

001. Shoujo girl in Letraset Tria markers superstar

# Manga School



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MANGA STUDIOS

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## SWEATDROP STUDIOS' TIPS AND TRICKS ON CREATING YOUR OWN MANGA-STYLE ART

**C**alling all budding manga artists out there! Take a seat – class is about to begin. Each issue in *M40* magazine, different artists from Sweatdrop Studios will be taking you through the stages of creating a piece of artwork from pencil sketches, through marker pieces to full pages of manga! Each will be offering not only hints and tips on creating your own artwork, but also an

insight into their own methods and techniques. We kick off with a Letraset marker tutorial from Sweatdrop's own Sonia Leung, creator of the shoujo series *Once Upon a Time*. Sonia's work can also be seen in the Sweatdrop anthology *Legends* and regular readers may well recognise her as one of the winners at M40's own manga competition.

Get your art tools of the ready – class is in progress!

### STEP 1 – PENCILING

- Make an effort to get everything right at this stage. Before taking things about how hard/easy it would be to colour various parts of the picture. Examples don't draw wispy hair if you are using blended white markers and want to stay within the limits. Shading a parallel skirt makes black, colouring easier



### STEP 2 – INKING

- Taking care about the character of your artwork. Line widths can add to or detract from the style of colouring. In shades, avoid black lines and bold black colouring, whereas thin, delicate lines need soft, feather colouring. Use colour markers on permanent ink, so they don't bleed or smudge. You can either buy special, marker-proof pens, or (photo-coppy) laser jet print your lines on paper don't smudge.



### STEP 3 – APPLYING COLOUR: SKIN

- The skin is a good starting point as the tone sets shading levels for the rest of the costume.



- Layer darker shades on top – this can be done several times. This style of colouring is soft, but your strokes heavy then lift your marker tip off the paper gently – this leaves feathery strokes which blend into the lighter shades.



### IMPORTANT TIPS

There are various methods to reduce marker streaks. Use a very smooth surface. Ensure it is bleed proof – i.e. use a thick card, or thinner paper with padding below. This allows you to layer the colour several times to create a more even finish. Always keep the ink edge wet – see the diagram for stroke methods.

Using a blender solvent, you can be tricky – test out its effects on a separate piece of paper.

### STEP 4 – HAIR

- Use a light base colour to begin with, leaving highlighted areas white if that colour is light. Use thin, feather strokes for this. Layer darker shades on top, leaving some of the base colour showing for more depth.

### STEP 5 - SHIRTS, WHITES

• To depict white with markers, only colour in the shadows that would appear. Don't be overzealous to grey — sometimes light blue or pink can be more effective.



### STEP 6 - SHINY SATINY SURFACES

• Layer blue, apply white highlights with thin medium shade. When dry, use the same pen to layer over some shadows.



• Add another, much darker shade to make it look like a reflective surface.



### STEP 7 - GOLD EDGING

• Gold can be depicted using light yellow, mid-brown and dark olive brown. Layer lots of copies, white for shiny highlights. Layer the colours on top of each other and overlap using a blending solvent pen.

### STEP 8 - SKIRT

• The skirt is made of a non-reflective material, hence blue coloring and a level of shading is appropriate. Pencil in the skirt makes it easy to block colour without streaks. Layer the darker shade on top.



### THE FINISHED IMAGE

• This tutorial may look familiar to those of you out there who attended May's London MCM Expo event. The manga tutorial was an absolute that I wrapped it please to realize that it will be returning to the London MCM Expo on 20-21 October with more presentations and an even bigger Art and Alley. Remaining sponsors. Let's not be joined by the market leader in digital graphics tablets, Wacom — to expect more demonstrations, bigger competitions please and of course more visits to [www.CLANN-DIGITALMAGAZINE.com](http://www.CLANN-DIGITALMAGAZINE.com)

