

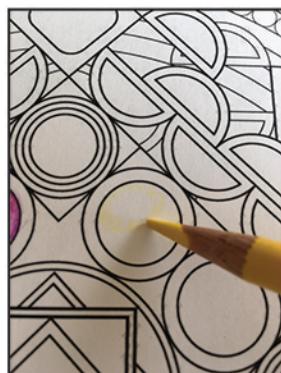
# How To Render A Pearl With Colored Pencils

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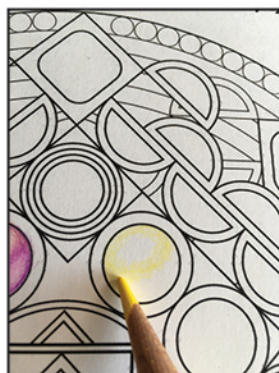
Pearls are highly reflective, opaque gems. The trick to rendering them somewhat realistically is keeping the values (darkness) all 50% or below. I have created a light side and shadow side for each pearl, depending on where the light is coming from (your choice). In this case the upper left of the drawing. I divide my pearl circle in half, diagonally so the top half is towards the light source. I will create a "core" or curved band that divides the two sides, eventually. Keep in mind that this should be like a "belt" that the circle is wearing...right around its middle. I am making this pearl multicolored, but you can do it with just one color. I recommend that you keep your pencils fairly sharp. Mine are Prismacolors and the colors are as follows: Canary Yellow, Hot Pink, Lilac and Dark Purple. I always start with my lightest colors, using light pressure, first. I don't color in circles, but I use small directional strokes.



1. Choose your direction of light.



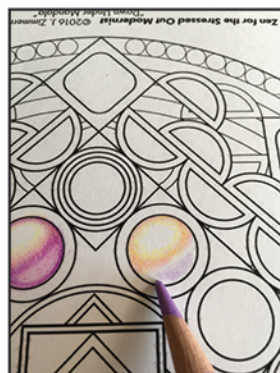
2. Apply yellow LIGHTLY in top half, leaving a ring of white in center.



3. Apply yellow a little more heavily on edges, leaving white center alone.



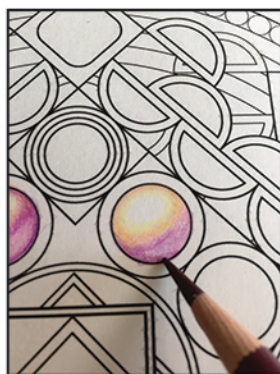
4. Apply a light coating of pink on edges, being careful to let yellow still show. Start to develop a soft, curved "belt" in center.



5. Fill lower half (shadow side) of circle LIGHTLY with a blend of Pink and Lilac.



6. Create a light but even coat. Keep it as light as you are able. Pearls have a reflective characteristic.



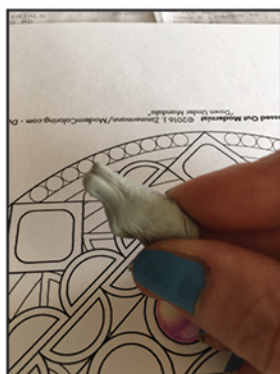
7. Use Purple with little pressure to enhance the edges of shape & "belt" between the light & shadow.



8. Don't overdo it! Avoid "burnishing" by pushing hard. Just darken the very center line and blend in.



9. I like to use a rubber, kneaded eraser for detail.



10. Tear off a small bit and mold into a point.



11. Rub gently to lighten "shadow" lower half.



12. Deepen center "belt" a little, keeping it 50%.

That's it!  
Best, Jennifer

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