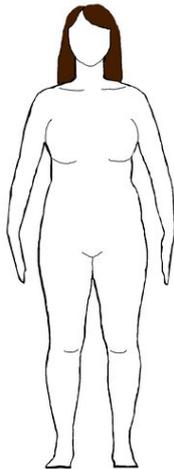


Create your own personal Croqui

By: Amelia Midgley

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/create-your-own-personal-croqui>



Use GIMP editing program to create a croqui, from your own silhouette. Croquis are great for “trying on” clothes before you make them to see if you suit the shape and design. I tweaked lladybird’s version to work for Mac (<http://lladybird.wordpress.com/2012/01/10/look-a-mini-ll-and-a-tutorial-to-make-your-own/>) Blogged about at <http://alaamelia.wordpress.com/2012/01/27/croqui-tutorial/>

Step 1 — Photo

Take a picture while standing in your underwear or some tights and a tight-fitting tee. It’s best to take the picture from your natural waist height so you get the proportion right. From lower you seem taller and from above you seem shorter, etc. Standing against a plain background is best. Make sure your hair is behind your shoulders so you can get a clear shoulder profile to trace around.

Step 2 — Crop

Open in your favourite photo editing program (I used iPhoto) and crop the image so it’s just you. Change it to black and white, or to which ever effect (sepia etc) makes the outline of your body stand out the most. I used black and white and then adjusted the contrast, saturation and shadows. Save somewhere that is easy to find (desktop is always good).

Step 3 — Open GIMP

Open GIMP. If it’s the first time you open it, it may take a while for it to open up (it did for me). Click File. Open. Find your image and open it.

Step 4 — Trace

Find the tool on the left hand menu that looks like a lasso, or is the third option on the top row. Under your image, there is a percentage box. This is the Zoom. Zoom to where it is most comfortable and use the “lasso” tool to outline your body as accurately as possible. You can either click and drag to draw free hand, or click and release, then click another point to draw a straight line. I did the latter of the two as it was less messy. Should you make a mistake, simply hit delete (backspace) and it will cancel your last move or Esc to cancel the whole action to restart. I cut off my hair at this point, and added some fake stuff after to get a clear head shape. When you are done, there should be a dashed line moving around the image. Right-click, Edit and copy.

Step 5 — Paste to a new page

File. New. A box will pop up asking you which template to use. I ignored that drop menu and went to the second one where it says pixels. Click the arrow and find millimetres. In the “width” type 1000 and “height” 900. I found the preset templates were too small so I did it this way. If it is still too small just increase the width and height dimensions. On the new page, right-click, Edit and paste. Your outlined self will pop up.

Step 6 — Outline

On the left hand tool bar, find the paint brush. You will only be able to use the paint brush on top of your image as long as the dashed lines are there, as the image has not been attached to the “layer” below. This is convenient for us because you can go around the outside of your body a lot quicker and with a lot less mess. Go around with the paint brush creating a black line around the outside of your body. This will be the final outline so choose how thick you would like it to look at the end. To use the paint brush click and drag and free hand it.

Step 7 — Details

Once the outline is done, go to the pencil, next to the paint brush, and use it to draw in any features such as knees, collar bones, breast curves, crotch, chin etc. Make the pencil line thinner by adjusting the “scale” slider on the left.

Step 8 — Make the inside white

When you are happy with your drawing, go to the “Colours” menu and click on “brightness-contrast”. Move the sliders right up and your image will go white, leaving your outline. Before you click “OK”, check that you are happy with your outline. If your outline is grey, put the “brightness” slider on 126 instead of 127 and it will become black again.

Step 9 — Finish!

Right-click on your outline, Layers and find “Anchor layer”. Your outline is now on the background layer and you can add any details you wish such as hair. To change the colour for your hair, click on the black box on top of the white one. Find the colour you want. To “Fill” find the paint bucket tool and click where you want it to go. Make sure all your lines connect around your hair, or anything else you have done, otherwise the whole page will turn a different colour. And Volia! Your very own Croqui!. When

saving, make sure to click save as, select file type (by extension) and find the JPG one so that you can open it in other programs if you wish.

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