

Easy Baby Fox to Learn How to Paint Fur in Watercolor

By Deb Watson

Outline, color, shading, and fur for any watercolor animal – an easy formula for realism.

Colors:

- Brown – Burnt Sienna or add Red or Orange for a brighter color
- Black – Tube black or mix your own
- Opaque White – Dr. Martin's Bleed Proof White or any opaque white
- Background can be any color (I used Cobalt turquoise light plus Azo yellow, Cerulean Blue on the side and Perylene Green added for dark.)

Step 1 – Draw or trace your outline, being especially careful around the eyes, ears, nose and mouth.

Step 2 – First coat of color.

- Brown - Paint light brown on the head and muzzle, the legs and tail, leaving the chest and stomach white.
- Black – Paint the inside of the ears, nose and add a line to the mouth. Also paint the legs.
 - Eyes – (if you can't get good detail with your brush, use an ink pen.) Paint a black line around the outside of the eyes (foxy eyeliner), and an elongated black pupil. Dry well. Paint the rest of the eye with brown or gold.
 - Nose -Rewet the top of the nose and lift up a bit of color.
 - Paint the black lines on the side of the fox's muzzle (comes later in video.)
- If your black isn't dark enough, keep painting until they are.

Step 3 – Add shading.

- White areas – use gray (watered down black or black + brown).
 - Under the chin – wet the area with clean water. Add gray or black under the chin and let it bleed out for soft edges.
 - Shade under the chest, down to just above the feet.
 - Ears – paint the white area on the ears a light gray.
 - Tail – Add shading to the bottom of the tail tip with gray.
 - Face – a hint of shading on the left side of the face, if desired.
- Brown areas – use more paint so it's darker than the first wash.
 - Face – darker brown in a triangle in the middle of the face. BE SURE TO LEAVE THE LIGHT AREAS AROUND THE EYES.
 - Body – darken around the right leg and above the tail.
 - Tail – darken the bottom of the tail with long brushstrokes.
 - Fur – use short brushstrokes to indicate fur lines.
 - Light brown area on head
 - Dot and Dab – dot on color and dab the dots with the end of your finger while still wet to smudge.

Step 4 – Add fur and finishing touches.

- Use brown to add fur strokes in the brown, and white to add fur strokes in the white and gray areas.
- Add a white highlight dot to each of the eyes.

Step 5 – Background.

- Mix a puddle of color for your background – lighter color on top and darker color on bottom.

- Wet the paper behind the fox with clean water.
- Paint color around the fox, letting the ends bleed.
- Paint the bottom darker. Add a black shadow line under the tail and darker near the bottom of the stomach.
- Add grass coming up, if desired.

Summary

Outline, color, shading and fur – that's how you paint animals in watercolor.

Card Size Outline

