Dramatic clouds and expansive skies have long been popular subjects for painters. However, rendering them realistically can be quite a challenge for beginners. Inside this book, acclaimed artist Alan Sonneman provides a wealth of instruction on the tricks to developing beautiful skies in oil or acrylic. From puffy picturesque clouds over grasslands to wispy clouds over a mountain landscape, artists can find an array of scenes to develop step by step. Alan also offers tips on creating different types of clouds, creating sky-enhancing compositions, and depicting light and shadow.

**Book Information**

Series: How to Draw & Paint  
Paperback: 32 pages  
Publisher: Walter Foster Publishing (October 1, 2011)  
Language: English  
ISBN-10: 1600582419  
Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.1 x 13.8 inches  
Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)  
Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars  
Best Sellers Rank: #368,945 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  
#102 in Books > Arts & Photography > Painting > Acrylics  
#116 in Books > Arts & Photography > Painting > Oil Painting  
#375 in Books > Arts & Photography > Painting > Watercolor

**Customer Reviews**

This book talks about materials, basic techniques and offers tips too. It helps you set up a colour palette for this dramatic subject. It also talks about different cloud formations and observing clouds in the field. In fact three pages of this 32 page book are dedicated to this. Since understanding your subject is of prime importance, Alan then looks at individual types of skies for you to paint. Each painting is presented as a step by step. I liked Clouds at Sunset best as I found the other paintings rather dark. Twilight in the Wilderness is a close second. This book is perhaps not for the complete beginner but the improver, who understands basic techniques and the use of paint and colour and just wants ideas about what to paint. This review first appeared on Karen Platt’s yarns and fabrics blog.

I struggle with painting clouds because my edges never seem to look exactly right. I was hoping this
would help, but not only does it not tell what colors to use it fails to give any advice on how to make the clouds look like clouds. It pretty much says draw the clouds and then paint them. I was hoping it would be more step by step. I also don't like the over-sized book because it doesn't fit on my shelf with my other art books.

This doesn't show much painting technique such as wet or dry brush, etc. You can pretty much get the same result from copying a photograph. Overall, I didn't learn anything new from this book. In fact, you can follow along with colored pencils. Also, the non-standard publishing size means that it doesn't fit on a bookshelf easily. I didn't get through the entire book yet, so I'll modify my review based on what else I find.

My clouds have always been kludgy. Between using this book and hours of studying and taking cloud detail pictures of paintings at a large art museum I finally painted a sky and clouds that I can stand!! I’d suggest using this book in conjunction with studies.

Excellent learning tool for anyone who wants to capture clouds effectively in their paintings for the most realistic skies. Highly recommended for beginner or advanced artist.

If you don't want to make paintings that look exactly like the cover, you're better off getting something else. This book is completely dedicated to creating things that look EXACTLY like the one on the cover. Meh.

Love, love, love. these unique. books, of which I now have a set of three They show By detailed instructions how to paint sunsets, clouds, and anything else you need to know about, especially for a beginner like me. Lolo

This How To book answered my questions about layering color to achieve the final effects desired. Lovely! I'm very happy with it.

Download to continue reading...