

STUDY UNIT 2

Equipment and Art Supplies

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO GET STARTED?

To start drawing Chibis you need very few art materials.



1. Traditional Media:
2. Inexpensive paper (Photocopy / Computer paper is perfect)
3. Graphite Pencil or clutch (I like HB)
4. Eraser
5. Black felt tipped pen of your choice (Fineliner, round tipped marker, PITT artist pen, etc) OR waterproof ink for your outlines. (you can use a small round brush for application or a dip pen)
6. Coloured pencil crayons OR Aquarelle, watercolour Pencils of your choice. (You could also use copic markers or felt tipped artist pens)
7. Optional, Coloured Lead Pencil (I am in love with the 'Pilot, Colour ENO' It is a 0.7mm clutch pencil available in assorted colours. It is refillable & erasable! Perfect for pre instruction drawings)
8. Tracing paper

OR

DIGITAL MEDIA:

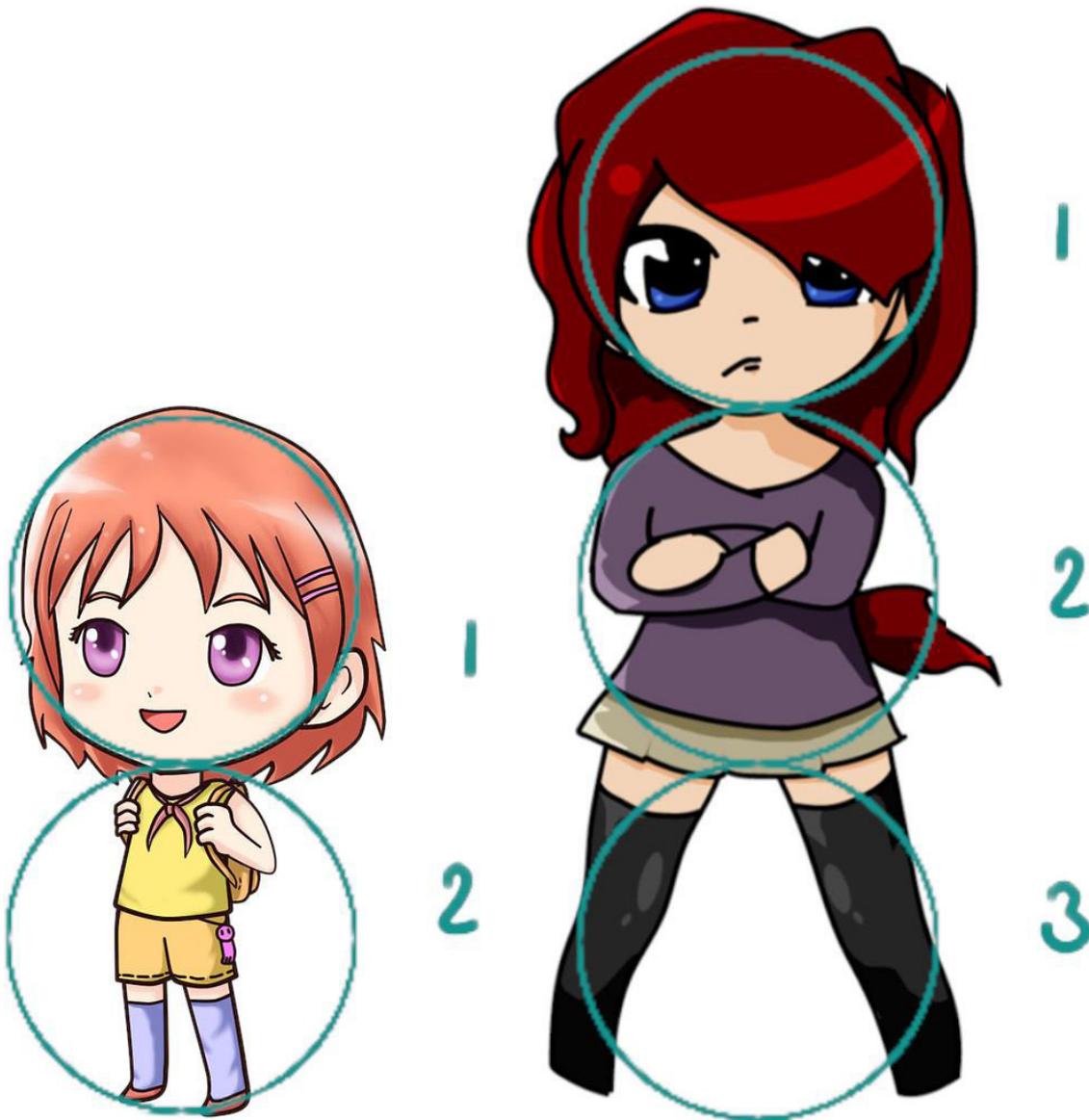
Many artists are working digitally these days. If you are one of those people, feel free to do the course in Photoshop, Gimp or other suitable software like Manga studio.

NB: I do not recommend trying to work digitally if you are not familiar with it already!

If you are interested in learning how to draw digitally, I also tutor the Digital Illustration Diploma course through London Art College. Visit the website for more details:

www.LondonArtCollege.co.uk

Before we begin, it is important for me to express that there are NO RULES in art! While I will be marking your assignments based on how you follow the instructions in the course, these are the Chibi fundamentals. When you have completed the course, please play with these concepts & change things up. Add your own style, proportions & artistic flavour to your art. This is just the beginning...



There are a variety of amazing manga artists out there. Hop onto the internet & search, 'Chibi' & 'Kawaii' as your keywords. Looking at other artists' work can inspire your creativity & give you new ideas.

Take a look above at art by OI lifeleft & Krycat.



NB: Please remember it is both unethical & illegal to copy other artists' work.

ARMS

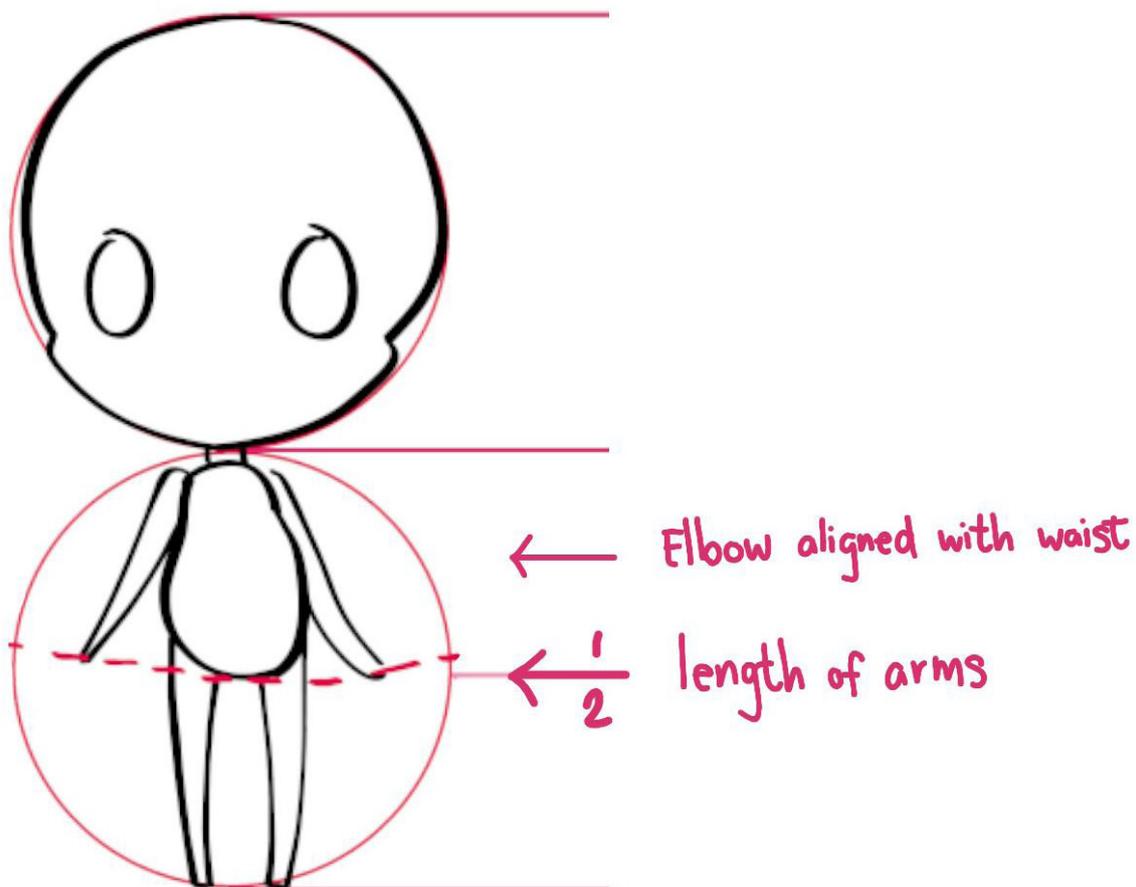
Before we discuss some different arm styles to fit with both glossy & traditional chibis, let's get our overall proportions correct first.

I use a circular line from the crotch as a guide for the length of my arms. You can make your arms a bit longer by adding the hands onto this, or, you can include the hands in the length, it is totally up to you & based purely on your preference.

Mine are usually shorter because that's the style that appeals to me most, but I'm not set in stone on this.

Longer arms can make the characters appear older or give them a croquis feel, because it elongates the arms and makes them more elegant. (For those who are unfamiliar with the term croquis, it is the style of illustration that is used in fashion design, where the characters are stretched out of proportion to appear much taller than traditional 'human' proportions.)

The elbow is placed approximately half way the entire arm length. You can use the waist as a guideline here. (ps. chibis don't have obvious waists like croquis, they are much rounder & their bodies are shaped like avocados, so you may need to do a little guesswork) It is still a great thing to remember to help with your proportions.





2 Heads



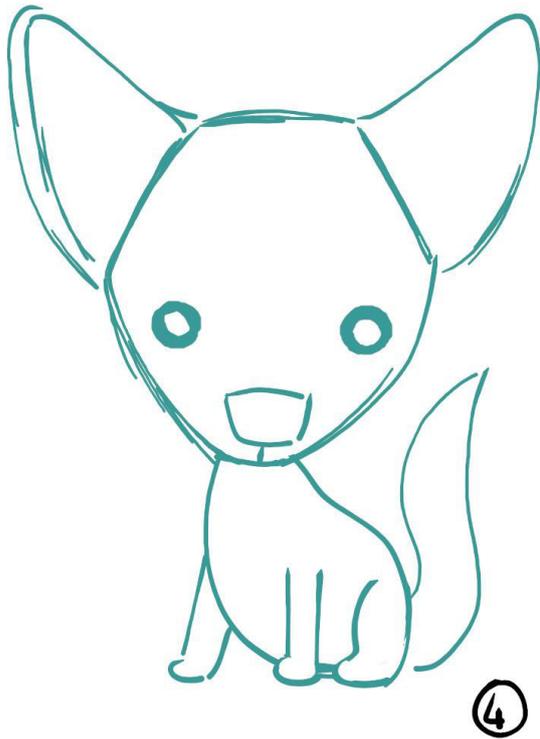
3 Heads

Erase your blue pencil & voila!



NB: It is very important to wait till your ink is 100% dry before erasing your construction lines. Some media (especially ink) takes a couple of hours to dry completely.

There is nothing more devastating than watching the ink smudge out from under your eraser, destroying your character. (yes, I've done this.... More than once)



4. I add the features onto the lower half of the head.

Remember, cute animals have big foreheads. I see two eyes (I keep them simple) and a big rectangular nose.

Erase your circles or hide the visibility if working digitally.



5. Just as we did with the fabric fold example, look at the shapes of her markings in the photograph. I've outlined them in pink to make it easier to see. Use the shapes initially as you see them in the photo.

Once you have built up your confidence, you can then change your patterns and details on future pets.

Keep it simple to start, and get more adventurous later.