



## 12

# BASICS OF DRAWING

Drawing is one of the most basic ways to exercise your creativity. Whether you're using a pencil, pen, crayon, or even your fingers, the skills you gain from the activity translate to a bevy of different media. Learning the fundamentals is simple to do, but like all art, they require a lot of practice to master. But once you do, you'll have the ability create images you're truly proud of. There are standard drawing techniques that you need to be familiar with as you put pencil to paper. Some are so basic that you've probably used them before without even realizing it. In this lesson you will learn about the basic skills of drawing, drawing of shapes like circles and also understand the basics of colour.



## OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- list the basic equipments used for drawing;
- explain the basic skills of drawing
- draw basic shapes such as circle, triangle, square etc.
- create new colours by mixing two or more colours.



Notes

## 12.1 ESSENTIAL DRAWING MATERIALS AND TOOLS



Fig. 12.1 Drawing Material

Most of us started drawing when we were young. Back then, materials and tools were not that important to us. A standard pencil on some notebook paper would often "do the trick". Some essential tools of drawing are listed below.

### 1. Quality Drawing Pencils

They are graded from hard (H) to soft (B). 9H is the hardest whereas 9B is the softest, with F (for fine) and HB in the middle range. H pencils (2H, 3H, and 4H; they progressively become harder) are good for clear-cut, light lines, but will scratch into the surface of your paper, so B pencils are better for softer, tonal work.



Fig. 12.2 Pencils



Each grade of pencil will only produce a tone of a given darkness and no amount of pressure will make that tone darker. If you require a darker tone, you will need to switch to a softer grade of pencil. Soft pencils will give a greater range of tones than hard pencils and can be erased without leaving an indent should you make a mistake. It is for this reason that most drawings are made using a pencil which is HB or softer.

## 2. Coloured Pencils

Coloured pencils are made in much the same way as graphite pencils. The pigment is mixed with a clay filler and a binder. Wax is added to act as a lubricant and help the pencil slide smoothly over the paper. These are available in many different colours and forms. Some coloured pencils make sharp, definite lines, while others are softer and can be blended more easily. Layering colours will produce different shades and unexpected results can be achieved by using the same group of colours in different sequences



Fig. 12.3 Coloured Pencils



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### 3. Wax Crayons/Pastel Colours

#### Charcoal pencils



Fig. 12.4 Charcoal Pencils

Charcoal pencils, as the name suggests, are made of charcoal and provide fuller blacks than graphite pencils, but tend to smudge easily and are more abrasive than graphite

#### 4. Rubber Eraser

Your standard eraser for erasing graphite. This eraser uses friction to remove any material from the surface.

#### Ink

Drawing inks, available in a range of colours, are either waterproof or water-soluble. Water-soluble inks are not as widely available as waterproof inks. Both inks can be blended with water to create tones.

#### 5. A Sketchbook/Drwaing sheets

A sketchbook is one of the most important things an artist can have - a book with blank pages of drawing paper. Since a

sketchbook is recommended for daily practice, it is important to choose one that is durable and has plenty of pages. Paper can be purchased as loose, single sheets or in sketchbooks and pads. Single sheets enable you to try out several different papers and can be cut or torn to size.

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## 6. Drawing boards and easels

If you are working on single sheets of paper, you will need to secure it to a drawing board. It might sound obvious, but make sure that the board is large enough for your paper and that its surface is smooth. An easel is an upright support used for displaying and/or fixing something resting upon it, at an angle of about  $20^\circ$  to the vertical. In particular, easels are traditionally used by painters to support a painting while they work on it, normally standing up, and are also sometimes used to display finished paintings.



Fig. 12.5 Drawing board



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## 7. A Good Pencil Sharpener

Pencils need to be sharpened with a quality pencil sharpener. Charcoal pencils can be sharpened like graphite pencils. Metal sharpeners work better than plastic ones. You can also use a small knife to sharpen your pencils

## 8. A Felt Tip Pen

Felt tip pens allow the artist to create a variety of marks. The tip of the pen allows the artist to create a broad range of line quality.

## 9. Charcoal pencils

Charcoal pencils, as the name suggests, are made of charcoal and provide fuller blacks than graphite pencils, but tend to smudge easily and are more abrasive than graphite.

## 10. Pens

A very large range of pen options is available-so much so that it may seem a little overwhelming. Technical pens are convenient to use for fast sketches, but their nibs make unvarying marks. Fountain or cartridge pens, roller-ball, ballpoint, fine liners, and specialist art pens come with a wide range of nibs and can be used for both quick sketches and more detailed drawings. Ballpoint pens can be smooth and satisfying to use and are convenient for sketching. All pens can create fine, flowing lines

## 12.2 FOUNDATION SKILLS OF DRAWING

Drawing is both a talent and a skill. It takes a lot of practice to become good at something. A skill is something taught and learned, and through levels of learning, you develop expertise. A talent is an inborn and natural inherent ability. The ability to draw will come naturally for some people, and their natural ability can be enhanced by further training and developing higher skill. For someone who does not know how to draw, they can gain instruction and develop skill, even to a high level of expertise. Some basic skills of drawing are:

The First Skill: recognizing edges

The Second Skill: recognizing - non-object shapes or "spaces"

The Third - and most difficult skill - sighting, perspective

The Fourth Skill: Judging Light and Dark

Applied to drawing, these skills specifically become the ability to:

- 1) identify edges,
- 2) recognize spaces,
- 3) calculate proportions and angles,
- 4) judge light from shadow, and
- 5) the unconscious skill of "putting it all together".



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## 2FUNDAMENTAL DRAWING TECHNIQUES

Drawing is one of the most basic ways to exercise your creativity. Whether you're using a pencil, pen, crayon, or even your fingers, the skills you gain from these activity translate into a great artist. Learning the fundamentals is simple to do, but like all art, they require a lot of practice to master. But once you do, you'll have the ability create images you're truly proud of. There are standard drawing techniques that you need to be familiar with as you put pencil to paper. Some are so basic that you've probably used them before without even realizing it.

The basic craft of drawing is about two things:

- you learn to control your hand and
- to see.

Let us begin:

**Back and forth :** This approach challenges you to move your drawing tool back and forth across the paper in an even, level motion. Depending on how much pressure you apply, the darker your drawing will appear.

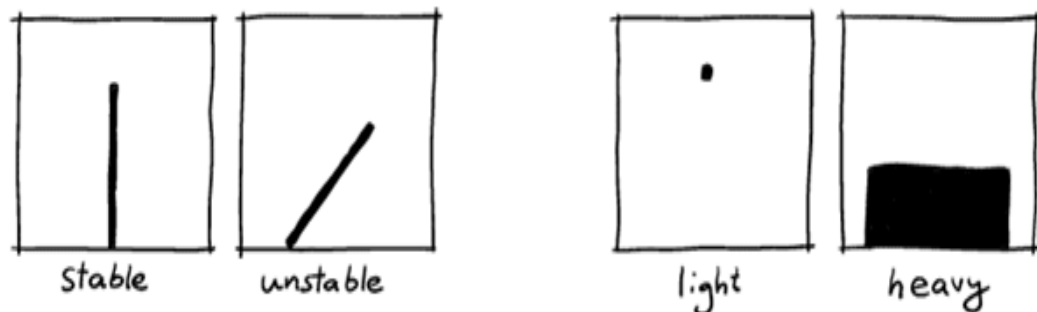


Fig. 12.6 Back & Forth





**Hatching :** Hatching involves making tiny ticks on your page. Make sure that each mark is parallel to the other. Lines that are close together will look darker, while lines further apart will indicate highlights. Now make sure to try other directions as well.

**Cross Hatching :** This technique is the logical extension to hatching. But instead of creating a series of parallel lines, have your marks intersect one another in a cross-like formation.

**Scribble :** Scribbling allows your hand the opportunity to fly across the page. Move your pencil in a random formation-no precise marks necessary. The more you scrawl all over an area, the darker it will look.

**Stippling :** Stippling involves making a countless amount of tiny dots on your paper. Like all other approaches, the closer the dots, the darker the drawing.

**Blending :** If you're using charcoal or pencil, try blending them. To do so, begin with the back-and-forth technique to cover your paper, and then rub the medium into it. You can use your finger or cloth. Another option for blending is to experiment with powdered graphite and use a paintbrush to gradually blend and build tone onto your pages.

## **Drawing Lines**

Lines are among the most fundamental features of any drawing. Your ability to position lines on your paper will affect the end result of your masterpiece in one way or another. In essence, your drawings begin with simple lines to create the guides and



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rough sketches that will serve as foundation to what you're about to draw.

**Straight Lines :** By understanding straight lines and mastering how to draw them, you'll realise that there's more to them than simple sticks. You'll understand the illusion and movement they seem to create when placed with each other in a certain distance and in a certain position.

**Curved Lines :** Experiment with curved lines and you'll understand about graceful movements and fluffy figures.

**Repeated lines :** Mastering your straight and curved lines, you'll understand that combining some of them into a single pattern will provide you with magical results that you may have not expected.

### Shapes and Forms

Connecting your lines together will give you shapes. Whether they're the basic 2-dimensional ones like squares and circles, the 3-D ones like spheres and boxes, or unique ones that are a result of your creative mind; shapes essentially give your drawings the volume and depth they should have.

Understanding shapes is important because when combined together, they can form the foundations to a more complex drawing. A triangle on top of a square can turn into a house. Ovals stacked together can become pets or wild animals. A sphere with an irregular box below it can turn into a skull or human head. In short, everything you see in life can be drawn easily and

properly when you understand that they can be visualised as various shapes put together.

### **Light and Shadow**

Whether with your pencil, chalk, drawing inks, wax crayons or any other material you use, shading will further provide depth and volume to whatever you're drawing. But shading anywhere on your canvas or paper isn't the way to achieving a stunning masterpiece. That's why you should understand how light and shadows play with each other to learn where to put the dark areas on your drawing. Flawlessly darkening some areas on your drawing while leaving white spaces will add a sense of 3-dimensional effect, and if done properly, you could create an illusion where your drawings tend to pop out of the page as if they're real to those who see them.

### **Understanding Perspective**

Combining your knowledge and experience on the above discussed basic elements of drawing, you can understand the concept of perspective in terms of drawing. It essentially gives your drawing a sense of distance as well as provides viewers an idea of the relative space among the structures and characters in your drawing.

Composition is a great tool to "say" something with a drawing, to shape its meaning or message.

## **12.3 THE COLOUR THEORY**

Colour theory is both the science and art of using colour. It explains how humans perceive colour; and the visual effects of



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how colours mix, match or contrast with each other. Colour theory also involves the messages colours communicate; and the methods used to replicate colour. Colour is perception. Our eyes see something (the sky, for example), and data sent from our eyes to our brains tells us it's a certain colour (blue). Objects reflect light in different combinations of wavelengths.

Our brains pick up on those wavelength combinations and translate them into the phenomenon we call colour. Humans see colours in light waves. Mixing light-or the additive colour mixing model-allows you to create colours by mixing red, green and blue light sources of various intensities. The more light you add, the brighter the colour mix becomes. If you mix all three colours of light, you get pure, white light.

In colour theory, colours are organized on a colour wheel and grouped into 3 categories: primary colours, secondary colours and tertiary colours.

The colour wheel consists of

- three primary colours - red, yellow, blue;
- three secondary colours - colours created when primary colours are mixed: green, orange, purple; and
- six tertiary colours -colours made from primary and secondary colours, such as blue-green or red-violet.

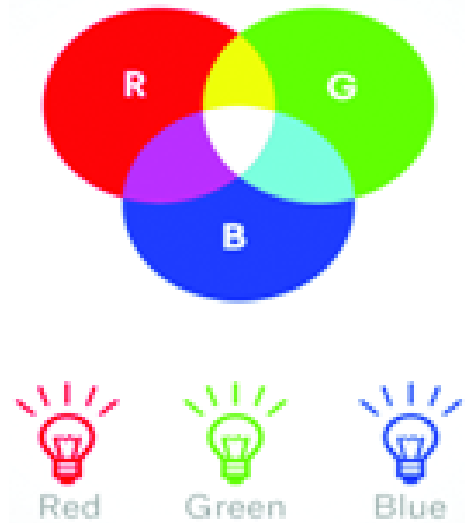


Fig. 12.7 The Colour Theory



Draw a line through the center of the wheel, and you'll separate the warm colours (reds, oranges, yellows) from cool colours (blues, greens, purples).

Warm colours are generally associated with energy, brightness, and action, whereas cool colours are often identified with calm, peace, and serenity.

When you recognize that colour has a temperature, you can understand how choosing all warm or all cool colours can impact your message.

### **Hue, shade, tint and tone**

Simply put, tints, tones and shades are variations of hues, or colours, on the colour wheel. A tint is a hue to which white has been added. For example, red + white = pink. A shade is a hue to which black has been added. For example, red + black = burgundy. Finally, a tone is a colour to which black and white (or grey) have been added. This darkens the original hue while making the colour appear more subtle and less intense.



### **INTEXT QUESTIONS 12.1**

Fill in the blanks

1. ----- are traditionally used by painters to support a painting
2. ----- is the hardest whereas ----- is the softest, with F (for fine) and HB in the middle range of pencils
3. Connecting your lines together will give you-----.



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4. ----- involves making a countless amount of tiny dots on your paper.
5. Colours are organized on a colour wheel and grouped into ----- categories



### WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT

- Basic tools used for drawing;
- The basic skills of drawing
- Drawing basic shapes such as circle, triangle, square etc.
- Creating new colours by mixing two or more colours.



### TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. List and briefly describe any 10 tools used for drawing
2. Explain the basic skills of drawing
3. Explain the colour theory.



### ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

#### 12.1.

1. Easels
2. 9H, 9B
3. shapes
4. Stippling
5. three