

This attractive Owl picture was completed using 6 pastel pencils. By following the guidelines set out below you too can produce this lovely work of art. The pencil numbers are 101 white, 187 burnt ochre, 273 warm grey, 176 van dyck brown, 168 earth green and 175 dark sepia. The pencils can be sharpened using: - craft knives, Stanley blades, safety razor blades etc but you may find pencil sharpeners unsatisfactory.

We suggest that you secure the pastel paper line drawing to a stout board (smooth hardboard is ideal) using masking tape-

Using the pastel pencils:-

Before starting the drawing, study the reference picture while reading all the instructions. This will give you a clearer understanding of the procedures.

Start at the top of the head	Apply 101 white to the top of the head. Apply 187 burnt ochre to the remaining area on the top and down both sides of the head, leaving the white markings showing.
Face	Working in the feather direction apply 101 to the whole face (not eyes and beak). Apply 273 to the shaded areas of the face still working in the direction of the feathers. Add a little 176 on top of 273. Apply 187 to the areas beneath the eyes running to the beak, around the eye and the edge of the ruffle around the face. Apply 176 on top of 187 to darken.
Eyes	First apply 101 to both highlights in the eye. Apply 187 to the whole eye areas then add 176 on top of the 187 to darken. 175 is used to strengthen the top half of the eyes and around the edge of the eyes. Here comes the tricky bit. You use both 176 and 175 to subdue the white highlight. If you lose the highlight re-establish with the 101. Finally use 187 to lighten the bottom half of the eye; refer to the reference picture for guidance here.
Beak	Apply 101 to the right hand side of the beak and 187 to the left hand side. Fuse the two colours together in the middle to avoid a hard line and then darken the left side with 176 and a touch of 175.
Brown feathered area	Apply 101 to all white spots and encircle them with 187 followed by 176. Identify the lighter area of brown feathers in the reference picture and apply a base of 101 to these areas. Now apply 187 on top of the white and continue until you have all of the brown feathered area. You will now see two tones of brown feathers. To the darker tone add 176. At this stage you will begin to lose the outlines, re-establish these with 175. Now you can apply 175 to darken the feathers where required. Use a sharpened 101 to re-establish the white spots and use 175 to encircle them.
White tail feathers and rest of white body	Apply 101 to the light areas of tail feathers and 273 to the dark areas. Apply 175 on top of the 273 and add a little 176 on top of the 175 to add colour. 273, 176 and a little 175 can be applied to the lighter areas on top of 101 to add shading as required. It would be wise to have the reference picture close at hand for this procedure. The rest of the white body should be treated as you did the face, using 101 then shading with 273, 176 and a little 175 for the very darkest areas.
Feet and claws	Apply 101 to the whole feet area (not claws) using 187 then 176 to colour and strengthen. Apply 101 to the light part of the claws and 273 on the darkest part. Apply 175 on top of 273 to strengthen and shape, use sharp pencils for this.
Tree stump and moss	Apply 168 to the green moss area using a tight circular movement. This technique will add texture to the moss. Using the same action add 187 and 176 on top of the 168 then darken with 175. Apply 101 to the edges of the tree stump then apply 273 to the whole tree stump. Use the same circular action as you did on the moss. Add 187, 176 and finally 175 to colour and strengthen. An extra application of 175 should be applied to the very darkest areas and for the shadows of the claws.
Background and final touches	Apply a generous application of 101 to the whole background area and rub this well into the pastel paper with your finger. Apply 168 on top of this white base and rub well in. Finally add more 168 then 176 and 273 to imply grasses and atmosphere. Re-establish the edges of the image with the appropriate colours.

**For more information of Colin's other drawing aids contact him at:
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