

The Value Scale

Art & Design

Nine steps from white to black, and where each one belongs on a lit form.

Nine steps, spaced evenly by eye rather than by pigment.

Step	Where it belongs
1 white	Bare paper, kept for the highlight
2-3 lights	The plane facing the light source
4-5 halftones	Planes turning away from the light
6 core shadow	The dark band just past the turn
7 shadow	The body of the form shadow
8 reflected light	Inside shadow, never as light as a halftone
9 black	Cast shadow at the point of contact

Reflected light belongs to the shadow family. Drawing it lighter than a halftone flattens the form immediately.