Lana Guise Fine Art

SKIN TONES
PAINTER'S GUIDE
Color Recipes for Portrait Painting

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Color Chapters

Each chapter features a complete color palette built around a specific atmosphere or theme.

Every mix includes *precise percentages and* short *adjustment tips.*

Tap the palette you'd like to explore.



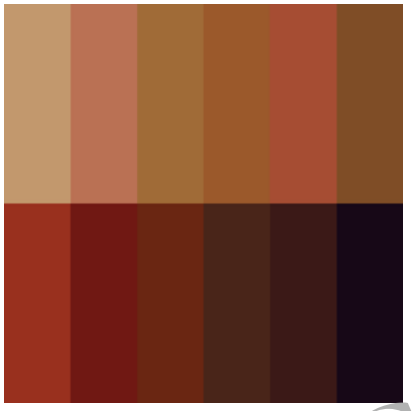
1
Fair Skin
Palette



2
Medium Skin
Palette



3
Olive Skin
Palette



4
Tan Skin
Palette



5
Dark Skin
Palette

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Skin is never one fixed color. It changes with lighting, environment, age, facial structure, undertones and the individual characteristics of each subject.

The recipes in this guide are not universal formulas, and they are not meant to reproduce every skin tone exactly. Instead, they are carefully developed starting points that can help you build a balanced skin palette more confidently.

1 CHOOSE THE CLOSEST PALETTE

Start by choosing the palette that is closest to the overall value and character of your subject. Then use the Tips and color adjustments to adapt the mixture to the specific portrait you are painting.

2 KEEP IN MIND THE VARIABLES

Remember that the same recipe can look completely different depending on the colors you use, the brand of paint, the medium, the surface and the amount of each color you mix.

3 USE THESE RECIPES AS A STARTING POINT

Think of these recipes as a starting point, not a set of rules. Observe your reference, compare the values and temperature of the skin, and adjust gradually until the color feels right.

A single skin palette can contain warm, cool, neutral, light and dark variations. You do not need to stay within one recipe or one palette throughout the entire portrait.

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Colors used for the mixes and recommended equivalents

The colors listed in this page reflect the brands and specific paints I personally use in my studio. However, very similar equivalents are widely available across different brands, both in acrylic and oil.

COLORS AND EQUIVALENTS

Color	Brand alternatives
 **White**	• #105 Titanium White - Amsterdam • #432 Titanium White - Liquitex • #644 Titanium White - Winsor&Newton Galeria • #018 Titanium White - Maimeri
 **Naples Yellow**	• #107 Naples Yellow Deep - Maimeri • #601 Naples Yellow Hue - Liquitex Basics • #223 Naples Yellow Deep - Amsterdam • #422 Naples Yellow - Winsor&Newton Galeria
 **Primary Yellow**	• #275 Primary Yellow - Amsterdam • #410 Primary Yellow - Liquitex Basics • #114 Cadmium Yellow Pale Hue - Winsor&Newton Galeria • #116 Primary Yellow - Maimeri
 **Deep Yellow**	• #114 Permanent Deep Yellow - Maimeri • #270 Azo Yellow Deep - Amsterdam • #163 Cadmium Yellow Deep Hue - Liquitex Basics • #115 Cadmium Yellow Deep Hue - Winsor&Newton Galeria
 **Yellow Ochre**	• #227 Yellow Ochre - Amsterdam • #416 Yellow Oxide - Liquitex Basics/Liquitex Heavy Body • #744 Yellow Ochre - Winsor&Newton Galeria • #131 Yellow Ochre - Maimeri

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Fair Skin Palette



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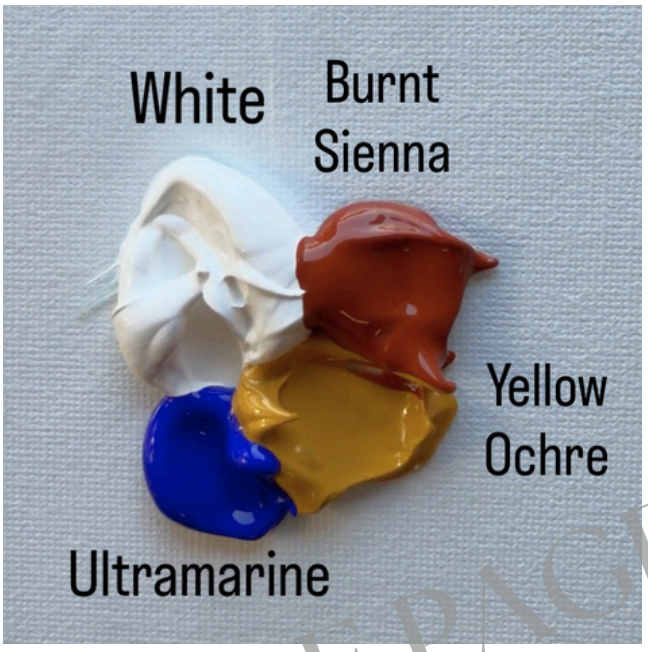
Peach Tan

A warm peach skin tone with gentle sun-kissed warmth while remaining natural for lighter complexions.





Mix

White - 45%
Burnt Sienna - 25%
Yellow Ochre - 20%
Ultramarine - 10%

Tips:

- Warmer → add Burnt Sienna
- Cooler → add Ultramarine
- Lighter → add White

Best use:

Warm midtones, temples, forehead and skin exposed to more sunlight.

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