MASTERING THE SHADING

10-Step Gradation Strip – Smooth transitions using shading techniques
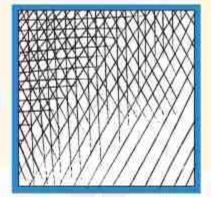
Light Light	Middle Light	Dark Light	Light Middle	Middle Middle	Dark Middle	Light Dark	Middle Dark	Dark Dark
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5 key shading techniques

1. HATCHING

Drawing closely spaced parallel lines to create shadow or depth. The closer the lines, the darker the area.

2. CROSS HATCHING

Overlapping sets of parallel lines at angles. Used to deepen shadows and add texture.
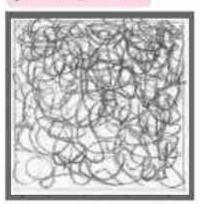
3. STIPPLING

Creating value using small dots. The denser the dots, the darker the area.

4. BLENDING

Smoothly transitioning from dark to light using tools like tissue, blending stumps, or finger.

5. SCRIBBLING

Loose, circular, or jagged lines to create soft textures and shading.