

Hybrid Method

BEGINNER

The hybrid method combines two approaches: first, block in the drawing visually (by eye, trusting your observation), then use measuring techniques to check and correct. You get the best of both — the freshness and energy of working by eye, with the accuracy backup of systematic measurement. Think of it like parallel parking: you start with your best visual judgment, then use the mirrors to correct the fine details.

HOBBYIST

The sequence matters. You must commit to the visual block-in first before measuring — otherwise you are just mechanically transferring measurements and not training your eye at all. The visual block-in develops intuitive proportion sense; the measurement phase corrects the specific errors your eye made and reveals your systematic biases. Over time, your visual block-in becomes more accurate and you measure less. The hybrid method is a training protocol — designed to progressively build toward freehand accuracy.

PROFESSIONAL

The hybrid method mirrors the working process of portrait and figure painters from the academic tradition through contemporary realism. At a professional level, the ratio shifts — the visual block-in carries more weight, and measurements are deployed surgically at problem areas rather than systematically. The ability to quickly identify the three or four key measurements that anchor an entire pose and verify only those while trusting everything else marks a confident professional draughtsman.