

# Practical Heraldry Course for Self-Isolators — Lesson 2

**TINCTURES: Metals and Colours.** Mostly in heraldry, to make a good strong image, we use a **metal** : either Gold (in heraldry called **OR**) or SILVER (in heraldry called **Argent**), and one or more of the five common **colours**, which also have special names:



Or      Argent      Gules      Azure      Vert      Sable      Purpure

Once we decide on the **TINCTURE** of the shield, we can add a **CHARGE**—which can be a shape, an animal a bird or an object. Here for example is a blue shield (Azure) with a gold star (a **MULLET Or**):



**Colouring Exercise I:** colour in the following coats of arms following the instructions for each one:



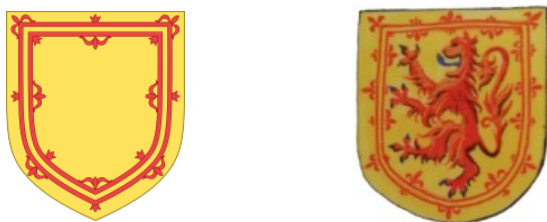
Or a mullet Azure      Gules a mullet Argent      Vert a mullet Or      Sable a mullet Argent

In Scotland, no two people are allowed to use the same coat of arms. If we look at a coat of arms with a lion on it about to pounce, known as a **LION RAMPANT** we find at least six different people can use it so it must be the **TINCTURES** which make these coats of arms **DIFFERENT**. If you colour them in by their description or **BLAZON**, they should all be correct:



**Macduff**                      **Crichton**                      **Home**                      **Dundas**                      **Lamont**

Or a lion rampant Gules    Argent a lion rampant Azure    Vert a lion rampant Argent    Argent a lion rampant Gules    Azure a lion rampant Argent



The Royal arms of Scotland even use the lion rampant; this time it has a frame round it called a **DOUBLE TRESSURE**.

**Keywords:**

**Blazon**—the words which describe the coat of arms.

**Rampant**— up on its hind legs.

**Mullet**—a star

**Tinctures: Metals and Colours**

**Double Tressure**— a sort of frame.

Check your work on the previous page. How did you do?



Or a mullet Azure



Gules a mullet Argent



Vert a mullet Or



Sable a mullet Argent



Macduff

Or a lion rampant Gules



Crichton

Argent a lion rampant Azure



Home

Vert a lion rampant Argent



Dundas

Argent a lion rampant Gules



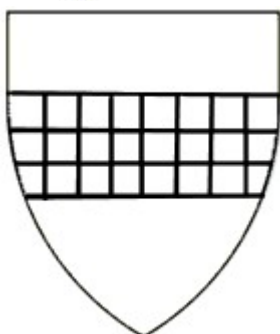
Lamont

Azure a lion rampant Argent

A lot of Scottish coats of arms have a stripe called a FESS across the middle of the shield. This FESS sometimes has a checked pattern called CHEQUY. The most famous of these is the arms of the Stewarts, later to become the royal family of Scotland and ancestors of the present Queen. The blazon is: OR (as the shield is gold), a fess chequy AZURE and ARGENT—meaning that the checks are BLUE and SILVER with BLUE in the first box.

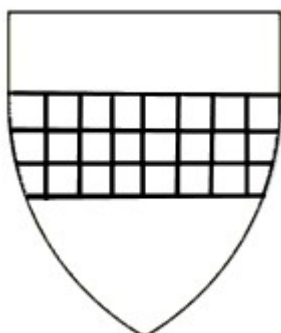


Following the blazons, see if you can colour in the others correctly—you can check your answers tomorrow!



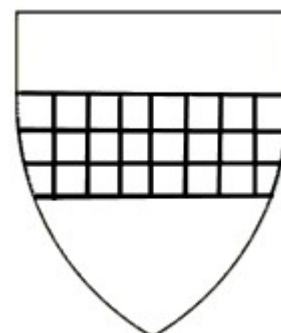
Lindsay

Gules a fess chequy Argent and Azure




Boyd

Azure a fess chequy Argent and Gules



Burgh of Kilmarnock

Purpure a fess chequy Or and Vert



If the stripe goes DOWN the middle, it is called a **PALE**. Here is the shield of the Earl of Northesk: Argent a pale Gules.

**Keywords:**

A FESS—a stripe across the middle

A PALE—a strip down the middle.

Chequy—checked, like a tablecloth

## Bonus Colouring Sheet—LIONS RAMPANT

We have met the LION RAMPANT—standing on its hind legs ready to do some serious damage! Of course it need not be standing—even lions need a rest. It might be PASSANT (just going about its business) or STATANT having a seat):



CRICHTON—*lion rampant*



OGILVIE—*lion passant*



LYON CLERK -*lion statant*

Here are some lions rampant for you to practise colouring in. Quite often the TONGUE and the CLAWS are painted a different colour from the rest of the lion. Sometimes they are GULES (red) but often they are surprisingly AZURE (blue).

