pencil box: drawing a head

Step 0 - Draw an egg shape or oval.



Step 1 - Using curved lines (because the features are on a curved surface, not flat), divide the oval into half, then half again.



Step 2 - With light lines, place the eyes on the first line, the bottom of the nose on the second, the bottom of the lip on the third. Place the eyebrows as an arch over the eyes. The width *between* the eyes is *always* the same as the width of one eye.



Step 3 - Place the ears from the top straight back from the eye, and the bottom straight back from the nose. Use a modified S-shape.



Step 4 - The bottom of the nose should be drawn as one curved shape rather than two defined snout-like shapes. Be careful not to define the nostrils as shapes - use subtler shading rather than defined geometric shapes.



Step 5 - Determine where the sides of the head are. They start at the end of the eyebrow. Draw the shape of the cheekbones and jaw line. Draw in the general outline of the hair.



Step 6 - Draw in the shape of the lips. The lips are darker at the insertion point at the sides of the mouth and round out. The mid-line of the lip is never straight - it fits together and usually has a small curve downward in the middle.



Step 7 - Draw in the neck and shoulders. The shoulders slope down - not straight across.



Step 8 - Shading - The darkest points will be where the eyes meet the nose, the hairline at the sides of the face and the neck, under the nose, and at the sides of the mouth and under the chin. It is important to shade the face as subtly as possible. Never use line on the face unless it is very light. Lines depicting shadows in the face look like gashes or wrinkles. They can quickly make a younger subject appear much older and haggard.



Other Tips - Do not draw separate strands for the hair. This will immediately make the forms looks flat and cartoon-like. As in any form, look for the lights and darks as well as the unique shapes the hair make. The hair will be darker at the point where it is closer to the face and will get lighter as it moves away from the face. Look at your light source to determine where the lightest points of the hair lie.

Do not define an outline shape for the face, as it will appear flattened. The shape of the face should be defined by the dark shadows of the hair meeting at the curves of the shape of the face. There should not be the same weight of line or shading all around the face as that will also flatten the form. Represent where the chin meets the jaw as shading and not a curved line.