



Colour Recipes

Different kinds of
brown fur



Typical browns you may find when drawing animals

When it comes to drawing brown animals with coloured pencils you often get a few different variations. Brown is made up of a variety of colours, and by mixing different levels of primary colours, Red, Yellow, and Blue, you can get the varying shades needed to create tan coloured animals, chocolate browns, chestnuts and bays.

Following are some examples of colour recipes that will help with your different shades and hues of brown. There are many many different mixes, these are just four.



Tan
Yellow base



Chocolate
Blue base



Chestnut
Orange base



Bay
Red base



Ideas of colours to mix for tan coloured animals

There are so many variations of colour when it comes to animals. Tan coloured fur, usually found in dogs can have a variety of different colours including reds and oranges, but it has a definite yellow base to it.

Using more yellowy oranges will really help, cadmium orange for example is a great colour to use.

Here are a few colours that I find really useful when drawing this kind of colour.

Faber Castell Polychromos



Ivory



Cream



Naples Yellow



Light Yellow Ochre



Dark Cadmium Yellow



Cadmium Orange



Burnt Ochre



Teracotta



Brown Ochre

Caran D'Ache Luminance



Brown Ochre 10%



Buff Titanium

Caran D'Ache Pablo



Orangish Yellow



Cream



Ideas of colours to mix for chocolate coloured animals

Chocolate coloured animals, for example, chocolate labradors and dark brown horses have a unique quality to their fur colour. The richness of the brown can be challenging to produce.

By using blues in with the usual colours of browns and reds, it's possible to get some really rich chocolatey tones in the fur.

Here are some colours to use when drawing chocolate fur.

Faber Castell Polychromos



Paynes Grey



Dark Indigo



Indanthrene Blue



Delft Blue



Walnut Brown



Caput Mortuum



Caput Mortuum Violet



Burnt Siena



Raw Umber

Caran D'Ache Luminance



Dark Indigo



Sepia 50%



Ideas of colours to mix for chestnut coloured animals

Chestnut coloured animals can vary from being very yellowy orange to almost bright red or orange. I tend to use a mixture of colours depending on the subject.

I find that pinks play a really strong role in chestnut fur, but orange is the main player.

Here are some examples of colours to use in your chestnut animals.

Faber Castell Polychromos



Burnt Siena



Burnt Ochre



Teracotta



Cadmium Orange



Dark Cadmium Yellow



India Red



Pink Madder Lake



Cinnamon



Brown Ochre

Caran D'Ache Luminance



Brown Ochre 10%

Caran D'Ache Pablo



Granite Rose



Ideas of colours to mix for bay coloured animals

Bay coloured animals, like chestnuts, can have a real variety of colours in them, from bright oranges to really dark chocolatey browns.

Use a mixture of all the colours from the yellow, orange and blue base colour recipes to create really vibrant bay fur.

Here are some idea of colours to choose when drawing bay animals.

Faber Castell Polychromos



Cadmium Orange



Teracotta



Burnt Siena



Caput Mortuum Violet



Dark Indigo



Light Yellow Ochre



Cinnamon



India Red



Walnut Brown

Caran D'Ache Luminance



Brown Ochre 10%

Caran D'Ache Pablo



Granite Rose

Layering your colours to get the right mix

Coloured pencil is all about mixing your colours on the paper rather than using a palette. Because coloured pencils are not as opaque as other mediums, layering is vital to get a lovely rich finish full of depth.

I usually start with my lighter colours and build up to the darker ones. When you have a mix of colours like in the bay horse shown below, a gradual blend from one colour to the next works really well - this comes from light pressure and gentle, gradual build up.

Keep in mind how your primary colours mix, if you're using blue, I find it really helpful to add reds over any orange or yellow areas to stop any green coming through, however using blues in shadow areas in yellow and orange fur works beautifully as of course orange and blue are complementary colours.

I find experimenting with colour is the best way to discover your way of mixing. Don't be scared, make note of colours that you feel don't work or go muddy, and make note of recipes that work for you and create the vibrancy or subtlety you are after.

Remember colour isn't what creates realism, values are, so try not to get fixated on trying to mix the perfect colour - remember that lighting has a major effect on animal fur, a chocolate lab can look almost black in some lights and very light beige in bright sunlight.

Most of all, be bold, and have fun with your colours 😊

N.B. I haven't included blacks or greys as wanted to just include colours that you may not have thought about.

If you'd like to continue learning new coloured pencil tips and techniques and keep developing your skills, these free tutorials are the perfect next steps...

[The 45-Minute Cat's Eye Challenge](#)

[The 40-Minute Dog's Nose Challenge](#)

[The 45-Minute Perfect Paws Challenge](#)

[3 Tips for Elevating Your Coloured Pencil Drawings](#)

[How to Layer with Coloured Pencils](#)

[How to Use the Subtraction Technique](#)

[How to Use the Indenting Technique](#)

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