



The Ultimate Painter's Tool

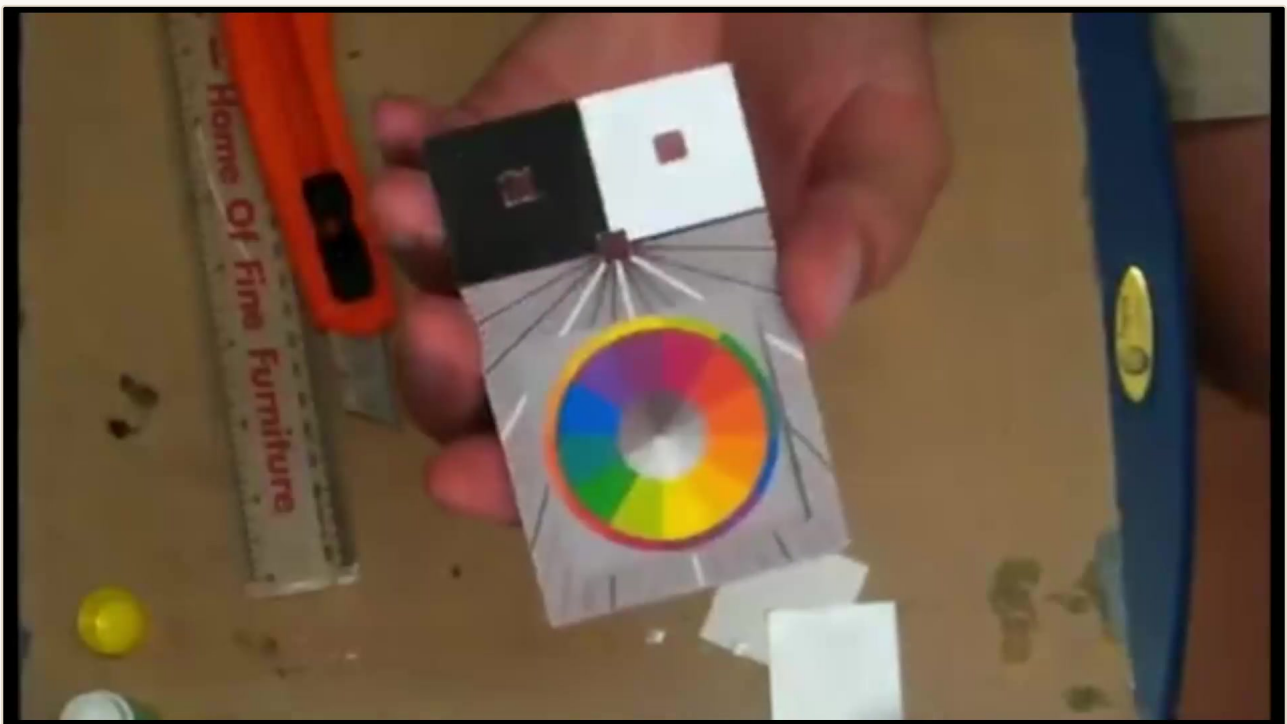
A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/128-The-Ultimate-Painter-s-Tool>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

In this chapter, I introduce you to the ultimate artist tool, a compact yet powerful companion designed to elevate your painting practice. This tool combines a multitude of functions into one portable design, making it an indispensable asset for any painter. As you work through this lesson, you'll learn how to effectively use a viewfinder to discover compositions that truly capture the essence of your subject. Whether you're working in landscape or portrait mode, this tool allows for seamless adjustments, even accommodating square canvases without hassle. Keep a credit card-sized viewfinder in your wallet, and you'll be ready to practice art and create compositions wherever inspiration strikes. The built-in halfway and quarter-way lines are particularly useful for dividing your canvas, simplifying the process of transferring your drawing. By the end of this chapter, you'll see how integrating this tool into your practice can take the guesswork out of painting, helping you achieve better results with ease and precision. Let's dive into the studio and explore the endless possibilities this tool offers.



"The Ultimate Painter's Tool" by Richard Robinson.

The Ultimate Painter's Tool™

Take the Guesswork out of Painting!

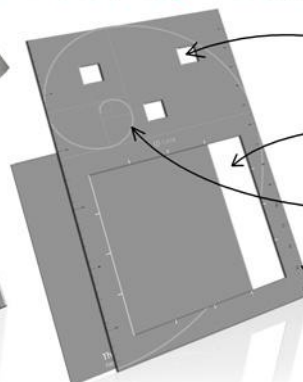
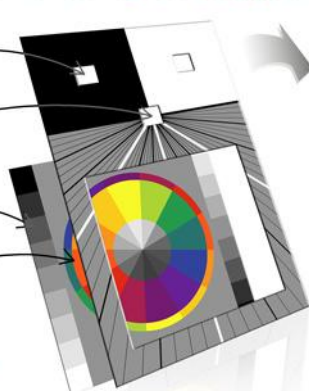
Compares Values with Black and White to define your value range.

Accurately measures angles for drawing and triangulation method.

9 Value Scale to use on palette and painting.

12 Hue Colour Wheel for values, complements and colour schemes.

Store the printable file on your computer to make as many as you want!



Easily compares values and colours through viewing holes.

Composes pictures easily with the Sliding Viewfinder.

Uses the Golden Ratio for designing beautifully balanced compositions.

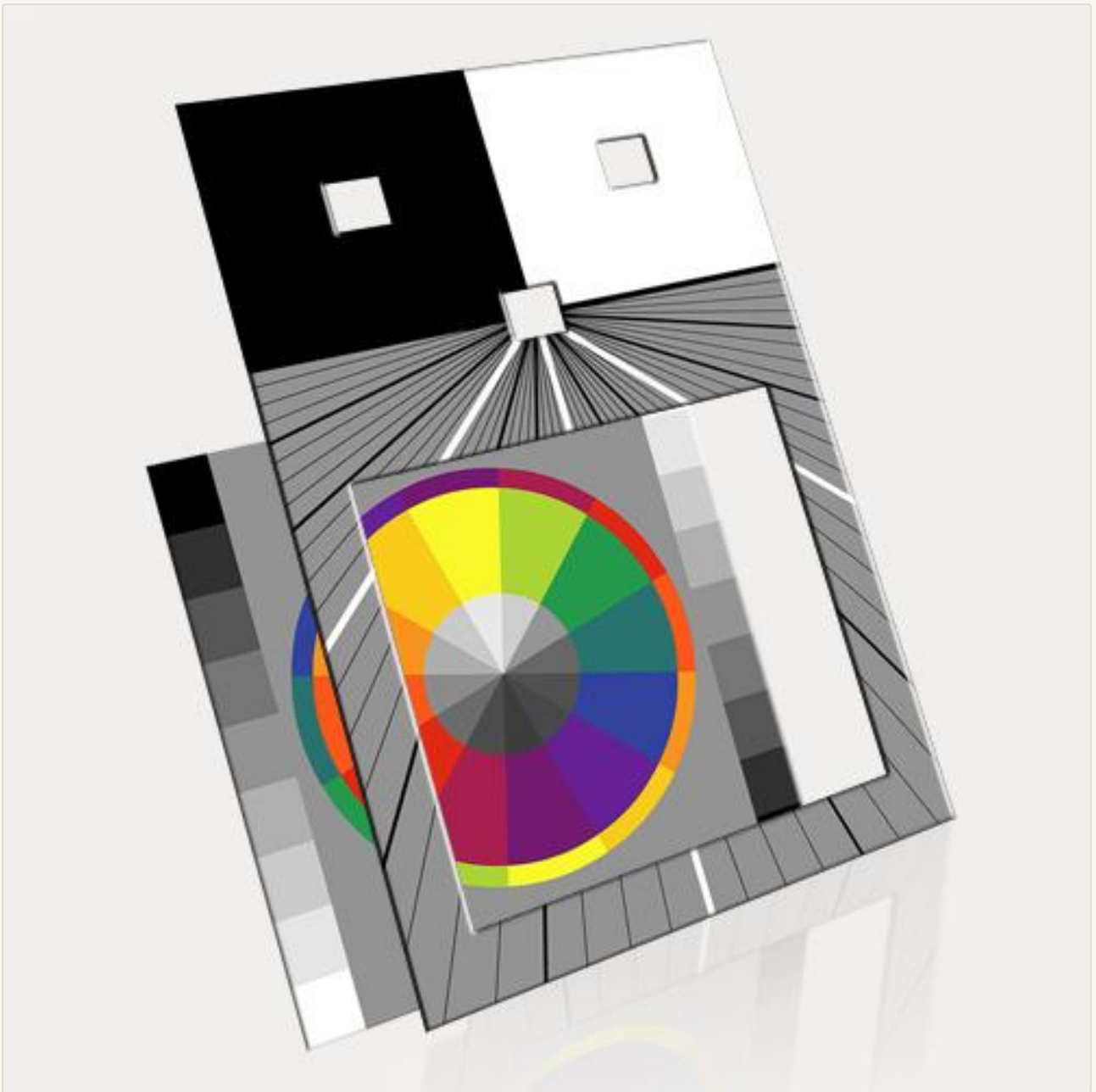
Handy rulers for measuring in inches and centimetres.

Fits in your wallet
- take it with you everywhere
Comes with Bonus large studio version.

Easily Assembles in 15 minutes.

REFERENCE PHOTO 1

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 2

The scene as Richard found it.

1 Viewfinder and Composition



Select a Composition

Use a viewfinder to find a composition that suits your subject and expresses it well. Adjust the viewfinder to landscape or portrait mode depending on your canvas orientation.

Utilize the Viewfinder

Employ a viewfinder with a sliding feature to create any composition you desire. For a square canvas, use the viewfinder without adjustments.

Carry Your Viewfinder

Keep a credit card-sized viewfinder in your wallet for convenience. This allows you to practice art and create compositions anywhere.

Divide Your Canvas

Use the halfway and quarter-way lines on the viewfinder to divide your canvas into sections. This helps in easily transferring your drawing onto the canvas.

PRO TIP

Keep a credit card-sized viewfinder in your wallet to practice art anywhere.

2 Golden Ratio and Measurement



Utilize the Golden Ratio

Incorporate the golden ratio into your compositions by using the spiral and square guides. This ratio, 1.618, is known for creating aesthetically pleasing designs.

Use Measurement Tools

Keep a centimeter and inch scale handy for precise measurements in your drawings. These tools are useful for setting up accurate compositions.

PRO TIP

Incorporate the golden ratio to enhance the beauty of your compositions.

3 Drawing and Triangulation



Frame Your Composition

Start by framing your composition. This will serve as the foundation for your drawing and painting.

Transfer Drawings to Canvas

Use your initial drawings and transfer them to your canvas with the help of section guides. This ensures accuracy in your composition.

Determine Angles with Precision

Hold your pencil against the angle of the object you are drawing, like a branch, to determine its angle. Use the angle guide to match and maintain this angle accurately, then transfer it to your paper.

Utilize Triangulation for Accuracy

For precise proportions, especially in figure drawing, use triangulation. Identify two points on your canvas, find the angle to a third point, and draw lines on your paper where these angles intersect to locate the exact position.

PRO TIP

Use triangulation to accurately determine the position of elements in your drawing by intersecting angles from known points.

4 Common Mistakes in Angles



Identify Common Angle Mistakes

Be aware that a common mistake in landscape drawing is exaggerating the angle of the beach where the water meets the shore. Recognize that this angle is often subtler than perceived.

Use a Tool to Find Accurate Angles

Utilize a tool to precisely determine the angle of the beach. This helps in capturing the subtlety of the angle without exaggeration.

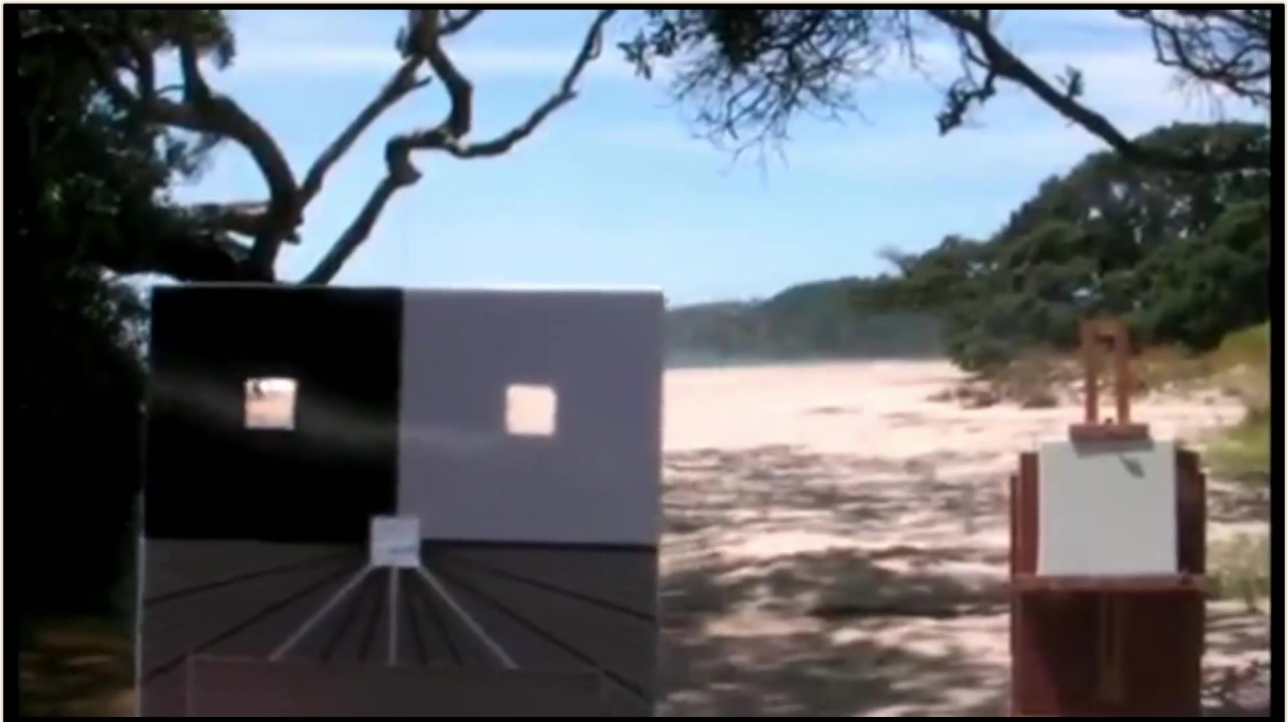
Avoid Exaggeration

Resist the urge to exaggerate angles, contrasts, and colors once identified. Exaggeration can lead to inaccuracies in your painting.

PRO TIP

Use a tool to accurately measure angles to prevent exaggeration.

5 Value Scale and Color Wheel



Establish Darkest Darks

Tilt the tool until it appears as black as possible. Move it over to your darkest areas in the painting to check how close they are to true black. This helps you understand the range of your dark values.

Establish Lightest Lights

Turn the tool until the white appears as light as possible. Measure your lightest areas against this to see if they are truly white or how far from white they are. This ensures accurate light values in your painting.

Compare Values

After identifying your darkest and lightest values, compare values with each other. Match darks with darks, mediums with mediums, and lights with lights. Understanding these relationships is key to successful painting.

Use the Color Wheel

Use the color wheel to remind yourself of color values, complements, and color schemes like complementary, split complementary, triadic, and analogous. This tool is more effective in a controlled lighting environment, such as a studio.

PRO TIP

Always compare values by matching darks with darks, mediums with mediums, and lights with lights to maintain balance in your painting.

6 Materials Needed



Gather Your Materials

Ensure you have a computer with an internet connection. Obtain an inkjet printer and photo quality paper. Use 190 GSM glossy photo paper or opt for matte if preferred.

Prepare to Print

Download and save the necessary file from the website. Get ready to print the file using your inkjet printer.

PRO TIP

Use 190 GSM glossy photo paper for best results, but matte paper is also an option.

7 Printing Instructions



Open the File

Locate the file you downloaded and saved. Double-click to open it on your computer.

Set Up Printing

Go to 'File' and select 'Print'. Choose your printer from the list available.

Adjust Printer Settings

Access 'Properties' or 'Page Setup'. Set the paper size to A4 or Letter and choose 'Landscape' orientation.

Select Paper and Quality

Choose the correct type of paper, such as glossy photo paper. Set the print quality to high for the best results.

Finalize Print Settings

Ensure 'Auto Rotate' and 'Center' options are turned off. Print the document.

Allow Ink to Dry

Let the printed document dry for three to four minutes before cutting to prevent smudging.

PRO TIP

Set the print quality to high for the best results.

8 Cutting Preparation



Prepare the Surface

Ensure you have a hard, clean surface to work on. This will provide stability and precision while cutting.

Gather Your Tools

Use a very sharp knife, ideally with a brand new blade, for clean cuts. Have a glue stick and a ruler ready for precise measurements and adhering pieces.

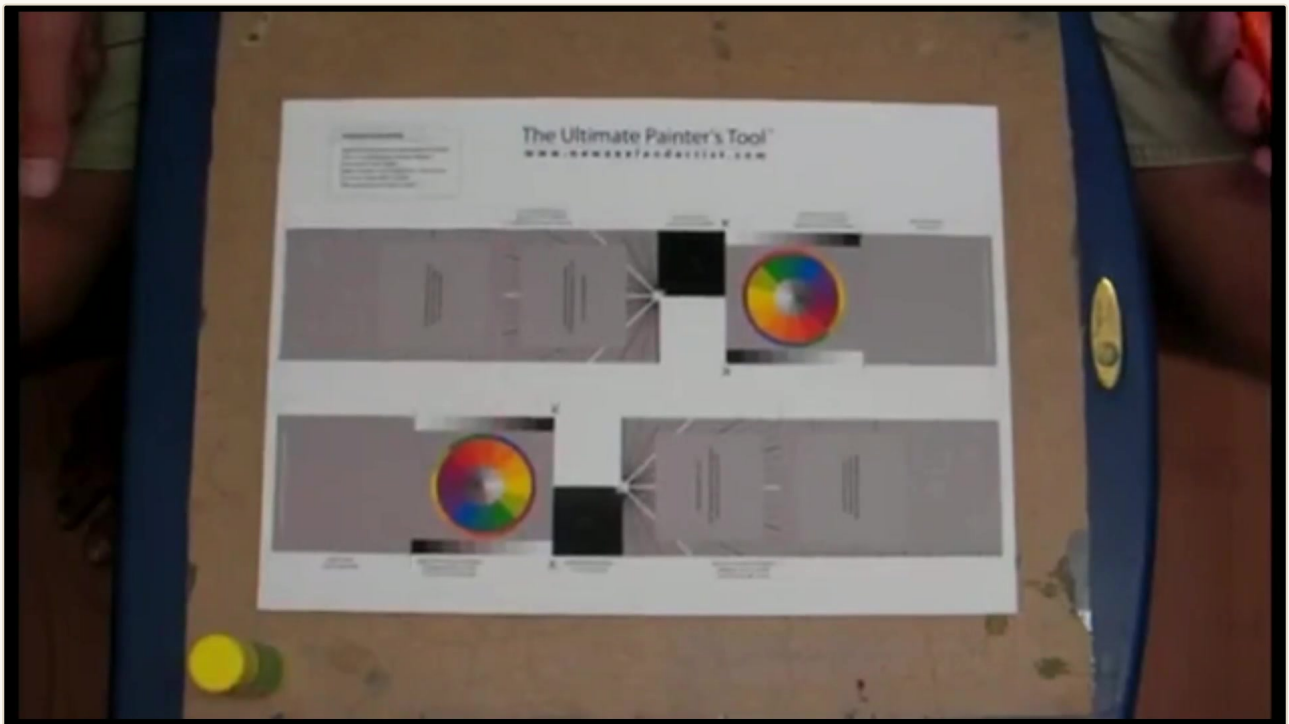
Allow Ink to Dry

Wait three to four minutes for the ink to dry on the paper before starting to cut. This prevents smudging and ensures clean edges.

PRO TIP

Always use a very sharp knife with a new blade for the cleanest cuts.

9 Cutting Technique



Prepare Your Tools

Use two artist tools per sheet to maximize space on the paper. Start with one tool and focus on it before moving to the next.

Position the Ruler

Find the edge of the item with your scalpel. Press the ruler against this edge, ensuring the ruler is over the item so you cut on the outside. This way, any mistakes will occur on the non-essential part.

Cut with Precision

Make several light cuts instead of one hard cut to avoid ripping the paper. Typically, about three light cuts will suffice to cut through the material. Turn the item around to cut the other edge.

PRO TIP

Make several light cuts to prevent ripping the paper.

10 Folding and Scoring



Cut and Separate

Cut across the marked line to separate the pieces. This will prepare the sections for folding.

Mark for Folding

Make marks along the line where you want to fold. Use the existing piece as a guide to ensure accuracy.

Score the Fold Line

Use a scalpel to lightly score the back along the marked line. Press gently to leave a guide mark without cutting through.

Create a Crisp Fold

Align a ruler with the scored marks and lightly drag the scalpel across. This will create a crisp line for folding.

Fold and Finish

Fold along the scored line to achieve a nice, crisp edge. Repeat the process for any additional folds needed.

PRO TIP

Lightly score the back of the paper to create a guide for a crisp fold without cutting through.

11 Gluing and Assembly



Prepare the Gluing Area

Position the piece so that the black and white squares are visible. Ensure that the area behind these squares is clear to allow for sliding the piece through later.

Apply Glue

Use a piece of paper to mark the end of the squares. Apply a full coverage of glue just behind these squares, ensuring not to glue directly behind them.

Assemble the Pieces

Bring the two sides together and fold them carefully. Press them down firmly to ensure a strong bond.

Cut Carefully

Use a very sharp knife to make several light cuts instead of one hard cut. This prevents the paper from ripping and ensures a clean edge.

PRO TIP

Always cut into areas that will be removed, not into the actual item, for a cleaner result.

12 Final Touches and Reusability



Adjust Your Grip

Change your grip to have more control when cutting the small squares. This adjustment will help you make precise cuts and achieve cleaner edges.

Align for Accurate Angles

Use the edge of a ruler to line up with the edge of your tool. This will help you find the correct straight angle for cutting the sides of the squares accurately.

Trim and Finish

Use a knife to fix any small areas by pushing bits into the corners. Trim the top white area if necessary to ensure a clean finish.

Reusability

If the tool wears out or becomes messy, simply print another copy from your computer file. It only takes ten minutes to recreate, ensuring you always have a fresh tool ready.

PRO TIP

Use the edge of a ruler to help find the correct angle for cutting straight lines.

Summary & Key Takeaways

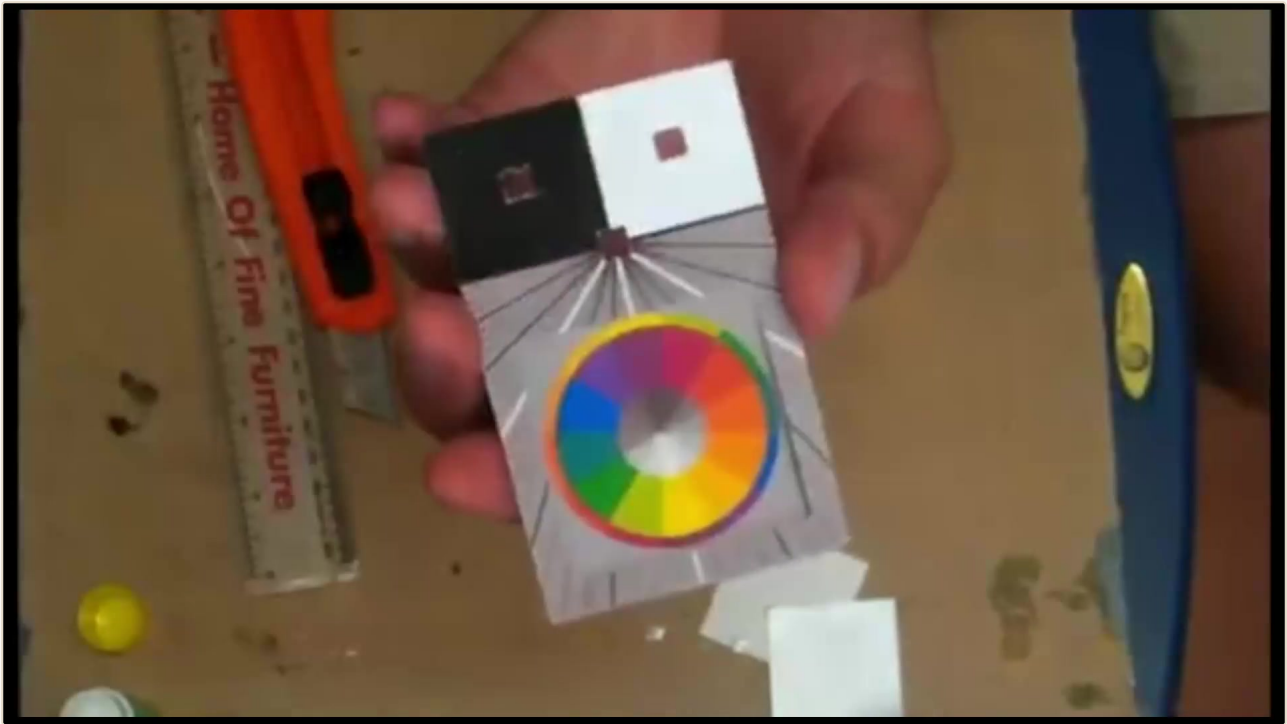
Embark on your painting journey by mastering composition with the use of a viewfinder. This tool will help you frame your subject effectively, whether you're working with a landscape or portrait orientation. Utilize the golden ratio to enhance the aesthetic appeal of your composition, and employ precise measurements to ensure accuracy. These foundational steps will set the stage for a successful painting.

As you progress, focus on drawing and triangulation techniques to accurately position elements within your composition. Be mindful of common mistakes, such as exaggerating angles, and use tools to maintain precision. Understanding value scales and color relationships will further refine your work, allowing you to balance darks, mediums, and lights effectively.

Finally, prepare your materials and tools with care. From printing and cutting to folding and assembly, each step requires attention to detail to ensure your tools are ready for use. Remember, precision in preparation will translate to precision in your painting. With these techniques, you'll be equipped to create beautiful, balanced artwork every time.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Keep a credit card-sized viewfinder in your wallet to practice art anywhere.
- Incorporate the golden ratio to enhance the beauty of your compositions.
- Use triangulation to accurately determine the position of elements in your drawing.
- Use a tool to accurately measure angles to prevent exaggeration.
- Always compare values by matching darks with darks, mediums with mediums, and lights with lights.
- Use 190 GSM glossy photo paper for best results, but matte paper is also an option.
- Make several light cuts to prevent ripping the paper.
- Lightly score the back of the paper to create a guide for a crisp fold without cutting through.



"The Ultimate Painter's Tool" by Richard Robinson.