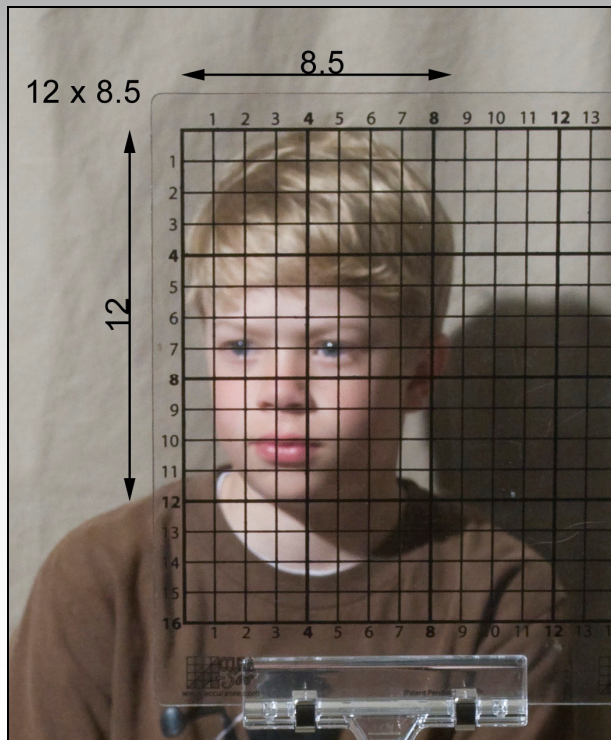


# the accurasee method

## An Artist's Guide

By using the Accurasee Method over a sustained period of time, you can not only draw more accurately in the short term, but can learn to see more accurately over time. After using the Accurasee Method consistently for several months, I've seen a dramatic improvement in my own ability to see and I think it can do the same for you.

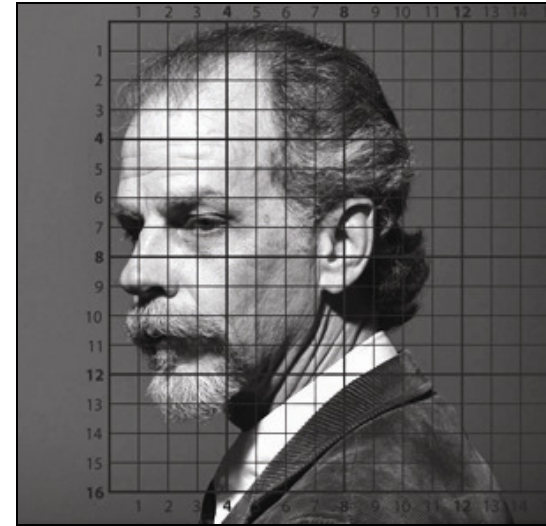
G. Bjorn Thorkelson



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# Introduction



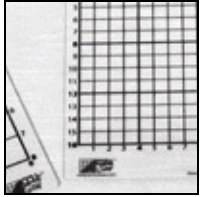
The Accurasee Method is an artistic approach promoting the use of accurate measurement techniques and devices that can help give any artist more control over accuracy.

## **Artists who use the Accurasee Method will:**

- Recognize an immediate increase in accuracy
- Develop essential habits used by all good draughtsmen
- Identify and correct drawing shortcomings
- Learn classical methods of alignments and comparisons
- Make "accurate drawing" another creative option
- Develop the ability to see more accurately over time

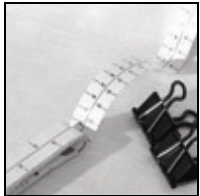
The Accurasee Method is a measurement system. It is meant to help establish essential landmarks in subject matter but not to map out every aspect of an image. The aim is to help the artist arrive at better overall proportion and accuracy, and not to "replace" the seeing necessary in drawing. It is not a magic pill to improve drawing. It is a tool used to aid the artist, and requires an appropriate amount of effort to be used successfully.

# Accurasee Method Tools



Accuview

The Accuview Measurement Cards are used to facilitate measuring distances. They are numbered horizontally and vertically allowing the user to measure distances simultaneously. Also included are two Accusticks which are more efficient replacements for the pencil.



Accutape

The Accutape measuring tape is prepared with 20 unique measurement groupings to allow the artist to compose and group subject matter in accordance with the size of the drawing surface.



Divider

The proportional divider is used as a device to transfer distances from the measuring tape to the drawing surface. It can also be used independently to check size relationships.



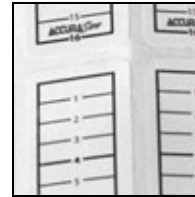
Accumount

The Accumount allows the user to mount the Accuview securely to avoid the shaking and subsequent inaccuracies that can come from holding measurement devices at arm's length.



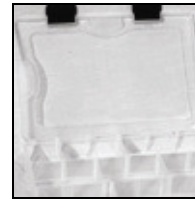
Marker

Once you've clearly identified your defined set of parameters, it is often helpful to clearly indicate the borders of the subject matter with the included red dry erase marker. This will help to return quickly to the correct viewing position.



Accustickers

Accustickers affixed to any pencil or stick turn them into much more effective measuring tools.



Storage Box

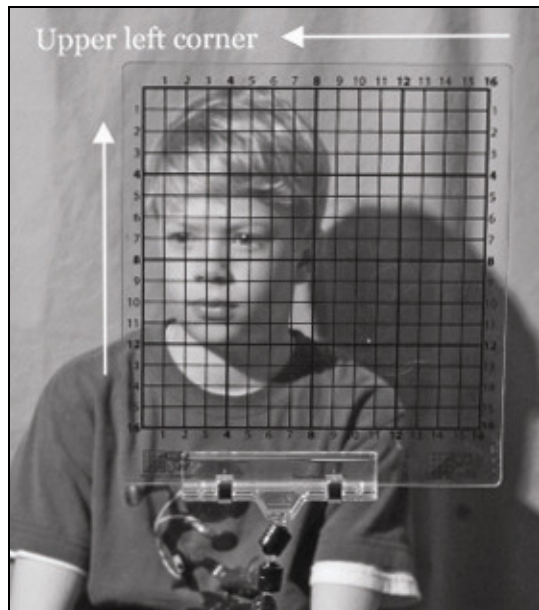
The Accurasee Storage Box allows all of the Accurasee Method Tools to be stored in one convenient location.



Storage Bag

The Accurasee Storage Bag comes with three empty adjustable containers allowing the artist to carry all drawing materials in one location.

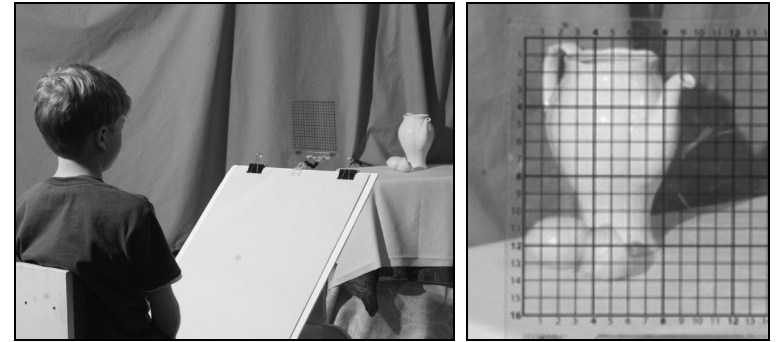
# Steps for Using the Accurasee Method



## Positioning and Size Relationship of Subject Matter

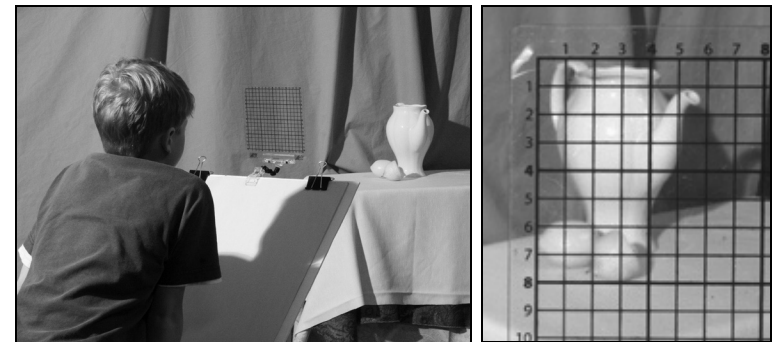
Align the desired subject matter within the parameters of the segmented Accuvue Measuring Card. The easiest way is to make the subject reside in the upper left corner of the grid, so that the numbering system can be employed in an efficient manner. The Accuvue Card is divided into groups of four segments, so if you can count by fours, you should be able to find your distances as needed.

You can move the Accuvue up or down, left or right or even turn and mount it sideways if necessary to achieve appropriate positioning. There are several ways to make the object occupy a larger or smaller position in the Accuvue Card.



## Ways to Make the Subject Occupy More Space

The artist can physically move closer to the subject to make it larger within the grid. Once situated, the artist can then move his head further away from the grid and the subject matter will then appear larger in relationship to the Accuvue.



## Ways to Make the Subject Occupy Less Space

The artist can set up to draw further away from the subject. To make the object even smaller in the Accuvue, the artist can then move his head closer to the Accuvue itself.

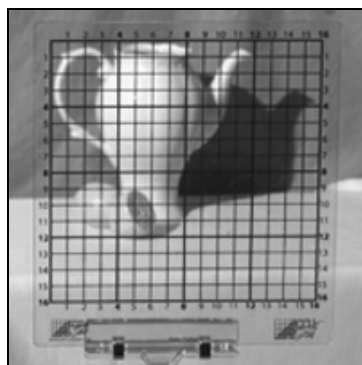
Understand also, that while it is helpful to align the subject matter as closely as possible to the desired parameters, it is not so crucial as to induce stress. Remember, this is a guide and nothing more. Relax. Even using the Accurasee Method semi-casually will enable you to measure far more accurately than with a pencil. :-)

# Identify Proportions

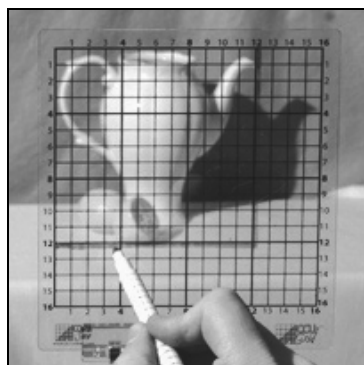
Developing a process can help you to avoid mistakes. Being consistent and developing appropriate habits will go a long ways towards improving your drawing skills, even when drawing without the Accuview of Accurasee Method.

## Identify the Proportions of the Subject

This can be implemented in several ways. The important thing is to choose a method that makes sense and works for you.



ex. 1a



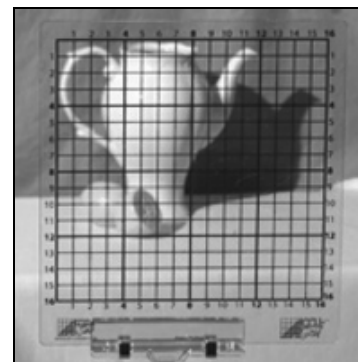
ex. 1b

The first method is to find the ultimate width and ultimate height of the subject. Say for instance that you are preparing to draw this still-life (ex. 1a). You would align the tallest portion of the still-life (in this case the vase) with the top-most border of the grid. Next, align the furthest portion of the left side of the still-life (the handle) with the left-most border of the Accuview.

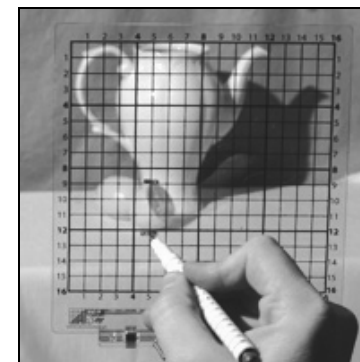
In this example, we arrive at the ultimate proportions of 12 units across by 12 units down.

Remember, if you want the subject to occupy a larger portion of the Accuview window, you can move your head further away. If you want the subject to occupy less space, you can move your head forward. No matter how many units you end up with, the proportional relationships will always remain the same.

What's important in the long run is the relationship between height and width. Once you've achieved the desired relationship, indicate the measurements with the marker (ex. 1b). Every time you go back to check on size relationships you will adjust your position so that the subject is centered within the indicated parameters.



ex. 2a



ex. 2b

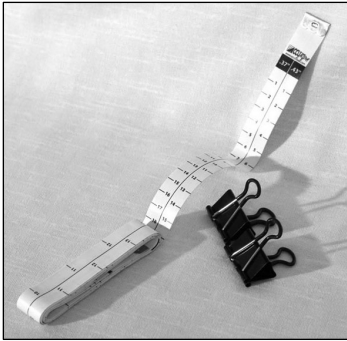
A second method is to choose a clearly identifiable portion of the subject matter and work from within. For instance, in the case of this still-life (ex. 2a), you might choose the size of the half lemon as a reference point.

You would align the lemon so that it is, for example, three units tall (ex. 2b). The size of every other piece of the still life would be in relationship to the height of this lemon. Every time you return to make any measurements, it is essential that the size of the lemon be seen within the Accuview as three units tall. Once you are properly positioned and seeing the lemon as three units tall, all of the following measurements will be as valid as the first time you looked.

# Transferring Measurements

It's now time to prepare to transfer distances to your drawing surface. To facilitate this process, the drawing kit comes with a proportional ruler or Accutape as well as a proportional divider.

## Tools for Transferring Measurements



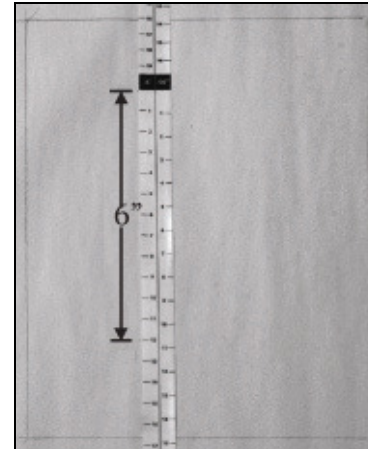
The Accutape has been prepared with 20 unique measurement groupings to allow the artist to compose and group subject matter in accordance with the size of the drawing surface. The measurement groupings start at .37" and increase every sixteenth of an inch all the way to 1.56".



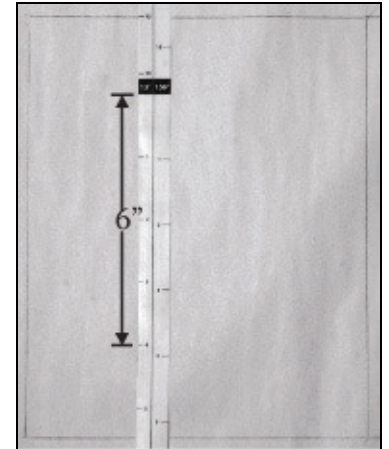
The proportional divider is used as a device to transfer distances from the Accutape to the drawing surface. It can also be used independently to check size relationships.

# Adjusting Size for Drawing Surface

It is literally possible to adjust to any size surface. Let's hearken back to the still-life with lemons (ex. 1a). Remember that the dimensions were 12 horizontal units by 12 vertical units. Let's say we want the still-life to be about 6 inches tall to fit comfortably onto a 10x8-inch canvas. No problem. Just take the Accutape and find an appropriate unit of measurement. In this case, segments of .5 inch would fit perfectly (ex. 3a, 12 units multiplied by .5" inch equals six inches!). So we will now use this portion of the Accutape to consistently apply measurements throughout the drawing.



Ex. 3a



ex. 3b

To further help you understand this idea, let's look at this same still-life using 4 horizontal units by 4 vertical units. Remember, proportionally this is the same relationship as 12x12. But, we want the still-life to be the same size as the previous example. Or six inches tall. No problem. In this case, to achieve the same desired result, you would use the 1.5-inch measurement on the Accutape (ex. 3b). In either instance, whether 12, .5-inch units or 4, 1.5-inch units, as long as the measurements are used consistently, the results should be almost identical.

The only variance would be in the accuracy of the measurements. In this example, it would be easier to find landmarks accurately by dividing the still-life into 12 equal measurements rather than 4 equal measurements. The more segments used, the greater the probability that some of the features will fall onto an easily-identifiable line. For instance, let's say that a key landmark on our subject hits at 2.5 inches down from the top of the 6 inch still-life. If we have the still-life divided into twelve segments, the corresponding measurement would be 5 units. If the still-life were divided into four segments, the corresponding units would be 1.75. Arriving at this measurement would take a bit more guess work.

Clearly there is more accuracy using the still-life divided into 12 segments. The more segments you have to choose from, the more accurate the drawing can be. So, if accuracy is essential, make sure that you have the subject large enough in the Accuview window. Refer to the earlier section if you have questions on how to make the subject appear larger or smaller in the Accuview window.

## Indicate Landmarks

Once we've found the desired parameters of the subject and the appropriate measurements to produce the desired size, we're ready to transfer distances and make comparative alignments (plumb lines). Essentially, we'll be creating a map of important landmarks throughout the drawing.

Remember, the Accuview Measurement Card is to be used as a measuring device and not a grid. The ultimate goal is not to create a "dot-to-dot" drawing, but a proportionally accurate one. The Accurasee Method and tools are designed to be used as drawing aids, not a crutch. When used correctly, the Accurasee Method can quite literally **train you** to see more accurately.

The first step is to create reference lines for accurate measurement. It's important to make these lines somewhat concise and accurate. A ruler is not necessary, but if these reference lines are essentially crooked, then all of your measurements will likewise be "essentially crooked." Similarly, if your lines are too thick or fuzzy, you might vary somewhat with each measurement.

It's preferable to have one horizontal line and one vertical line. Each situation is unique, but if possible, use the topmost edge of the subject for the placement of your horizontal line and the leftmost edge for your vertical line. Using the horizontal line as a reference point, make a few measurements of key landmarks along the *vertical* axis. On a head, for instance, you might find out how far down the brow is, or maybe the eyes. The hairline is also an option or the bottom of the nose or the mouth, etc. If any feature matches up directly with one of the units of measurements, definitely use this as one of the landmarks.

Next, turn your attention to features along the horizontal axis. Measure using the vertical line to the left and begin to find key landmarks. In the case of a head, maybe the furthest edge of the ear, the sideburns or the edges of the nose or mouth. Whatever the case, try to select features that line up on one of the Accuview lines or that are otherwise convenient. Remember, it's not necessary to identify *all* the landmarks.

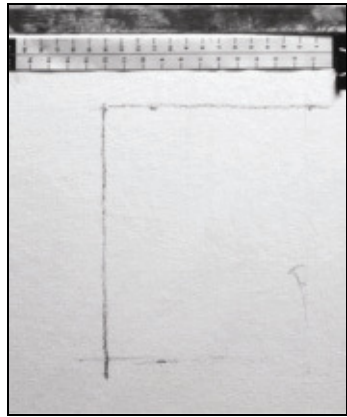
There are many tools at our disposal for finding other reference points to correspond with the identified landmarks.



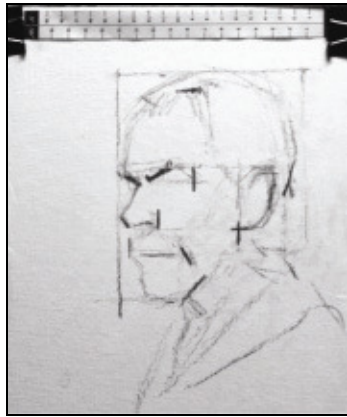
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4

It's essential to remember to not get caught up in too many details. This can lead to frustration and can actually keep you from really looking and seeing as you should.

# Learning to See

## Plumb Lines

One of the tools at an artist's disposal is plumb lines. Literally a plumb line is a line to which a weight is attached to verify a true vertical alignment. For the artist, a plumb line is used to align features of their subject. On a face, a horizontal plumb line might be used to find the relative alignment of the bottom of the ear to the bottom of the nose or mouth. A vertical plumb line might be used to find the placement of the corner of the mouth in relation to the corner of the eye.

One of the advantages of using the Accuview to measure is the fact that the plumb lines are conveniently printed on the Accuview Card. Using the Accuview, it's almost impossible to ignore how all of the features of the subject relate to one another. Plumb lines are one of the simplest and powerful tools at an artist's disposal, but unfortunately too many artists do not use them to their full advantage. In my opinion, the vast majority of drawing errors can be solved or avoided simply through the use of plumb lines.

## Consistent Use = Learning to See

Consistent use of the Accurasee Method can teach you to see more accurately. It can literally train you to see better! When you plot out the key landmarks of a face for instance, you might find yourself saying, "Man, that distance for the nose looks way too short!" If you double check the measurement and find it to be *accurate*, as you continue the drawing you are forcing yourself to see differently; more accurately. Over time, you can teach yourself to use plumb lines more consistently and compare distances more accurately. Trust me when I say that those who draw well use these techniques—whether they're conscious of it or not. I know of no other way to draw.

# Techniques for Learning

## “Artistic Creativity”

To those who may say that using the Accurasee Method will stifle their artistic creativity, I would respond, “Not as much as the inability to draw will.”

The Accurasee Method is not the end-all, but it is a means to an end. Correct use of the Accurasee Method will help artists understand what is necessary to draw accurately. The ability to draw accurately will enable the artist to express himself much more freely. Don’t rely on “mistakes” or “accidents” to define your “artistic view.”

While intuition and creativity play a very important role in drawing and painting, I have to ask, “Is it really a sign of artistic creativity to accidentally exaggerate features on a proposed portrait?” Now, if the artist could render the portrait accurately but *chooses* to make alterations, exaggerations and the like, that’s another story entirely.

## Techniques to Help You to Learn to See

The Accurasee Method can provide an effective, on-the-fly testing ground for you to literally test yourself every step of the way.

Pick a subject. Let’s say the subject’s height is 10 units. Pick the measurement that will make the size of the drawing to your liking, and build upon this base measurement (the height). See how closely you can approximate the distances to various key elements. Go ahead and check yourself and find out what your tendencies are and what you might need to do to correct them. You can do the same thing with horizontal measurements. To start out, give yourself a few landmark clues. As I mentioned before, the ultimate goal is to be able to improve your ability to see over the long term. This will help you in achieving that end.

Another tool at your disposal is the ability to check your drawing after the fact. Find a portion of your drawing that you feel best approaches the dimensions and correctness that you desire. Let’s say with the face, it’s the distance from the brow to the bottom of the nose. Look at the subject matter through the Accuvue and fit the chosen portion of the drawing within the framework of the Accuvue window. Now we’ll assume that you can make this distance from brow to nose bottom fit within the framework of three units. That being accomplished, all you have to do is find a measurement group on the Accutape the best fits into three units from the brow to the bottom of the nose on the actual drawing.

Now you can use this group of measurements as the base measurement for the rest of the drawing. Now you can check to your hearts content. It’s really quite simple but you may be amazed at the results!

## Patience is a Virtue

As with any new technique or way of doing things, it can be a bit awkward at first as you learn to use the Accurasee Method techniques and devices. You might find yourself saying, “I can draw better without it,” or “This is too much work.” Understand that the Accurasee Method is certainly no “magic bullet.” When it comes to learning to draw, I don’t believe that there’s any such thing. Just about anything worth doing in life takes time and effort, and drawing is certainly no exception.

In this particular culture of microwaves and overnight shipping, I believe many of us often lack the discipline and patience necessary to really *learn* to draw. We want a quick fix and don’t want to take the time to really learn. If there was a chance that this could really help you improve your drawing skills, wouldn’t it be worth finding out? You’ve got nothing to lose! Give the Accurasee Method a chance and try it consistently for at least a few weeks. I really think it will make a difference.

Good Luck!

Bjorn

For more information, visit [www accurasee.com](http://www accurasee.com).