

# Skin Tones in Colored Pencil

Kim Brecklein

*Note: Colors refer to Berol Prismacolors*

## TERMS

**BURNISH** blend underlying layers of color by applying a heavy layer of a lighter color

**MODEL** apply colors to show that an object is rounded; I use this term to refer to very light shading

**PUNCH** apply a reddish color to emphasize pink skin tones for a healthy glow; use wherever you see that our own skin is pinker (checks, chin, base of throat, inside elbow, knees, soles of feet, palms of hands, etc.)

**SHADOW** show actual cast shadows or indicated that an area is retreating

**TORTILLON** tightly machine-made roll of paper (available at art supply and craft stores) used to blend colored pencils and pastels; clean and sharpen to a point with sandpaper pad (also available at art supply and craft stores)

### ***A. Fair (Copies well)***

1. Apply light, even layer of Rosy Beige
2. Blend gently with tortillon (will still appear somewhat grainy)
3. Burnish with white (should appear satin-smooth)
4. Model gently with Rose Beige and Clay Rose; blend if necessary
5. Punch with Henna; blend if necessary
6. Shadow with Lilac and/or Imperial Violet; blend if necessary
7. Burnish highlights with white

### ***B. Medium Fair (Copies moderately well but may yellow somewhat depending on machine and skill of operator)***

1. Apply light, even layer of Light Peach
2. Burnish with white (should appear satin-smooth)
3. Model lightly with Pink Rose and Blush Rose; blend if necessary
4. Punch with Blush Rose and Henna; blend if necessary
5. Shadow with Clay Rose, Lilac, and/or Imperial Violet
6. Blend with tortillon or burnish with white
7. Burnish highlights with white

### ***C. Medium Complexion; Copies poorly unless operator is very skilled; however, the original looks the most realistic of all the combinations***

1. Apply light, even layer of Yellow Ochre
2. Blend with tortillon (will still appear somewhat grainy)
3. Apply light, even layer of Pink Rose; blend (will appear less grainy)
4. Burnish with white or Cream (should appear satin-smooth)
5. Model with Burnt Ochre; blend if necessary
6. Punch with Blush Pink; blend if necessary
7. Shadow with browns or violets (combine brown and violet or lilac for warm shadows)
8. Burnish highlights with Cream or white