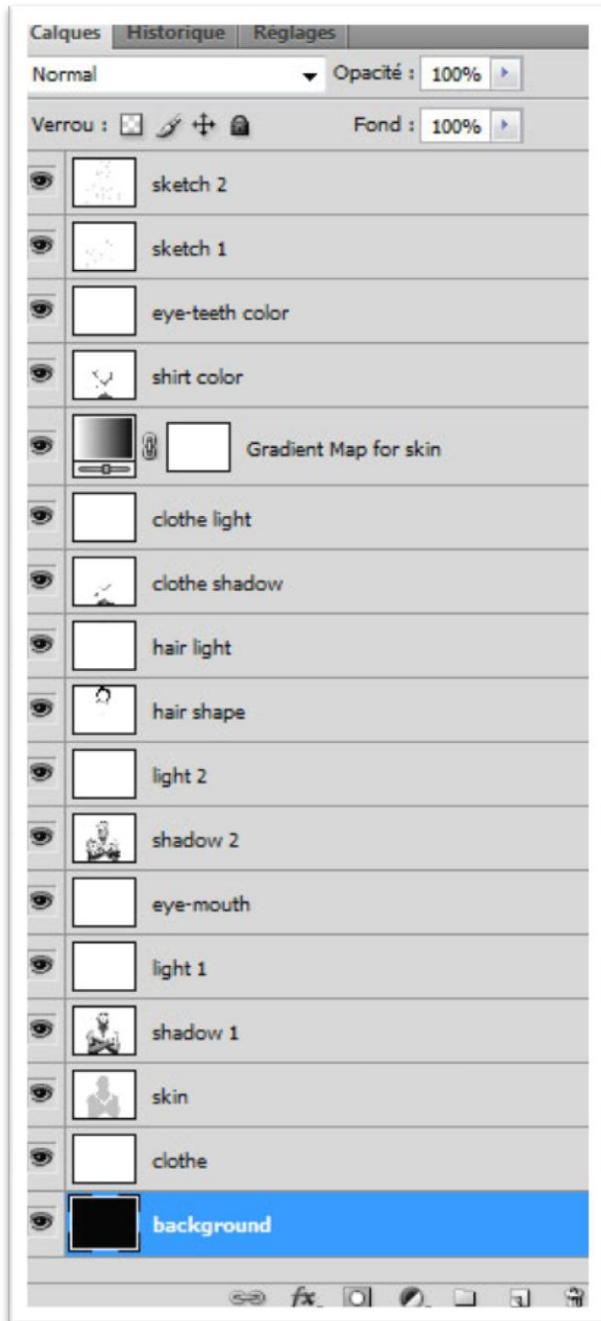


HOW TO DRAW A SEMI-REALISTIC CHARACTER

This tutorial explains how to draw a Comic Character in Semi-Realistic style with Adobe Photoshop but you could use this method for others styles.

Tools: Adobe Photoshop and a Graphic tablet (or a mouse if you don't have)

I use different layers, then I can easily correct my drawing if I need:



Abbreviation:

SRB: Soft round brush

W: Width

C: Color

O: Opacity

E: Eraser

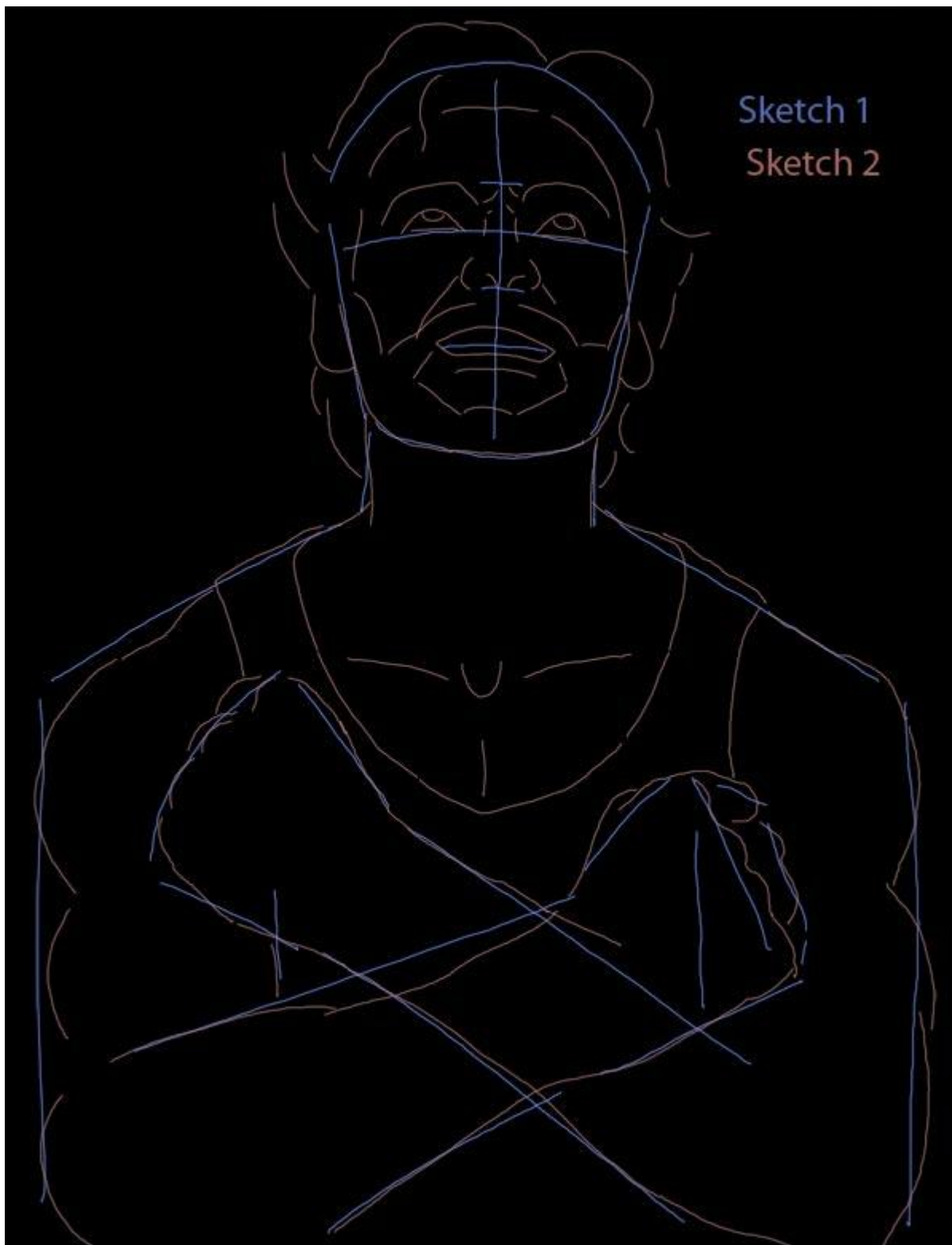
GB: Gaussian blur

You can create additional layers like "hair shadow".

(I didn't need this layer for Wolverine because his hair is dark).

First, I draw in black and white and after I add some layers to change colors.

Create a new document of 1800 x 2100 px

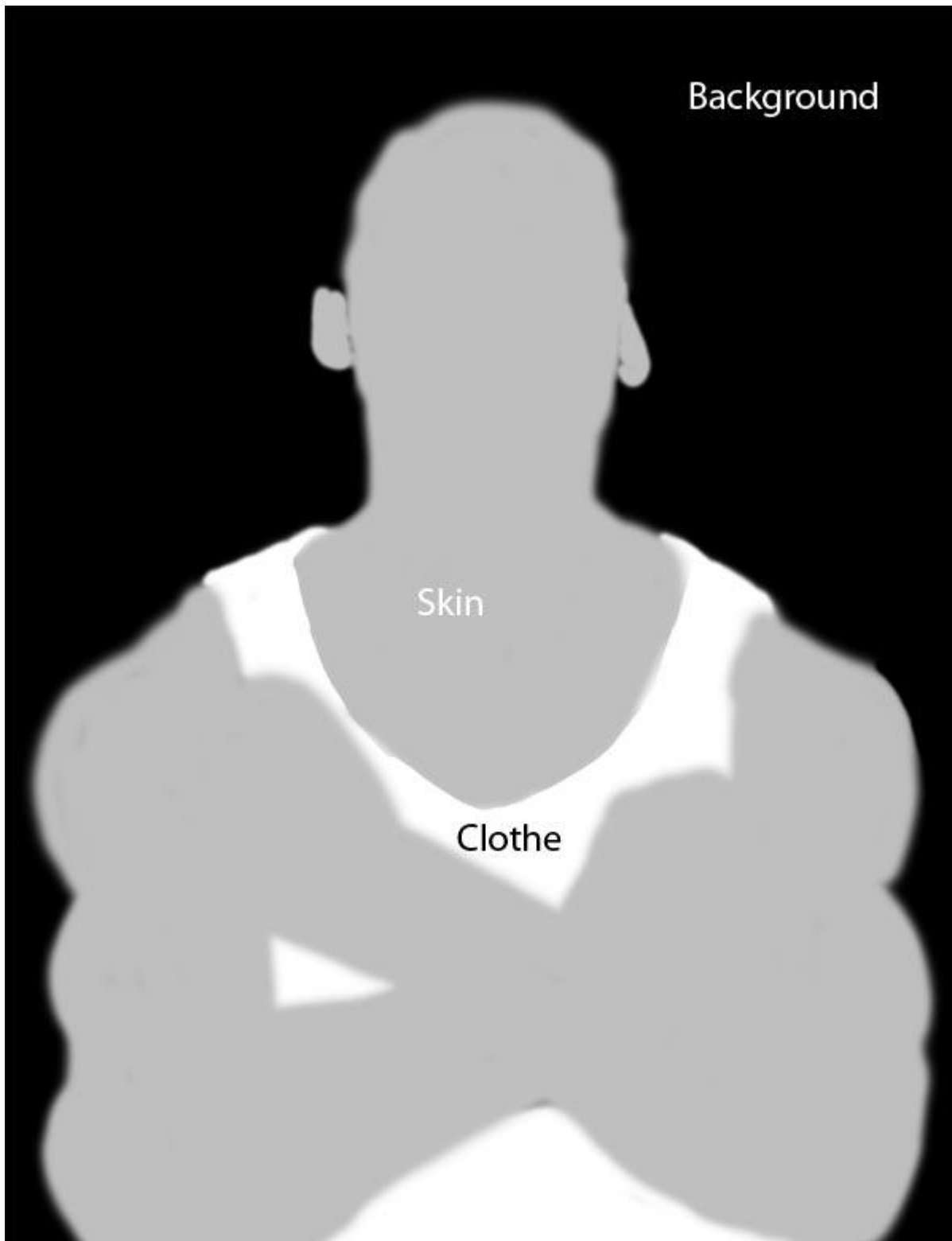


"Sketch 1" and "Sketch 2"

For this drawing, I used 2 layers: the first one for the basic lines and the second one for a more detailed sketch.

I always put the "sketch" layer on the top, then I can choose to make it visible or not. I choose colors that I will not use for my drawing.

Tools: SRB (W: 4px)



"Background"

Create a "Background" layer. It can be black or white for the moment.

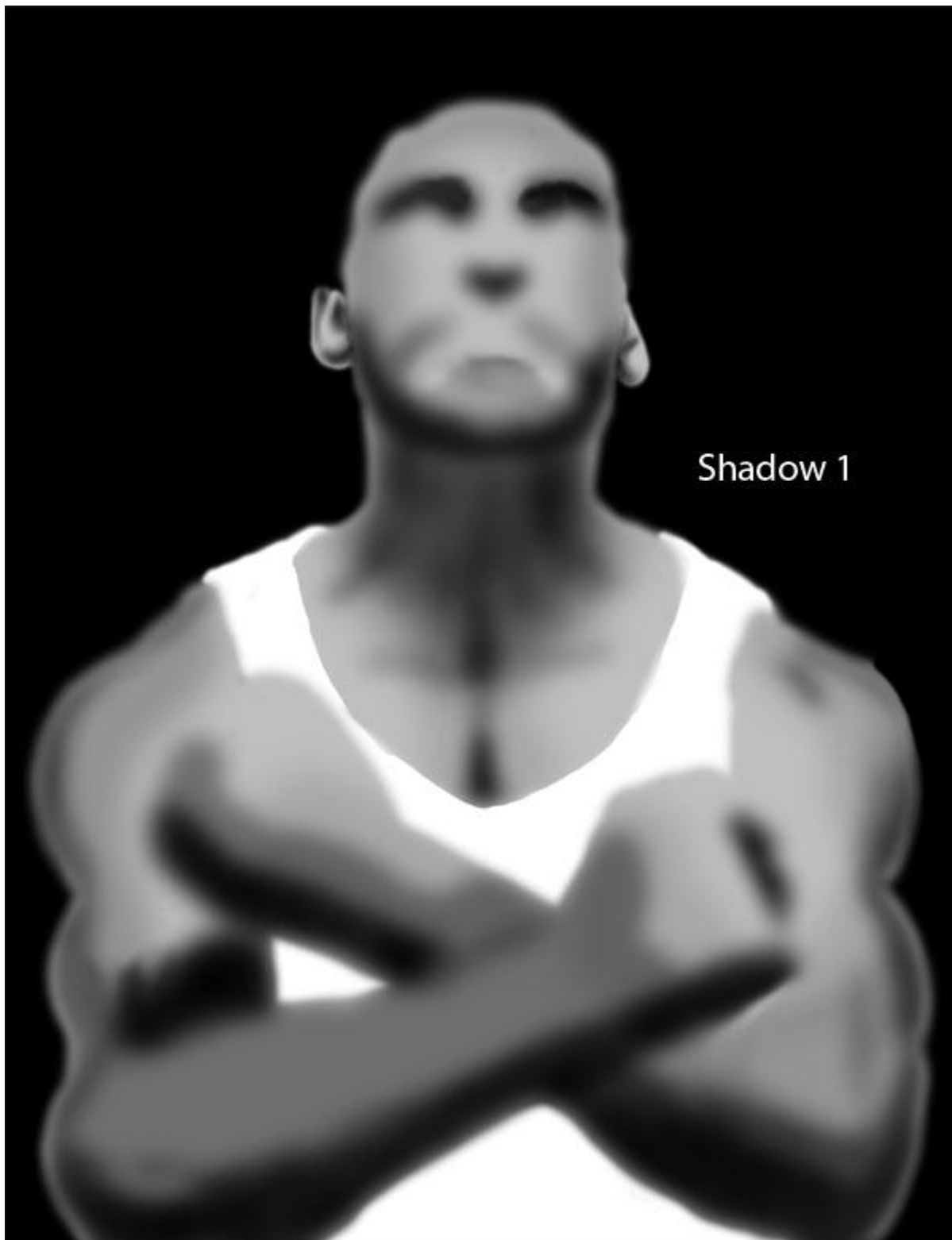
"Skin"

Draw the basic shape of the skin

Tools: SRB (W: 20/100 PX, C: #bfbfbf, O: 100%)

Select only the non-transparent areas of "Skin" Layer:

Ctrl-click (Windows) Command-click (Mac OS) the layer thumbnail in the Layers panel.



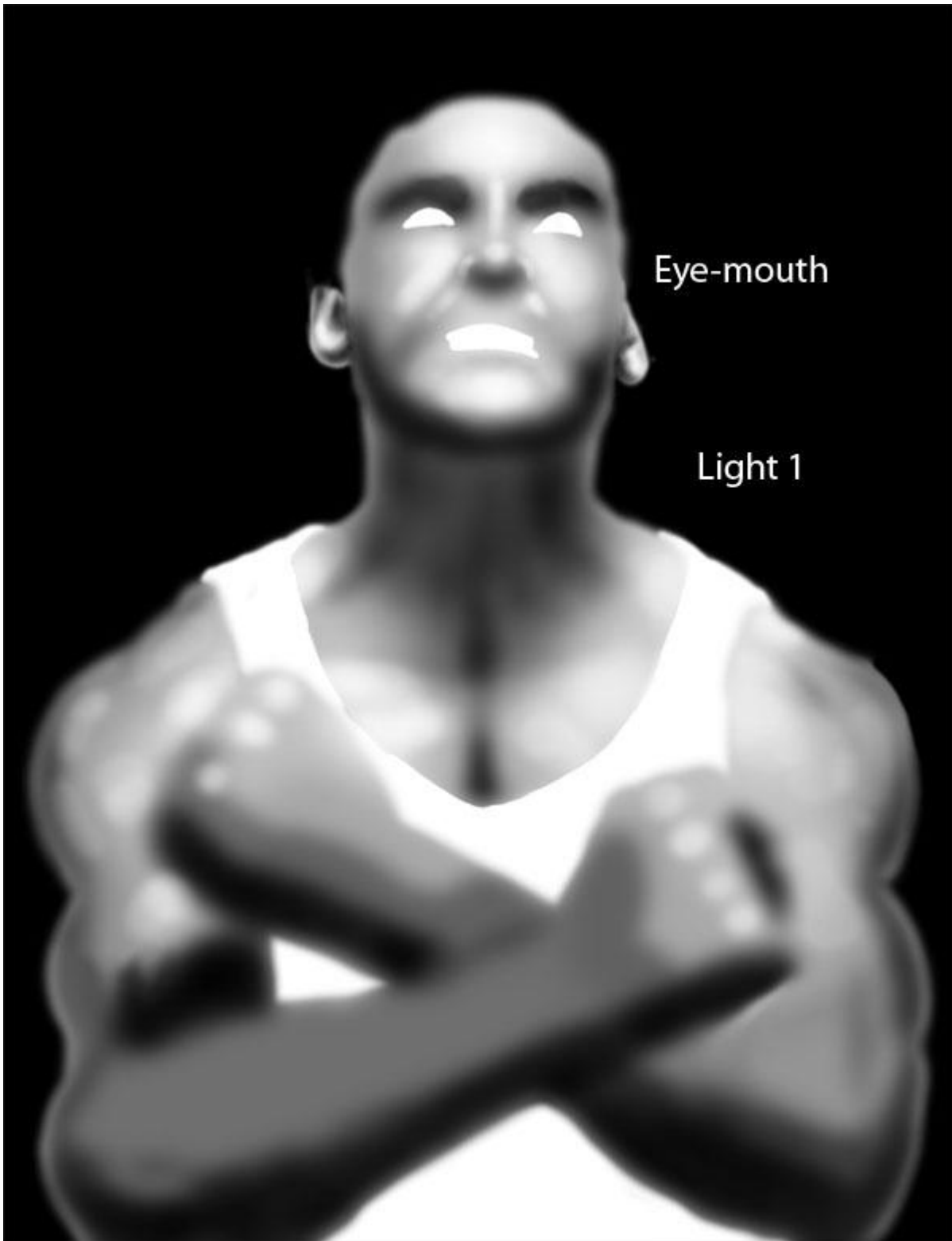
"Shadow 1"

Paint large shadows. I use opacity between 10% and 15% when I draw shadows with a black brush.

Tools: SRB (W: 200 px, C: black, O: 12%)

Apply a GB (15px)

To correct shadows or lights, use an eraser with opacity of 10%



"Light 1"

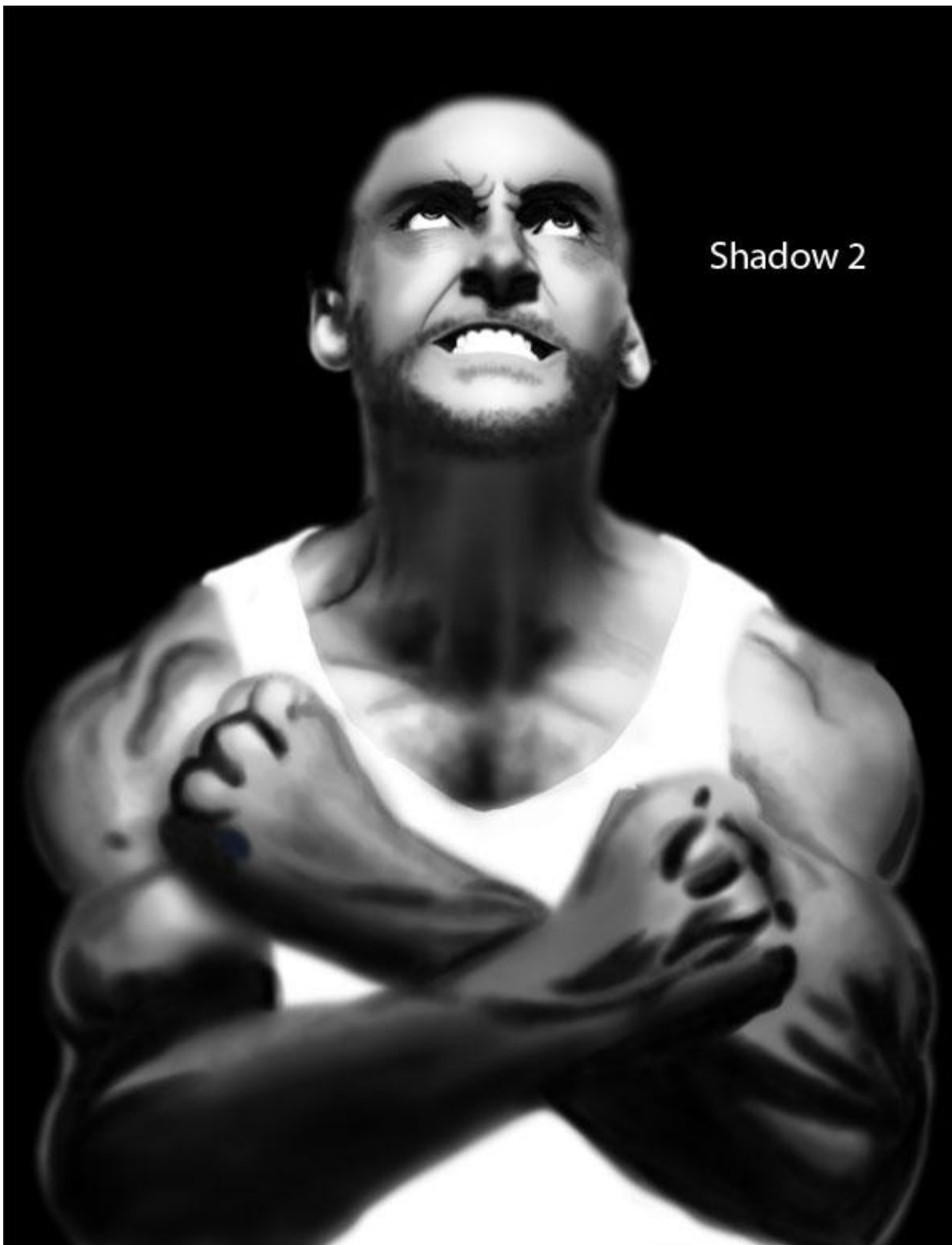
Paint the highlights (chin, cheek, nose, forehead, body....). I use opacity between 2% and 10% when I draw lights with a white brush. Use different sizes of brush between 20 and 100 px.

Tools: SRB (W: 20/100 px, C: white, O: 6%)

"Eye-mouth"

Define eyes and teeth with a white color.

Tools: SRB (W: 10 PX, C: white, O: 100%)



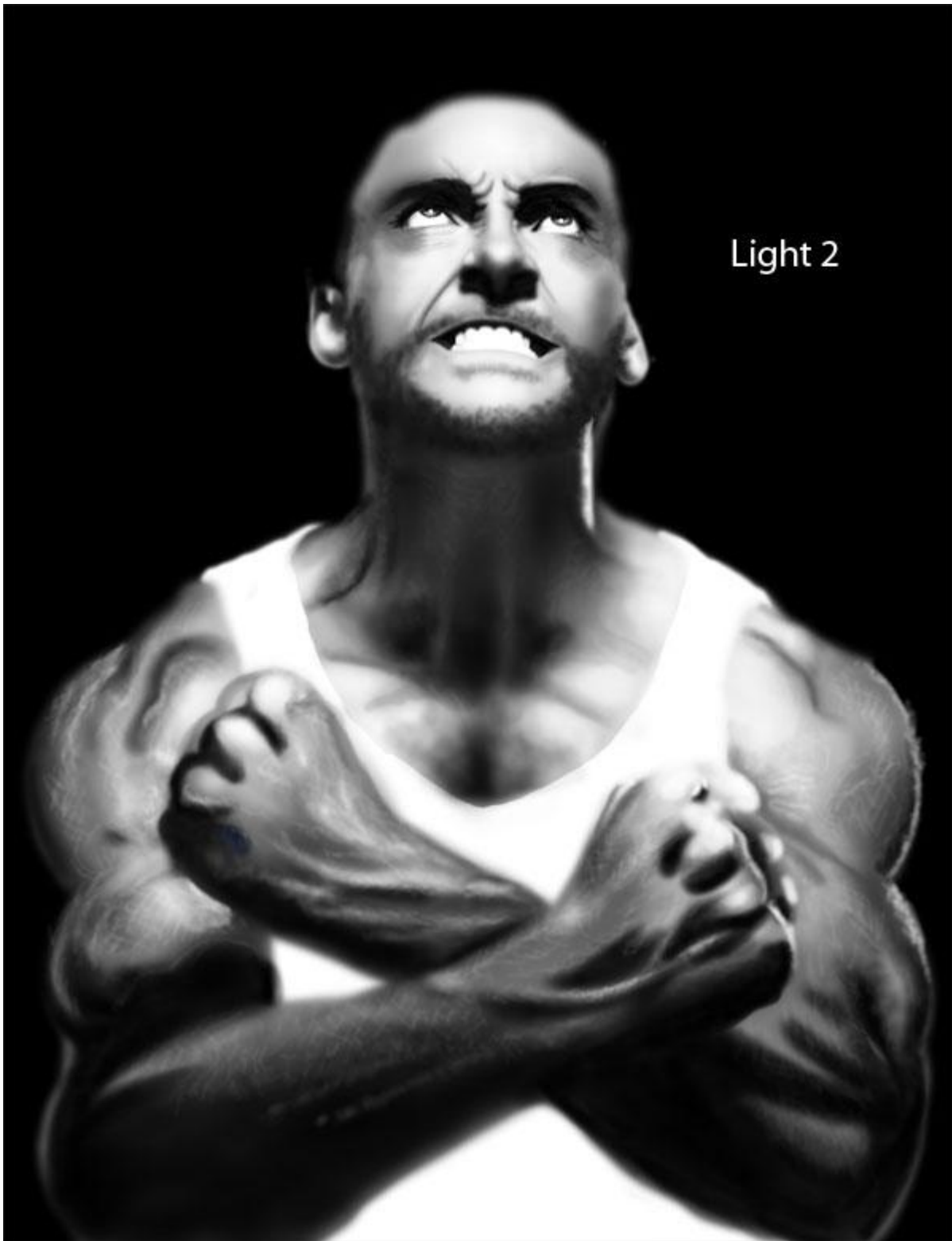
"Shadow 2"

Paint more detailed shadows (beard, eyebrows, nose, eye, mouth, body...).

At this step, I use different sizes of brush: 4 to 20 px for the head and 10 to 100 px for the body.

You can use different shapes of brush to draw beard.

Tools: SRB (W: 4/10/20/100 px, C: black, O: 15%)



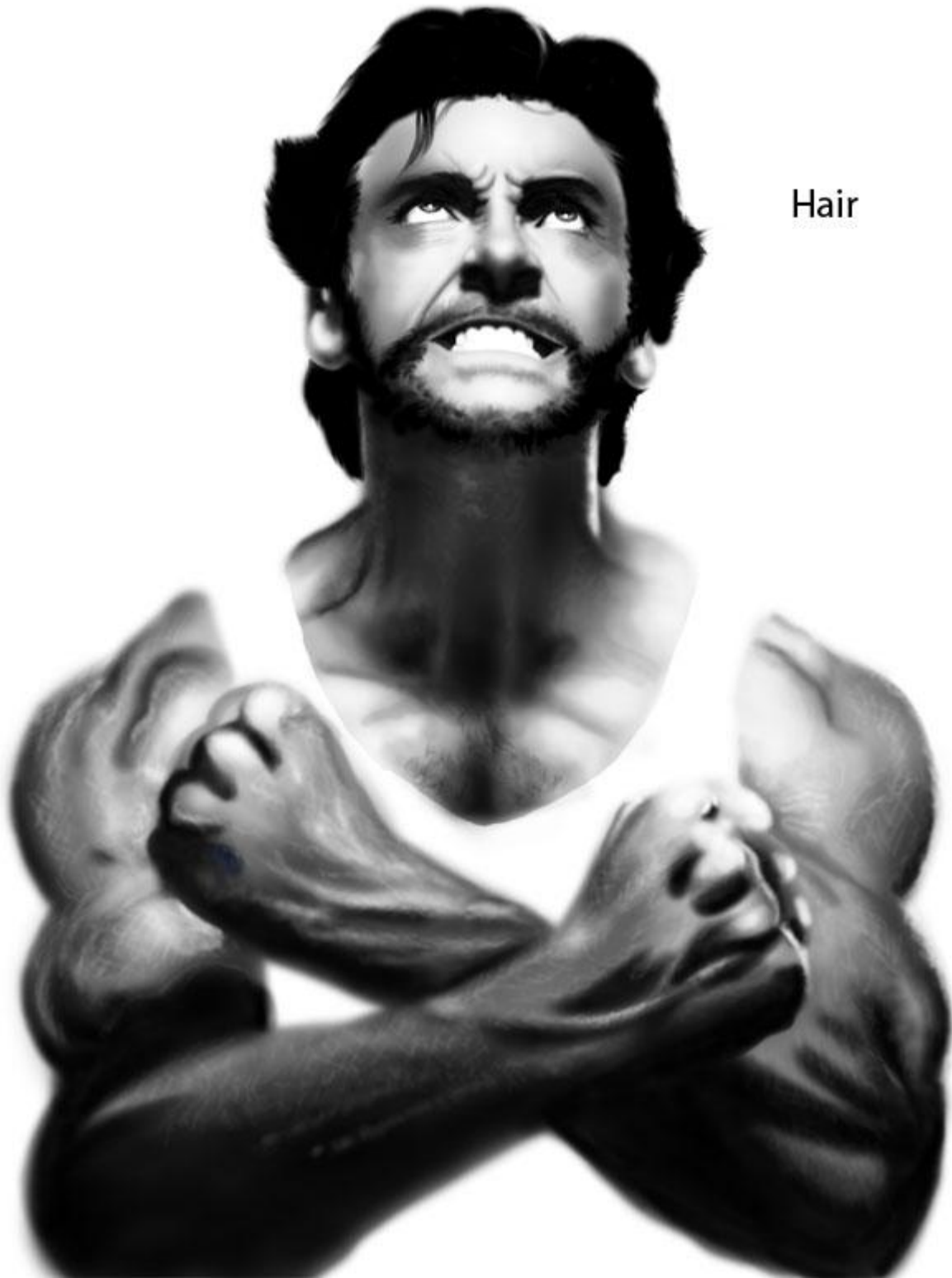
"Light 2"

Draw more defined highlights

Tools: SRB (W: 30 px, C: white, O: 5%)

I draw little lines on the arms to give a comic style to my drawing:

Tools: SRB (W: 10 PX, C: white, O: 1-10%)



"Hair shape"

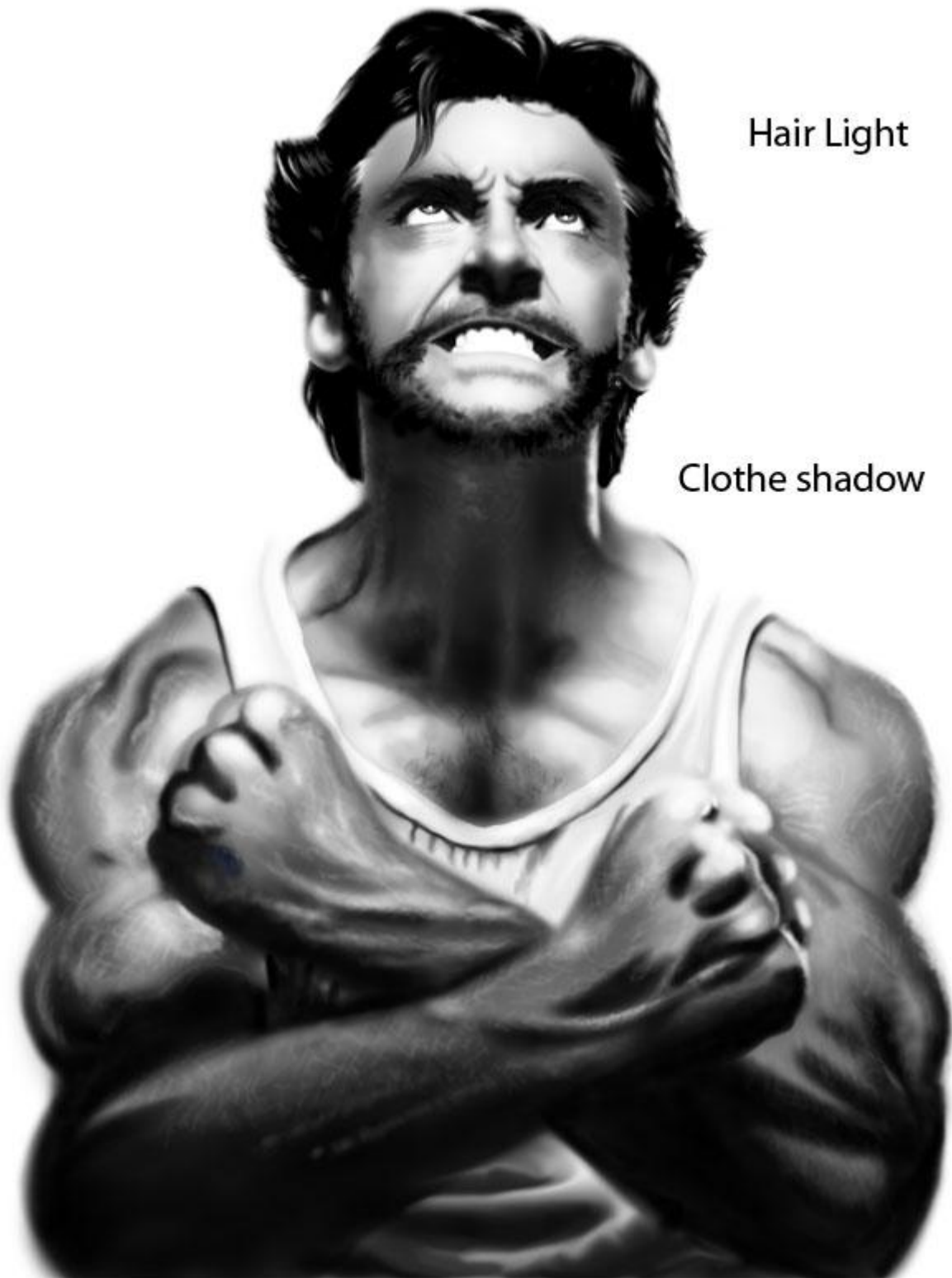
Paint the shape of the hair and the beard

Tools: SRB (W: 25 PX, C: black, O: 100%)

Create hairs all around the shape with the smudge tool

Tools: Smudge tool (W: 6 PX, S: 60%)

For long hair, you can add more layers (look at the video tutorial: How to draw hair)



"Hair light"

Draw some little lines and use the smudge tool

Tools: SRB (W: 8 PX, C: white, O: 100%) Smudge tool (W: 8 PX, S: 60%)

"Clothe"

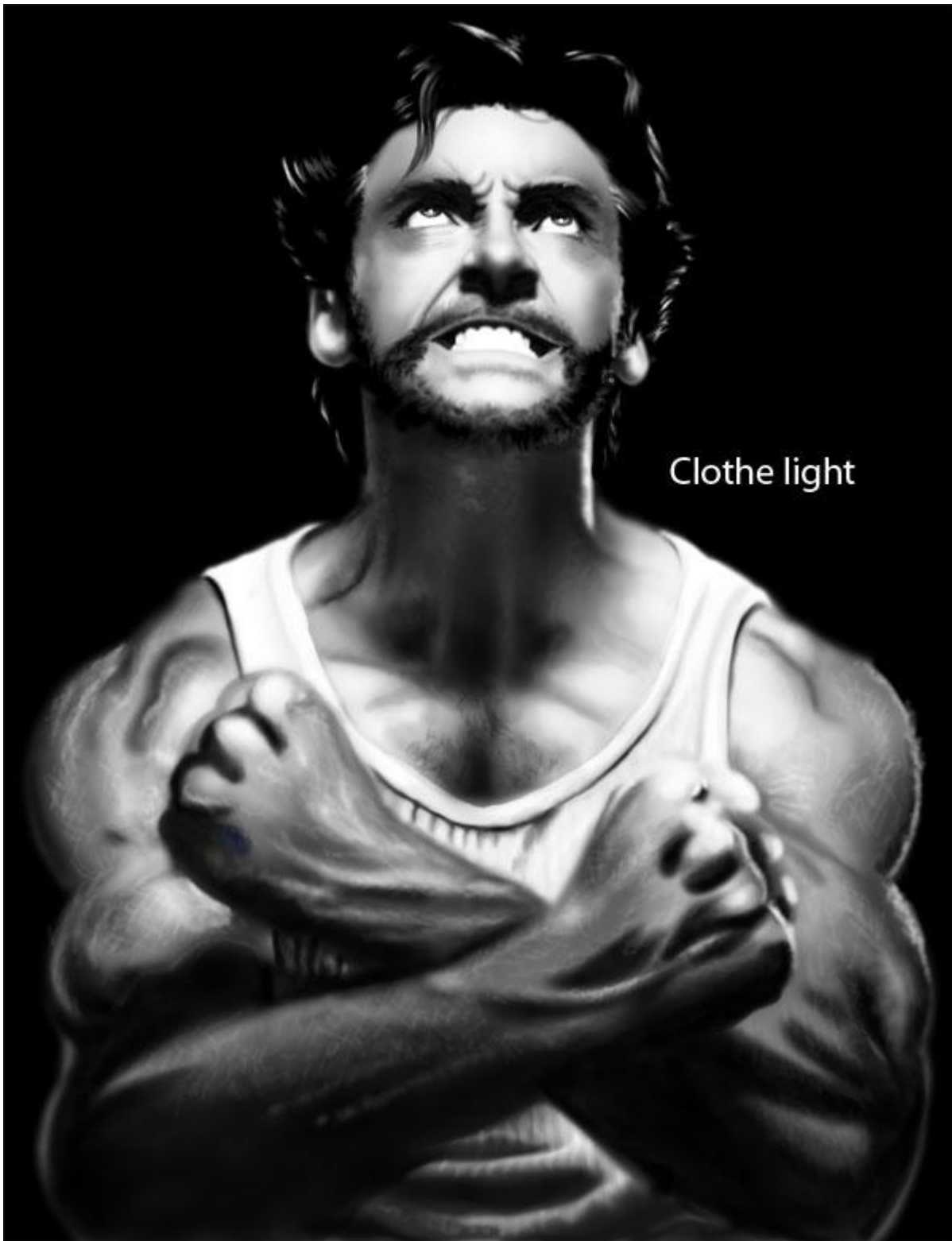
I place this layer behind the skin but you can place it in another place, it depends of the clothes.

Tools: SRB (W: 60 PX, C: white, O: 100%)

"Clothe shadow"

Draw shadows on the shirt. Start with the big brush and after draw the more detailed shadows with the smaller brush. Use the smudge tool.

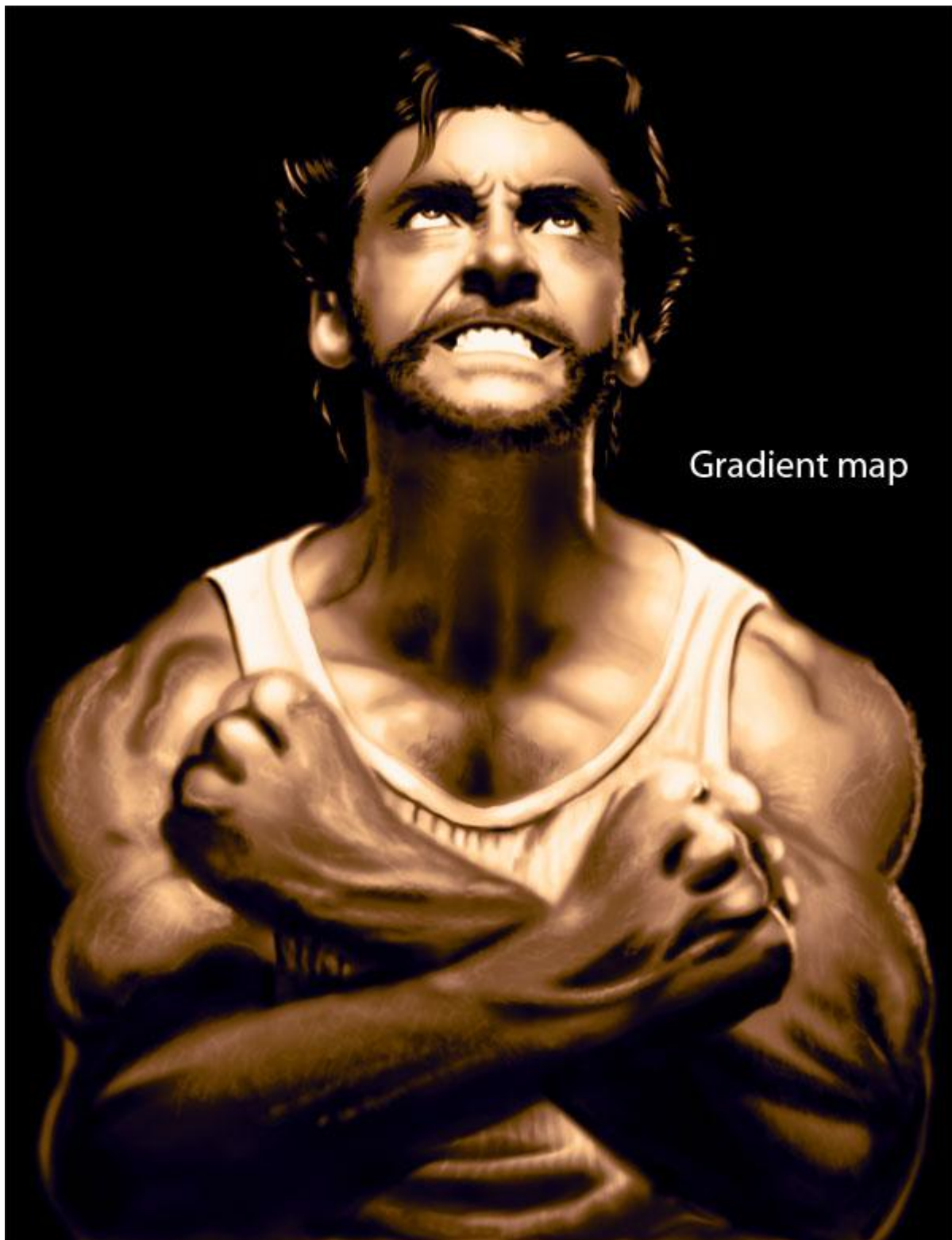
Tools: SRB (W: 30/100 PX, C: black, O: 9%) Smudge tool (W: 45 PX, S: 60%)



"Clothe light"

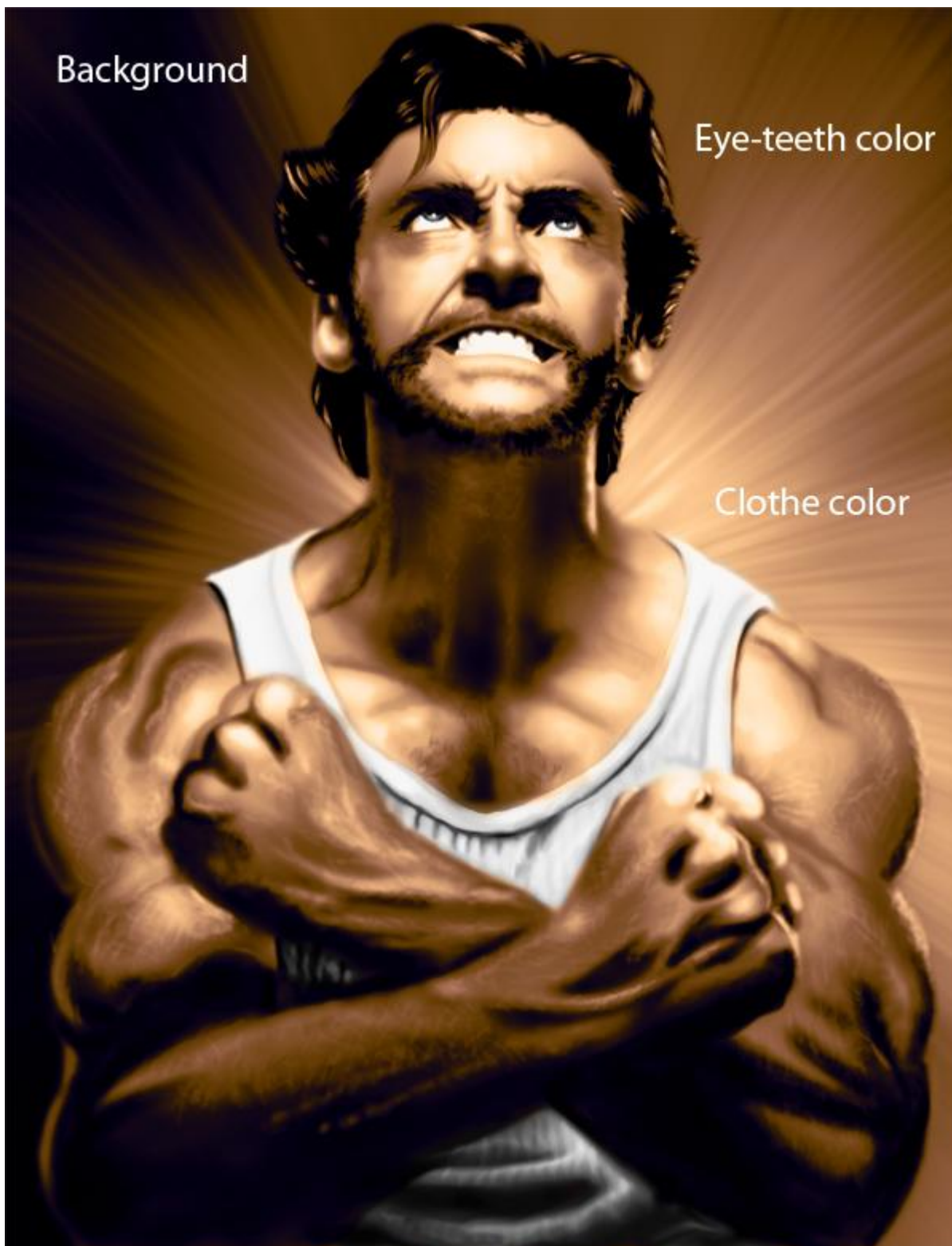
Draw light on the clothes. Use eraser to correct if needed

Tools: SRB (W: 20 PX, C: white, O: 5%) E (W: 36 PX, S: 14%)



"Gradient map for skin"

I create an adjustment layer "gradient map" for the skin. It allows me to add many colors between black and white:



"Shirt color", "Eye-teeth color"

You can create one or several layers to add color to your drawing. Choose "color" in the layers panel.

Here the color for these 3 elements is the same but you can change them.

Tools: SRB (W : 10:100 px, C : #606060, O : 100%) I use opacity of 50% for the teeth

Your character is finished. You can add background, accessories (claws...)

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial (the video "How to draw Wolverine" is in video tutorials)