

Material Guide

Here are links to all the materials I referenced in the course. **These are NOT mandatory.**

You can get started on this course with just a pencil and paper. But if you decide to get some of these items in the future, here are some recommendations.

Also, full disclosure, this guide contains referral links so if you buy something through them, I may earn a small commission (at no extra cost to you!)

Drawing Board

This is the simplest way to get started; just lean your board against a table or chair and start drawing. You can also just use a thin wooden board and tape or clamp your paper to it.



Table Easel

This gives you more stability than the drawing board but is less mobile. It works well with the drawing board or just a wooden board.

Ergotron LX HD Sit-Stand Desk Mount Arm

This is my personal set up and I love it. You can screw a wooden board to this and use it as a floating easel. Here's a [great installation guide](#).

It allows you to work sitting or standing up. You do sacrifice a bit of stability; if you press too hard, the board will shift. But you can always just stabilize the board with your other hand.

This arm is pretty pricey so try to look for a used one on [ebay.com](#) to save some money.





Mont Marte 96 Hole Plastic Pencil & Brush Holder

Use this with the Ergotron Arm or just to keep your desk organized.

You can velcro this to the wooden board (use industrial strength velcro) and use it to hold your pencils and brushes. Velcros are the best!

Also, here are the clamps I use to clamp my sketch books to the board.

Single Edge Razor Blade Box

Use can use these razors to sharpen your pencils. They are cheap and one box will last you a very long time.

You can also use a utility knife or anything else that will work.

Just be careful not to cut yourself!

You can also use sandpapers to file down the tip of the pencils.



Accurasee Artist Proportional Divider

You'll often see me use this to check my measurements.

It's not necessary (you can also just use your pencil or ruler) but I find it to be more accurate and convenient.

Pencils

I always get asked, **“What kind of pencil do you use?”**

For this course, it doesn't really matter what pencil you use, so just stick to what you already have.

But, in case you are curious, here are the pencils you see me using throughout the course.

Conte 1710 Charcoal Pencil

This is one of my favorite charcoal pencil (although there are many other brands out there and they work just as well, so don't get hung up on this one). I usually get it in HB, B, and 2B (softness levels). If you are going to use this pencil, it's best to draw on smooth newsprint when practicing. This paper is cheap and it takes the charcoal very well.



Staedtler Mars Lumograph Black Drawing Pencils

Graphite pencils tend to be more beginner-friendly. They give you more control over the lines. But they tend to be much lighter than charcoal, which makes it harder to create contrast. These Lumograph pencils are sort of a combination between charcoal and graphite. They give you the control of graphite but with a darker tone.



Faber-Castell Polychromos Colored Pencils

You'll see me using some colored pencils for some of the exercises (Helio Blue-Reddish & Middle Cadmium Red). These are just so the lines will show up better on camera. When doing the exercises yourself, you can use whatever pencils you want. But I'll include them here just in case anyone is curious. You can buy them as a set or individually.



Smooth Newsprint Paper

As mentioned earlier, when working with charcoal, it's best to use smooth newsprint paper. They are cheap and is good for practicing.

The larger size also allows you to draw with your whole arm more effectively.

But you can also just use whatever scrap or printer paper that you have lying around the house. Anything works!

