



Here are the key points from the YouTube video "Drawing a phoenix bird using dip pens & ink". The preparation process includes concept thumbnails and an initial sketch. Create your own drawing or print out the provided template (see last page). Transfer the pencil drawing to the inking surface, then follow the steps from the video for the ink application.

Materials

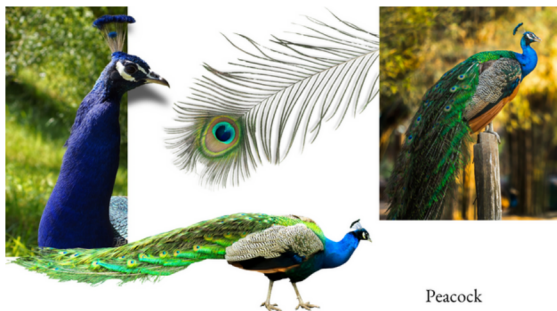
- Large and small nib dip pens (Hunt 513 EF and 102)
- H and 6B graphite pencils
- Ballpoint pen
- Super black India ink
- Kneaded eraser
- Sketch paper
- Bristol smooth paper



Concept



Osprey



Peacock



Initial sketch

Begin with basic shapes to construct the main outlines of the Phoenix. Then refine the contour outlines.

You can draw your own or print out the template for the next stage. See last page for template.



Graphite transfer

Apply soft graphite to the back of either your drawing or the back of the template. I use this transfer method to avoid excessive sketch marks drawn directly onto the Bristol paper to preserve its surface for better inking.

Use non-stick tape to secure the template onto the inking surface (Bristol) and with a regular ball point pen (or pencil), trace over the contour lines using an even amount of pressure so that the soft graphite underneath transfers to the Bristol paper. Refrain from pressing too hard as this will indent the inking surface.

This contour map of the drawing is our guideline to help make the best decisions at the inking stage. Some of the lines are simply there to indicate boundaries and will not be outlined with ink.

If you are finding that there is too much information in the tail portion of the template, just find the main artery lines and redefine any ambiguous areas at the inking stage.

Once the contours have been traced, we can remove the template paper, revealing our transferred image. Use the kneaded eraser to remove excess graphite.

Follow the YouTube video for demonstration of the inking steps.





Inking tips

Start with the eye and move outwards from there.

Be mindful of: (1) source of light, (2) layers - what is on top or underneath, and (3) perspective - what is closest or furthest from the viewer.

Do a first pass of the entire subject to establish the main lines and to organize the value structure overall. Assess the relationship of values as more of the subject is developed. Adjust the darks and mid-tones with incremental layering at the finishing stage to achieve stronger contrast or to blend butting sections.

Key principles:

Line direction

Lines either follow the form or cross the form. Use line direction to create volume and differentiate plane changes in the individual shapes as well as the overall subject.

Values scale structure

For lighter values:

- leave open spaces,
- use sparse marks, and/or;
- widen spacing between the lines/marks.

For darker tones:

- bring the lines closer together,
- taper or fade to black by angling the lines towards each other, and/or;
- thicken the lines/marks

Aim to use a gradation of tones that fade from white to black or dark to light.

Repeated patterns

Use similar patterns to unify areas of similar value. Each section of the Phoenix has a repeated pattern: bill, head, throat, breast, belly, flank, leg, talon, tail, claws, primary wing feathers, secondary wing feathers, wing bars. Each section is unified by values yet distinct because of the changes in line direction.

Have fun!



Contour map template

