

Color Choices

Remember, the secret to 3 dimensional shading is having dark, medium and light values of color. So when we paint the iris of the eye we can work with 3 different shades of color or we sometimes use 2 shades and blend them for a third shade. I have found that for interest and realism it is effective to incorporate very different hues when painting the iris' of the eyes....for example, add some brown to blue or grey eyes or paint a dark blue rim when painting dark brown eyes. When you start studying peoples eyes you will discover these surprising combinations.

The technique guide for Brooke shows painting lighter blue eyes than the blue eyes in the April Instructions. The result was an eye with a light area of reflected light below the pupil, a shaded area above the pupil and a distinct dark or medium dark rim. In our Eyclight kits we have included various dark, medium, and light colors which can be used in many combinations for realistic eyes. It is fun and challenging to try different combinations or to try to create eyes like the real eyes you've seen. (It's a good idea to keep some close up photos and magazine covers in your notebook for ideas about eye colors, shapes for eyebrows and general reference.)

Here are some tips about choosing color combinations for eyes.

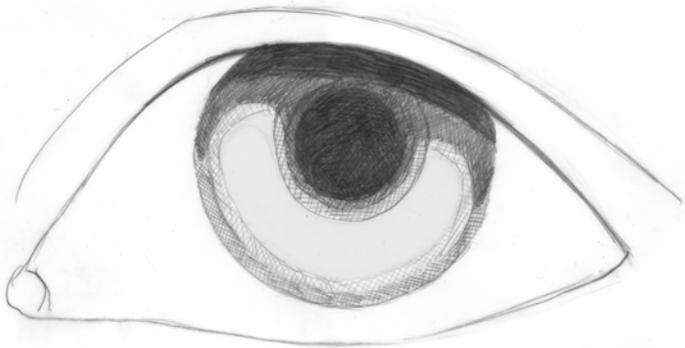
Grey Eyes: You can use the 3 shades of grey for painting Grey eyes but they will look more beautiful if you add some warmth by blending some Rich Brown around the Pupil. You can use quite a bit because some of it will fire off.

Green Eyes: We used to have a Dark Green but it made the eyes way too green. Green eyes must be subtle. Use Dark Grey, for the darkest shade or for a lighter eye mix Celadon with the Dark Grey. Use Celadon for the medium shade and Water Green, Light Grey or Amber for the light shade. Try Grey Green as the light shade for a darker eye.

Brown Eyes: Remember that Rich Brown must not be mixed with Amber because yellow pigment eats red and you end up with a greenish color.

Use Soft Pink with Rich Brown for Brown Eyes and Deepen the Shaded area with Best Black or Blue Black.

Here is a diagram showing the values we paint when we are doing eyes, The rim can be Dark or Medium. Under the rim is the darkest value (other than the pupil.). Often we finish with a bit of Best Black here for the most dramatic shadow. The area above the pupil is usually a bit darker than the rim. We put more of the darker shade here and around the center or pupil area. The lightest area is the one below the Pupil.



- Besides the darkest value, Best Black the colors are for the other values are
- Dark: Dark Grey, Rich Brown With Best Black, Blue Black
- Medium: Rich Brown, Copenhagen Blue, Silver Grey, Celadon
- Light: Soft Pink, Air Blue, Water Green, Pale Amber, Light Grey, Grey Green can be used as a light color or mixed with light or medium shades.

Use bright colors sparingly. The basic Eyclight Kits contain all subtle colors. We are going to be introducing some more vivid colors which need to be used sparingly and in combination with the more subtle colors. Celadon is a fairly bright color. Bright colors should be worked in just inside the rim or around the pupil or they can be used lightly as an all over glaze.

We have just begun to play with all these colors. We can't guarantee the results as there are too many variables. But its bound to be an interesting learning experience.