

# From Ugly Drawings To Beautiful Dresses

8-Step Guide to Drawing Fashion Dresses  
for Complete Beginners

*Procreate  
Dress Shading  
Basics*



**Moda For All**

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# Contents

<b>Why I Wrote This Book</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Before You Read</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Step 1: Start with Dresses</b>	
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Step 2: Use Figure Templates</b>	
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Step 3: Master Line Drawings</b>	
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Step 4: Choose Your Medium</b>	
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Step 5: Explore Procreate Features</b>	
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Step 6: Learn Basic Shading Techniques</b>	
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Step 7: Shade With More Than Three Tones</b>	
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Step 8: Try Different Textures</b>	

# Why I Wrote This Book

Like many beginners, I used to spend hours trying to get figure drawing right, only to end up with awkward figures and dresses that just didn't look beautiful. This book is the shortcut I wish someone had shared with me when I first started drawing.

As designers, we juggle so many tasks, from pattern making to draping, sewing, and more. While I could handle those aspects, fashion illustration and figure drawing always felt like a struggle. My sketches, no matter how hard I tried, never seemed to capture the beauty I envisioned.

The turning point came when I let go of the pressure to draw perfect figures and simply started designing dresses. Suddenly, the creative process became fun again. I found myself improving faster and feeling more motivated with every sketch.

For years, I believed I needed to master fashion figure drawing before I could illustrate beautiful dresses. I bought countless books, spent hours practicing, and still felt stuck. My motivation drained away every time I tried to force myself to draw figures.

Everything shifted when I gave myself permission to start with what I loved most: the dresses. By doing that, I discovered a method that transformed my skills and reignited my passion for fashion illustration.

After hundreds of drawings, I learned that what you focus on matters just as much as how much you practice. And the best part is, you don't have to go through the same struggle.

This book is here to help you skip years of frustration, build real skills, and enjoy fashion illustration, all while staying motivated and inspired.

As you work through each step, focus on just one aspect at a time. Trying to

master everything at once only slows you down. Trust me, I've been there.

Before we start, I want to share the seven key ideas that helped me make real progress. You'll see them again and again throughout this book.

I'm here to support you every step of the way. Let's create something beautiful together!

Ivory Khin  
Moda For All

# Before You Read

Before you start Chapter 1, I want you to keep seven things in mind. These are the ideas that turned my own ugly drawings into beautiful dresses over time. You already saw my story in the previous section. This is the short version of what actually made the difference.

## 1. Wish/Desire

If you are holding this book, that already means something important: you really want to draw beautiful dresses. That wish is your starting point.

## 2. Passion (Obsession)

Ask yourself honestly: “Am I really passionate, maybe even obsessed, about dress designs?” For example, do you love looking at dresses, saving references, and imagining your own designs?

## 3. Start Simple

When I tried to jump straight into complex things such as evening gowns, heavy draping, tulle, glossy latex, and sequins, I stayed stuck.

In this book, I’ll ask you to start with simple dresses first. Simple shapes and basic shading will build the foundation that later makes complex designs possible.

## 4. Consistency

Improvement comes from showing up often, not from one “perfect” drawing. You don’t have to draw every single day, but ask yourself: “Can I keep coming back to dress drawing for at least 3 years?”

## **5. Focus on One Thing**

One focus at a time leads to much faster progress. For example, if you want to master sequins, ask yourself: “Can I commit to drawing at least 20 sequin dresses until I really understand this texture?”

## **6. Practice, Effort, and Perseverance (Not Talent)**

You don’t need to be “naturally gifted” to learn this. What truly matters is how often you practice, how much effort you’re willing to give, and how long you stay with it when progress feels slow.

## **7. The Right Method**

You can have desire, passion, consistency, and effort, but if your method is wrong, you’ll feel stuck in the same place for years. This is where this book comes in. I’ll guide you through 8 steps to help you reach your goal of drawing beautiful dresses.

I’ll prove these 7 things with the two drawings on the next page.

The one on the left is one of my first dress drawings from July 13, 2018, and the one on the right is from October 24, 2025.



As you can clearly see from my first drawing, I had no talent. I only wanted to draw beautiful dresses. I'm truly passionate about fashion dress illustration. I started with simple dresses. I worked on being more consistent, even after many failed attempts. At each stage, I tried to focus on just one thing instead of everything. After quitting many times, I chose to persevere, to practice again and again, and to put in real effort. Most importantly, I finally found the right approach, which I'll share with you in the upcoming chapters.

Throughout the book, you'll see these ideas again when they matter most. I'm not repeating myself for no reason. I'm doing it because I don't want you to repeat the same mistakes I made.

If I could go from that first drawing on the left to the one on the right, you can do it too.

If you're ready, let's begin with Chapter 1.

Reading the print version? You can find all the links from this book at:

<https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources>.

# **Chapter 1**

## **Step 1: Start With Dresses**

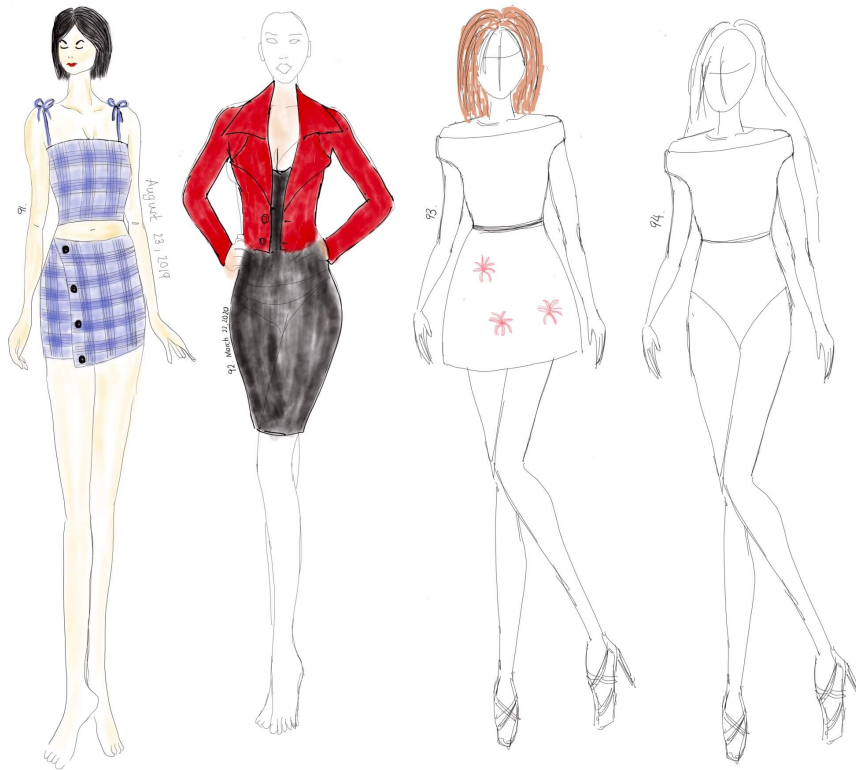
## *Fashion Figure or Dress First?*



## Why Focus on Dresses First?

If you're new to fashion illustration, you might think you need to master figure drawing before you can start designing beautiful dresses. The truth is, starting with dresses makes the entire process more fun and helps you improve much faster.

When you begin by designing dresses, you skip the stress of drawing hands, faces, and perfect body proportions. These can be tricky for beginners and often lead to frustration or giving up before you get to the fun part: the dress itself.



*Figure 1.1. What Happens When You Focus Too Long on Figure Drawing:  
Little Progress, Lots of Frustration*

I learned this the hard way. I used to spend so much time wrestling with figure drawing. My proportions were always off, and I couldn't even create a simple sketch that felt right. By the time I got to the dress, I barely had any energy left for the creative part I loved. My progress stalled, and I started to doubt if I could ever draw.

The problem wasn't just that I struggled with fashion figures; it was that I didn't want to draw them. When you're genuinely excited about learning something, you'll improve, no matter how clumsy your first attempts are. But I had no real passion for drawing figures. I just wanted to draw dresses. Because I wasn't excited about learning figures, my illustrations didn't improve much.

Once I allowed myself to focus on dresses first, everything felt lighter. I started making real progress, enjoying the process, and gaining confidence with each sketch.

By starting with the part you love, you'll build skills, confidence, and a genuine connection to fashion illustration without burning out on the parts that feel intimidating at the beginning.



### **Prioritizing Fashion Figure First**

- ❌ Struggle with fine details
- ❌ Progress feels slow
- ❌ Frequent frustration
- ❌ Risk of giving up
- ❌ Creativity feels limited

### **Prioritizing Dresses First**

- ✅ See daily progress
- ✅ Build confidence
- ✅ Stay motivated
- ✅ Keep drawing
- ✅ Focus on creativity and style

*Figure 1.2. The Simple Rule That Transformed My Fashion Illustrations:  
Start With Dresses First, Not Figures*

## Here's What Happens When You Start with Dresses:


- **You build confidence.** Every finished dress is a visible accomplishment, and seeing your progress boosts your motivation.
- **You enjoy the process.** Fashion illustration should spark joy. Without the pressure of figure drawing, you can focus on creativity and keep your enthusiasm alive.
- **You improve consistently.** When you work on what you love, steady improvement comes more naturally, and you actually want to keep drawing.

Remember, the goal is to enjoy the journey. Once you feel comfortable designing dresses, adding fashion figures will feel much more natural and a lot less overwhelming.

## Action Step

### ✓ Gather Inspiration

Look for dresses that excite you: on the runway, in magazines, online, in movies, or even in your own closet. Screenshot, save, or select 3 to 5 dresses that instantly catch your eye.

 **Tip:** Don't overthink it. Choose what makes you smile or sparks your curiosity. This is about discovering what you love! And if you ever feel stuck, you can use AI tools to generate fresh dress ideas to inspire you.

## My Thoughts on AI and Creativity

AI is just a tool; how you use it matters.

### **1. Don't ignore it; use it.**

AI is becoming part of the creative world. If you ignore it completely, you might miss out on exciting new ways to explore ideas.

For example, we didn't have 3D pattern-making software like CLO in the past. Thanks to this technology, we can now visualize our dress designs in 3D, saving time, effort, and money, without producing a physical sample. If you insist on avoiding new technology, you risk being left behind, like living in the stone age.

### **2. Don't depend on it.**

AI can suggest looks and generate images, but it can't replace your personal vision or passion. It should support your creativity, not control it.

### **3. Protect your originality.**

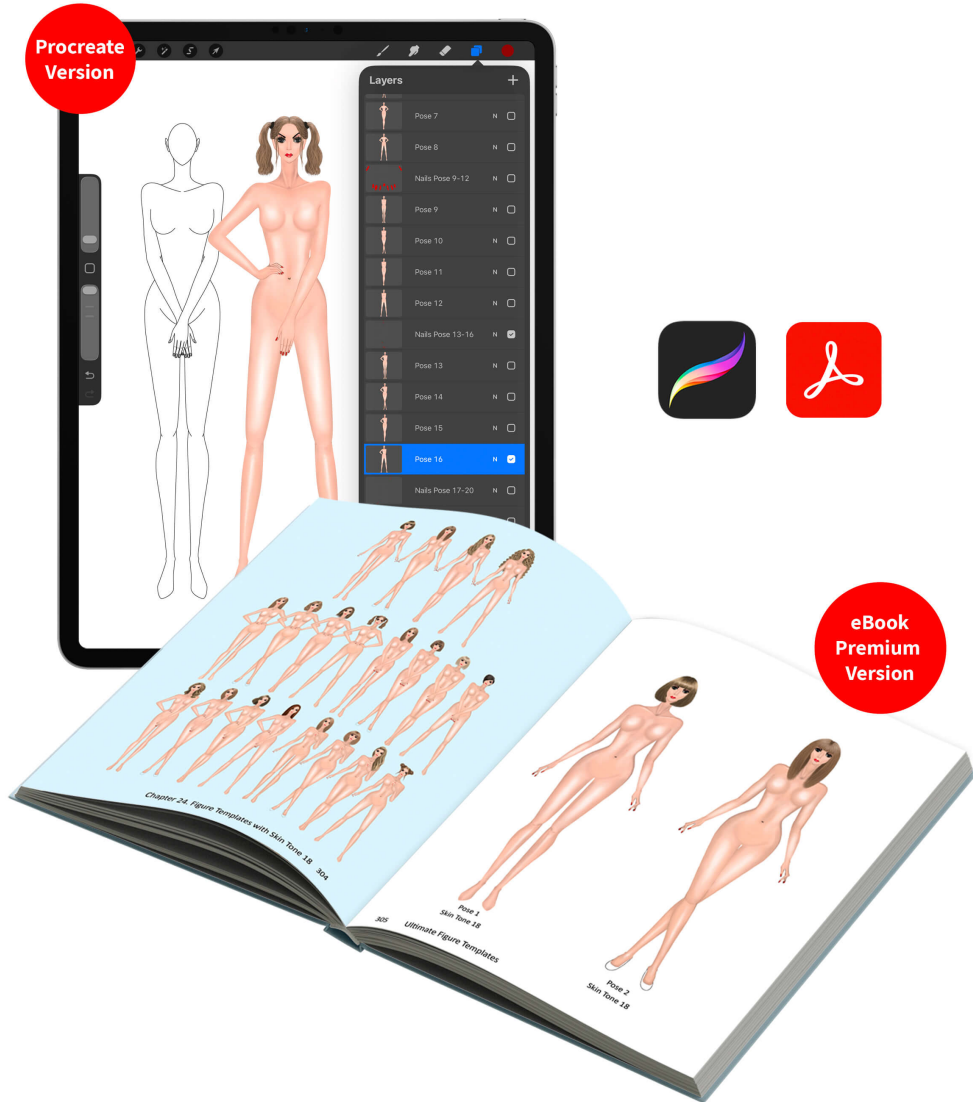
Your best ideas, authenticity, and uniqueness will always come from you. Let AI inspire you. Use it as a starting point, then add your own twist.



# **Chapter 2**

## **Step 2: Use Figure Templates**

# Digital or Printable Templates?



## If You Insist on Drawing Fashion Figures First...

In the previous chapter, I explained why you should focus on drawing dresses first as a beginner. But if you're determined to start with fashion figures, I'm not going to stop you from doing what you love.

Put this book down for a while, and go pick up some books on fashion figure drawing or enroll in a figure drawing course. After all, the title of this book is ***8-Step Guide to Drawing Fashion Dresses for Complete Beginners***, not ***How to Master Fashion Figures***.

Here are some resources I genuinely recommend:

- **Fashion Illustration: Inspiration & Technique** by Anna Kiper – A great book for learning fashion figure drawing.
- **Zoe Hong's YouTube channel** – Her figure drawing videos are detailed, practical, and honestly, a lot of fun.

But if you're like me and your real passion is designing dresses (not spending hours on anatomy), keep reading. This chapter is for you.

## Why Are Figure Templates Essential for Creating Beautiful Dresses?

Now that you are ready to focus on dresses, you might be wondering: *If I cannot draw figures, how will my dresses look right?* Since dresses sit on the body, proportions play a huge role in making your designs look beautiful. But for beginners, getting those proportions correct from scratch is almost impossible.

That's where figure templates come in. Instead of struggling with drawing the whole body, you start with a ready-made figure that already has the right proportions. You can draw your dresses on top of the template and jump straight into designing, without the headache of figuring out anatomy first.

## My Story: From Frustration to Progress

As I mentioned before, figure drawing was never my strength. I kept forcing myself to draw full figures from scratch, thinking I had to do everything on my own, even though the right resources were just a click away.

Everything changed when I started investing in figure templates.



*Figure 2.1. How Using Figure Templates Transformed My Illustrations*

### **Before Using Figure Templates**

My figures were off, and my dresses suffered. I was frustrated and gave up multiple times.

### **After Discovering Figure Templates**

At first, I hesitated because I thought it was “cheating.” But templates let me focus on the actual dress designs. My progress skyrocketed, and my confidence grew as I finally started seeing real results.

### **Where I Am Now: Drawing with My Own Figure Templates**

Now I enjoy the process. Using templates saved me time and helped me improve my skills.

## What I Wished My First Templates Had

The first templates I used were helpful but basic: just outlines, no skin tones, hairstyles, or makeup. Since I couldn't draw faces, I always covered them with masks in my early illustrations. On top of that, those templates were only available as paper versions, which really limited how and where I could use them.



*Figure 2.2. Early Illustrations with Covered Faces due to Limited Template Features*

That experience got me thinking: *What if templates included diverse skin tones, hairstyles, and makeup? And what if they were available in more than just a paper*

*version?* Those questions inspired me to create the **Ultimate Figure Templates Bundle**, designed to make the process easier for beginners.

These templates are available in three different formats, so you can work in whatever way fits your style and workflow best:

- **Procreate Version:** Copy and paste directly into your iPad canvas.
- **eBook (PDF) Version:** Print for sketching or even paper dolls.
- **PNG Version:** Use with any app that supports PNG files.

Each version includes a variety of skin tones, hairstyles, makeup, and pre-shaded figures, so you can focus on designing dresses instead of getting stuck on faces or proportions.

If you prefer, you can also find free templates online. Just make sure you have permission from the copyright owner.

My goal is to give you as many tools as possible to help you enjoy the design process. Whether you use my templates, your own, or free ones you find online, what matters most is finding what works for you.

**Note:** I was only able to create these templates after finishing the 8-step journey I share in this book. If you follow these steps, you'll build the skills and confidence to create your own templates too.

Want to try my templates for yourself? You can browse all versions and details here: <https://www.modaforall.com/ultimate-figure-templates-bundle>.



*Figure 2.3. Fashion Illustration in Procreate  
Using My Copy-and-Paste Figure Templates on the iPad*

# 400+ Ultimate Figure Templates Mega Bundle

Includes Procreate, eBook & PNG Versions



Create gorgeous dresses in minutes—without sketching a single fashion figure



## Key Benefits of Using Figure Templates


- **Save time and enjoy the process.** No more redrawing figures from scratch.
- **Boost your creativity.** Focus on designing dresses, not anatomy.
- **Get more polished results.** Accurate proportions make your dresses look their best.
- **Customize with ease.** Choose from a variety of poses, skin tones, and hairstyles.

Figure templates remove the hardest part for beginners, so you can spend your time actually designing. They make the whole process smoother and a lot more fun. The longer you wait to start using them, the more opportunities you miss to create and refine your style. Every week you wait is a week of lost progress.

### Action Step

- ✓ Pick a template that speaks to you, import or print it, and you are ready for the next step.


## Chapter Resources

 Ultimate Figure Templates Mega Bundle:

<https://www.modaforall.com/ultimate-figure-templates-bundle>

 Fashion Illustration: Inspiration & Technique by Anna Kiper

 Zoe Hong's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@zoehongteaches>

 Print readers: Go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources>

# **Chapter 3**

## **Step 3: Master Line Drawings**

## *Lines First, Details Later*



# The Foundation of Fashion Illustration

At this stage, you've probably found your favorite figure templates and maybe even experimented with color. I did the same, jumping right into colored pencils and watercolors, eager to make my sketches pop.

But here's what I wish I had known sooner: decorating your sketch is like icing a cake before it's baked. Line drawing is the backbone of any fashion illustration.



*Figure 3.1. What Not to Do:*

*Focusing on Decoration Before Mastering the Foundation*

When you add colors and details too soon, you can actually slow your progress. Mastering line work first helps you understand outfit structure, balance, and silhouette, which are the skills that will make your designs stand out.

If you've worked with technical flats in Adobe Illustrator, you'll find some parts of this step familiar. But if you're a complete beginner, don't worry. Start with the basics and build up from there.

## **How to Build Strong Line Drawing Skills: 6 Practical Tips**

### **1. Where to Start**

Begin with simple dress styles like pencil skirts, circle skirts, tank tops, shift dresses, wrap dresses, and similar basics. As you gain confidence, gradually move on to more intricate designs.

### **2. What You Need**

For Paper:

- Figure templates
- Pencil
- Paper
- Eraser

For Digital:

- Figure templates
- Drawing device (iPad, Android tablet, or desktop)
- Drawing app (such as Procreate, Adobe Illustrator, etc.)
- Pen tool (for example, Apple Pencil for Procreate)

### **3. The Power of Consistency**

Aim to draw at least 100 outfits before moving on to the next step. If that sounds overwhelming, just commit to drawing one dress a day.

I'll be honest: when I first started, I'd draw every day for a week, then get

sidetracked by sewing or pattern drafting and not pick up a pencil for months. Each time I returned, it felt like starting over from zero.

*Consistency, even just a few minutes a day, is the real secret to improving your fashion illustration skills quickly and easily.*

#### **4. Study Others to Learn, Then Create Your Own**

In this stage, I actually want you to study and imitate other people's drawings as much as you can before you try to invent your own designs.

Pay close attention to:

- how they build the dress structure
- how the fabric moves around the body
- how skirts drape
- where folds and creases appear
- how ruffles are drawn
- how sleeves, collars, and hemlines behave

You're not doing this to "steal" their work. You're doing it to **understand how things are built**. After you've absorbed these basic structures from others, then start drawing your own designs.

As a beginner, it's completely normal not to know what to draw or how to draw it. Learning from existing drawings gives you a visual library in your mind. Once you've studied and imitated a good number of outfits, it becomes much easier to invent your own.

#### **5. Understanding Creases and Folds**

As you practice drawing outfits, I want you to pay special attention to creases and folds. Creases usually form where the body can bend or move (for example, at the waist, elbows, wrists, knees, and ankles), and where the fabric is pushed or

compressed (for example, when a blouse is tucked into a skirt, the blouse fabric will crease and gather around the waistband).

How strong or soft the creases look depends on the thickness and type of fabric, and how tight or loose the garment is on the body.

In general:

- **Thick or stiff fabrics** create sharper, more defined folds, usually with fewer of them.
- **Thin, soft, or stretchy fabrics** create softer folds and often more of them.

## 6. How to Practice

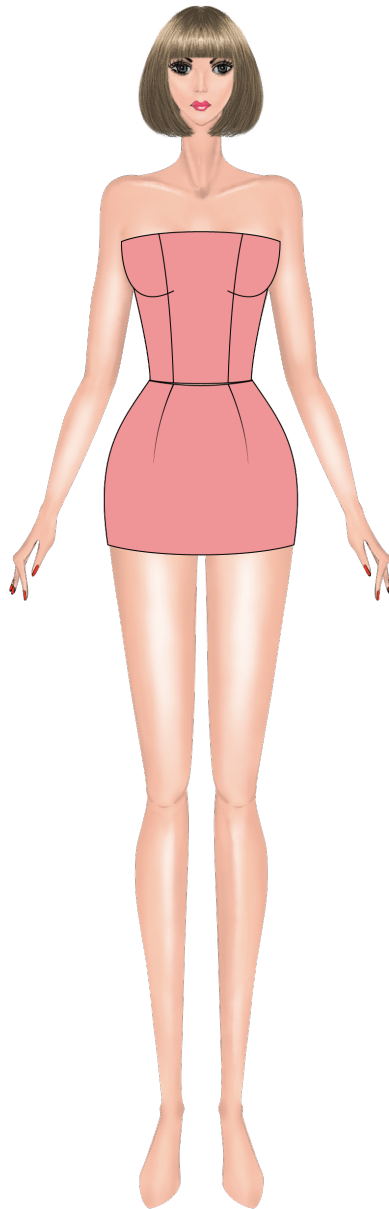
Starting from the next page, you'll find step-by-step guides that continue over the following pages.

- ✓ Follow the direction of the arrows in each step.
- ✓ Draw the top of the outfit first, then move on to the skirt or bottom.
- ✓ The guides show only half of each outfit. Since most designs are symmetrical, you can mirror the other side.
- ✓ For digital users: Use the symmetry feature in your app to automatically reflect your lines.

**Note:** If you need figure templates, revisit Chapter 2. The templates shown here are included in my [Ultimate Figure Templates Mega Bundle](#), but you can use any templates you like.

# Step-by-Step Line Drawing Practice

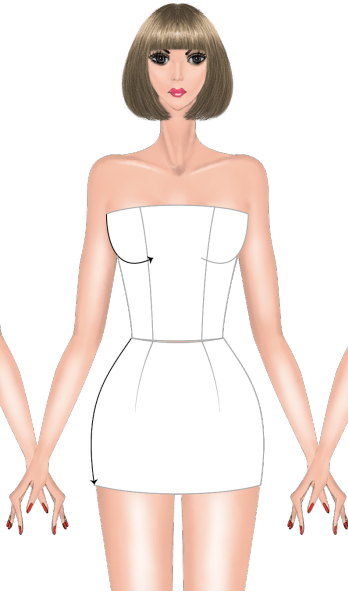
## Outfit 1



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



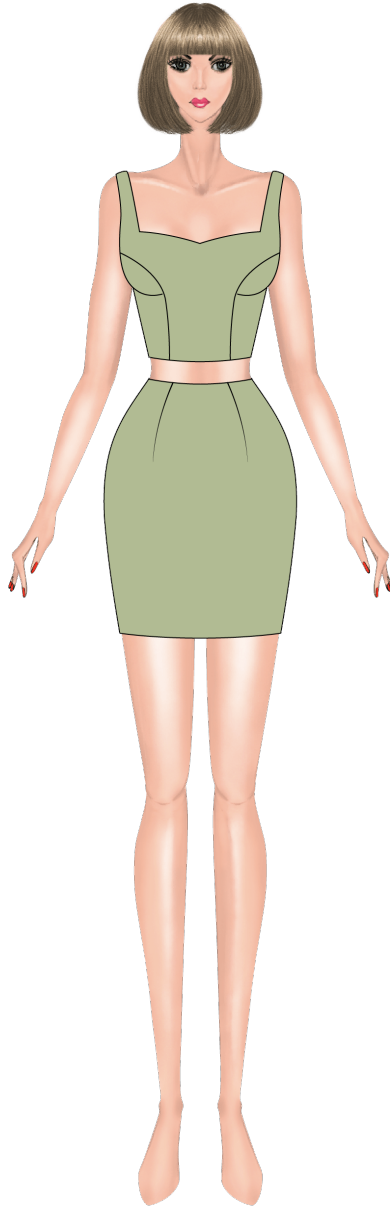
Step 4



Step 5



## Outfit 2



Step 1



Step 2



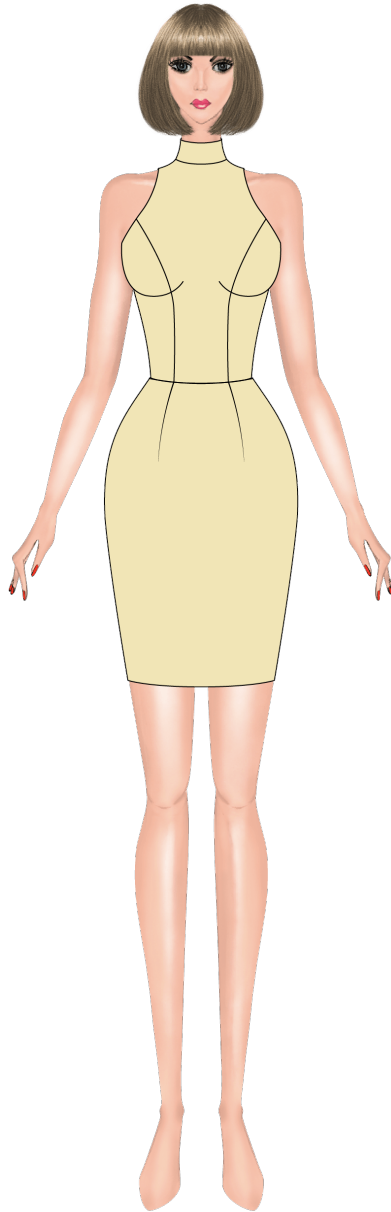
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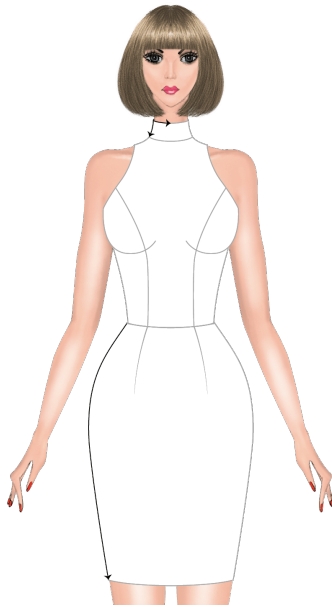
Step 3



### Outfit 3



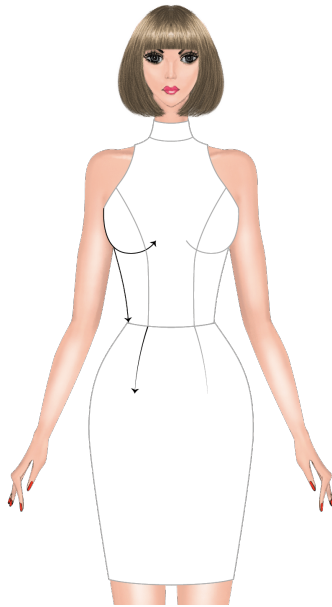
Step 1



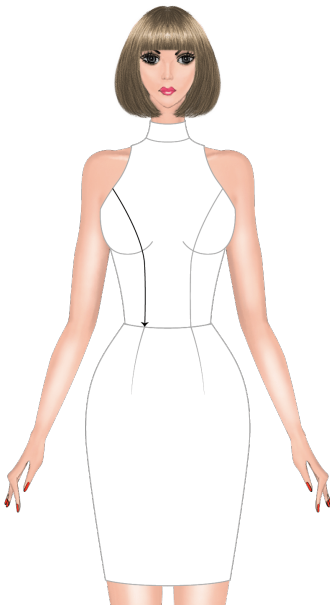
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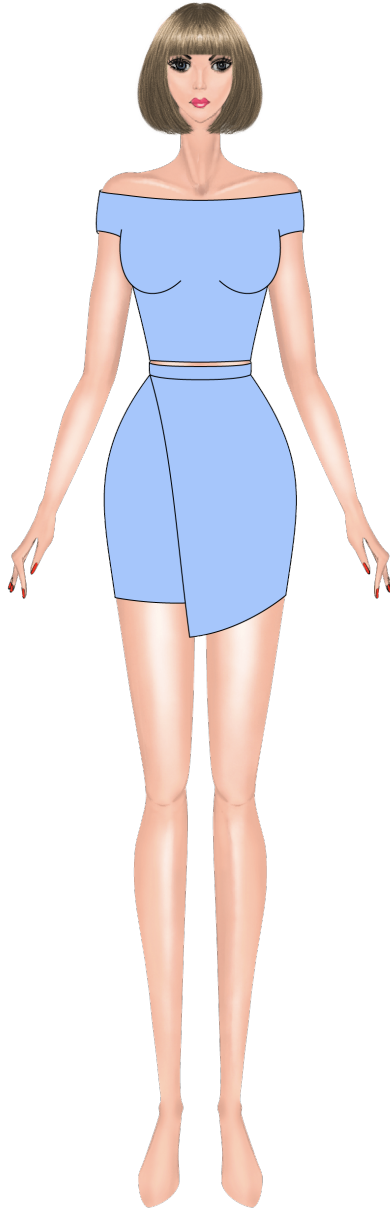
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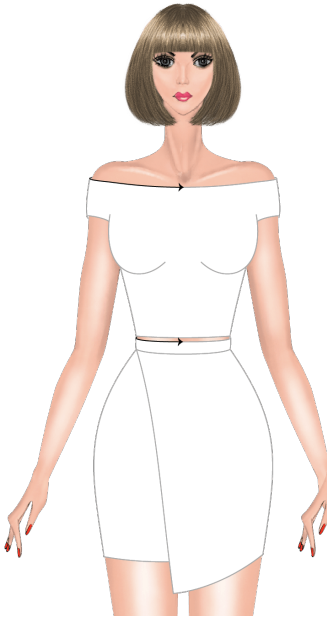
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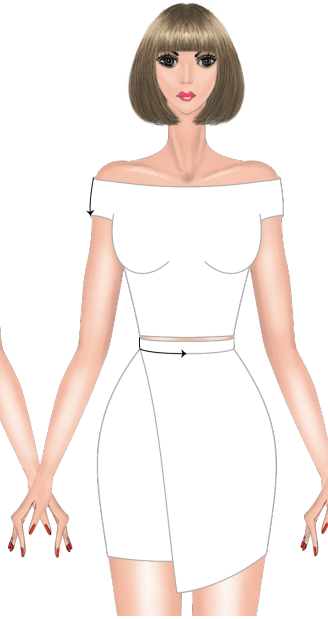
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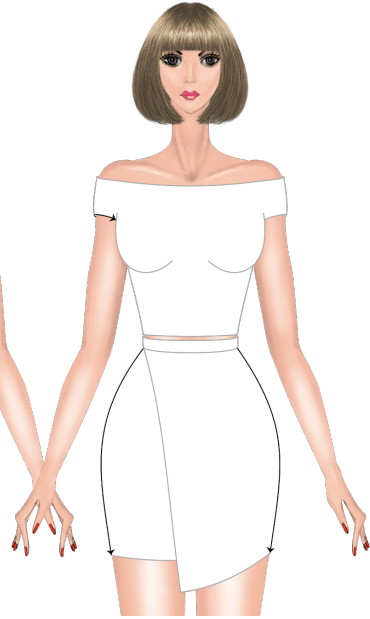
Step 1



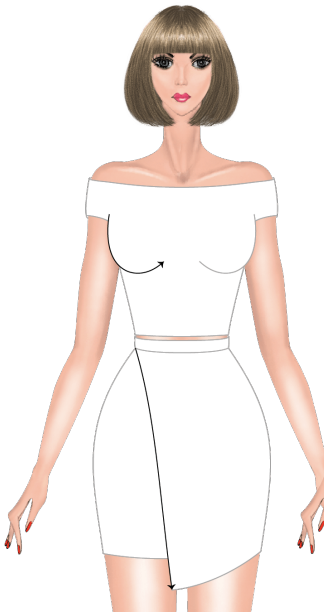
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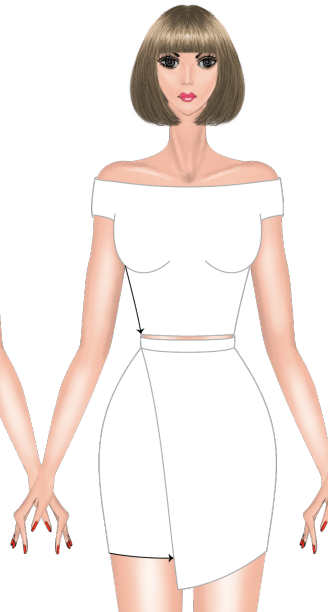
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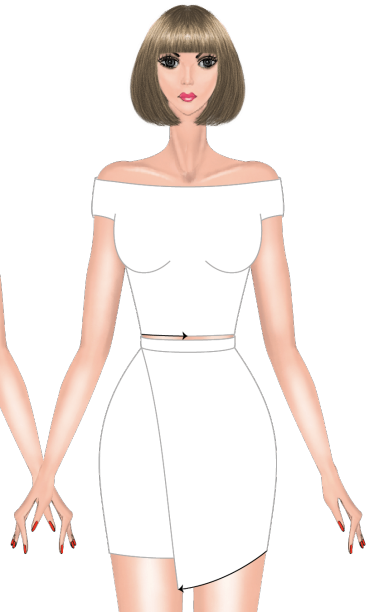
Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



## Outfit 5



Step 1



Step 2



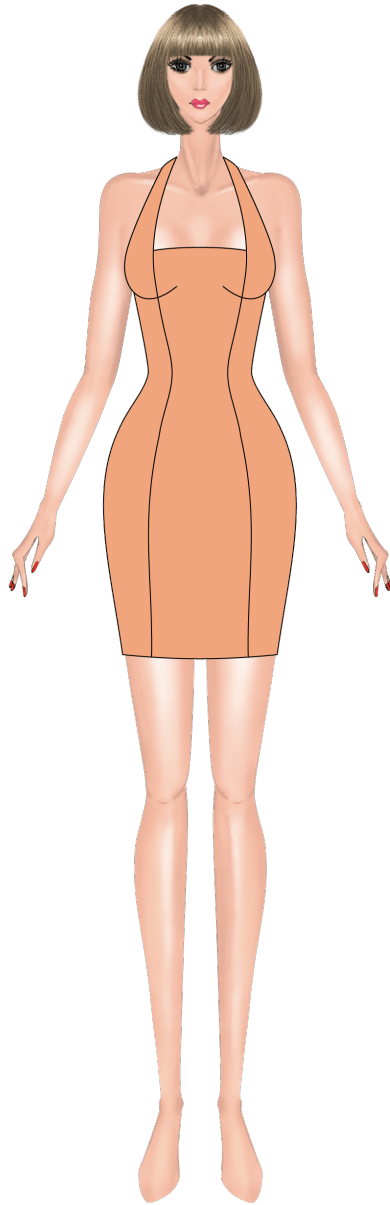
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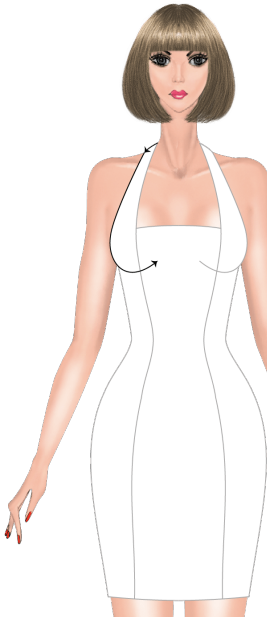
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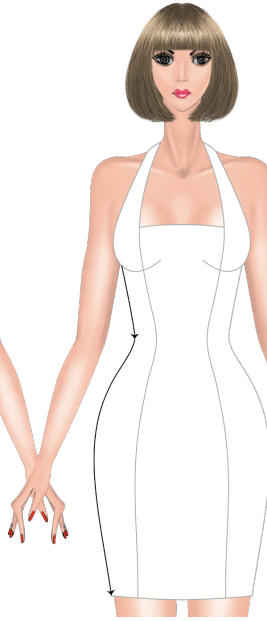
## Outfit 6



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



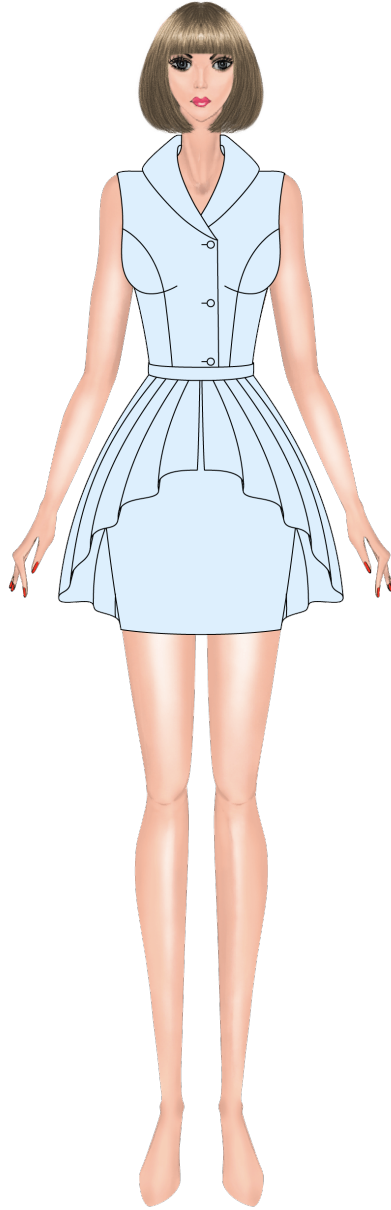
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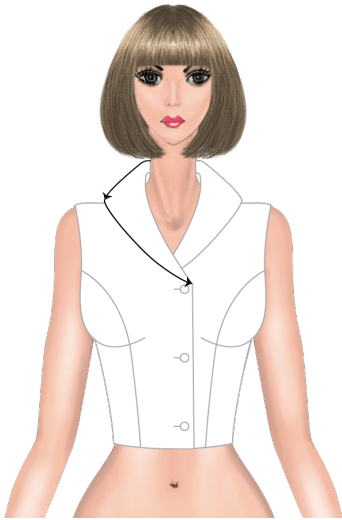
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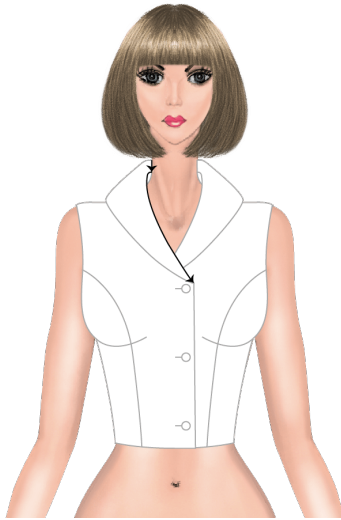
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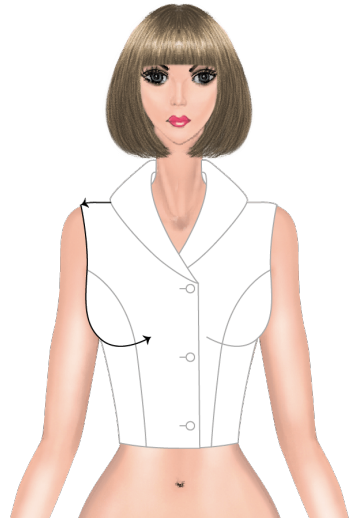
Step 1



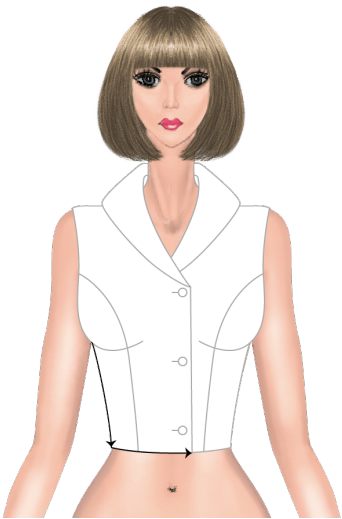
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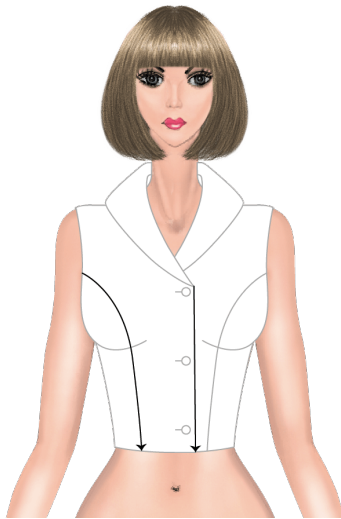
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Step 4



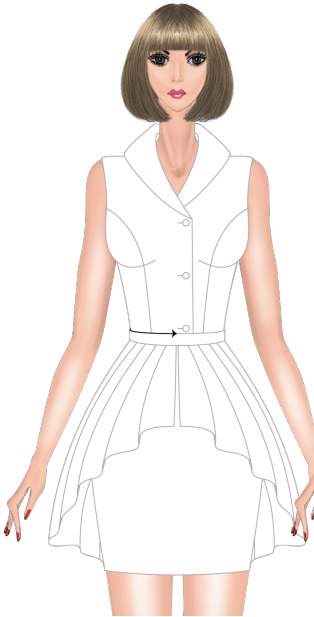
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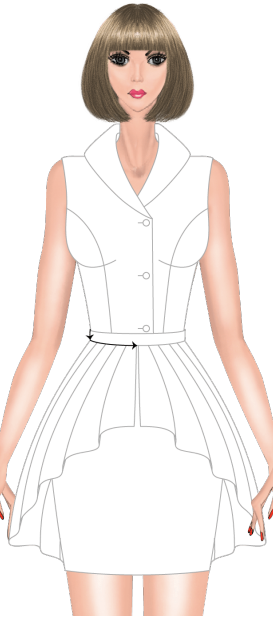
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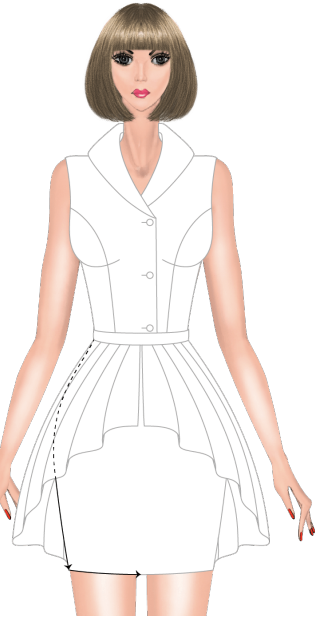
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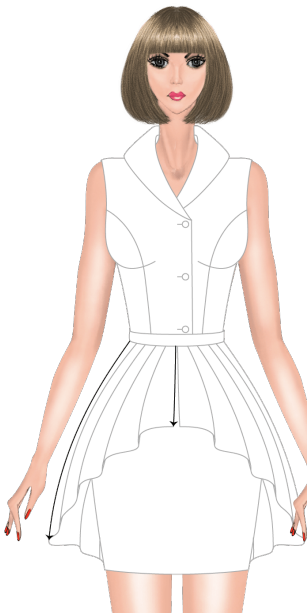
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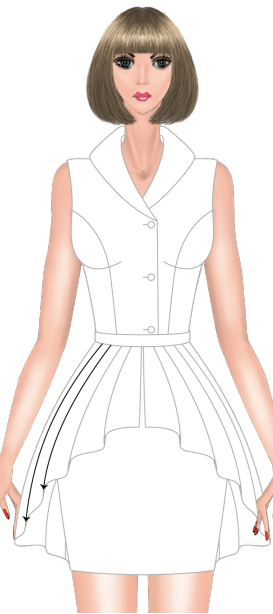
Step 9



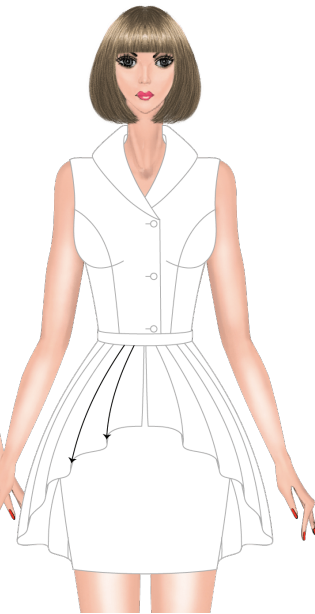
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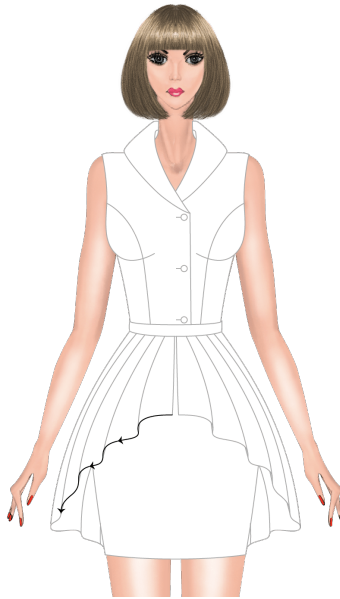
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Step 12



Step 13



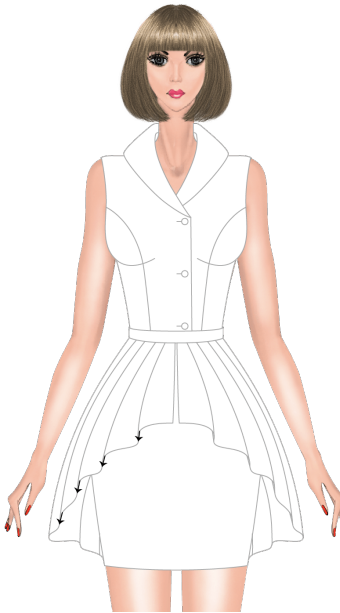
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Step 15



Step 16



## Outfit 8



Step 1



Step 2



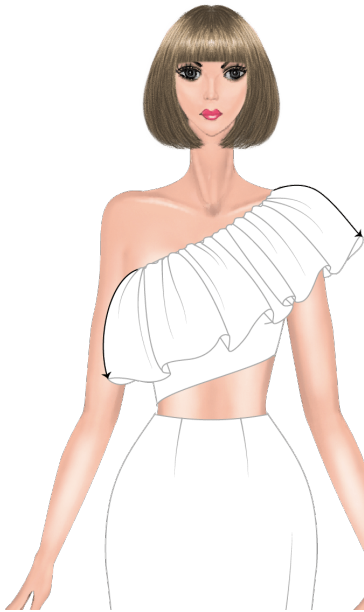
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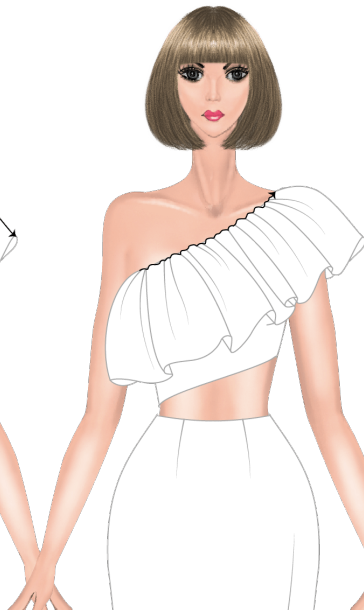
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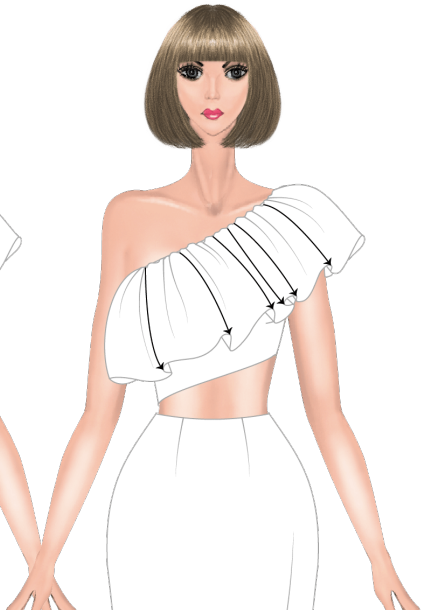
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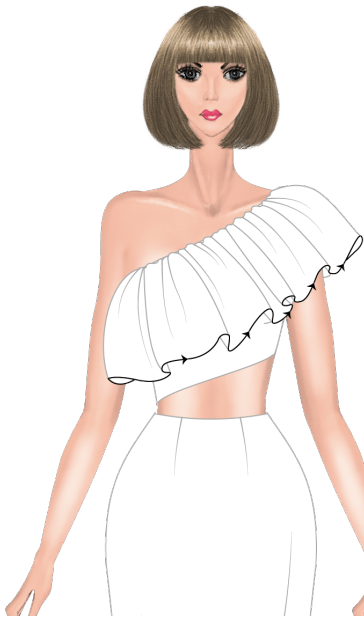
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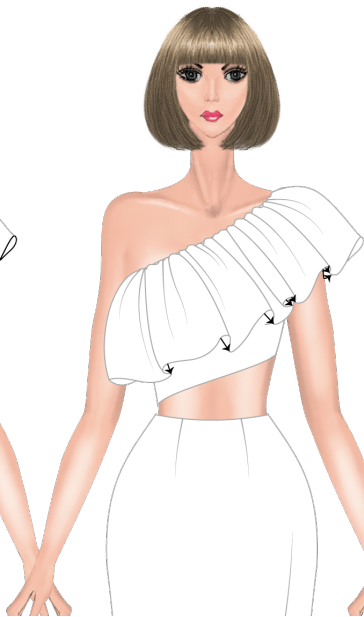
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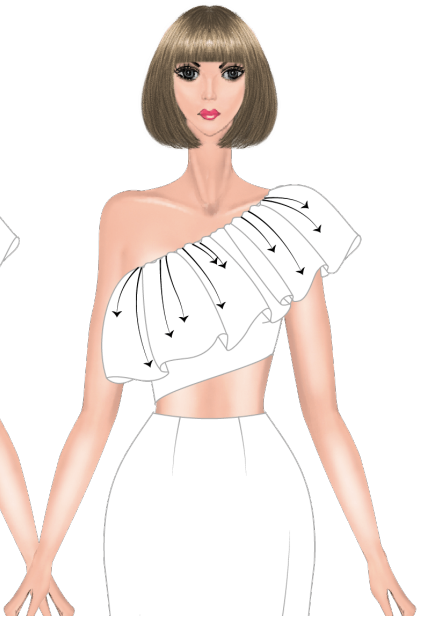
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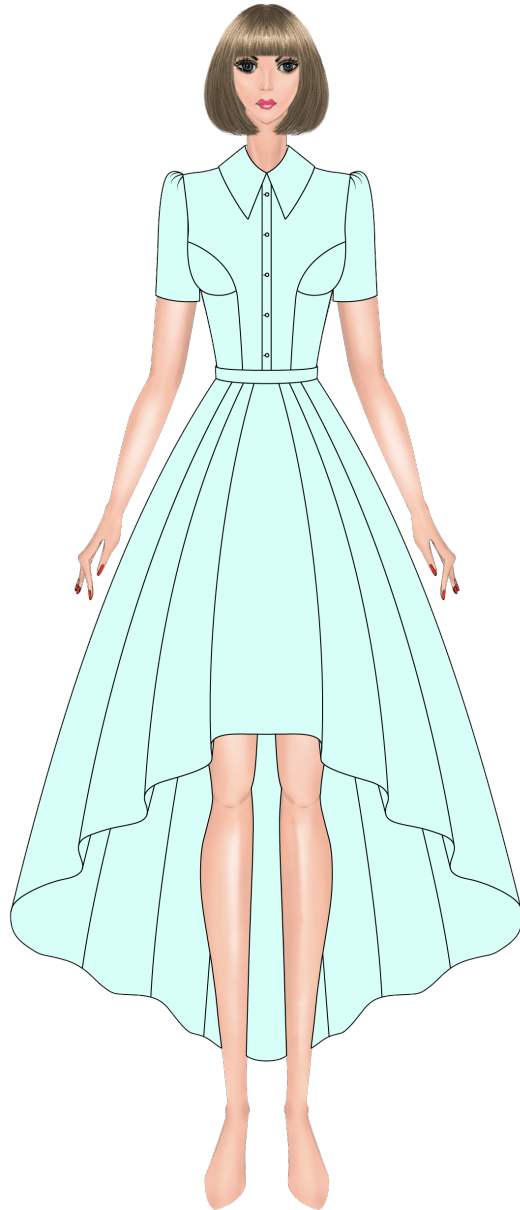
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Step 10



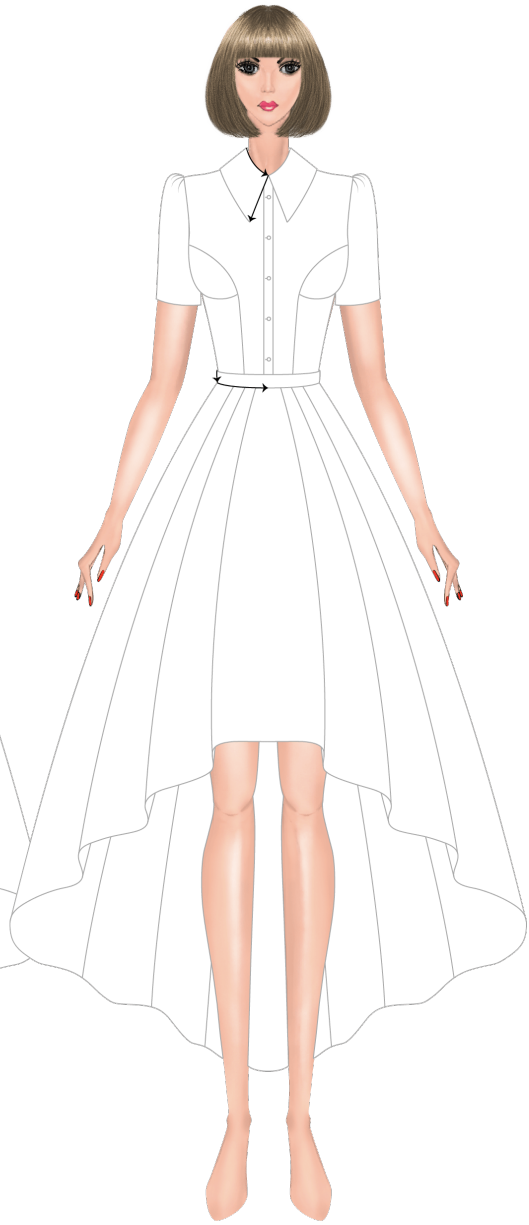
## Outfit 9



Step 1



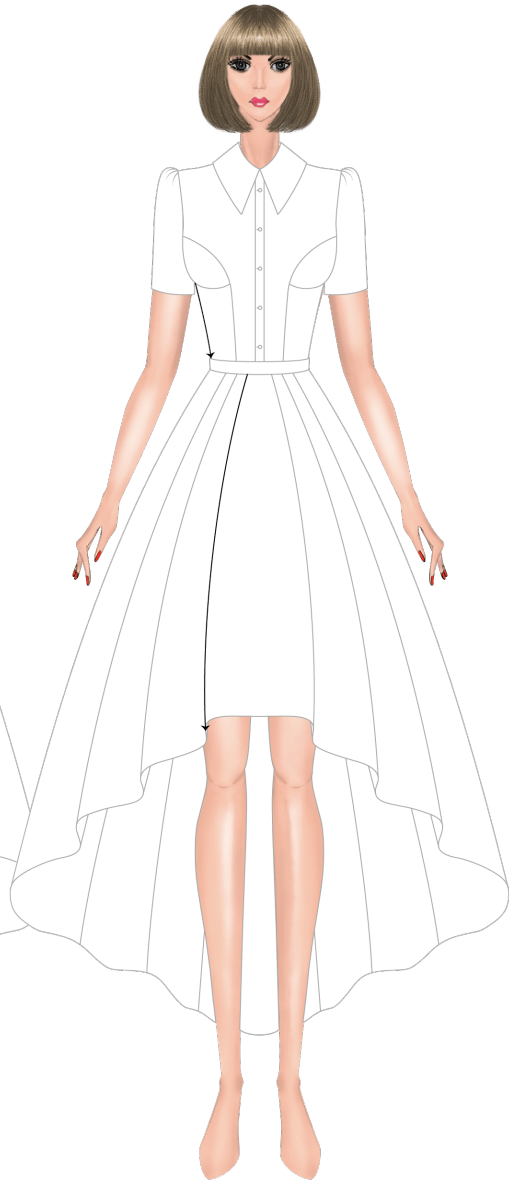
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Step 3



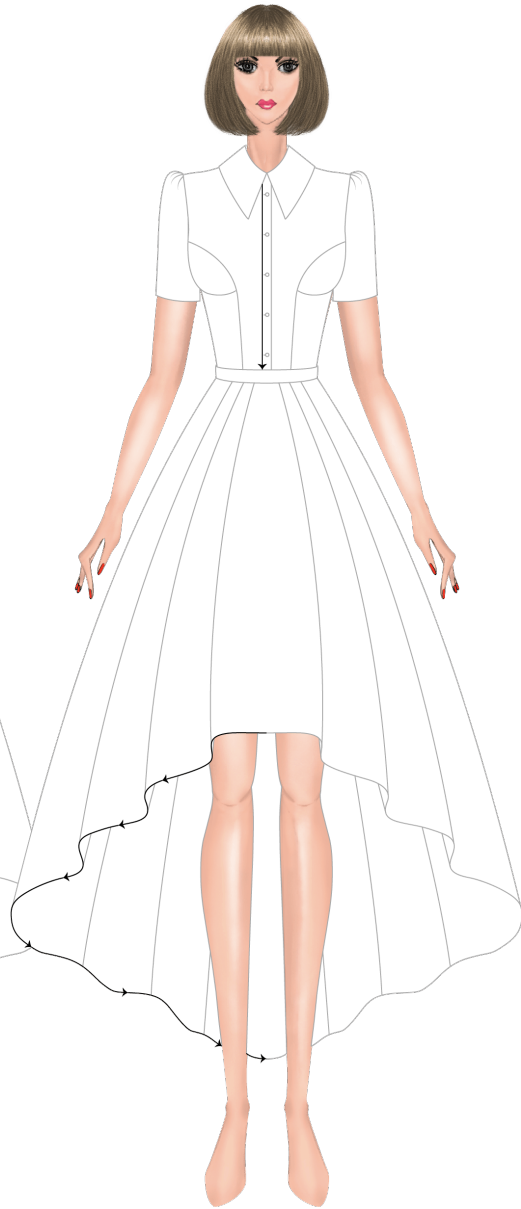
Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



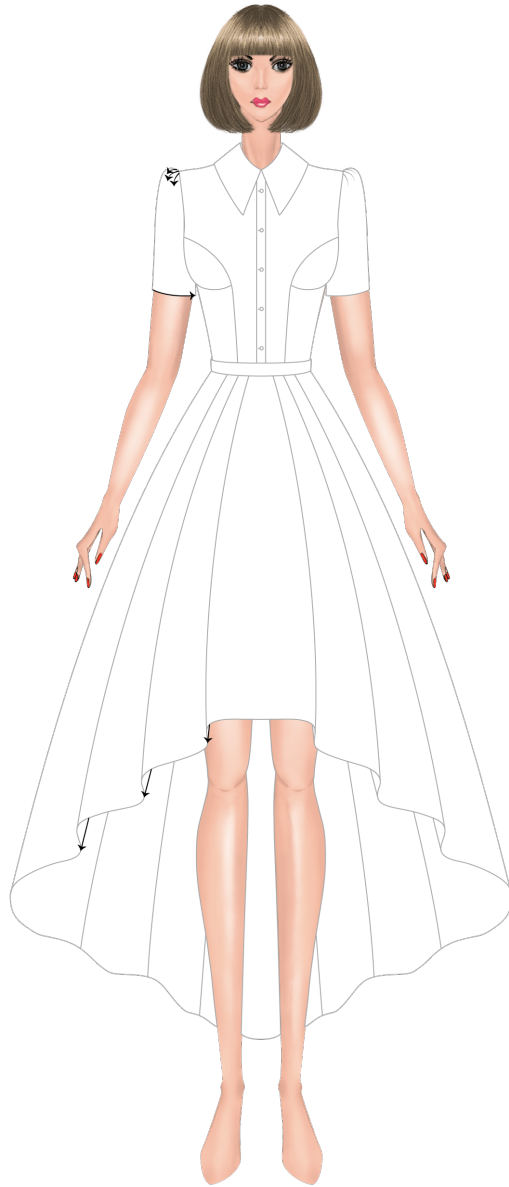
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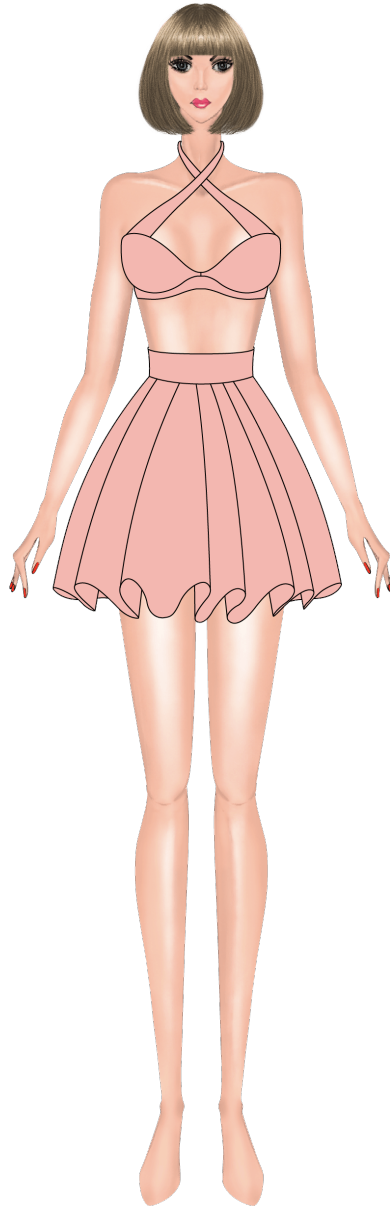
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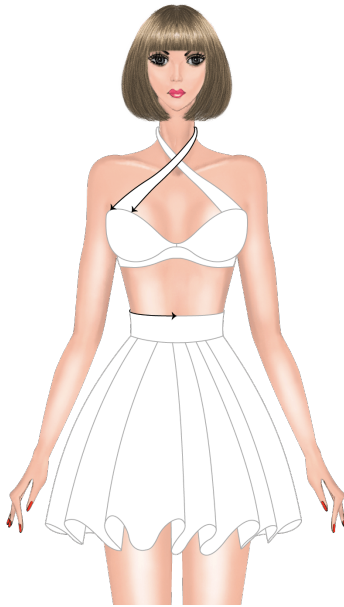
Step 9



## Outfit 10



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



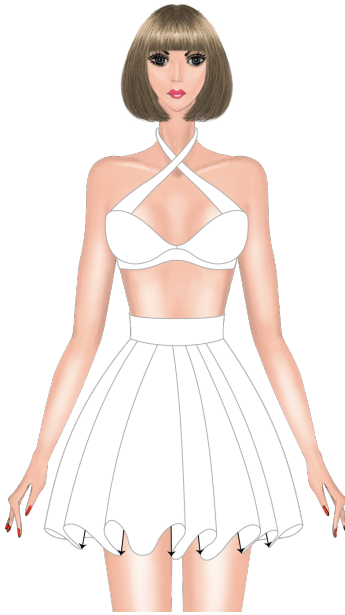
Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Step 7



## Make Practice Easy with Ready-to-Use Templates

If you want to speed up your learning or try new ideas quickly, my set of ready-to-use dress templates is the perfect companion. Some of the previous practice dresses are also included in the set. The outfit labels in the template set don't always match the outfit numbers used in this book, but they refer to the same designs.

These templates are designed to help you practice line drawing and outfit design, so you don't have to worry about what to draw next. You can stay focused on building your skills. Inside the set, you'll find a wide variety of mix-and-match elements, including bodices, skirts, sleeves, bows, pants, ruffles, and draped designs.

### How to use them:

- Import the templates into your drawing app.
- Combine the pieces in endless ways to create your own dress styles.
- Trace over the lines if it helps you get started, or go right into drawing freehand.

**Note:** These templates are currently available only in Procreate format (we'll cover Procreate in the upcoming chapters).

To access all the templates, visit: <https://www.modaforall.com/dress-templates-1>

If you want to practice drawing dresses with step-by-step guides like the examples in this chapter, visit: <https://www.modaforall.com/line-drawing1>

## Ready-to-Use Dress Templates

Save 120+ hours of sketching and planning



Practice instantly with endless outfit options—  
perfect for beginners



# Outfit Ideas for Line Drawing Practice

If you want to look up the designs yourself, try these outfit categories for practice ideas. Type the name into your browser to find reference images and inspiration.

**I. Tops:** Blouses, T-shirts, Shirts, Crop Tops, Camisoles, Corsets, etc.

**II. Bottoms:** Pants, Skirts, Shorts, etc.

**III. One-Piece Outfits:** Dresses, Jumpsuits, Rompers, etc.

**IV. Outerwear:** Jackets, Coats, Blazers, etc.

**V. Details:** Sleeves, Collars & Necklines, Pleats, Ruffles, etc.

**VI. Style Themes:** Punk, Rock, Gothic, etc.

## I. Tops

### a. Crop Tops

- (1) Off-shoulder crop top
- (2) One-shoulder crop top
- (3) Tube crop top
- (4) Ruched crop top
- (5) Long-sleeve fitted crop top
- (6) Square-neck crop top
- (7) Fringe crop top
- (8) Cowl neck crop top
- (9) Tie-front crop top
- (10) Bralette crop top
- (2) Wrap blouse
- (3) Ruffle blouse
- (4) Off-shoulder blouse
- (5) Sheer blouse
- (6) High-neck blouse
- (7) Tunic blouse
- (8) Long-sleeve blouse
- (9) Bow-tie neck blouse
- (10) Cold-shoulder blouse

### b. Blouses

- (1) Peplum blouse

### c. T-shirts

- (1) Classic crew-neck T-shirt
- (2) V-neck T-shirt
- (3) Oversized T-shirt

(4) Knotted front T-shirt

(5) Cropped T-shirt

#### **d. Shirts**

(1) Classic button-down shirt

(2) Oversized shirt

(3) Mandarin collar shirt

(4) Tie-front shirt

(5) Satin blouse shirt

(6) Plaid flannel shirt

(7) Denim shirt

(8) Boyfriend fit shirt

(9) Tuxedo shirt

#### **e. Tank Tops**

(1) Ribbed tank top

(2) Square-neck tank top

(3) Halter tank top

(4) Ruched tank top

(5) Muscle tank

(6) Racerback tank top

#### **f. Camisoles**

(1) Classic spaghetti strap cami

(2) Slip cami

(3) Lace-trimmed camisole

#### **g. Corsets & Bustiers**

(1) Lace-up corset top

(2) Bustier top

(3) Peplum corset top

(4) Sweetheart neckline bustier

(5) Leather corset

(6) Underbust corset

#### **h. Tunics**

(1) Boho tunic

(2) Side slit tunic

(3) Short-sleeve tunic

(4) Embroidered tunic

#### **i. Other tops**

(1) Wrap top

(2) Asymmetrical draped top

(3) Keyhole cutout top

(4) Crisscross strappy top

(5) Shoulder cutout top

(6) Halter top

(7) Chainmail top

(8) Bardot top

(9) Peasant top

## II. Bottoms

### a. Skirts

- (1) A-line skirt
- (2) Pencil skirt
- (3) Circle skirt
- (4) Wrap skirt
- (5) Mini skirt
- (6) Midi skirt
- (7) Maxi skirt
- (8) Flared skirt
- (9) Side slit skirt
- (10) Sarong wrap skirt
- (11) Draped skirt
- (12) Pleated plaid skirt
- (13) Box pleat skirt
- (14) Accordion pleat skirt
- (15) Knife pleat skirt
- (16) Kick pleat skirt
- (17) Gathered skirt
- (18) Peplum skirt
- (19) Ruffled skirt
- (20) Mermaid skirt
- (21) Tulle skirt
- (22) Tiered skirt
- (23) Bubble skirt
- (24) Tulip skirt
- (25) Button-front skirt
- (26) Skater skirt
- (27) Puffy skirt
- (28) Ballgown skirt
- (29) Handkerchief hem skirt
- (30) Godet skirt
- (31) Panel skirt
- (32) Gored skirt
- (33) Fringe skirt
- (34) Cargo skirt
- (35) Gathered hem skirt
- (36) Victorian bustle skirt
- (37) Steampunk bustle skirt
- (38) Asymmetric hem skirt
- (39) High-waisted pencil skirt
- (40) Paperbag skirt
- (41) Trumpet skirt
- (42) Denim skirt
- (43) High-low skirt
- (44) Belted skirt
- (45) Cascade skirt

(46) Skort

(47) Flounce skort

(48) Wrap skort

#### **b. Pants/Trousers**

(1) Straight-leg pants

(2) Wide-leg pants

(3) High-waisted pants

(4) Cargo pants

(5) Tailored pants

(6) Flared pants

(7) Skinny jeans

(8) Paperbag pants

(9) Linen pants

(10) Dress pants

(11) Riding pants

(12) Chinos (Chino pants)

(13) Palazzo pants

(14) Pinstriped pants

(15) Slouchy pants

(16) Harem pants

(17) Sweatpants

(18) Joggers

(19) Maternity pants

(20) Overalls

(21) Bootcut pants

(22) Bell bottoms

(23) Pleated pants

(24) Leather leggings

(25) Patchwork pants

(26) Embroidered jeans

(27) Drawstring pants

(28) Culottes

(29) Sailor pants

(30) Cuffed capris

(31) Cargo capris

(32) Cropped pants

(33) Ankle-length pants

(34) Distressed jeans

(35) Lace-trimmed pants

(36) Ruffle-hem pants

(37) Split hem pants

(38) Side-stripe pants

#### **c. Shorts**

(1) Denim cutoff shorts

(2) Cuffed shorts

(3) Bermuda shorts

(4) Biker shorts

(5) Short shorts

- (6) Hot shorts
- (7) Booty shorts
- (8) Cheeky shorts
- (9) Belted shorts
- (10) Wide-leg shorts
- (11) Buttoned shorts
- (12) High-waisted shorts
- (13) Lace overlay shorts
- (14) Tailored shorts

### **III. One-Piece Outfits**

#### **a. Dresses**

- (1) A-line dress
- (2) Shift dress
- (3) Column dress
- (4) Sheath dress
- (5) Slip dress
- (6) Empire waist dress
- (7) Jumper (Pinafore dress)
- (8) Bodycon dress
- (9) Fit & Flare dress
- (10) Shirt dress
- (11) Kaftan dress
- (12) Shirt dress
- (13) Mini dress
- (14) Midi dress
- (15) Maxi dress
- (16) Tunic dress
- (17) Peplum dress
- (18) Cowl neck dress
- (19) Halter neck dress
- (20) Tent dress
- (21) Trapeze dress
- (22) Babydoll dress
- (23) Drop waist dress
- (24) Trumpet dress
- (25) Mermaid dress

- (26) Wrap dress
- (27) Capelet gown
- (28) Cape gown
- (29) Ball gown
- (30) Corset gown
- (31) Fishtail gown
- (32) Coat dress
- (33) Chemise dress
- (34) One shoulder dress
- (35) Off-shoulder gown
- (36) Bardot dress
- (37) Bustier dress
- (38) Boho dress
- (39) High-low gown
- (40) Blouson dress
- (41) Draped gown
- (42) Double-breasted blazer dress
- (43) Tiered dress
- (44) Belted dress
- (45) Skater dress
- (46) Sweater dress
- (47) Tea-length dress
- (48) T-shirt dress
- (49) Pleated dress

- (50) Choker dress
- (51) Plunge dress

#### **b. Jumpsuits & Rompers**

- (1) Flared jumpsuit
- (2) Tailored jumpsuit
- (3) Culotte jumpsuit
- (4) Harem jumpsuit
- (5) Belted jumpsuit
- (6) Buttoned jumpsuit
- (7) Crossover jumpsuit
- (8) Halter jumpsuit
- (9) Utility jumpsuit
- (10) Bandeau romper
- (11) Boiler suit
- (12) Bridal jumpsuit
- (13) Hooded jumpsuit

## **IV. Outerwear**

### **a. Jackets**

- (1) Leather jacket
- (2) Bomber jacket
- (3) Biker jacket
- (4) Blazer jacket
- (5) Cropped jacket
- (6) Quilted jacket
- (7) Faux fur jacket
- (8) Trucker jacket
- (9) Denim jacket
- (10) Utility jacket
- (11) Camo jacket
- (12) Military jacket
- (13) Puffer jacket
- (14) Varsity jacket
- (15) Windbreaker jacket
- (16) Ski jacket
- (17) Bolero

### **b. Coats**

- (1) Trench coat
- (2) Cape coat
- (3) Single-breasted coat
- (4) Double-breasted coat

- (5) Pea coat
- (6) Overcoat
- (7) Faux fur hooded coat
- (8) Teddy coat
- (9) Chesterfield coat

### **c. Blazers**

- (1) Single-breasted blazer
- (2) Double-breasted blazer
- (3) Cropped blazer
- (4) Military blazer
- (5) Peacoat blazer
- (6) Tuxedo blazer
- (7) Oversized blazer
- (8) Plaid blazer
- (9) Corduroy blazer
- (10) Linen blazer

### **d. Sweaters & Knitwear**

- (1) Turtleneck sweater
- (2) Cowl neck sweater
- (3) Chunky knit sweater
- (4) Cashmere sweater
- (5) Fisherman sweater
- (6) Crew neck sweater

(7) Hooded cardigan

(12) Winter hat

(8) Open front cardigan

(9) Knit poncho

(10) Knitted shawl

(11) Sweater vest

(12) Long sleeve knit top

(13) Shrug

**e. Other outerwear types**

(1) Mackintosh (Raincoat)

(2) Hooded parka

(3) Waterproof parka

(4) Vest

**f. Outerwear accessories**

(1) Shawl

(2) Poncho

(3) Cape

(4) Scarf

(5) Gloves

(6) Beanie

(7) Headscarf

(8) Cowl scarf

(9) Earmuffs

(10) Wraps

(11) Fur stole

## V. Other Design Details

### a. Sleeves

- (1) Bishop sleeves
- (2) Puff sleeves
- (3) Ruched sleeves
- (4) Raglan sleeves
- (5) Petal sleeves
- (6) Three-quarter sleeves
- (7) Long sleeves
- (8) Batwing sleeves
- (9) Kimono sleeves
- (10) Cap sleeves
- (11) One shoulder sleeve
- (12) Off-shoulder sleeves
- (13) Cold-shoulder sleeves
- (14) Bell sleeves
- (15) Flounce sleeves
- (16) Butterfly sleeves
- (17) Angel sleeves
- (18) Puff sleeves with gathered cuffs
- (19) Balloon sleeves
- (20) Slit sleeves
- (21) Cape sleeves
- (22) Scallop sleeves
- (23) Pleated sleeves
- (24) Juliet sleeves
- (25) Leg of mutton sleeves
- (26) Lantern sleeves
- (27) Fringed sleeves
- (28) Roll up sleeves
- (29) Tiered sleeves
- (30) Layered sleeves
- (31) Gathered shoulder sleeves
- (32) Pointed sleeves
- (33) Mesh sleeves
- (34) Detachable sleeves
- (35) Ruffle sleeves
- (36) Set-in sleeve
- (37) Cut-out sleeves
- (38) Frill sleeves
- (39) Victorian sleeves
- (40) Cuffed sleeves
- (41) Flutter sleeves
- (42) Shirred sleeves
- (43) Thumbhole sleeves
- (44) Elastic sleeves
- (45) Mesh sleeves

(46) Zip-off sleeves

(47) Double cuff sleeves

### **b. Necklines & Collars**

(1) Square neck

(2) V-neck

(3) Sweetheart neckline

(4) Cowl neck

(5) Plunge neck

(6) Boat neck

(7) Turtle neck

(8) Keyhole neckline

(9) Scoop neck

(10) Halter neck

(11) Surplice neckline

(12) Jewel neck

(13) Crew neck

(14) Scalloped neckline

(15) Off-shoulder neckline

(16) Illusion neckline

(17) Gathered neckline

(18) Crossover neckline

(19) Bow-tie neckline

(20) Mandarin collar

(21) Shawl collar

(22) Pointed collar

(23) Fringe collar

(24) Peter Pan collar

(25) Double collar

### **c. Pleats**

(1) Box pleat

(2) Inverted box pleat

(3) Accordion pleat

(4) Knife pleat

(5) Sunray pleat

(6) Chevron pleat

(7) Spiral pleat

(8) Kick pleat

(9) Crystal pleat

(10) Organ pleat

## **VI. Style Themes**

- a. Punk
- b. Rock
- c. Gothic
- d. Vintage
- e. Boho/ Bohemian
- f. Futuristic/ Sci-fi
- g. Streetwear
- h. Casual/ Everyday
- i. Elegant/ Evening
- j. Wedding/ Bridal
- k. Sporty/ Athleisure
- l. Classic/ Timeless
- m. Avant-garde
- n. Royal/ Historical
- o. Fantasy
- p. Traditional/ Cultural

## **Find More Outfit Inspiration**

If you want to explore more outfit ideas, look up runway collections and lookbooks from your favorite designers. Most brands share their collections on their own websites and social media, so you'll find endless inspiration available.

## **Learn from Technical Drawings on Your Sewing Patterns**

I believe many of you have sewing patterns at home. Use the technical line drawings found on the back of these pattern envelopes. They're an easy and practical way to learn and practice line drawing skills.

## **Turn Your Line Drawings into Reusable Templates**

Once you've sketched a dress you like, don't let that drawing be a one-time thing. You can save it and reuse it as a template for many future designs.

Here's how I do it with digital tools: after I sketch the dress in Procreate (just a clean line drawing to capture the silhouette and main details), I export it to Adobe Illustrator and refine the lines in vector form. Then I save those drawings as templates and mix and match the tops and bottoms to create new outfits.

Because the line drawings are saved digitally, I can use them again and again for different textures, colors, and styles. I don't have to redraw the same outfit from scratch each time.

## What You Gain by Mastering Line Drawing

- **Lay a strong foundation.** Clear, confident lines are the backbone of any fashion illustration.
- **Train your eye.** You'll get better at spotting proportion, balance, and silhouettes.
- **Draw with ease.** The more you draw, the more naturally your ideas flow onto the page.
- **Prepare for advanced techniques.** Solid line drawing skills make adding color, texture, and detail much easier later on.

## Action Step

- ✓ If you want to draw on paper, print out your figure templates and grab a pencil and paper.
- ✓ If you're using a digital drawing app, import the templates into your app.
- ✓ Start with Outfit 1 and draw only the lines: no color, no shading.
- ✓ Aim to draw at least one outfit a day and watch your skills grow!

Start small, stay consistent, and build up your essential drawing skills. Your designs will only get better from here!


## Chapter Resources

 Ready-to-Use Dress Templates (Procreate Version):

<https://www.modaforall.com/dress-templates-1>

 Step-by-Step Dress Drawing Guides (Print/PDF):

<https://www.modaforall.com/line-drawing1>

 Designer Directory for Fashion Inspiration:

<https://www.modaforall.com/designer-directory>



Print readers: Go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources>



# **Chapter 4**

## **Step 4: Choose Your Medium**

## *Paper or Digital?*



## Picking Your Medium: Paper or Digital?

You've built a solid foundation in line drawing, practiced various outfit structures, and sharpened your skills. Now it's time to decide: will you draw on paper, or go digital?

Choosing the right medium will shape your workflow, efficiency, and creative freedom. Personally, I chose Procreate on the iPad as my main tool. It was a one-time investment that's truly been a game changer. It's saved me countless hours and lets me be creative without limitations.



*Figure 4.1. Fashion Illustration on Paper vs. Digital Illustration in Procreate*

## Why I Switched to Digital Illustration

One of the biggest benefits I've experienced with Procreate is that I no longer have to redraw figures, hairstyles, or skin tones from scratch. My workflow is faster and more efficient, giving me more freedom to experiment with dress ideas.



*Figure 4.2. Fashion Illustration in Procreate  
Using My Copy-and-Paste Figure Templates on the iPad*

Once I create my dress outlines (as covered in Step 3), I can reuse them over and over, making quick tweaks like adding ruffles or changing design details. There's no need to start from scratch every time, which saves me a lot of time and energy.



*Figure 4.3. Fashion Illustration  
Using Custom Brushes and Different Poses in Procreate*

I can also experiment with different color palettes and patterns without needing dozens of markers or colored pencils. It's a huge cost-saver.

Plus, with Procreate, I can draw dresses anywhere and anytime. I don't need to carry sketchbooks, pencils, or markers. I just grab my iPad and start drawing.



*Figure 4.4. Unlimited Color Options:  
A Cost-Saving Alternative to Traditional Markers*

Personally, I'd never have been able to draw as many dresses if I hadn't switched to Procreate. But whatever you choose, the most important thing is to stay consistent and keep practicing.

If you want speed, flexibility, and creative freedom, I highly encourage you to give digital drawing a try. You'll spend more time designing, less time redrawing, and improve faster than ever.

## Key Benefits of Going Digital

If you're on the fence about digital, here are some strong reasons to consider it:

- 1. Faster & More Efficient Workflow:** Reuse templates, duplicate dresses, and add color quickly with fill tools. There's no need to redraw from scratch.
- 2. Infinite Color Options:** Access a full color library without buying lots of expensive markers or colored pencils.
- 3. Layered Drawing for Easy Editing:** Work on separate layers (outline on one, shading on another, details on a third). You can move, resize, or adjust any part of your design without affecting the rest.
- 4. Symmetry and Guides:** Mirror your designs with symmetry tools so you don't have to draw both sides. Use built-in grids to help with proportions and alignment.
- 5. Portability and Space-Saving:** Replace stacks of supplies with one device. You can draw anywhere, anytime.
- 6. Instant Sharing and Portfolio Building:** Export your work instantly for print, social media, or your portfolio.
- 7. More eco-friendly:** Experiment as much as you like without wasting paper or traditional supplies.
- 8. Faster Learning Curve:** A variety of built-in and custom brushes let you quickly mimic real textures or try new effects, so you can practice, experiment, and learn faster.
- 9. Experiment Without Fear:** Mistakes are no big deal. Try bold ideas, erase or undo instantly, and refine your work as much as you like.

## Still Prefer Traditional Drawing? That's Okay!

If you love the feel of pencil on paper, that's totally valid. Many people enjoy the hands-on, tactile experience of traditional sketching.

The good news? My figure templates work for both paper and digital. Simply print them out for hand-drawing, or import them into Procreate on iPad or any app that supports PNG format, whether you're using an iPad, Android tablet, or desktop.

Check out the Ultimate Figure Templates here:


<https://www.modaforall.com/ultimate-figure-templates-bundle>

### Action Step

- ✓ Choose your preferred medium: digital drawing with Procreate or drawing on paper.
- ✓ If you choose digital, download Procreate from the App Store.

## Chapter Resources

 Download Procreate from the App Store.

 Print readers: Go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources>

# **Chapter 5**

## **Step 5: Explore Procreate Features**

## Turn Procreate into Your Fashion Studio



# Procreate Essentials

Since I went all in with Procreate, I quickly realized how powerful it is for fashion illustration. In this step, I'll guide you through the essential features that will help you draw dresses faster, with more control and creative freedom. If you're completely new to Procreate, this step will save you time and frustration as you learn the basics.

Procreate includes a wide range of tools that make your design process more efficient, flexible, and professional-looking. You can edit, refine, and experiment freely, so your creativity never hits a wall.

I've put together a **Procreate Basics Guide** you can download for free on my website.

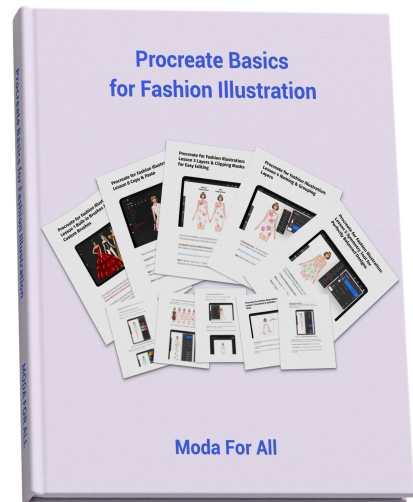
<https://www.modaforall.com/procreate-basics>

Prefer to watch and learn? You can also find a complete playlist of Procreate basics on YouTube, so you can see every tool in action.

**Watch on YouTube for free:** <https://www.youtube.com/@modaforall.official>  
Print readers: go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources> for the link.

Ready to get hands-on? The real fun begins when you start experimenting with brushes. Procreate comes with a variety of built-in brushes that mimic traditional art tools like pencils and markers.

Here are some of my favorites for dress illustration:



# 1. Built-In Brushes

- **Studio Pen (Inking):** My go-to for line drawing. It provides a smooth, sharp finish that really makes designs stand out (*see Figure 5.1*).
- **Fat Nozzle (Spraypaints), Soft Brush (Airbrush):** Both are great for soft shading.
- **Flare (Luminance):** Adds a sparkle effect to metallic and shiny fabrics.

Procreate's built-in brushes give you plenty of textures and effects to explore (*see Figure 5.2*). Try out different brush options to see which ones suit your style, and adjust settings like opacity and size to achieve your desired look.

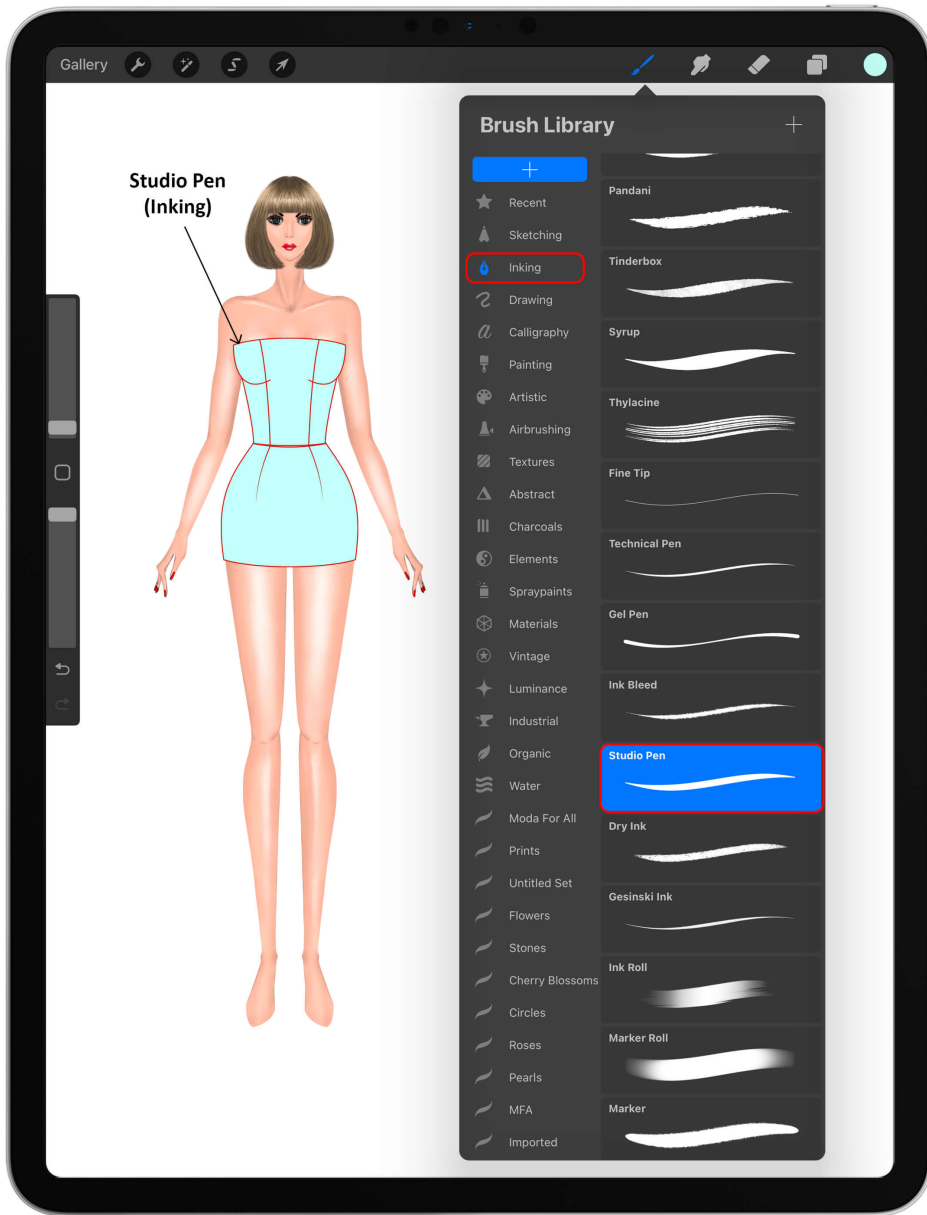


Figure 5.1. Line Drawing Using Studio Pen Built-In Brush



*Figure 5.2. Fashion Illustrations Using Built-in Brushes*

## 2. Custom Brushes

If you want even more creative control and unique textures, custom brushes are a game changer. Procreate allows you to create and import custom brushes for endless possibilities.

✓ **Moda For All Shading Brush:** My magic brush! I use it for every dress I draw, including metallic, faux leather, and other textures (see Figure 5.3). I can't live without it!

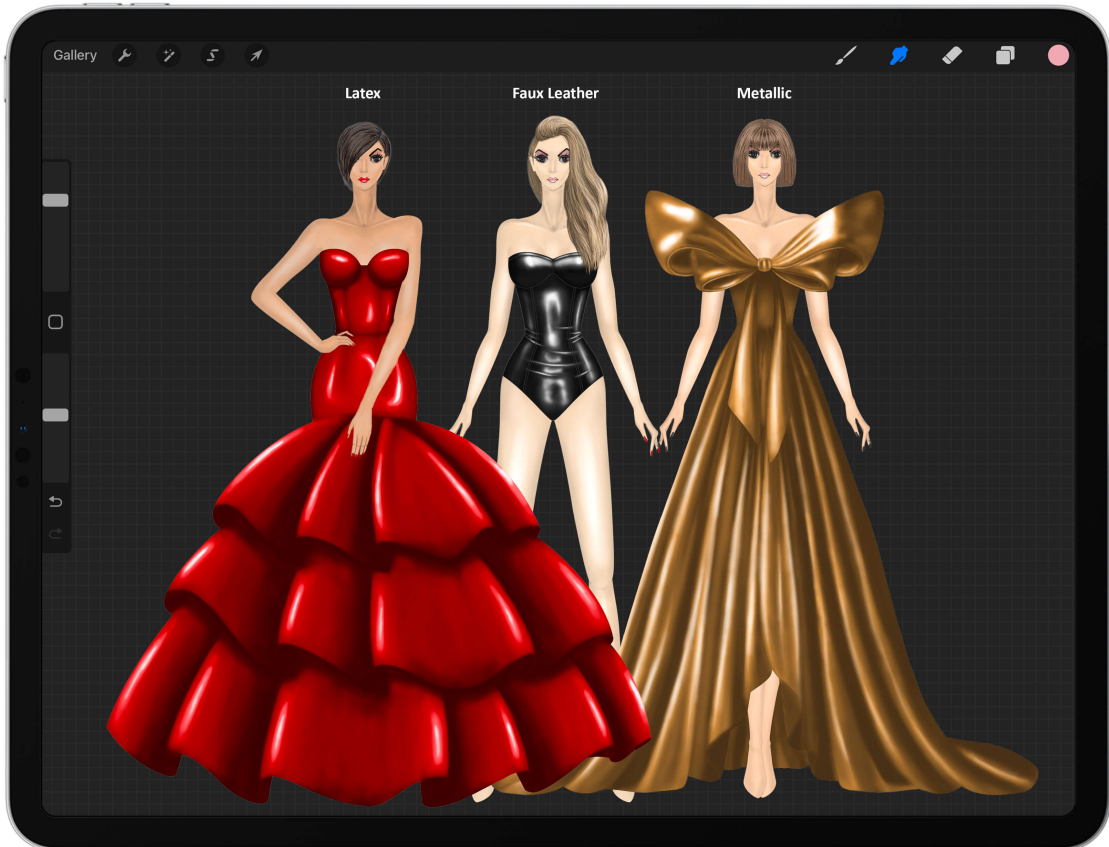


Figure 5.3. Different Textures Using Moda For All Shading Brush

✓ **Other Instant Pattern Brushes** – I’ve also created pattern brushes like Flowers, Stars, Herringbones, Polka Dots, Cow Print, and more (see *Figures 5.4 and 5.5*).



*Figure 5.4. Fashion Illustration Using  
Moda For All Shading Brush & Instant Flower Pattern Brush*



*Figure 5.5. Fashion Illustration Using  
Moda For All Shading Brush & Instant Pattern Brush*

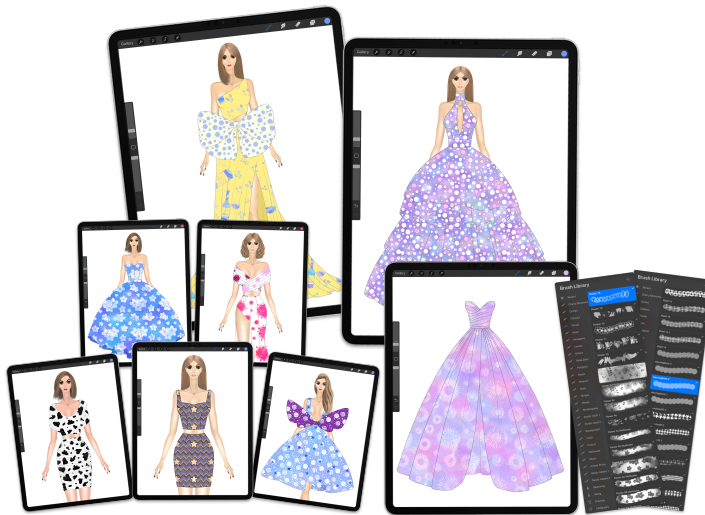
**Want to add instant pattern to your designs?** Start with this set of beginner-friendly pattern brushes you can use right away. They're easy to apply and so much fun. You'll instantly fall in love with creating in Procreate!

Download my instant brushes here:

<https://www.modaforall.com/procreate-studio-vault>

## Quick & Easy Procreate Studio Vault

Get access to 167 instant Procreate Brushes & 40 Fabric  
Patterns — 550+ total variations



**Draw stunning fabric patterns in seconds—  
perfect for beginners**



## See the Difference for Yourself


When you watch these tools in action on my YouTube lessons, you'll see how Procreate unlocks creative options and time-saving shortcuts you just can't get with paper drawing. You'll also see how learning Procreate's basic features can transform your dress shading, which we'll explore more deeply in the next chapter. It's easier than you think and saves you tons of effort!

***Disclaimer:** Procreate did not sponsor me for this book. 😊 I'm simply sharing a resource that could transform the way you draw, helping you create amazing fashion illustrations you may never have thought possible.*


## Action Step

- ✓ If you haven't already, download [Procreate](#) from the App Store.
- ✓ Download the Procreate Basics Guide from my website, or watch the lessons on YouTube.
- ✓ Experiment with the built-in brushes.
- ✓ If you want to add more stunning pattern designs to your dresses, visit my Procreate Studio Vault.

## Chapter Resources

 Procreate Basics Guide For Fashion Illustration:

<https://www.modaforall.com/procreate-basics>

 Watch Procreate Basics on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@modaforall.official>

 Instant Pattern Brushes:

<https://www.modaforall.com/procreate-studio-vault>



Print readers: Go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources>

# **Chapter 6**

## **Step 6: Learn Basic Shading Techniques**

## Go Beyond Flat Sketches



# Create Depth with Highlights and Shadows

To make your fashion illustrations look more dimensional and realistic, you mainly need **highlights and shadows**. A few well-placed shadows can instantly make your drawing look more polished.

The very first thing to decide is where your light is coming from. Your light source will tell you where highlights should appear, and where shadows will naturally fall.

I learned the core of my shading approach from Zoe Hong. She's truly an icon of fashion illustration. Without her tutorials, I wouldn't have learned these basics. Here are three key shadow ideas I picked up from her:

## Zoe Hong's Three Shadow Ideas

### 1. Shadows fall away from the light source

This is simple but essential. Shadows always appear on the side opposite the light. For example:

- If you face the light, your back will be in shadow.
- If light hits the left side, shadows will fall more to the right.

### 2. Top-down light (light from above)

In most fashion illustrations, the light is coming from above. That means:

- The top surfaces of the body and clothing (like the shoulders and upper chest) catch more light.
- The underneath surfaces (like under the bust, under folds, and under the arms) collect more shadow.

### 3. Cast/ Drop shadows

These are shadows that one object casts onto another surface. For example:

- Your hand casting a shadow on your face if you block the sun.
- Hair brushing across the face, casting a subtle shadow on the forehead or cheek.

I highly recommend watching Zoe Hong's shadow videos [here](#).

For additional practice on shadow placement, you'll also find very helpful tips from Brent Eviston [here](#).

If you're reading the printed version, go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources>.

## !! Focus Only on Highlights and Shadows

In this step, I'd like you to focus only on highlights and shadows, not on fabric texture yet. As a beginner, texture is something you add later, after you feel more confident with shading. If you focus on texture too early, it can distract you from understanding the basics and slow down your improvement.

For now, think of it very simply:

- **Highlights** = lighter tones (closer to white)
- **Shadows** = darker tones (closer to black)

I already explained the Value slider (under Hue, Saturation, and Brightness) in the Procreate Basics video I mentioned in Chapter 5, "Explore Procreate Features."

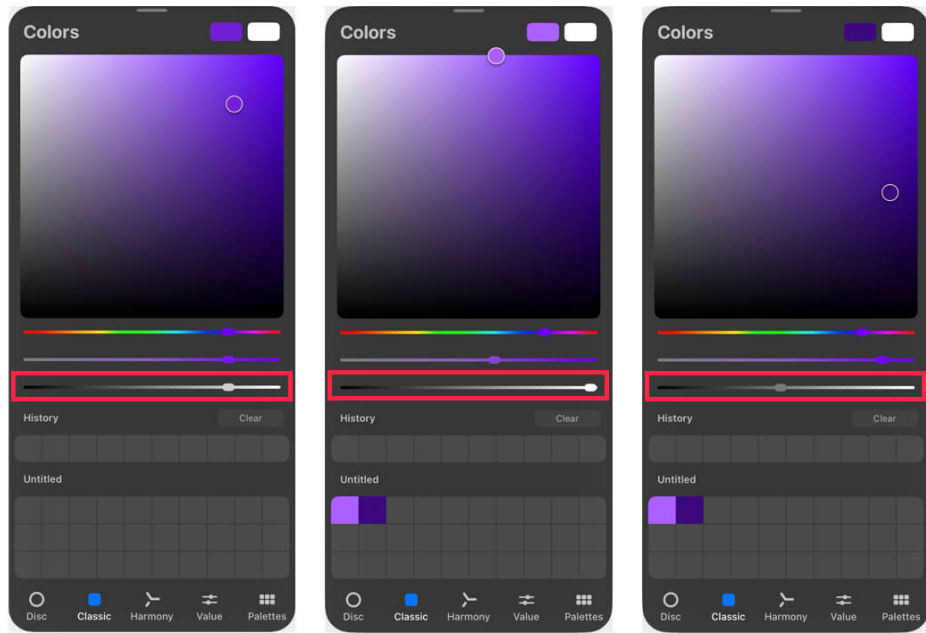
If you haven't watched that yet, you can find it [here](#).

Print readers: go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources> for the link.

To repeat the key point (*Figure 6.1*):

- Increasing the Value makes your color lighter (more white)
- Decreasing the Value makes your color darker (more black)

**Value  
Slider**



*Figure 6.1. Highlight color and Shadow color*

# How I Shade Dresses

When I shade dress illustrations, I like to think through a few key points. You can use this as a simple checklist while you practice.

## 1. Define the light source

First, decide where your light is coming from (we already talked about this at the beginning of the chapter). Once that's clear, you'll know which parts will catch the highlights and which parts will fall into shadow.

**Note:** Since we're working with basic shading and I don't want to overwhelm you, let's stick to one light source only. Imagine the light coming from above and in front of the figure (often called "top-front lighting").

## 2. Add shadows

Since we already practiced line drawings in Chapter 3, you're already familiar with the basic shapes of the outfit. Now we'll add shadows along those lines to define its structure and form. I shade along most of the lines, but I deepen the shadows in the areas that receive less light. We're simply following those lines and adding darker tones where needed.

### Areas to think about for shadows:

- Under bust/lower chest area. The bust or chest protrudes forward, so the area underneath usually sits more in shadow.
- Under creases and along folds in the fabric.
- Behind and beneath draped fabric, and anywhere layers of fabric overlap (like a layered skirt or a jacket over a dress).
- Under arms and along sides of torso, where the body curves away from the light.
- Under hemlines, where the skirt or dress hangs away from the body and casts

shadows onto the legs.

- Under belts, bows, ruffles, jewelry, or hair, and anywhere one part of the body or garment sits on top of another.
- Back of dress or skirt that turns away from the light, even when seen from the front.
- Inside/wrong side of fabric usually appears darker and is a good place to show the color difference between right and wrong sides of the fabric.

The strength of your shadows depends on what we talked about in Chapter 3, “Master Line Drawings” (section 5, “Understanding Creases and Folds”), the thickness and type of fabric, and whether the garment is more fitted or loose.

In that chapter, we learned that:

- (a) Thicker or stiffer fabrics create sharper, more defined folds (usually fewer of them).
- (b) Thinner, softer, or stretchy fabrics create softer folds, often with more of them.

For this basic shading practice, you can ignore fabric type and just focus on placing light and shadow in the right areas.

**Notes:**

- I always start with the shadows (darker tones) first, then gradually move to the highlights (lighter tones).
- For quick shading, I usually use 2–3 tones for shading, plus 1 tone for the fabric pattern (if I’ve added one).
- For more realistic, textured dresses, I like using more than 4–5 tones to build depth and richness.

### **3. Add highlights**

Once the shadows are in place, I add highlights.

This also depends on fabric type and how tight or loose the garment is, but for this basic step we'll keep it simple and not worry too much about that.

#### **Areas to think about for highlights:**

- Shoulders and collarbone area.
- Upper chest (the top of the bust / upper breast area).
- Belly area: even on very slim or petite body types, the belly is not completely flat; it usually curves forward slightly and can catch light.
- Thighs and shins.
- Tops of creases and folds.

These are the areas that tend to catch the most light when it comes from above and in front.

## Step-by-Step: Basic Shading Demos

Let's apply this shading technique to the garments.

To make these demos easier to follow, you can watch the matching Basic Shading Lessons on my [YouTube channel](#).

Print readers: go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources> for the link.

### What I Use in These Demos

- **Pattern details:** Fabric patterns created with the Instant Pattern Brushes from my Procreate Studio Vault (introduced in Chapter 5)
- **Dress templates:** Ready-to-use Dress Templates (mentioned in Chapter 3). All of these templates are pre-filled with color, so in these demos I simply apply shading on top.
- **Shading tools:** My custom Moda For All Shading Brush and the Basic Shading Palettes from my Procreate Fashion Shading Library, available here: <https://www.modaforall.com/gold-metallic>
- **Figure templates:** Ultimate Figure Templates (mentioned in Chapter 2). All of these figure templates are pre-shaded with 20 different skin tones.

## Procreate Fashion Shading Library

Include my signature Shading Brush, 103 Premium Palettes, 123-page Palette Guide, Basic Shading Video Lessons—and so much more.



**Learn basic dress shading and gold metallic texture using the Moda For All Brush.**





Watch the Shading Lessons [here](#).

Print readers: go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources> for the link.



## Shading Outfit 3

### Step 0: Confirm the light source

We've already defined the light as **top-front lighting** (see Checklist No. 1).

### Step 1: Apply the fabric pattern (Optional) (see Figure 6.2)

Apply the **Butterfly 3** Pattern with **Color 1**.

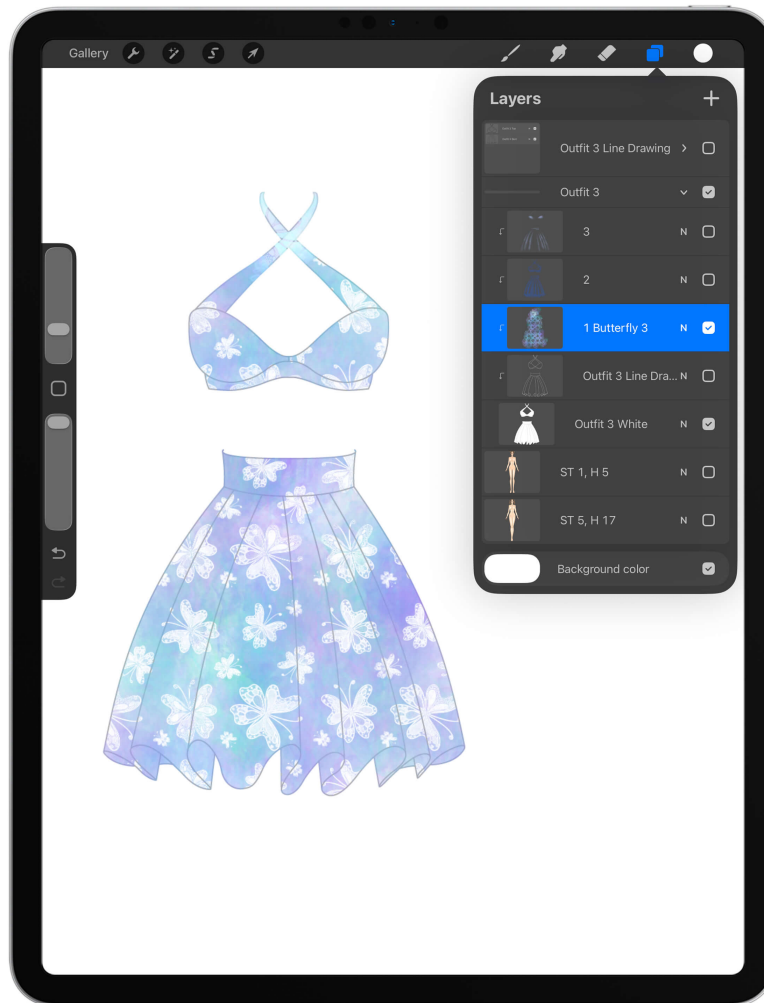



Figure 6.2. Shading Outfit 3 – Applying the Fabric Pattern (Step 1)

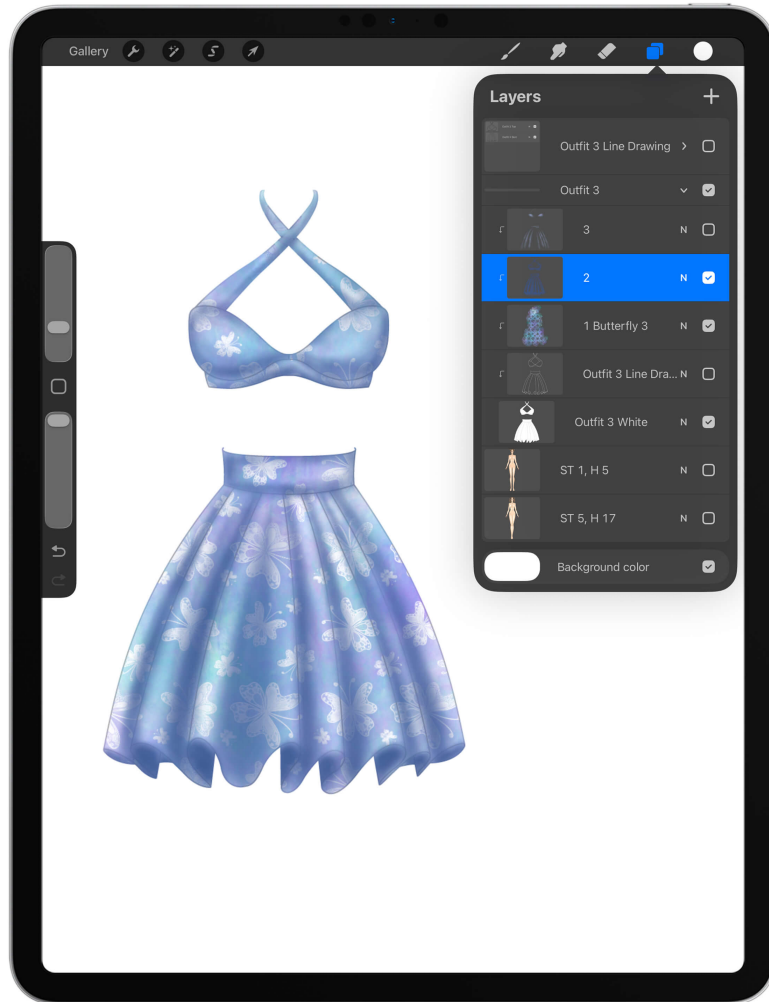
**Step 2: Add the shadows** (see Checklist No. 2 and Figure 6.3)

Switch to my **Moda For All Shading Brush**. Use **Color 2** to add shadows along the line drawing and define the structure of the outfit.

Focus on these key shadow areas:

- The **lower bust area** will generally appear more shaded.
- This skirt has a circular shape. The **raised “hill” areas** (I call these “skirt cones” in my YouTube video) catch more light and cast shadows behind and between them.
- The **inside of the skirt (the wrong side or lining)** receives less light, so it should generally appear darker than the outer surface.

 **Tip:** If you're reading this digitally, switch to 2-page view. This lets you see both the explanation and illustration together.



*Figure 6.3. Shading Outfit 3 – Applying Shadows (Step 2)*

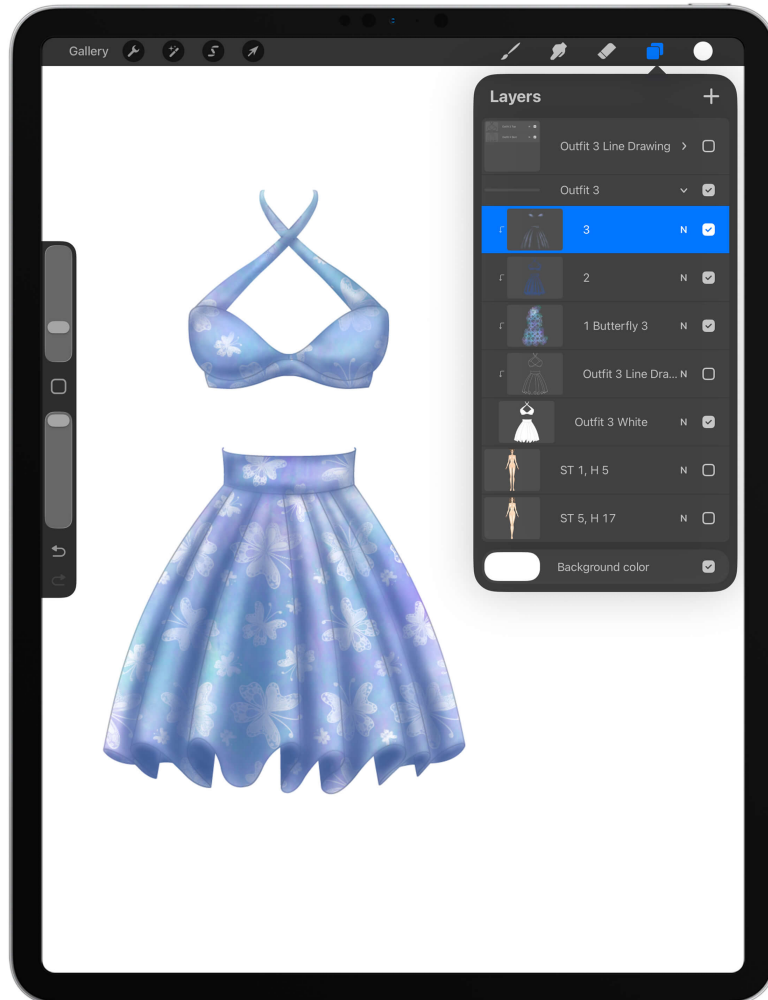
**Step 3: Add the highlights** (*see Checklist No. 3 and Figure 6.4*)

Now that your shadow areas are defined, switch to the highlight color, **Color 3**.

Lightly add highlights to:

- The areas just above the strap bases
- The upper chest/top of the bust
- A few spots around the waist where the fabric curves forward
- The tops of the skirt-cone/hill areas

These are the parts that catch the most light with top-front lighting.



*Figure 6.4. Shading Outfit 3 – Applying Highlights (Step 3)*

#### Step 4: Hide the line work (see Figure 6.5)

When you're happy with the shading and highlights, hide the line drawing.

Now you have a dimensional outfit where form is defined by light and shadows, not by line alone.

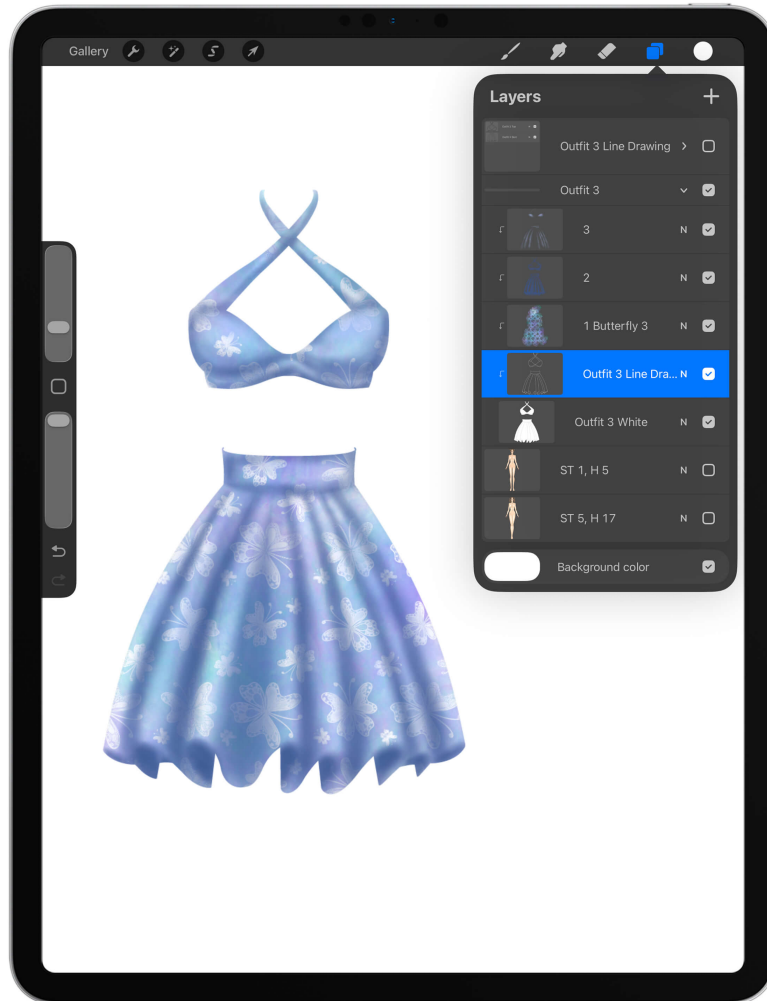


Figure 6.5. Shading Outfit 3 – Revealing the Shaded Outfit (Step 4)

Watch the Shading Video [here](#).

## Shading Outfit 36

### Step 0: Confirm the light source

We're still using **top-front lighting** (see Checklist No. 1).

### Step 1: Apply the fabric pattern (Optional) (see Figure 6.6)

Apply the **Lily 3** Pattern with **Color 1**.

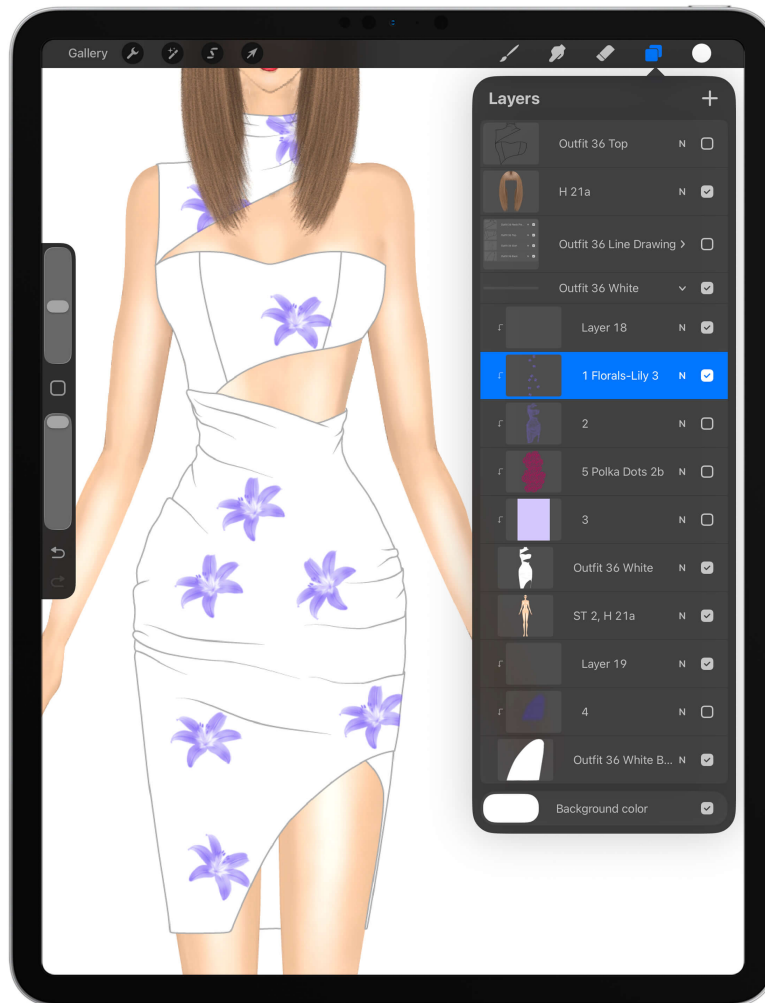


Figure 6.6. Shading Outfit 36 – Applying the Fabric Pattern (Step 1)

**Step 2: Add the shadows** (see Checklist No. 2 and Figure 6.7)


Switch to my **Moda For All Shading Brush** and **Color 2**, and add shadows along the line drawing.

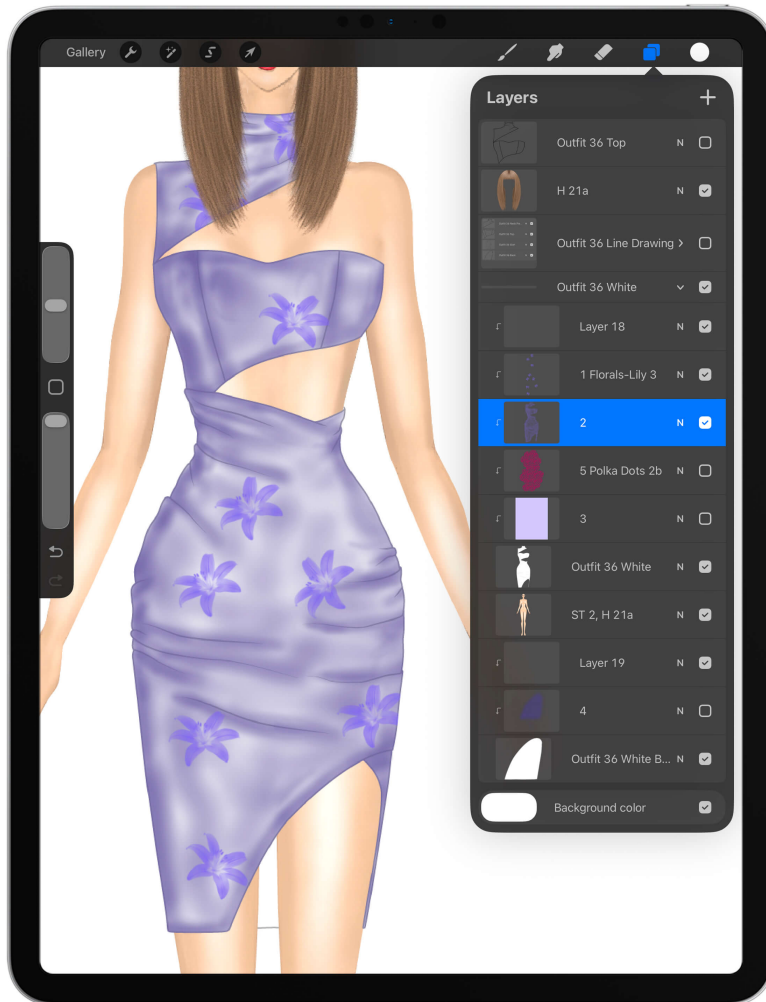
For this dress, I place shadows under the creases, along the princess seams and along the hemlines.

In this example, I'm not adding very strong shadows under the bust area. If I wanted to suggest a fuller, more supported bust or a structured cup-style bodice that lifts and rounds the breasts, I would deepen the shadows directly underneath the bust line.

You can also notice more shading along the sides of the body, emphasizing that the torso is curving backward away from the light.

Finally, lightly blend Color 2 into the remaining areas to soften the transitions between light and shadow.

 **Tip:** If you're reading this digitally, switch to 2-page view. This lets you see both the explanation and illustration together.



*Figure 6.7. Shading Outfit 36 – Applying Shadows (Step 2)*

**Step 3: Add the highlights with a fill (clipping mask method)** (see Checklist No. 3 and Figure 6.8)

For this dress, I don't apply the highlight color (Color 3) to individual areas. Instead, I **drag and drop Color 3** onto the canvas.

This fills the dress area, completely hides the line work, and lets the highlight color blend softly with the existing shadows.

Because we're using a **clipping mask**, the color only shows on the dress shape, not outside it.

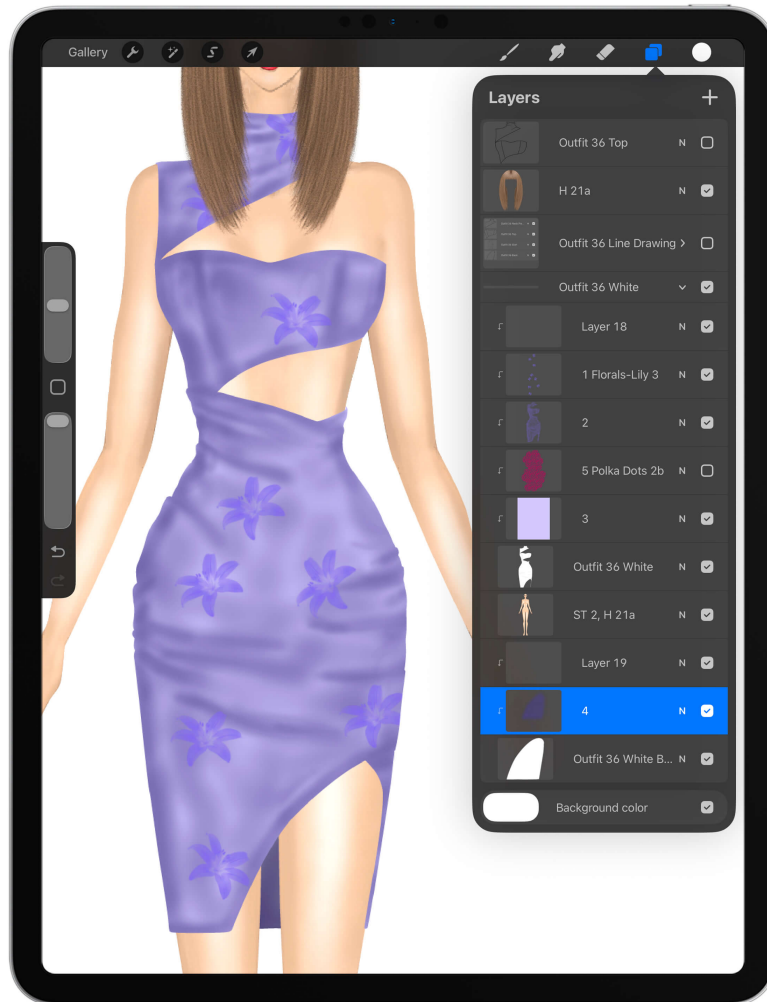
Watch the clipping mask tutorial [here](#).



*Figure 6.8. Shading Outfit 36 – Applying Highlights (Step 3)*

**Step 4: Add shadows at the back of the dress** (see Checklist No. 2 and Figure 6.9)

Deepen the shadows on the **back of the dress**, where we're mostly seeing the wrong side of the fabric and this part is hidden behind the body. This time I'll use **Color 4**, which is much darker than Color 2.



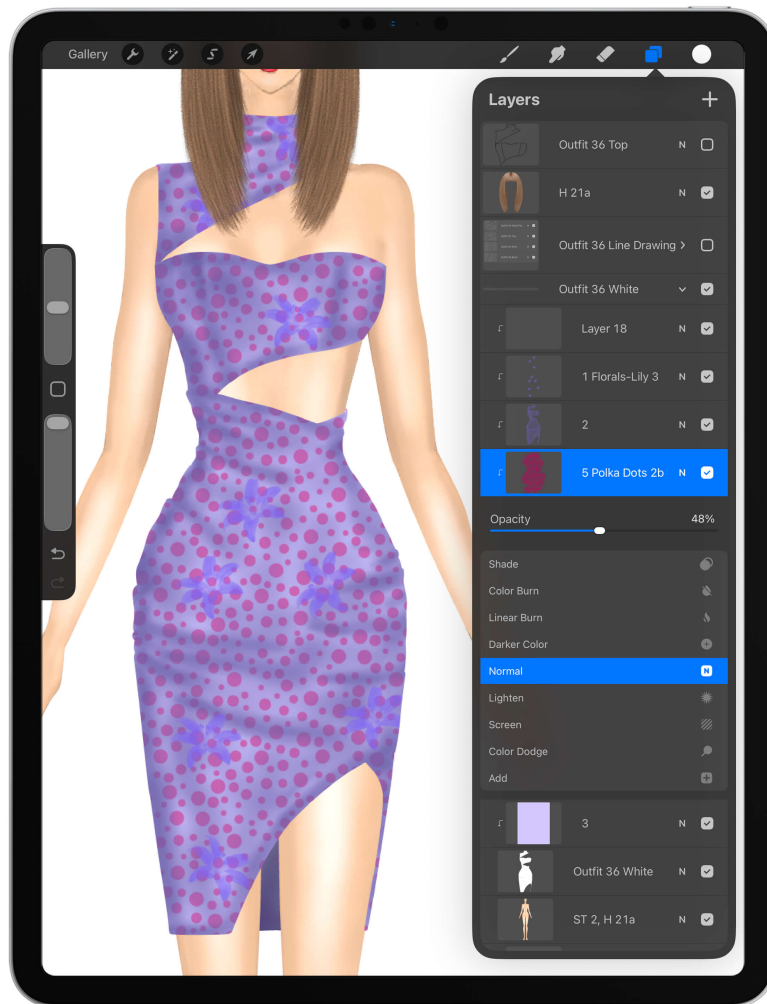
*Figure 6.9. Shading Outfit 36 – Applying Shadows at the Back of the Dress (Step 4)*

**Step 5: Apply the second fabric pattern (Optional) (see Figure 6.10)**

Use the **Polka Dot 2b** brush to apply the second pattern.

If it feels too bright, reduce the opacity of the pattern layer. Place this pattern layer beneath your shadow layer so the shading still reads clearly.

Now we've finished shading our second dress.



*Figure 6.10. Shading Outfit 36 – Revealing the Shaded Outfit (Step 5)*

Watch the Shading Video [here](#).

## Shading Outfit 11. 34 & 28

### Step 0: Confirm the light source

The light source is still top-front lighting (see Checklist No. 1).

### Step 1: Apply the fabric pattern (Optional) (see Figure 6.11)

Apply the **Heart 7c** Pattern with **Color 1**.



Figure 6.11. Shading Outfit 11. 34 & 28 – Applying the Fabric Pattern (Step 1)

**Step 2: Add the shadows** (see Checklist No. 2 and Figure 6.12)


With the **Moda For All Shading Brush** and **Color 2**, start shading along the line drawing.

For this dress, apply shadows to:

- under the bust area
- along the upper edge of the waistband to separate the bodice and the waistband
- along the sides of the torso as it curves backward
- areas behind the raised “hill” parts of the skirt (similar to the circular skirt in Outfit 3)
- along the hemline of the skirt to give it a sense of thickness
- the inside of the skirt

Finish by lightly blending Color 2 into the surrounding areas to soften the contrast between light and shadow.

At this stage, you can already see more dimension in the dress.

 **Tip:** If you're reading this digitally, switch to 2-page view. This lets you see both the explanation and illustration together.



*Figure 6.12. Shading Outfit 11. 34 & 28 – Applying Shadows (Step 2)*

**Step 3: Add the shadows again with a darker tone** (*see Checklist No. 2 and Figure 6.13*)

Instead of adding highlights to this dress, we'll keep building depth with another shadow color.

Use **Color 3**, a much darker tone than Color 2, and follow along the areas you already shaded in Step 2. This time, keep the shadow narrow and close to the lines, rather than spreading it across larger areas of the dress.

Apply this darker shadow mainly on the inside of the skirt, and at the back of the skirt.



*Figure 6.13. Shading Outfit 11. 34 & 28 – Applying Shadows (Step 3)*

**Step 4: Hide the line work** (see Figure 6.14)

Hide the line work as a final step.

You've completed the shading for this outfit with the Heart 7c pattern.



*Figure 6.14. Shading Outfit 11. 34 & 28 – Revealing the Shaded Outfit (Step 4)*

Watch the Shading Video [here](#).

## Watch Your Drawings Come to Life

As you practice, notice what starts to happen in your work:

### **Your dresses stop looking flat and start to look polished.**

The moment you add shadows following your line work and a few simple highlights on key areas like the chest and belly, your designs begin to look more 3D and finished.

### **You start to see light and shadow everywhere.**

By keeping one clear light source and placing shadows and highlights to match it, you train your eye. Over time, you'll know exactly where to shade on the dress without overthinking.

## Get Comfortable With Your Shading Brush

One of the main goals of this step is simply to get used to your shading brush. Whether you're using my brush or your own favorite, try to stick with **one main shading brush for a while**. The more consistently you use it, the faster you'll understand how it behaves.

Spend some time just playing with the brush.

- Try different sizes: Tiny for details, big for soft shadows.
- Vary your pressure: Press lightly for soft tones, harder for darker areas.
- Test opacity: Layer strokes and see how the brush builds up darker tones.

The better you understand how your brush behaves, the more natural shading will feel when you follow tutorials and shade dresses.

## Study Others' Shading, Then Develop Your Own

Just like with line drawings, I actually want you to study and practice from others at the beginning. Use my basic shading lessons or any other shading tutorials you find helpful as guided practice.

Each time you follow along, you're training your eye and hand to see exactly where shadows and highlights should go. Don't worry about being "original" yet. Your own shading style will come much more naturally after you have practiced this way.

## Track Your Progress (It's More Than You Think)











If possible, record your screen while you shade. I've found this technique incredibly helpful. I still have recordings from some of my early videos, and even though those drawings look ugly compared to my current work, they're still very valuable.

You can also take a photo of each illustration and number each one in order (1, 2, 3, ....). Every so often, compare your very first shaded drawing to your 50th or 100th. You will be amazed at how much your drawings have improved. Seeing this progress with your own eyes builds confidence and motivates you to keep going, especially on days when you feel stuck.

## Action Step

- ✓ If you have my Ready-to-use Dress Templates, pick one and start shading. If not, use my drawings as a reference and draw your own dress.
- ✓ Practice the dress shading lessons included in the [YouTube Playlist](#).

## Chapter Resources

-  Watch Zoe Hong's shadow videos [here](#).
-  Watch Brent Eviston's shadow videos [here](#).
-  Watch Hue, Saturation and Brightness video [here](#).
-  Watch the Basic Shading Tutorials on YouTube [here](#).
-  Watch the clipping mask tutorial [here](#).
-  Procreate Fashion Shading Library: <https://www.modaforall.com/gold-metallic>
-  Procreate Studio Vault: <https://www.modaforall.com/procreate-studio-vault>
-  Ready-to-Use Dress Templates: <https://www.modaforall.com/dress-templates-1>
-  Ultimate Fashion Figure Templates:  
<https://www.modaforall.com/ultimate-figure-templates-bundle>
-  Print readers: Go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources>

# **Chapter 7**

## **Step 7: Shade With More Than Three Tones**

## Make Your Dresses Pop With Extra Tones



## Why more than 3 Tones?

To make your dresses look even more dimensional and rich, you'll start using more than 3 tones. For example:

- A very light highlight
- A light midtone
- A darker midtone
- A main shadow
- A deeper shadow in the darkest areas

You don't have to use all of these on every dress, but I want you to go beyond just "light, medium, dark." Those extra in-between tones are what make your shading look softer, smoother, and more realistic.

In Chapter 6, we went through beginner shading step by step, using only 2–3 tones so you could focus on the basics. In this step, I won't repeat every stroke again. Instead, you'll use the same shading method from Chapter 6 and push it further by adding more tones and practicing from real dresses.

## Study Real Dresses First (Again!)

Just like in the basic shading step, I want you to study real dresses and practice from them first. You can find endless real dress designs online with one simple search. For this step, look for **matte dresses without patterns** if possible.

- Matte = not shiny, not metallic, not satin.
- No prints or patterns.

This will keep you from getting distracted by surface details, so you can focus on where the highlights and shadows are placed. We already have a dress shading checklist in the previous chapter, please refer back to it while you work.

## When to Use Your Own Dress Designs

After you've studied and practiced from several real dresses and tried different shading ideas, then you can go back to your own line-drawing dress designs from Chapter 3, or any new dress ideas you've sketched since then.

Apply the same multi-tone shading you learned from real dresses to your own designs. This will speed up your learning much more than trying to invent everything from your head right away.

Once I finally started doing this myself, I was able to create work like the dress in *Figure 7.1*. This dress is the result of that approach. I'm not sharing anything in this book that I haven't actually done myself.



*Figure 7.1. Beautiful Dress, Beginner Figure Using a Purchased Figure Template*

Although the dress itself looked beautiful, the fashion figure still needed a lot of work. As I said in Chapter 2, these figure templates only include the line drawing. I still had to develop my own figure-drawing skills. But without them, I wouldn't have come this far.

Later, I spent some time just practicing fashion figures, making small improvements along the way. The following is the latest fashion figure I created in October, 2024. After that, I haven't drawn a single figure for a while, just focusing mainly on dress textures and gathering my ideas to write this book.



*Figure 7.2. The Same Dress Illustration With My Own Figure After Practice*

That's why I encourage you to invest in other people's figure templates in the beginning. They free you up to focus on dresses first, then come back and improve your figures later.

When you stop struggling with figures and let templates support you, you finally give yourself the chance to see what you're truly capable of. You never know what you'll be able to create, far beyond what you imagine now, once you've built these skills step by step.

## **Action Step**

- ✓ Choose 3-5 real dresses (matte, no patterns) and shade them using more than 3 tones.
- ✓ Refer to the shading checklist from the previous chapter while you work.

## **Want more help with shading?**

If you feel you need more step-by-step practice beyond Chapter 6, you can find additional shading lessons and updates here:

<https://www.modaforall.com/fashion-illustration-course-signup>

Now, once you're comfortable using more than 3 tones and your dresses start to feel richer and more 3D, you're ready for the next desirable step: Textures.

## Chapter Resources

 Step-by-Step Shading Lessons:

<https://www.modaforall.com/fashion-illustration-course-signup>



Print readers: Go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources>

# **Chapter 8**

## **Step 8: Try Different Textures**

## *From Sequins to Faux Leather: Draw Realistic Textures*



*Moda For All 325. Oct 8, 2025*

## From Shading to Textures

In the previous steps, you learned how to make your dresses look 3D using highlights and shadows, first with basic 2-3 tones, then with more tones to add depth.

Now we're going a step further: *What is this dress actually made of?*

A matte cotton dress, a shiny faux leather dress, and a sequin gown can have the same pose and shape, but they will not look right if you shade them all the same way. Textures are simply shading plus fabric personality. You still:

- Define a light source
- Add shadows
- Add highlights

But you adjust them depending on how thick or thin, soft or stiff, matte or shiny the fabric is.

Although I don't want you to overwhelm you with too many textures in this beginner guide, I'll walk you through one clear example: a realistic shiny faux leather dress, using the same basic shading techniques we learned earlier.



## A Simple Shiny Faux Leather Example

Let's take a look at this simple shiny faux leather dress (*Figure 8.1*).



*Figure 8.1. Shiny Magenta Faux Leather Dress*

### **1. Define the light source (see Checklist No. 1)**

Here, the light source is indicated with an arrow; it's a diagonal light coming from the left. As you can see, the right side has more shadows than the left.

### **2. Use what we learned about creases and folds**

Now we apply some of what we learned in Chapter 3 and Chapter 6 to make

the texture feel more realistic. In Step 6, I asked you to ignore fabric type and garment tightness; here we bring it back in.

**Thickness of the fabric:** This faux leather dress is not very thick, so I added smaller and more frequent creases around the waist.

**Tightness of the dress:** It's a fitted dress, so it forms creases around the thigh area. You could also add a few gentle creases across the belly, but I left them out here to keep the drawing from looking too busy. The creases become fewer or disappear as the dress becomes looser toward the knee.

### **3. Add Shadows** *(see Checklist No. 2)*

With a diagonal light source coming from the left, the shadows fall more toward the right side. Since the chest area (breasts) protrudes slightly forward, it casts a shadow underneath. The creases also cast their own shadows below them. The size and strength of each shadow depends on the size and depth of the crease.

### **4. Add highlights** *(see Checklist No. 3)*

- Upper chest: The upper chest area catches the most light. Because the dress is very tight in this area and the fabric is shiny faux leather, I add more and stronger highlights.
- Belly area: The belly area curves slightly forward, so it also gets highlights (more on the left, closer to the light).
- Thigh areas: Because the dress is tight around the thighs, I add some highlights there too.
- Upper part of creases: The tops of the creases catch light, so I add small highlights over them.

As you can see, this is still just highlights and shadows, the same ideas from

Chapter 6, but adjusted for:

- Light direction
- Fabric tightness
- Fabric thickness
- Shiny vs matte surface

At the time of writing this book, I've been practicing shiny faux leather, sequins, gold metallic, glossy latex, and pearl textures. Here are some of the results of that practice:



*Figure 8.2. Glossy Red Faux Leather Dress*



*Figure 8.3. Gold Sequin Gown*



*Figure 8.4. Violet Sequin Dress*



*Figure 8.5. Gold Metallic Dress (left) and Pearl Dress (right)*

The original color of this latex dress was yellow, but I used Procreate's Gradient Map feature to change it to red. That's one of the advantages of digital drawing. You can experiment with different colors without having to redraw the entire dress from scratch.



*Figure 8.6. Glossy Red Latex Gown*

## Texture Collection: Ideas to Try

Here's a list of textures you can experiment with as you practice:

- Shiny/Matte faux leather
- Glossy latex
- Gold metallic
- Sequins
- Pearls
- Faux fur
- Satin/Silk
- Velvet
- Brocade
- Tulle
- Organza
- Chiffon
- Lace
- Mesh
- Netting
- Denim
- Knit
- Wool
- Tweed
- Corduroy
- Quilted fabric
- Beaded and embroidered fabrics

**Note:** You don't need to try everything at once. Pick one texture and explore it over many drawings before moving on to the next.

## Want to Learn More About Fabrics?

If you're curious about real fabrics and want to understand them better, these are great references:

- **Fabric for Fashion: The Swatch Book (Second Edition)** by Clive Hallett & Amanda Johnston (This one includes actual fabric swatches, so you can feel the real materials.)
- **The Fashion Designer's Textile Directory: A Guide to Fabrics' Properties,**

**Characteristics, and Garment-Design Potential (Second Edition)** by Gail Baugh

- **Textilepedia** by Fashionary
- **Fabric Glossary:** <https://www.ifabric.com/pages/fabric-glossary>
- Learn **Procreate Texture Tutorials** on YouTube: [lillylovesummer](#)

## Learn from My Early Mistakes

Now that I've shared all the essential steps to help you draw beautiful dresses, I want to be completely honest about how I started and what slowed me down.

In my early days, I didn't do what I'm asking you to do now. Instead of practicing from simple, real dresses and focusing on basic shading, I tried to invent my own designs too early.

I jumped straight into shiny things like metallic fabrics, glitter, and sequins. I kept chasing new fun textures before I had solid shading basics.

I also wasn't consistent. I would draw for a short time, lose confidence, and then stop for months, sometimes even for a whole year. In some of these images, you might notice there are many years of difference between one fashion illustration and the next. All of that slowed down my progress.

Later, when I finally started following the same steps I share in this book—starting with dresses, using figure templates, practicing line drawings, choosing one medium, and then learning shading properly—textures like these slowly started to appear in my work.

At the beginning of this book, I asked you to focus on just one thing at a time instead of trying to improve everything all at once. That's especially important with textures.

Rather than jumping between ten different fabrics, choose one, like sequins,

and draw it again and again for many dresses. Then move on to another, like gold metallic, and repeat. This kind of focused practice will grow your skills much faster than scattering your attention.

I made things much harder and slower for myself than they needed to be. I'm sharing these mistakes so you don't have to repeat them. You can move forward with clarity, patience, and a method that actually works.

## **Reflect on your Progress**

Once you've completed several drawings using the steps in this book, take a moment to revisit your very first piece. Put your oldest dress drawing next to one of your latest ones.

That "Wow, did I really draw this?" moment, when you compare your early sketch to your new work, is a clear sign of how much you've improved.

## **From My Journey to Yours**

I wish someone had shared these tips with me when I first started drawing. I spent far too much time fixating on difficult parts, like drawing figures from scratch and jumping into complex textures, long before I was ready. Letting go of that and focusing on dresses first, with the right structure, completely changed my progress.

My hope is that these steps will save you years of trial and error, as long as you stay consistent and curious.

## Where to go next







If you'd like support beyond this book, such as more dress tutorials, figure templates, or shading lessons, you can find the latest resources on my website. They are designed to help you apply everything you have learned in this book without feeling stuck or overwhelmed and to help you skip many of the frustrating parts I went through, so you can focus on what you really love: designing beautiful dresses.

To explore them, visit: <https://www.modaforall.com/resources>.

Thank you for letting me be part of your drawing journey. I hope this is only the beginning of what you'll create.





Ivory Khin  
Moda For All


## Chapter Resources

-  Latest Resources: <https://www.modaforall.com/resources>
-  Fabric for Fashion: The Swatch Book (Second Edition) by Clive Hallett & Amanda Johnston
-  The Fashion Designer's Textile Directory: A Guide to Fabrics' Properties, Characteristics, and Garment-Design Potential (Second Edition) by Gail Baugh
-  Textilepedia by Fashionary
-  Fabric Glossary: <https://www.ifabric.com/pages/fabric-glossary>
-  Learn Procreate Texture Tutorials on YouTube: [lillylovesummer](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

## Stay in Touch

If you'd like to share your thoughts about this book, don't hesitate to email me at: [info@modaforall.com](mailto:info@modaforall.com).

-  Website: [www.modaforall.com](http://www.modaforall.com)
-  Instagram: [www.instagram.com/modaforall.mfa/](https://www.instagram.com/modaforall.mfa/)
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 For print book readers, go to <https://www.modaforall.com/8-step-guide-resources> to download your resources.

**Here's the collection of Procreate resources I mentioned in the 8 steps of this book.**

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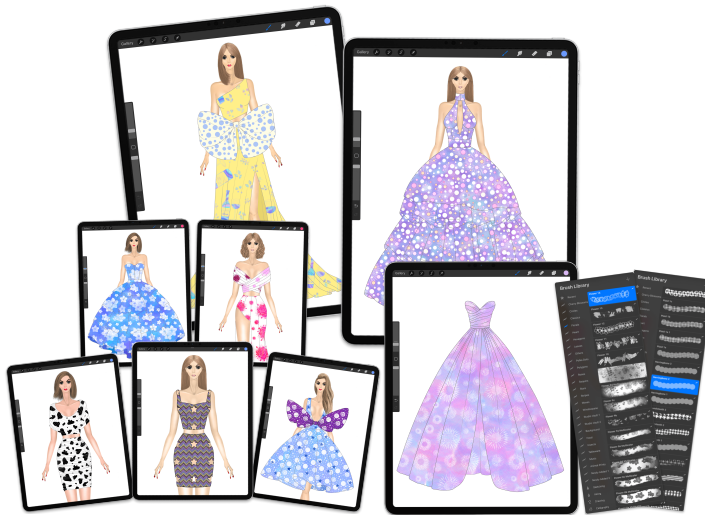


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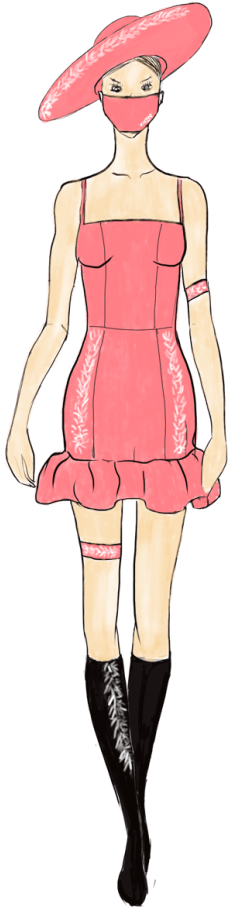


**Learn basic dress shading and gold metallic texture using the Moda For All Brush.**





# BEFORE & AFTER: MY FASHION ILLUSTRATIONS



I didn't get better by magic—I got better by following a simple process. Inside is the roadmap I wish I had as a beginner, so you can improve your dress drawings faster and with less frustration.

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