



## The Painting Cave

Art Space Solutions #005

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# Tools of the Trade

Drawing Essentials for your Art Space



by **Jacqui Simpson** 2019

There are specific items that are needed for drawing. In this lesson, we will cover the essentials

1. Paper
2. Pencils
3. Erasers
4. Tortilon
5. Pens
6. Sharpeners
7. Drawing Board
8. Fixative

# Paper

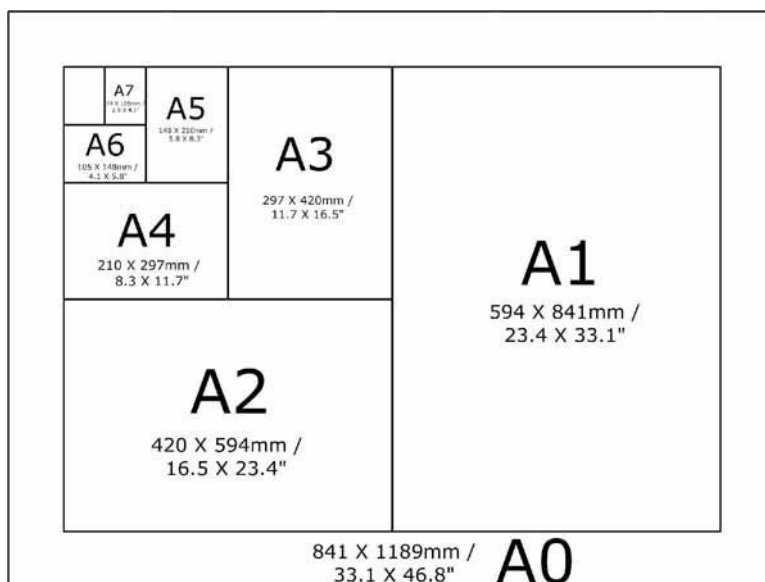
You get 2 kinds of drawing paper

Hot-pressed (rough texture). This paper comes in a variety of coarseness.

Cold-pressed (smooth texture)

It also comes in a variety of thickness identified as gsm (grams per square meter).

- 90 gsm - ideal for practice paper, planning, and note-making.
- 110-160 gsm - good for drawing in graphite, charcoal, pencil crayon, ink, and light water washes
- 200-300 gsm - can be used with most media, including watercolour, acrylic, collage, and ink



A good drawing size is

- A5 - 14 cm x 21 cm
- A4 - 21 cm x 30 cm
- A3 - 30 cm x 42 cm

Why? Consider this -

- Storage
- Cost to Frame
- Time to make
- Price to sell
- Our houses are a lot smaller - smaller drawings sell better.

# Pencils



Pencils are graded according to their colour and softness.

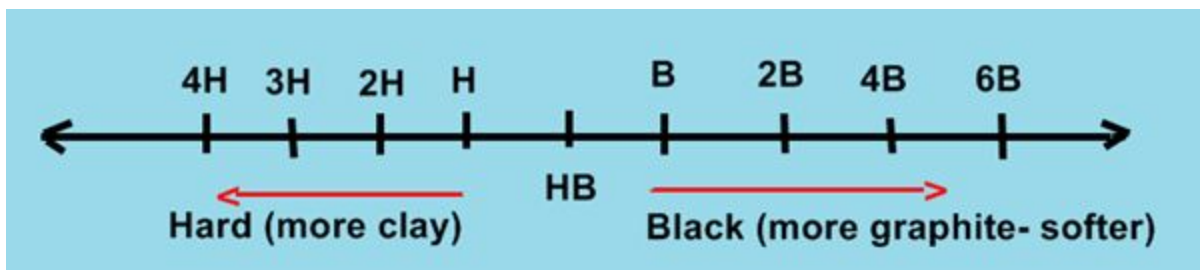
Harder pencils contain more clay and are therefore grey.

Softer pencils have a B behind the number which is for Black.

The higher the number, the more graphite is in the pencil and the darker it is.

You only need, at the most, 4 pencils. An **HB** - your everyday pencil In your office drawer or at school.

A **2B**, **4B**, and a really soft **6B** is all you need.



- Charcoal pencil - Also graded in Hard medium and soft. I recommend a medium
- White chalk pencil - for highlights on coloured paper.

# Erasers



- The kneadable eraser can be squashed into a fine point to clean up small areas of pencil and charcoal. It has been used in the “erasure” method of drawing too. It also serves as a great stress ball for warming up fingers to start drawing.
- A pencil eraser is slightly harder than a plastic eraser and can be sharpened with a knife or pencil sharpener for precision erasing.
- A soft plastic eraser is used to erase pencil on cold-pressed paper.

# Tortillon

We use a blending stump to blending or smudge graphite or charcoal. Your fingers tips carry a small amount of natural skin oils and when you use them to do this, they leave oil marks that turn brown over time. It is recommended that you use this tool or an earbud instead.

A tortillon or blending stump is used to blend graphite and charcoal.

It is a tightly rolled paper that has been sharpened to a point. It can be cleaned on sandpaper and sharpened with a knife.

It can also be used to transfer light patches of value onto paper and be used as a drawing tool



## Pens



Drawing pens are great for doodling and drawing. They come in a variety of makes and thicknesses. The only pre-requisite for a good drawing pen is that it is waterproof.

Adding colour with watercolour to a pen drawing should always be an option.

For simple doodle drawing, a ballpoint pen (in any colour) is adequate

## Sharpeners

Your best solution for a sharpener is a good crafters knife. Learning to gently whittle your pencil to a good point will ensure that a blunt “pencil sharpener” won’t tear into the wood around the graphite and land up breaking your pencil. If you must buy a sharpener, I recommend that you buy a simple metal sharpener. The fancy ones cost a fortune and just do not stay sharp.



## Drawing Board

A clipboard or drawing board is important when drawing from life. Your position when working is important so that you need not lift your head to see the object in front of you. Resting the back of your clipboard on your desk and in your lap is the ideal position to just lift your eyes when drawing and improve your perspective



# Fixative



An artist's fixative is used to prevent mediums like charcoal or pencil from smudging. It is quite expensive, so as an alternative, I use a cheap aerosol hairspray. Spraying your work is important to preserve it and once the fixative is dry, the drawing can be re-worked to a certain degree. Over-spraying can discolour or even damage your work so as a rule, I suggest 3second bursts about a ruler length from the vertical work.

I believe that if you want to create beautiful art that will last and one day become your legacy, it is important to consider everything about the materials that you use.

Using the wrong paper or pencils, will alter the outcome of your work drastically. Storing your work is equally important.

# Storage

Flip file pocketbooks come in a variety of sizes. A4, A3, and A2.

These files are ideal for storing art and protecting it from dust. Ensure that your work has been sprayed before placing it in the pocket and avoid taking your work in and out of the pocket once it is complete.

I have kept art in these files for years with no problems.



Happy painting Artists!



## Who am I?

My name is Jacqui (Jax) Simpson. I am an Artist and teacher and have taught many students over 30 years.

I am passionate about Art and about those who want to learn how to create art.

I will be sending out tips, tricks, and advice to you on a weekly basis.

I am here to help you and I would love to hear from you.

## Stay in touch with us!



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