A QUICK START GUIDE

YOUR FIRST 30 MINUTES *in Procreate*

5 THINGS EVERY COMPLETE BEGINNER SHOULD LEARN FIRST

Simple steps to help you feel confident and start creating right away!



BY SIAKULA

1 Understand your workspace

Before you start creating, let's take a look at the Procreate workspace. Don't worry - it's easier than it looks! Here are the main tools you'll use as a beginner.

Gallery
Go back to your artworks

Brushes
Choose and adjust your brushes

Smudge
Blend and soften

Eraser
Remove parts of your artwork



Layers
Manage your layers here

Colors
Pick, save and adjust your colors

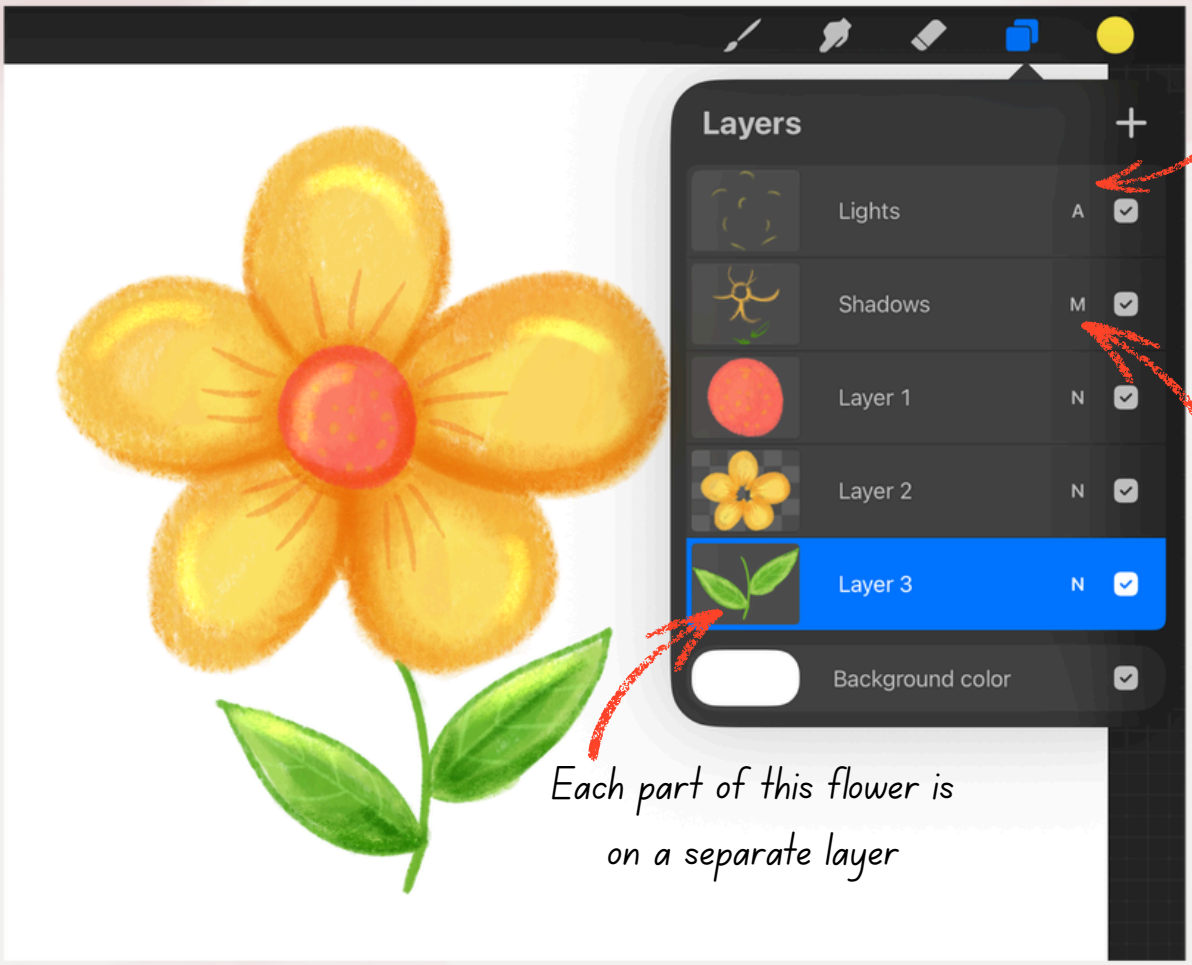
Size slider
Adjust your brush size

Opacity Slider
Adjust your brush opacity

You don't need to learn everything at once. These are the main tools you'll use to get started and create your first illustration.

2 Understand layers

Layers are one of the most important tools in Procreate. Think of them as a stack of transparent sheets of paper. You can draw on each layer without affecting the others.



WHY USE LAYERS?

-Keep your artwork organized

-Edit without making permanent changes

-Try different colors, textures and effects

-Make your art easier to adjust later

QUICK TIP:

Tap the + icon to add a new layer.

Tap on a layer to select it, and then tap again to reveal more options.

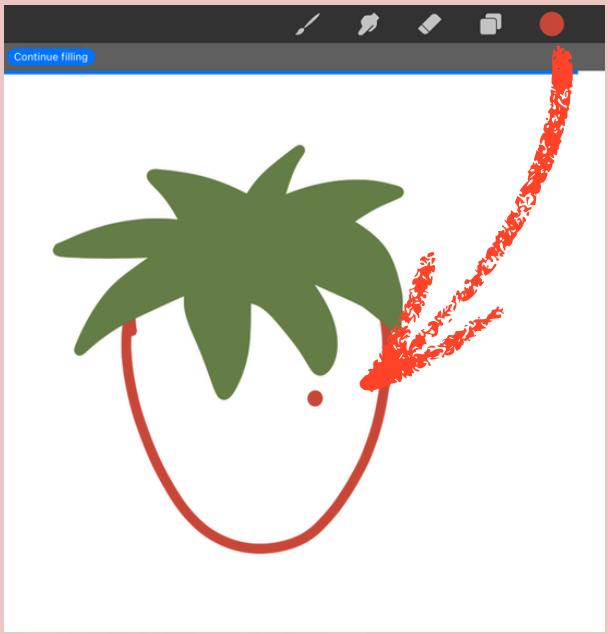
Swipe left on a layer to Lock, Duplicate or Delete it.

3 Learn how to color faster

Procreate has some amazing tools that make coloring quick and easy. Here are tye essentials to get you started.

COLOR DROP

Drag a color from the color circle and drop it into a closed area to fill it instantly.



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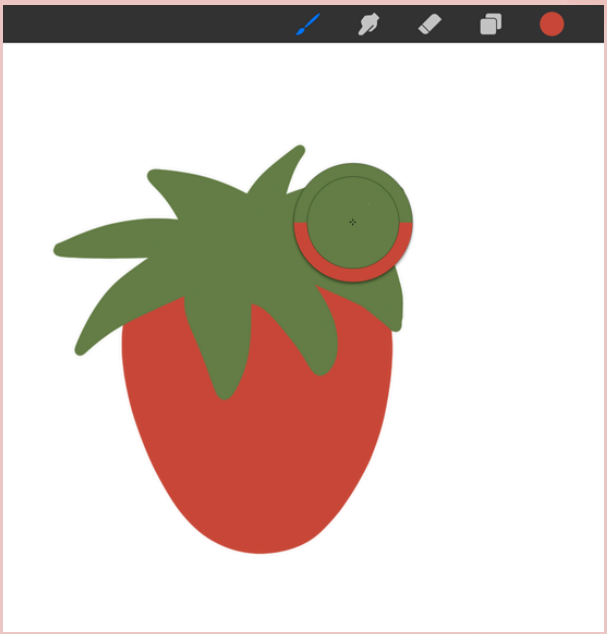
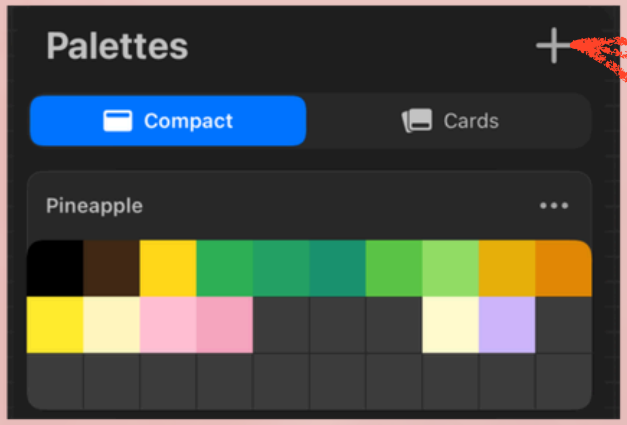
Hold your finger on the canvas to quickly pick a color from your artwork



PALETTES

Save your favorite colors in a custom palette so you can use them again and again.



Tap + to create your own palette!

4 Alpha Lock vs. Clipping Mask

Both Alpha Lock and Clipping Mask let you draw only inside a shape, but they work in slightly different ways.

ALPHA LOCK



You draw directly on the same layer and it will only appear inside the existing pixels.

-Tap a layer and pick Alpha Lock from the side menu.
-Great for quickly adding color, texture or shading.
-You can't move or edit it separately later (it's on the same layer).

CLIPPING MASK



You draw on a new layer that is clipped to the layer underneath.

-Make a new layer above your shape, tap on it and pick Clipping Mask
-Perfect for shading, lights and textures
-You can edit, move or delete the layer anytime
-You can add a blending mode to the Clipping Mask layer to get more effects



WANT TO SEE THE DIFFERENCE IN ACTION?

Watch my video where I show exactly when to use Alpha Lock and Clipping Mask. Plus I explain what Mask Layer is.

WATCH THE VIDEO

5 Essential Procreate shortcuts

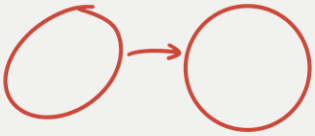
These shortcuts will save you time and make creating in Procreate so much easier. Try using them as you practice!



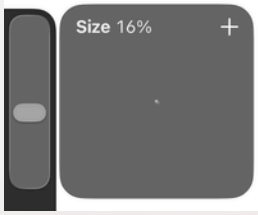
UNDO
Tap with two fingers on the screen to undo.



REDO
Tap with three fingers on the screen to redo.



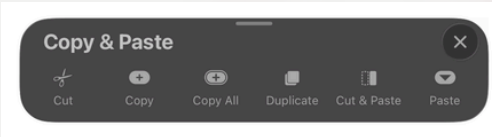
QUICK SHAPE
Draw a shape and hold your pencil at the end to make it a perfect shape. Put your finger on the screen to make it a perfect shape (e.g. a circle).



BRUSH SIZE & OPACITY
Tap on a brush size/opacity and tap on a plus to save your favorite settings.



COPY & PASTE
Swipe down three fingers to open the copy & paste menu.



5 MINUTE PRACTICE CHALLENGE

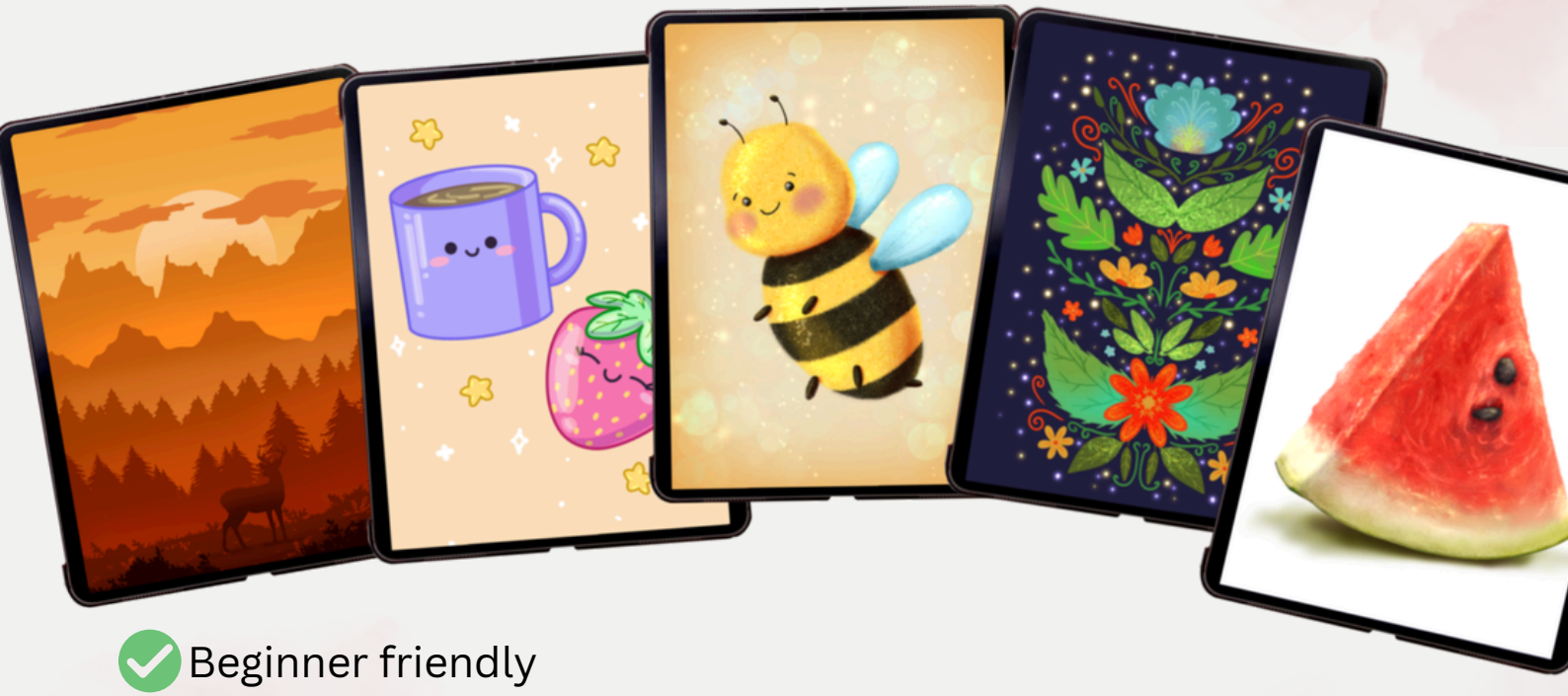
Now it's your turn! Create a simple illustration using what you've learned.

1. Draw a shape, e.g. a flower, a heart.
2. Fill it with color drop.
3. Use Alpha Lock to add texture, and then make a new Clipping Mask layer for shadows.
4. Use a shortcut to make your workflow faster.

Ready to learn more?

In this guide, you've learned 5 of the essentials to get started in Procreate. But this is just the beginning!

If you want to really understand Procreate and learn how to use all the tools, features and techniques to create your own beautiful illustrations, I'd love to have you in my **Procreate for Beginners Course: From Zero to Your First Masterpiece.**



- Beginner friendly
- Easy to understand and follow lessons
- Explore every Procreate tool & feature
- Create 5 beautiful illustrations with step by step tutorials
- No drawing experience needed

GET THE COURSE