

# SHADING EXERCISES

Below you will find some basic rectangles, while they may seem basic these variations make up every base shading technique from a classic tattoo perspective. Other styles such as illustrative or sketch art will obviously use lines, crosshatch etc. but for most styles these shading methods are the core fundamentals. This is a great exercise to help maintain the basics if first starting out. Use the empty boxes or the Procreate file practice digital and traditionally on paper by printing out the page. Aim to memories them and for each part in a tattoo design try to think of which one to use. On the following page you will find design templates and examples of how big a difference each can make.

short



Long



Cornered



feathered edge



Even edged



Hollow



Central shade

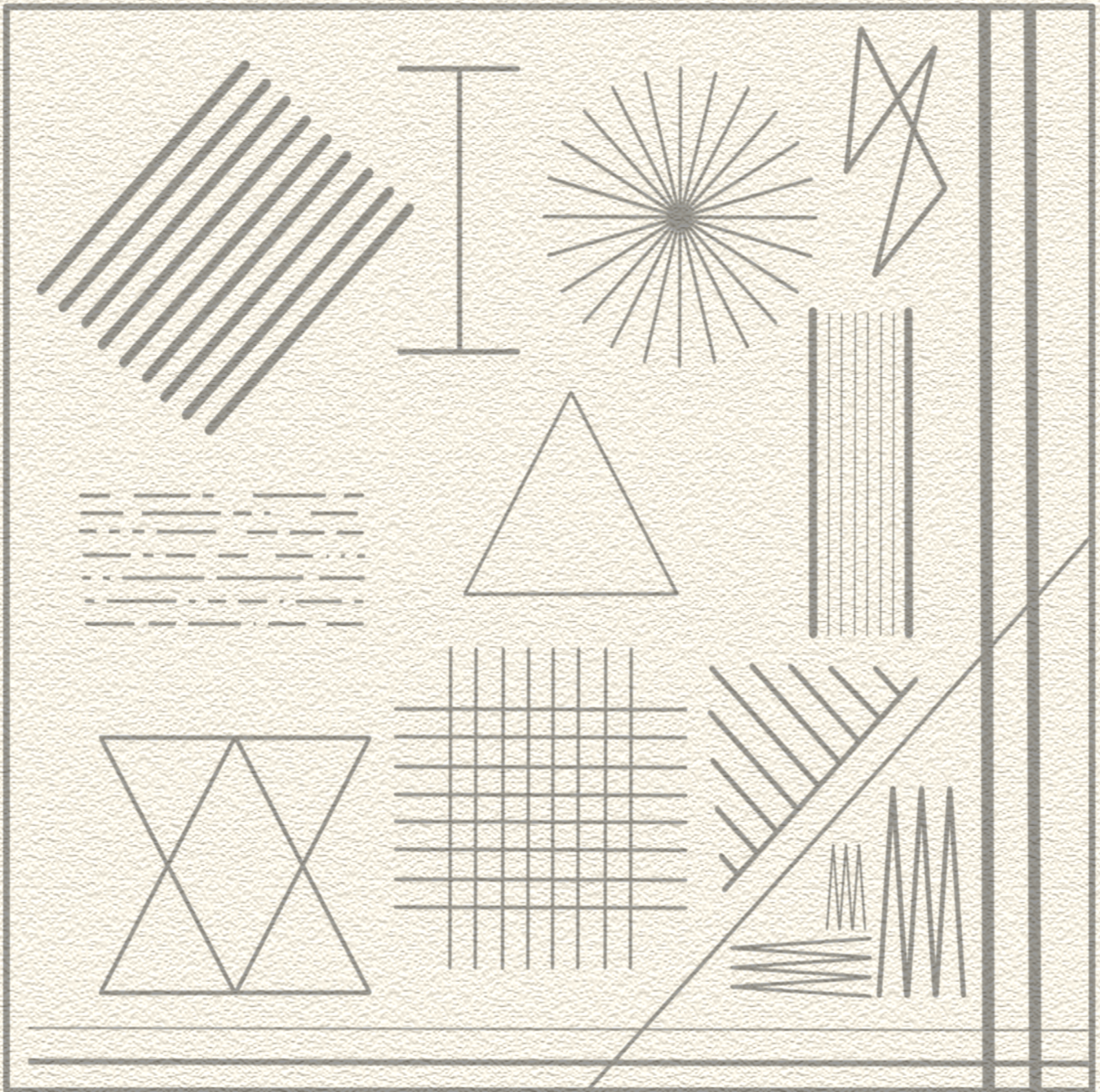


Dips



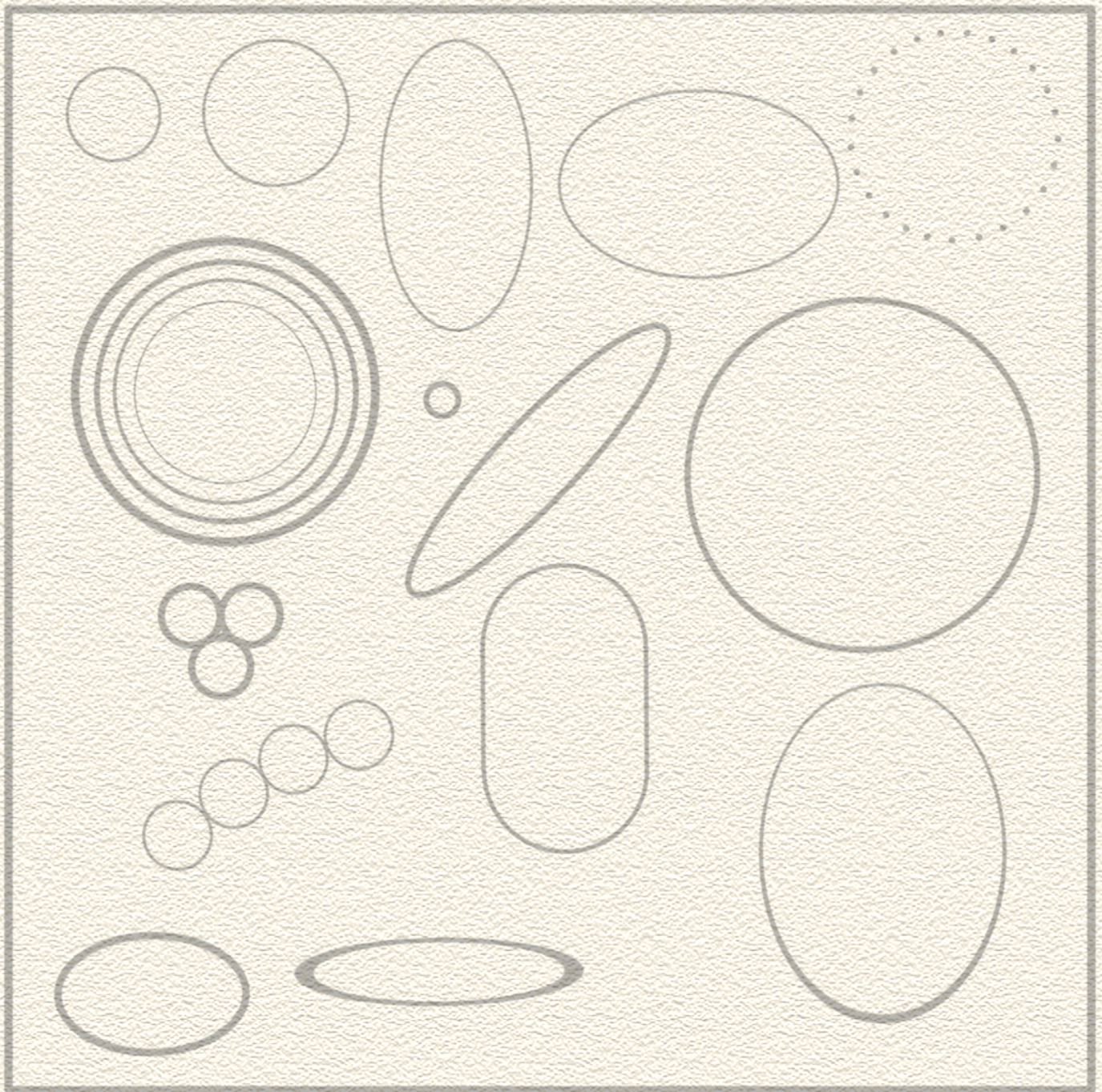
## LINE PRACTICE

The importance of good linework cannot be understated in tattooing. Trace the lines on a regular basis, aim to get them as smooth and even as you can pulling your lines in as few motions as possible.



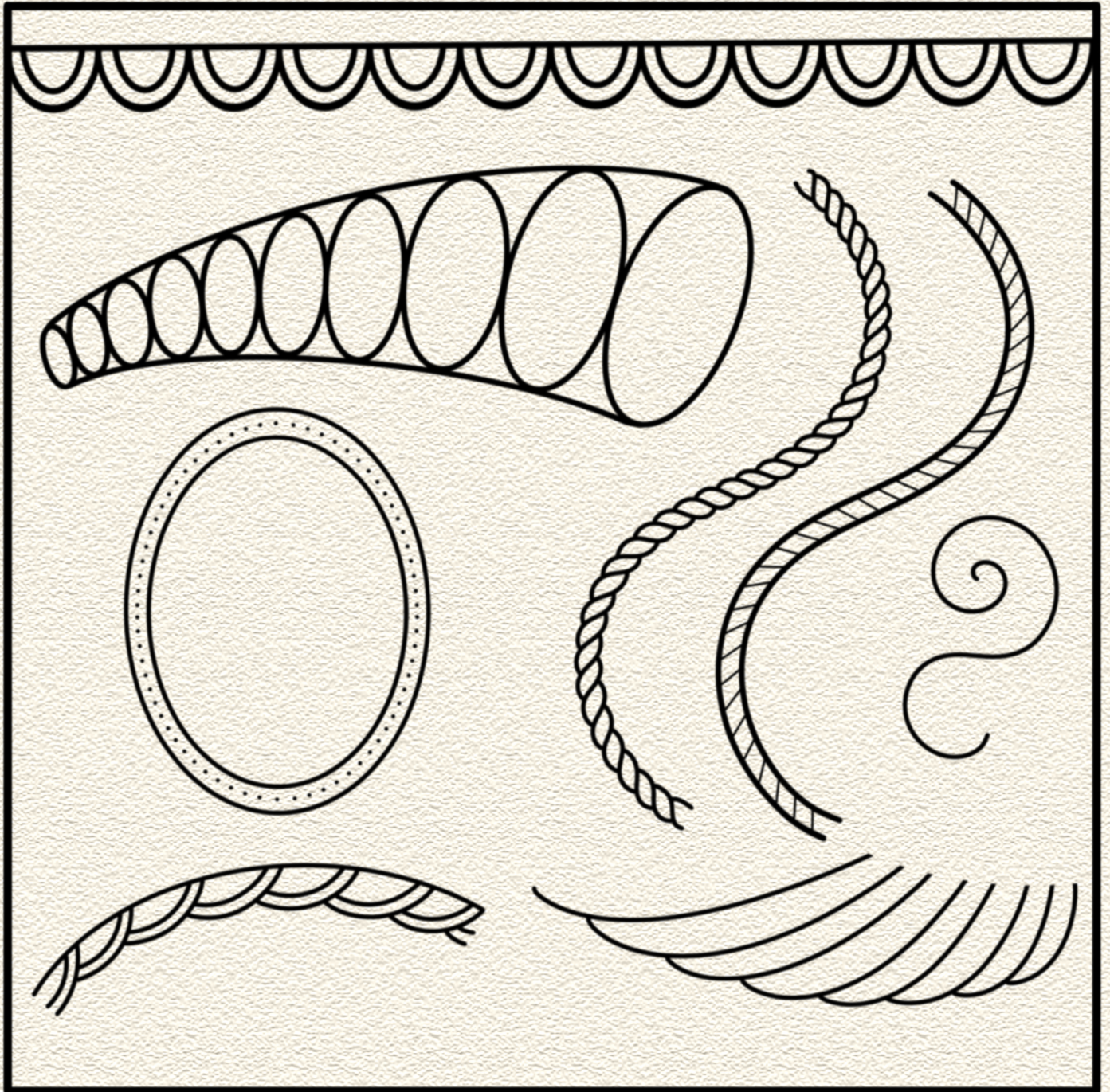
## CIRCLE PRACTICE

Perfect curves are an art form in themselves. The flow, the accuracy is vital. Practice these on a regular basis to improve.



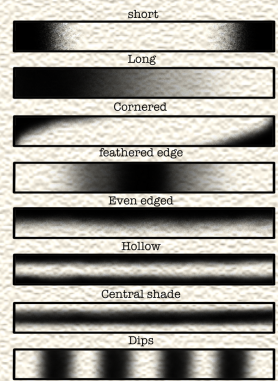
## PATTERN REPETITION

Learning about patterns can aid in many aspects and is also one of the best methods for practice, the same movement in rapid succession will give muscle memory.



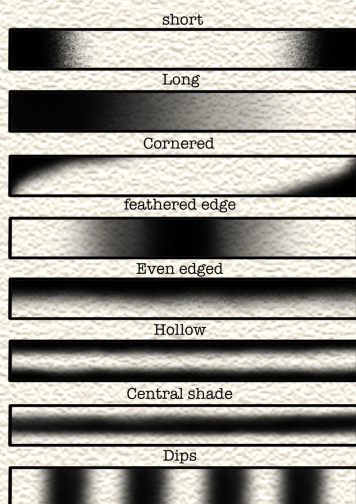
Now shade the tiger yourself.

Using what you have seen and learned, shade and color in the tiger outline. Think of the shading styles, techniques a guides below to aid you or feel free to try and make it your own!



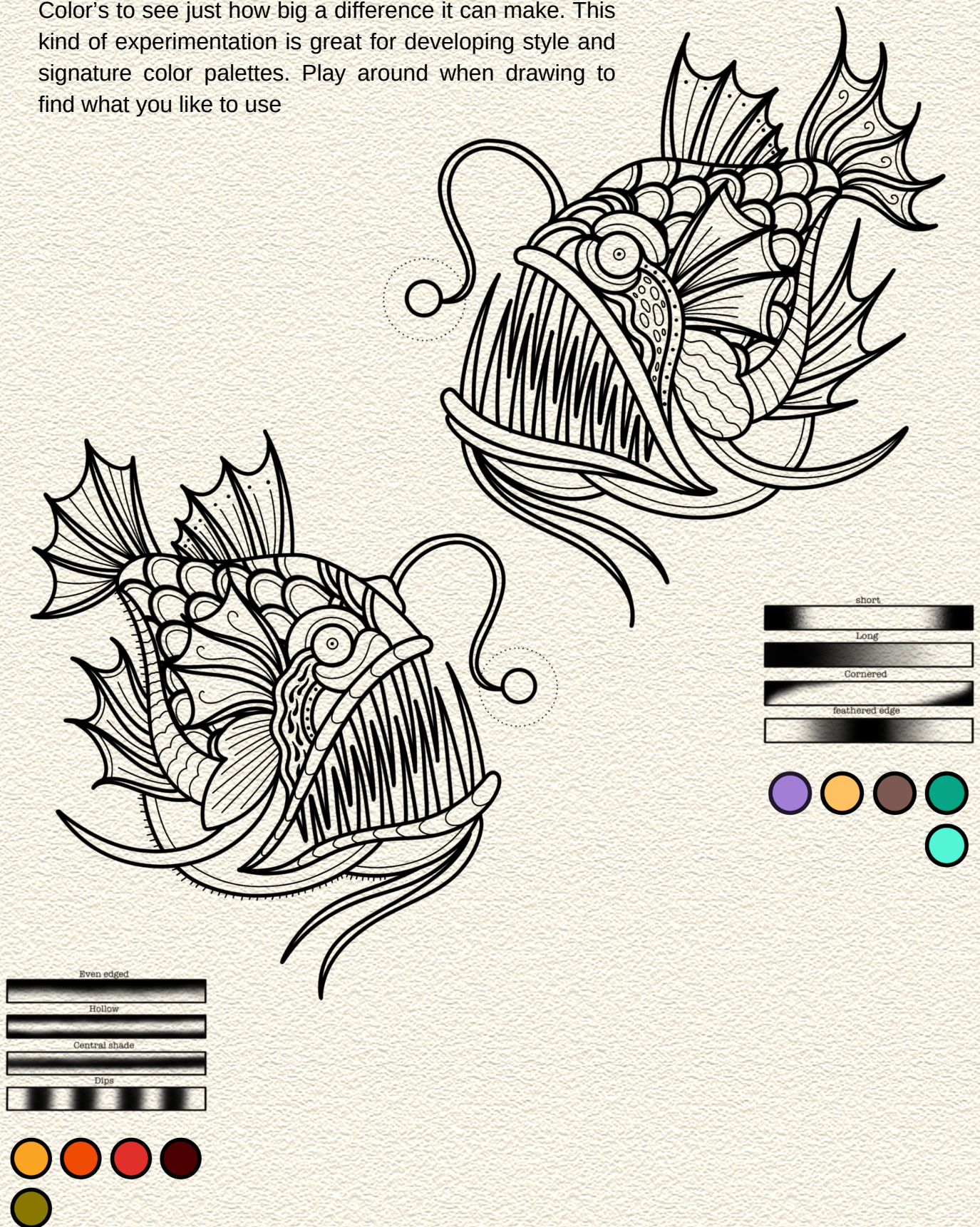
## Drawing exercise-Shading Variety

Shade in each design using different methods from those discussed. Focus on the difference each can make to the overall style. This will really help step towards learning about the kind of things you enjoy putting into the art which will in turn help develop your own style.



## Drawing exercise-Color Vibes

What we have here are two angler Fish, I have split the shading styles and given a restricted color palette. Try to shade and color in each on using just the methods and Color's to see just how big a difference it can make. This kind of experimentation is great for developing style and signature color palettes. Play around when drawing to find what you like to use



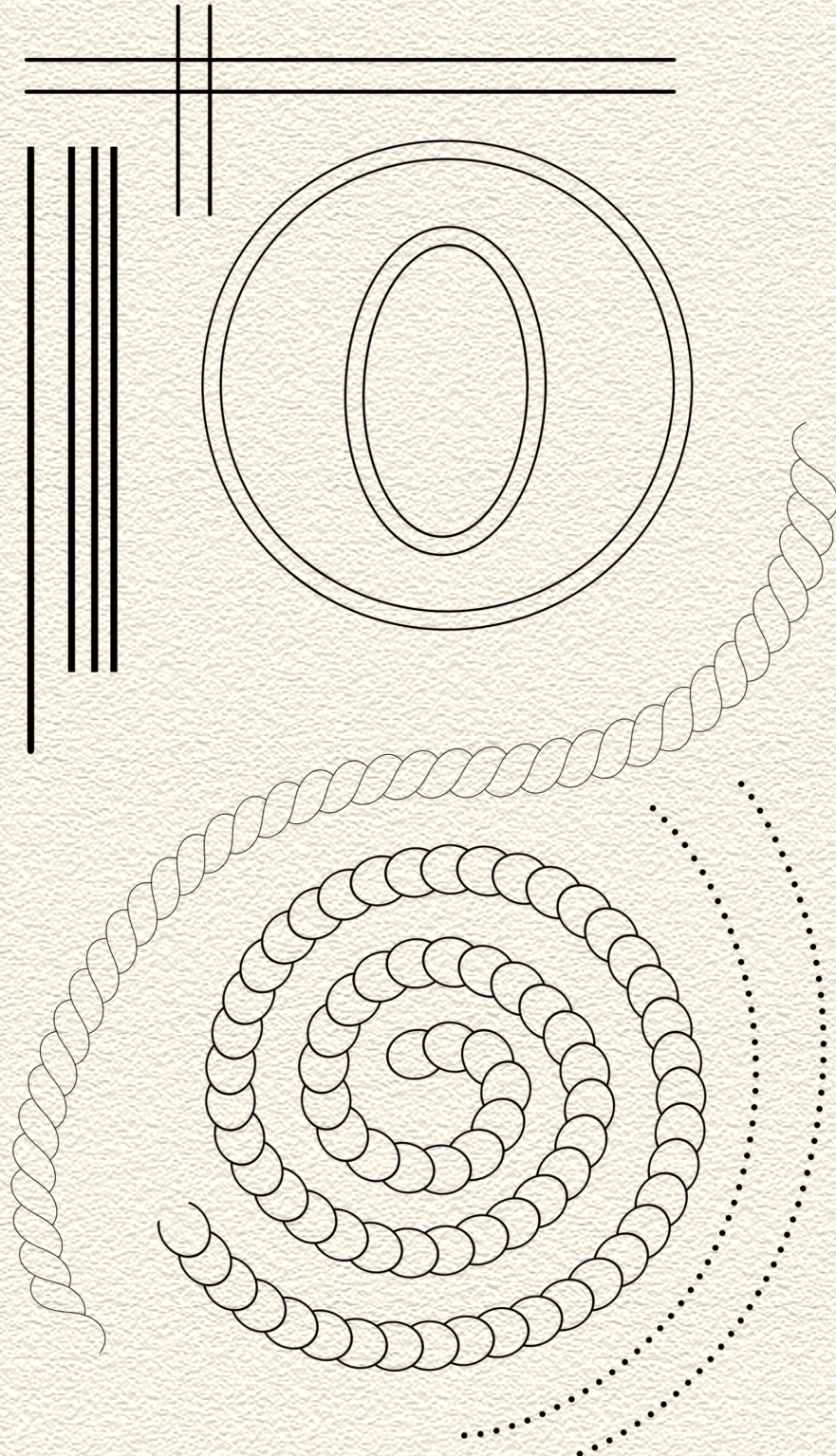
## Fine line Practice

This is a simple fine line practice sheet, either digitally or by printing up the procreate page you can trace the images to practice your fine lines. Focus on smooth precision. Fine line tattoos are a delicate process of achieving that correct pressure and speed or else they can be prone to fading or lines blowing out.



## Simple line and pattern practice

this is another simple line and pattern practice sheet. Try to keep your lines as symmetric as possible, the patterns as uniform as you can keep them. Repetition can become muscle memory so regular practice will make it much easier over time.



Base shading exercise.

being able to get smooth gradients is a key part of tattooing. Attempt to shade across the rectangles producing an even shade like in the examples. Each one getting shorter and shorter.



Base curve shading exercise.

This version is all about getting the shading done as a curve. The examples show how you want to try both directions and the same with the circles. Focus on one from the centre out and the other from the outside in.

