

DRAWING AN ACORN IN COLOR

LESSON 2

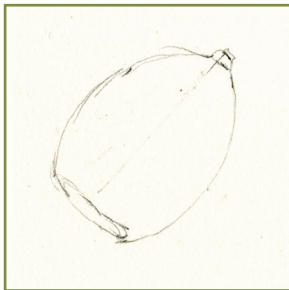


Find an acorn or similar nut to draw. The acorn is comprised of a nut and a cup-shaped cupule. If your nut has two components as an acorn does, first draw these components separately. Draw your acorn life-size.

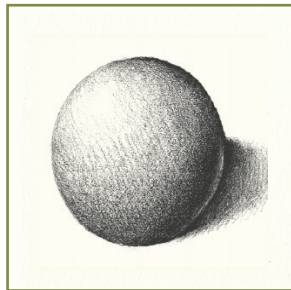
(Refer to page 5: Steps for Drawing a Subject in the Introduction.)

POLYCHROMOS COLORS:

-  Dark Sepia # 175
-  Burnt Sienna # 283
-  Burnt Ochre # 187
-  Venetian Red #190
-  Ivory # 103
-  Watercolor pencil
-  Burnt Sienna # 283



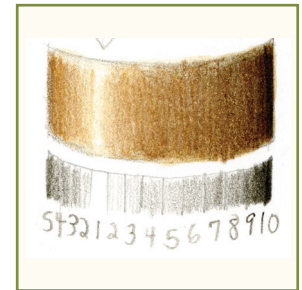
STEP 1 - OUTLINE DRAWING IN GRAPHITE PENCIL



STEP 2 - LIGHT SOURCE & THUMBNAIL SKETCH REMINDER



STEP 3 - TONING WITH DARK SEPIA



STEP 4 - COLOR BLENDS & PRACTICE ON MODIFIED ARC TONE BAR



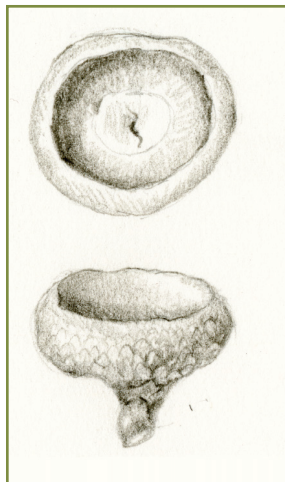
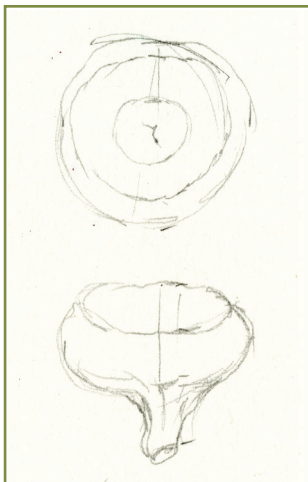
STEP 5 - ADD COLOR WITH WATERCOLOR AND COLORED PENCILS



STEP 6 - CONTINUE TO BUILD TONES, REFINE HIGHLIGHT, ADD DETAILS, THEN DARKEN WITH SATURATION AND BURNISHING

LIGHT SOURCE & THUMBNAIL SKETCH

Remember to determine what is the closest simple geometric shape to your nut and create a thumbnail sketch. Many nuts are similar to a sphere that is slightly egg-shaped. Use your scientific light source either coming from above the left or right shoulder to determine highlight, shadows and gradation of tones. My light source is coming from above my left shoulder.



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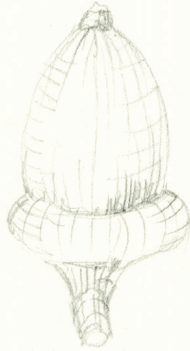
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Draw the entire acorn, nut and cupule. When drawing the cupule be sure to think of the form of the cup first and later on you can focus on the scale pattern. Draw the nut inside the cup. Remember to draw the overlaps of the nut into the cupule. (*Refer to page 9: Lesson 1 Part 2 Overlaps.*)

STAGES OF DRAWING THE ENTIRE ACORN



NUT & CUPULE WITH OVERLAPS



CONTOUR & SHADING



WATERCOLOR

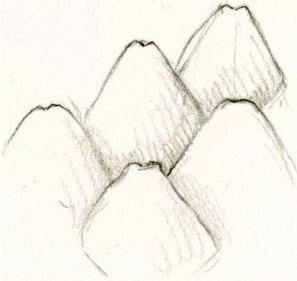


FINISHED DRAWING

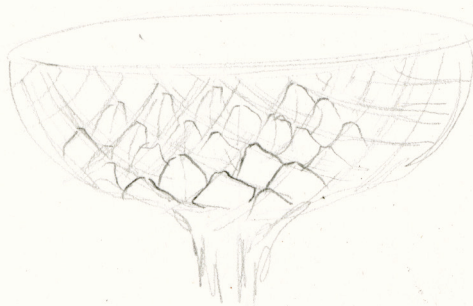
ONE SCALE X 4



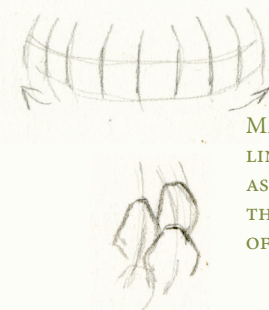
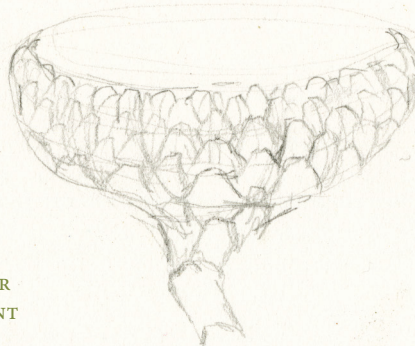
THE SCALES IN PATTERN X 4



CUPULE X 2 WITH SCALES SKETCHED IN



CUPULE X 2 WITH SCALES SHADED



MAPPING OUT
LINES TO USE
AS A GUIDE FOR
THE PLACEMENT
OF SCALES

DRAWING THE SCALES ON THE CUPULE:

Draw the simple shape of the cupule. Study the pattern of the scales. Look at the scales under magnification and then approximate the pattern they create. It is often a staggered or half-drop repeat. Draw a few scales enlarged to help you understand their shape and proportions.

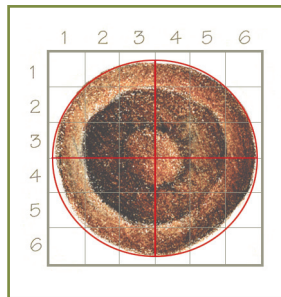
Start drawing the center scales and work outward. The scales will appear smaller in proportion away from the center of the curve.

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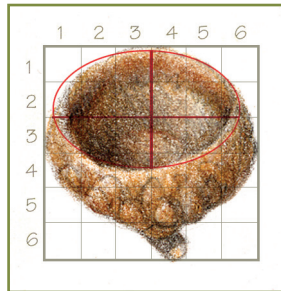
UNDERSTANDING PERSPECTIVE DISTORTION

When seen from the top, the cupule appears to fit into a circle. But when tilted back, the rim of the cupule becomes elliptical. To help see this more clearly, see the superimposed window diagram with numbers that show the amount of foreshortening on various angles of the cupule. Each tilt shows more of the outside, and makes the rim appear even more elliptical.

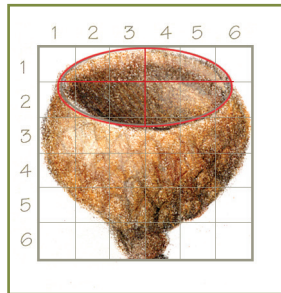
Imagine seeing the cupule through the clear ruler that is held straight up and down or left to right. When measuring the specimen, you don't measure the actual depth of the "circle," but the height of the ellipse as if it were right against the window.



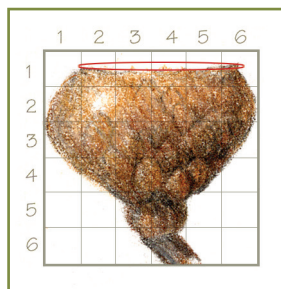
THE CUPULE AS SEEN FROM THE TOP FITS INTO A 6 X 6 CIRCLE.



WHEN TILTED BACK SLIGHTLY, THE CIRCLE BECOMES AN ELLIPSE THAT MEASURES 6 BOXES WIDE, BUT ONLY 3 BOXES TALL.



WHEN TILTED BACK MORE, THE ELLIPSE IS NOW ONLY 2 BOXES TALL AND EVEN MORE OF THE OUTER PARTS ARE VISIBLE.



SEEN ALMOST FROM THE SIDE THE ELLIPSE IS ONLY 1/4 BOX TALL AND THE OUTER PART OF THE CUPULE OCCUPIES MOST OF THE GRID.

DEFINITIONS

Perspective: The art of drawing solid objects on a two-dimensional surface portraying the correct impression of their height, width, depth and position in relation to each other when viewed from a particular point (*the artist's eye in relation to the subject being drawn*).

Ellipse: For our purposes, an ellipse is a circle that has been diminished in one direction but stays the same in the other direction. It is a circle with foreshortening.

Foreshortening: The visual effect or optical illusion that causes an object or dimension to appear shorter than it actually is because it is angled toward the viewer.

Motif: A shape or form.

Pattern: Something that repeats in a predictable way.

Spiral Pattern: A pattern that winds in a continuous and gradually widening (*or tightening*) curve, either around a central point on a flat plane or about an axis so as to form a cone.