



FREE WORKSHEET!

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# Print Out...

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by [Anthony](#)

Download this worksheet to your computer and print out the pages with the traceable outline sketch onto an A4 or letter sized sheet, then follow the instructions.

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## How do you make a grayscale value finder for art?

There's a significant advantage to making your own value finder. Commercial grayscale finders are acceptable, but they are printed using inks that don't match your art medium.

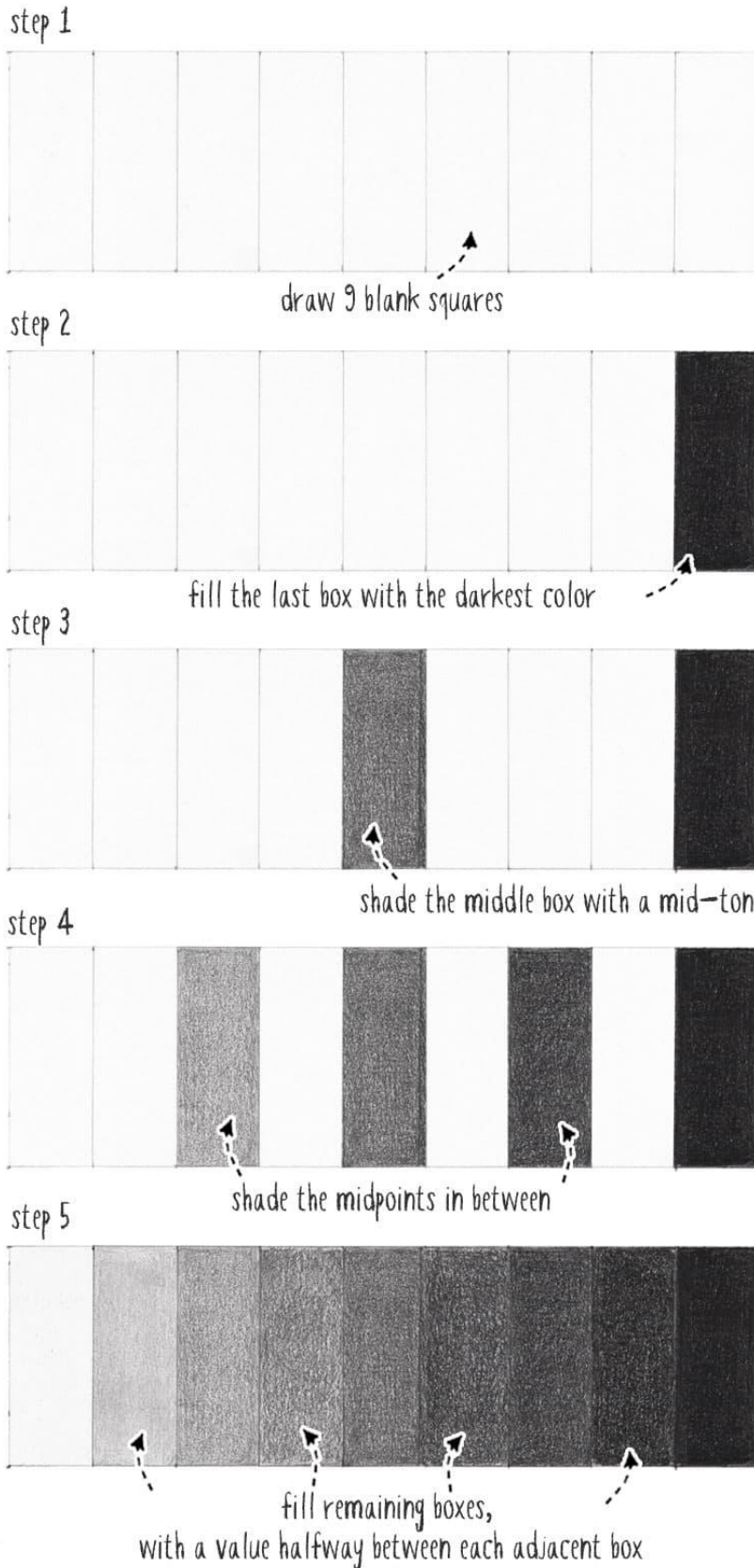
If you draw in charcoal or use graphite pencils, you'll get a much better visual match of values if you use your own supplies to make the value scale.

Here's an example using graphite pencils... but you may find it helpful to make a different version for each art medium you use.

This can be quite a challenge to get right! But it's excellent practice 😊

*Note: different mediums will have their own individual value range. For example, an HB pencil will have a lighter maximum tone than a soft 6B pencil, which produces darker marks.*

## How to make a Value Finder Step by Step:





I used a sheet of smooth white vellum paper and an 8B graphite pencil for this handmade value finder.

1. **Draw an empty scale with 9 blank squares or rectangles (Denman Ross version). Use light pencil marks.**
2. **Start with the extremities. Leave the white paper blank for the lightest tone. Then fill the last box with the darkest color your pencil can make.**
3. **Now shade the center box with a mid-tone. Get as close as possible to a half-tone (It's better to be too light than too dark! This can be adjusted later).**
4. **Next, shade the midpoints between black & mid-tone and between mid-tone and white. Use very light pencil marks and build up the values slowly.**
5. **Finally, fill in the remaining boxes, using a shading value halfway between each adjacent box. Do your best to make the shading as uniform as possible.**

Working in stages like this makes the process more manageable – using side-by-side comparison helps hit the proper value strength.

Cut out your value finder, then cut some notches into each shaded box, in a similar way to a commercial grayscale finder.

