

Value Scale Assignment
2D Design / Murphy
Lehigh AAD



Assignment / Create a 9 step Value Scale

1.5 x 2" rectangles x 9 steps (13.5" long x 2" wide).

The strip is centered on 14 x 17" Bristol Board. Black and White at either ends, Middle Gray in the middle. Judge the Middle Gray (MG) *visually using simultaneous contrast* (which means comparing your middle grey next to black and then next to white to see if it is the same amount of different from each.) All edges should be masked with tape so that you have neat craftsmanship. Then remove the tape before photographing.

The objective: is to make **even gradations of value (even steps, even jumps, even contrast, the line between one value and the next is always the same contrast or sharpness)** going from white to black. Middle Gray in the middle. Must have even, opaque surfaces. Making *visual perceptions* will be stressed. Scales will be graded on craft, and even gradations (contrast).

Materials:

Bristol Board, Acrylic Paint, tape, H pencil, ruler, brush, water and paper towel

Process:

1. Draw out strip-9 step scale (13.5" long), 1.5" (wide) squares using a H or HB pencil
2. Tape outside of scale
3. Fill in Black on left
4. Fill in White on right
5. **Find the Middle value** using a **practice** sheet of Bristol with the **Simultaneous Contrast method**. Once you find the middle value then add it to your scale. Split the Middle value into two piles. One will be for the *high key* and the other for the *low key*.
6. Use one of the MG mixtures to again find the middle between MG and white, and then MG and Black. 7. ...and so on.

- You will have to test your values before placing them on the scale with a

“test sheet” • Paint dries darker

- Save extra paint in containers, you can buy from Plaza, or you can use “plastic wrap”, or food containers.
- Mix relatively large quantities of paint, you can always save the extra.
- Don’t try to “spot” touch up with another value.

Value Terms: middle gray, maximum contrast, minimum contrast, hard edge, vanishing boundary, simultaneous contrast-everything is relative.

Resources

Value Scale tutorial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMiwpqp01Ok>