softest). 2H works well for light values, HB and 2B are great for middle values, and 4B and 6B are very good for darker values. You combine the following three methods to render a smooth graduation:

➢ Use different pencils to do some of the work for you. You have more control when attempting a smoothly drawn transition of values.

➢ Vary the density of the lines.

➢ Vary the pressure used in holding your pencils. Press lightly for the light values and a little harder for darker values.

1. **On the left side of your paper, press lightly with your 2H pencil to draw the lightest hatching lines.**

    As you get closer to the middle, make your hatching lines closer together and press a little harder with your pencil. Change to your HB and/or 2B pencils to make some middle values in your graduation. Continue to make your shading progressively darker as you move toward the right.

ILLUSTRATION 04-04

5. **With your 2B and/or 4B pencils, draw progressively darker values as you get almost to the end of your drawing space.**

ILLUSTRATION 04-05

6. **With your 4B and 6B pencils draw the darkest values of your graduation.**

Make sure your pencils are freshly sharpened. Begin making your lines even closer together. Continue pressing a little harder with your pencils until the end of your graduation is very dark. 6B will create the very darkest values.

If you notice that the transition between your values isn't as smooth as you like, you can improve it. Try adding a few more short hatching lines in between some others.

ILLUSTRATION 04-06

Have a peek at the smooth transition between the values in Illustration 04-07. The lines are barely noticeable because they are really close together. This close-up view of a graduation is rendered without blending; yet it almost looks like a solid tone. With patience, and lots of practice, you can also draw this type of graduation! Give it a try!

ILLUSTRATION 04-07
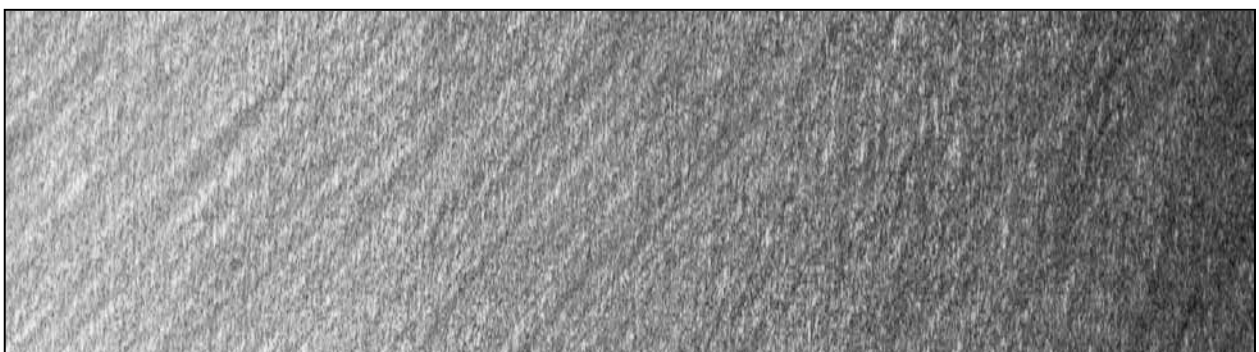
7. Use curved hatching lines to draw a graduated value scale of ten different values, from light to dark, illustrating the texture of hair.

I divided the length of my drawing space into ten equal sections to guide me through the challenge of knowing when to make each value darker. *Curved lines* are created when a straight line curves (or bends). Examples of curved lines include the letters C and U. *Texture* is the surface detail of an object, as defined in a drawing with various shading techniques.

When drawing hair in a portrait of a human, or fur on the head of an animal, curved hatching lines need to follow the perceived contours of the forms of their heads. *Form,* as applied to drawing, is the illusion of the three-dimensional structure of a shape, such as a circle, square or triangle, created in a drawing with shading and/or perspective.

ILLUSTRATION 04-08
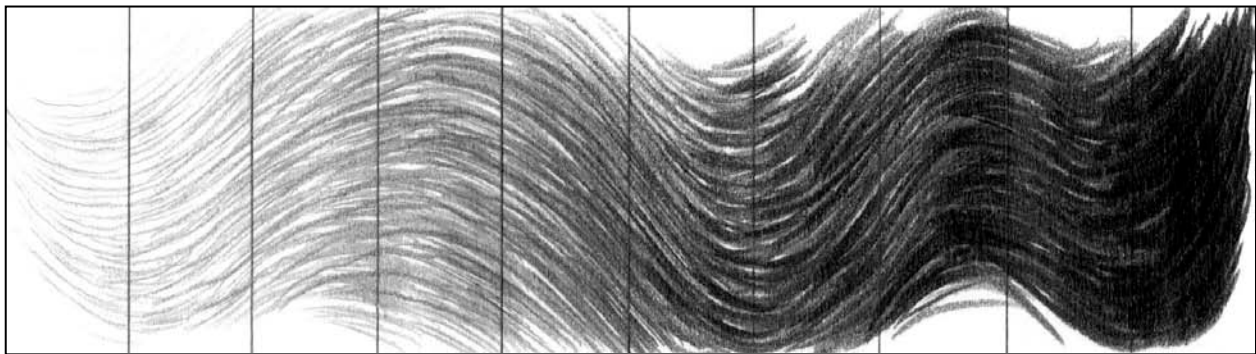
8. Practice drawing more graduations, working from light to dark, and then from dark to light.

Your pencils play a major role in the smooth progression of your graduations. Beginners can generally make do nicely with only three or four different graphite pencils. The pencils I use most frequently are a 2H, HB, 2B, 4B and 6B. With a full set of pencils from 6H to 8B, the potential range of values you can render is infinite. Achieving a smooth transition between values makes the shading in a drawing look more realistic.

EXAMINING GRADUATIONS IN A DRAWING

You can discover lots of ways to use graduations in your drawings, by examining the diverse shading techniques used by various artists. Art has become very accessible in recent years through galleries, art books, and the Internet. Take time to appreciate a diverse range of art and artists. With careful observation of the drawings by other artists, you gain invaluable information, which you can apply to your own drawings.

The shading in almost all my drawings is made up of various types of graduations. I find hatching graduations work beautifully to draw hair, fur, and lots of other textures, such as wood.

The drawing of a Dalmatian (on the next page) was shaded primarily with hatching graduations, which are especially noticeable in the background. Graduations also provide both the textures and values to the fur and accentuate the three-dimensional forms of her head and neck.

Note that the spots are not simply light and dark values, but rather, highly contrasting, graduated values which give a very realistic illusion of spots in her fur. *Contrast* measures the degree of difference between the light and dark values within shading, and creates the illusion of three-dimensions in a drawing.

ILLUSTRATION 04-09

Try and find time every single day, to practice drawing
different types of graduations, working from light to
dark, and then from dark to light.

BRENDA HODDINOTT - BIOGRAPHY

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. This site offers 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 (2003):** 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 (2004):** Winner of the Alpha-Penguin Book of the Year Award 2004, Alpha - Pearson Education – Macmillan, Indianapolis, IN, this 360 page book is available on various websites and in major bookstores internationally.