Draw Mermaid Scale Makeup: Layered Gradient and Shimmer Guide

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

On a 12 cm by 8 cm arm zone with light from the upper left, draw a mermaid scale makeup design using three tones and two shimmer placements. State the scale count per row and the shimmer pattern.

Answer: Draw the 12 cm by 8 cm zone and mark the light arrow from the upper left toward the lower right. Use a rounded chevron of about 1.2 cm width and 1 cm row height as a hypothetical example. A 12 cm width fits ten scales per row (12 divided by 1.2 equals 10), and an 8 cm height fits eight rows (8 divided by 1 equals 8), giving 80 scales in total. Offset alternate rows by half a scale so the pattern interlocks. Fill all scales with pale mint. Add sea green to the half of each scale away from the light, which is the lower right half for upper-left light. Add deep teal at the edge farthest from the light, which is the lower right edge. Blend each pass after drying. Apply fine shimmer to the pale area nearest the light, which is the upper left third of each scale, and one dot of shimmer to the mid-tone area of every third scale in each row, never on the deep accent. Check that scale edges remain visible and that the gradient runs from upper left pale to lower right deep.