

# Using proportional dividers

If you are confident in your drawing ability and work freehand directly from your reference image, you can use scale (proportional) dividers to check that you are maintaining the correct proportions.

If you are changing the scale of the image, the central pivot on these dividers can be moved along a calibrated scale and positioned against the value of your desired enlargement/reduction.

In the photo the pivot is set at a value of 2. So when I place the two small points on a specific section of the drawing (such as the distance between the ears), then the two larger points at the other end of the dividers will be automatically twice as far apart. This larger dimension can then be applied to my new drawing to check that I am getting the proportions correct.

Conversely, if I place the two larger points against the same section of the drawing, then the distance between the two small points will be half of the original, enabling you to create an accurate reduction.

There are numerous versions of these dividers available from art equipment suppliers at very reasonable prices.

