

Laurel and Hardy



Laurel and Hardy were a perfect choice for Chris to caricature for several reasons: They are universally recognisable; they make people smile; and most importantly from an artistic point of view they have strong and contrasting features. Stan's face is thin and long whereas Ollie's face is wider and more rounded. In personality, they are also quite different. Whilst they are both buffoons, Ollie is the leader and gets easily annoyed by Stan's idiocy. Stan is the foot soldier, willing to go along with Ollie's madcap schemes but is weak and when, the inevitable happens and things go wrong, he starts blubbing, much to Ollie's disdain.

Chris initially obtained a good reference photo of the subject capturing the look he wanted to achieve.

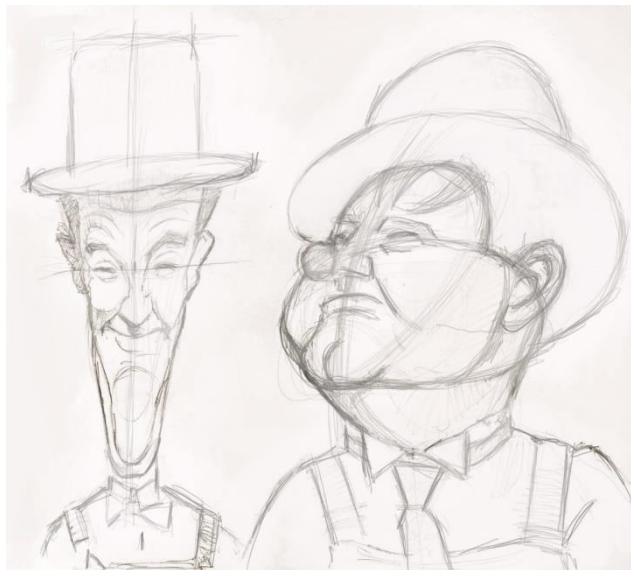


Step 1

Chris began by producing a few quick thumbnail sketches, exploring and exaggerating what he considered to be the prominent shapes. Ignoring detail at this stage he identified the basic head and body shapes.

Step 2

From the strongest thumbnail sketch, Chris created a line drawing which captured the shapes in the characters he was looking for: An elongated triangular shaped head for Stan and wider oval forms for Ollie.





Step 3

He produced a definitive final sketch, which tried to capture the essence of the overall look he wanted to achieve. After getting the overall head and body shapes resolved, the eyes need to be rendered accurately.

Step 4

Chris's final sketch was then scanned into his computer. At this stage, he decided to work digitally using a tablet and Photoshop. He would, however, use the same techniques if he had chosen to work using traditional media such as oils, acrylics or pastel. The sketch was tinted with a mid-tone over the entire piece, eliminating the white which can be intimidating to work on. He then proceeded to lay down some darker values.



Step 5

Next Chris starts blocking in lighter values and begins to refine. He starts painting up the background, adding strong highlights behind Stan, to make his head come to the fore. Chris starts applying a little more detail, constantly reappraising each element of the piece; mid-tones are added as well as the whites of their shirts.



Step 6

Chris keeps refining the piece, the arms were drawn in and features like the eyes, ears and noses are rendered accurately. Lastly, he adds details like the hairs on the back of Ollie's neck, and the denim pattern on their dungarees. He goes over, checking and possibly correcting elements of the entire piece until he is completely satisfied with his efforts.

