

## Two-Tone Coloring

Now I'm sure that at least some of you have seen an anime, those very cool Japanese cartoons that have an equally cool art style. Well if you've noticed, anime doesn't use fading colors to blend in a shadow, they use well placed blocks of color across their characters to define shadows. This form of coloring is commonly referred to as "Two-Tone" coloring, as you're using your colors sparingly.

This tutorial will walk you through coloring your favorite black and white drawing in the classic anime style. If you're reading this tutorial, I expect you to be fairly acquainted with Photoshop, as in knowing the names of the tools and what they do. If you are a beginner then you are welcome to run through this tutorial as well, but you may find yourself lost at times.

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### SCAN IT IN:

I assume you know how to operate your scanner, so we'll move on to what you need to do immediately after you scan. Once you have scanned your image, it will need to be cleaned up a bit (getting all that gray gunky stuff out of the image, sharpening lines, etc). Cleaning up a scan is relatively easy; simply choose **Image >> Adjust >> Brightness/Contrast**.

First off, turn up the brightness until most (not all) of your gray gunk is off the image. Now close the box and open it again; this time, turn up the contrast until your image has a nice set of smooth black lines and a perfectly white background. The image should look something like this one:

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### REMOVE THE WHITE SPACE:

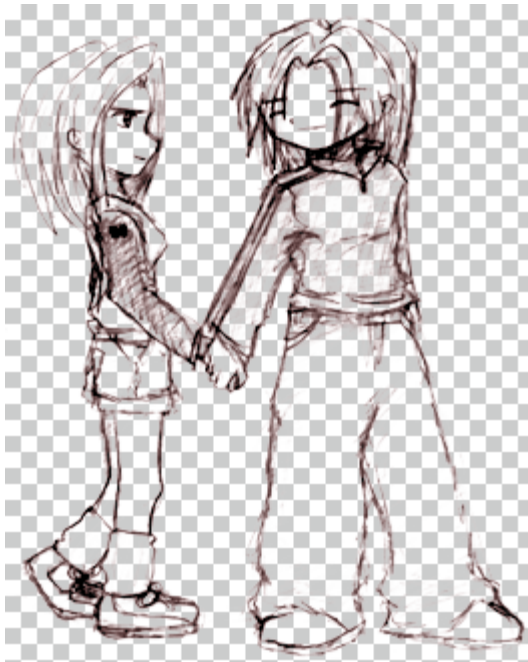
To accurately color your image, you'll need to get rid of the pesky white space so you can take advantage of Photoshop's amazing abilities. Follow these keystrokes exactly, then delete the initial background layer:

**Windows:** CTRL + ALT + 1, CTRL + SHIFT + I, CTRL + J

**Macintosh:** CMND + ALT + 1, CMND + SHIFT + I, CMND + J



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#### BLACK LINES SELECTED:

If you've done this correctly, all of the black lines on your image should have been selected and transported to their new layer. If the lines did not show, then try again; make sure your mode is RGB and make sure that you hit the right keys. Delete your initial background layer (you don't need it anymore). You should now have something like this.

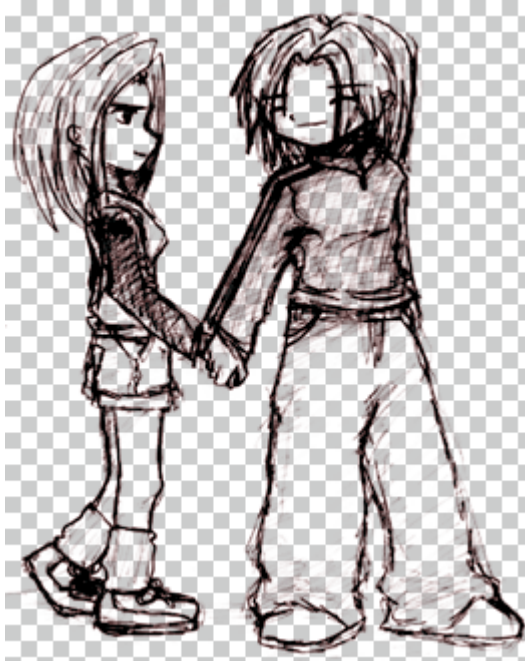
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#### DARKEN YOUR LINES:

Ick! How sketchy! We can barely see those lines, let alone color them! To fix this, simply select the lines layer, name

it "**Lines**" (makes it easier later), and press the **/** key on your keyboard.

Pressing the **/** key sets your layer to **Preserve Transparency** mode; this means that if a spot on your layer hasn't already been drawn on, then it can't be drawn now. (To undo this mode, simply press the **/** key again).




Now select your paintbrush and set your foreground color to black. In the **Paintbrush Brushes** palette, click on the little black arrow pointing to the right and select **New Brush**. This, as it says, will make a new brush. To make this go quickly, simply drag the "size" meter up to 999 -- that gives you a **HUGE** new paintbrush. Click **OK** and then select your new paintbrush. With your **Lines** layer selected, simply click-and-hold on the image for a couple of seconds; you'll notice a difference right away.

See? You darkened all the lines to a much more visible, easier to color state. Now, you don't have to do this, but we find that it helps. Create a new layer and drag it beneath the **Lines** layer. Fill this layer with white; this'll help make the image a bit more flat and easier to see while keeping the black & white separate.

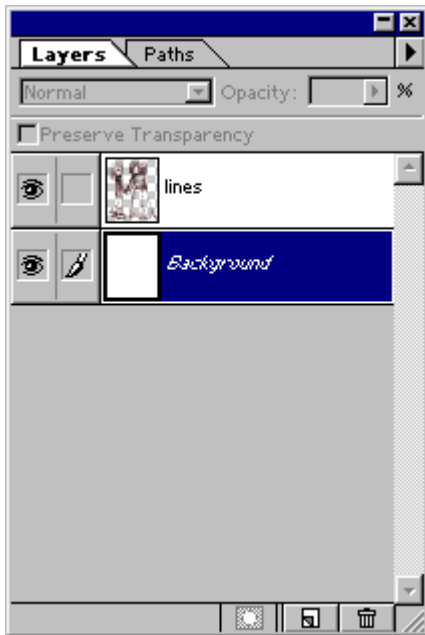
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### LAYER THE BASE COLORS:

Now it's time to work some of those great Photoshop angles that make this sort of coloring so much easier than doing it by hand. With your white layer selected, make a new layer (so it's below the Lines layer).

Choose the **Polygonal Lasso**  tool and select each spot of the image that you want a certain color. This will take a while, but this ensures that the only thing that'll be colored is the thing you want to be colored.

Select a color you want for the area and press **CTRL + F5 (CMND + F5 for Macs)** to open up the fill box. If your fill box is at the default settings (it probably is), just hit **OK** and your color will fill on the new layer. Do this with each color you want on the image, and make sure that each color has its own layer. Also, labeling your layers as you go will make it much easier to go back and edit each one later.



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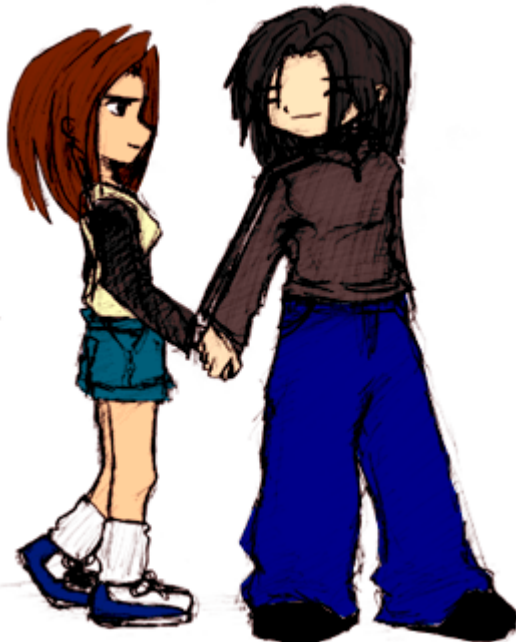


#### A NOTE ABOUT COLORS:

When coloring humans, please remember that humans are never a pure color (blood red, royal blue, evergreen, etc.); we're a blend. For example, if you're caucasian then you aren't a flat pink color, you're a light blend of orange and pink. Also, unless you want your hair to be utterly cartoony, stray from using a pure color (aside from black). Note that in this example, the girl's hair isn't pure red or brown, it's a dark combo of both.

If you don't feel like mixing your own colors, then we suggest you find some colored art you like and simply use the eye dropper tool to select the color right off of it.

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#### THE ACTUAL SHADING:

Okay, that probably took forever, but now you get to do the good part: the shading! Shading is really rather easy; for each layer you have a color on, just highlight it and click **CTRL + J** (again, Mac users should use **CMND + J**) to send a copy to its own layer. This is the layer you'll be doing your shading on; this way, if you mess up you can just delete the tarnished layer and make another copy of the original.

On each of your layer copies, make sure to press the **/** key to start up the **Preserve Transparency** mode on the copies; this will ensure that you can't accidentally shade outside of the lines.

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#### ACTUAL SHADING INSTRUCTIONS:

### Shading Clothes & Skin:

- Highlight the **Copy** layer and use your **Eyedropper** tool to select its color. Open up your colors palette and choose a color that's darker than the original by about 6 or so shades.
- Select the **Polygonal Lasso** and carefully select the portion of the image you'd like to have shaded. (Note: For clothes, you should make these selections mildly jagged to simulate the folds in the clothing.)
- With your intended shading area selected and your layer's **Preserve Transparency** on, simply click **CTRL + F5 (Mac: CMND + F5)** and fill the selection with your darker color. There you go! That's it! Repeat all steps until all of your skin and clothes (assuming that they'll be a part of your drawing) are colored.



### Shading Hair & Black:

Shading hair and the color black are a bit different. Essentially you aren't "**shading**" them as much as you're "**highlighting**" them. Hair has a natural shine on most people, and it can be hard to simulate, but the shine is really just a spot of color full of jagged edges. Have a look at the image to the left to see how your coloring works without your lines to get a better understanding of what we mean.

- Highlight the **Copy** layer and use your **Eyedropper** tool to select its color. Open up your **Colors** palette and choose a color that's lighter than the original by about 9 or so shades (when doing this with black hair, just use a very light gray).
- Select the **Polygonal Lasso** and carefully select the portion of the image you'd like to have shaded (this will take some practice; shading hair still isn't easy and we've been doing this for a while now. Simply make your highlight's edges jagged with rounded curves at the bottom of the jags). For the color black, simply use a shade of gray to highlight it.

- With your intended shading area selected and your layer's **Preserve Transparency** on, simply click **CTRL + F5 (Mac: CMND + F5)** and fill the selection with your darker color. There you go! That's it! Repeat all steps until all of your hair and black are done.

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#### VOILA:

Congrats! You're done!

It does take a while to master, and a while to actually do, but the finished product is always rewarding. Have a look at how our young couple turned out.



#### Finishing Notes:

This type of coloring can not only be used to give your image depth and contrast, it can also be used to accentuate the image itself. Sometimes the shading can be used in place of a black line to give the impression of a tense muscle, or as in this pic, a pair of baggy jeans. Simply play with the technique if you wish to accomplish this.

While this type of coloring does help convey a cartoony aura around your characters, it's not perfect for everything. All serious-natured images would do well to follow another coloring technique.

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This tip comes from  
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