

BONNY
SNOWDON
FINE ART

Pet Portrait & Equine Artist

coloured pencil hints and tips **leather**

Some tips for creating leather

Leather is one of the most wonderful textures to draw! I find it really therapeutic, a few things to ensure you get right before you start:

Have a really good line drawing in place before you start, but don't go overboard on adding in any detail - as that will all be lost when you add your first layers! Plus I get really confused with lots of lines.

Again like the eyes, start with a good structure to add to - so I like to add in shadows around the leather first - so I know how dark my mid tones will end up being plus it gives me a good base to start from.

Follow your reference photo - ensure you have the layers of leather correct - a nose band like this has many layers of leather and padding, so get those in first.

Use a cold grey i or ii for your highlights, and as with everything add the colour with very light pressure to begin with. When you start to add the mid tones, blend your colours by very gently adding your pigment over the top of the other colour and gently blending outwards - hard to explain in words but hopefully you get the gist.

For stitching, really study your ref photo, and be really really really precise with your marks - there's nothing worse than a wiggly line of stitching - so be careful.

For white stitching, I find adding the white in first with quite a strong pressure using a polychromos white, is enough to leave the stitching showing once you add your colours over the top - you can always go in and brighten up.

You will be creating a lot - and I mean a lot - of layers, keep going, keep using light over dark and vice versa and you will end up with gorgeous smooth looking leather. I think leather is the one thing that you can't rush - be precise and careful.

