

# HOW TO DRAW

**12 Secret Drawing Techniques  
You Can Easily Learn**



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# **How to Draw**

## **12 Secret Drawing Techniques You Can Easily Learn**

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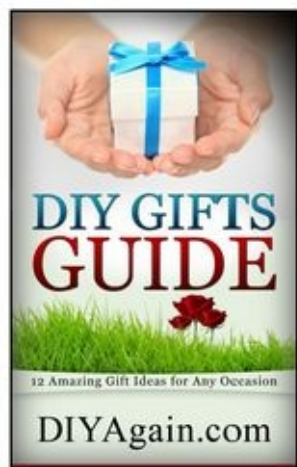
# Introduction

Over time, the act of drawing has been identified and recognized as a very popular method by which the people and the public in general, pass across messages or expresses opinions. The act of drawing can be quite simple and can also be very complex as well. It is one of the most efficient visual expression and communication methods. It is so much an easy thing to view a drawing and get a full grasp and understanding of messages that they have conveyed within their simple or complex strokes. It is much easier to pass across and receive messages via the use of drawings than it is with written words. The act of drawing has brought about the popularity of a wide combination of equipments and materials which have in turn brought about the creation of a wide medium of explorative expression within the human race.

Being able to draw excellently is an enviable talent that not so many people are privileged to have. Very few people who are fortunate to have this talent have been able to produce great work of art, some of which are popular artifacts known around the world. While some people are born with artistic skills, many have to do more of extra learning in order to be able to develop their artistic skills. Whatever category you might fall into, you can definitely do some extra learning in order to get better. Learning brings better result. Learning can be very interesting or difficult depending on the method applied. The goal of this book is to make your learning process very interesting while achieving the intended results.

For every form of learning, there are fundamental precepts that a beginner needs to develop before learning can be done successfully. Most times, people find learning difficult because they do not take the initial process to get familiar with the fundamental precepts. When fundamental precepts are jumped, progressive learning becomes very difficult. Perfection with drawing requires time and constant practice. Although, there will definitely be several flaws along your process of learning, not to worry, this is definitely a part of the entire package. The more you practice, the more you get better.

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# Chapter 1 – Understand what Drawing is all About



The word ‘Drawing’ is both a noun and a verb. When described from a verb perspective, it can be described as the act, skill or process of creating artistic designs via the use of particular objects or materials for the specific purpose. It can also be described as the creation of artistic drawings. In a noun format, a drawing is a form or type of illustrative work of art in which an individual makes use of different types of drawing equipments to work on a piece of paper or any form of 2-dimensional device. Making use of paper is however the easiest medium that can be employed for drawing.

For anyone who intends to learn how to draw, the first place to start from is to figure out what particular drawing equipments are needed or what particular drawing equipments he or she would prefer to use. In order to be able to do this successfully, you need to have a good awareness of what your particular chosen device or medium is capable of achieving for you if you know how you can get the device to achieve it. What this means is that you will need to make a good research into what and how the various devices have the capacity to achieve especially for those who have been able to use them to achieve the said outcomes in the past.

Having this knowledge handy will serve as an inspirational factor for you and you will be able to stay focused on achieving your set goal with your own intended drawing. If those people could achieve the successful outcome that they did achieve with their own devices, you can definitely achieve yours using your own materials and medium that you have at your disposal.

The act of drawing requires creativity. You need to make up your mind from the onset that you will elaborately explore your own unique creative potentials. You will be able to do so much from this simple but very important decision. Creating and designing beautiful works of art that are very particularly unique to you will become yours in the making in no time.



## **Chapter 2 – Some Instruments and Equipments Used for Drawing**

All drawing equipments and mediums serve to bring about different results when they are used in the process of drawing. Before you decide on which equipment or medium you would want to use, you will first need to develop a clear and precise understanding of the goal or outcome you want to achieve either on the short or long run. What this means is that you will need to create a definition for the goal you have placed on your expression. Don't allow this to confuse you, it is quite simple. Different instruments produce different outcomes and textures. A graphite pencil will not give you the same look or texture as a charcoal will give you. Oil, pastel, pens or coloured pencils all produce different outcomes

**Here are some drawing equipments:**

- Pen and ink
- Ink brush
- Wax coloured pencils
- Graphite pencil
- Crayons
- Charcoal
- Chalk
- Markers
- Styluses
- Erasers

- Electronic drawing instruments
- Metals –e.g., silver point

There are several other materials which are quite good for drawing. Some of these are cardboards, flat white wooden surfaces, leather boards, canvas, etc. These bring out some unique peculiarity when drawing is done on them.

Some other forms of drawing can be done on temporary structures. What this means is that the drawings can be changed or even cleaned off completely after some time. Examples of temporary mediums or materials are blackboards and whiteboards. However, on a much wider scale of description, it can be rightly said that temporary drawings can be created on almost any surface. The only difference is in the level of expression. These are what makes the drawings different or possess the level of textural longevity that they possess.





## Chapter 3 – Learning about Pencils and their Grades



A pencil is a piece of instrument that can be used for drawing but this is not all there is to a pencil. Before you can successfully place yourself on the right track to learn how to draw, you need to first familiarize yourself about the various pencil grades that exist and what they are used for. There are a wide variety of several types of pencil shades for this little piece of equipment. Knowing this fact from the beginning is very important for you so as to be able to work with the right understanding from the beginning. You need to have a compilation of the right types of pencils that you will be able to work with and get together the right materials for your use.

## ***Know the Number and Alphabet Representation***

Take a look at any pencil. You will find that most if not all the pencils have a letter and number somewhere on the body of the pencil. Most times, these are marked at the lower ends. You will see something like, 2B, HB or 6H. These are not just there to decorate the pencils. They represent important information about the pencils.

**The number** - represents the level of hardness of the pencil's graphic core. What this means is that the higher the numeric range, the harder its graphite core and the harder the core, the lighter the mark that one can make with the pencil when it is put to use. The lower the numeric range, the softer the core. In other words, a darker imprint will be made when used. Softer pencils tend to give duller outcomes quickly.

**Alphabet 'H' or 'B' - These** generally represent lightness (hardness) and blackness (softness). The 'H' represents lightness and the 'B' represents blackness.

**Numeric Representation** – Numbers are combined with alphabets to creature the levels of darkness or lightness of a pencil if you are not able to get dark shadows on your drawing. The picture looks pale, just check the type of pencil that you are using. A low numeric value with an alphabetic notation will produces dark effects, e.g., 2B. An H on the other hand, such as 6H will produce very dark graphite. HB pencils are generally too hard for drawing. They create much lighter imprints.

## ***How to Chose Your Pencil Grades***

You will need to understand the different pencil grades available for you and what line variations they can be used to produce. Sometimes too the grade of a pencil brand could be different from the same grade of another pencil brand. Sometimes, even when you have pencils with the same number, you find that they have different grades. Bearing this in mind, you might need to be consistent with choosing grades from particular brands rather than choosing different grades from different brands. Try selecting a case of your pencils with different grades in it. If this is difficult or inaccessible, then choose pencils with different grades from the same company. This will help you ensure that you get a combination of pencils with different grades and ranges that are truly of different grades which best suit your needs.



## Chapter 4 – Effects and Results of Using Soft Pencils

**Easier to Erase** – When using soft pencils, they make it easier to erase when you need to make any corrections with your drawing.

**Best For Creation of Temporary Lines** – When you are working with delicate highlights and want to create the delicate highlights of your piece of work such as you find with cartoon drawings. If you want to make foundational strokes that you intend to erase, the best pencil strokes to use are soft pencils strokes. This means you are using a pencil with lighter shades. It will be able to help you produce lines that come off looking lighter and finer.

Create sketches that you intend erasing later with the use of a soft pencil. Although a hard pencil may be used to produce softer lines, their surface is much harder. This can create indentations on the paper when paper is being used.

**Softer Pencils are Best for Cartoon Drawings** - The intricate designs and strokes of cartoon drawings require that soft textured pencils be used. You will be able to create more detailed strokes with your drawings when you use soft pencils.



## **Chapter 5 – Learn the Various Lines and Stroke Variations – (1)**



## ***1. Line Variations and their Use***

An artist needs to understand that there are different types of lines and they are used for different purposes. To be effective in your drawing Endeavour, the different lines and their uses must be the first level of information that you get registered in your mind. Every type of line serves a particular purpose. See below for the line variations and what they are used for:

**Light Outlines:** every drawing is made up of two layers of outlines. The first layer consists of the lighter outline. This is lighter because it is done to serve as a guideline for the person drawing. This creates the basic foundation for the drawing's shapes. I recommend that when you commence your practices with drawing; begin with the use of harder pencils. Choosing this will help you with creating your foundational outlines. Use less pressure while creating your lines with this technique. Lightly press down the tip of your pencil on the surface of your medium and create very slow and smooth movements. You will most likely need to erase some of your lines as you continue with your drawing.

**Heavy Outlines:** this unlike light outlines, are used to make more permanent outlines. After creating your light outlines, you follow up with your heavy outlines. These are used to define the edges of your drawing piece. do this by making retracing lines along the paths of the lighter outlines previously created, this time with a more firmer pressure as you go along. You will however need to be more careful so as not to press your device down too hard. This can create errors that will require you to struggle with erasing.

## ***Hatching and Cross Hatching Technique***

**Hatching Technique** is done by creating little lines drawing very close to one another. Most times, this individual makes use of this technique when creating a shading effect across a piece of work. Creating a forward and backward kind of shading effect. Drawing these lines across the piece along a direction following the format of the object ensures a proper definition of the drawing. When hatching is done, make use of the pencils point. Unlike shading where the pencils is used spread on paper to create wider spreads. You draw the pencil lines towards one direction while lifting it and bringing it down on to the paper as you do this with each line very close to the previous line.

**Cross Hatching** - on the other hand is used for the creation of more realistic looks. An individual is able to add more depth and value to the drawing when cross hatching is used. Achieve this by drawing your hatching lines towards a particular direction of your choice. The crossed hatched lines are then made across the first set of lines towards the opposite direction. Tighter and closer lines achieve better and more realistic looks.

## ***Circular Drawing Technique***

Circular swills are used when you wish to keep your drawings blending and shading effect closely knitted together. The use of circles and scribbles are usually very beautiful when adopted for drawing. This is a very beautiful way of creating contrasts within the textures that are present within the drawings, most especially with objects that have near resemblance in value. To effectively use this technique, create tiny little circles rather than large ones. Simply do this by moving your pencil in a swirling motion. More effective to keep the circles and the swills close, tight and firmly knit together. Easier to create a group of swills while you continue to press down on your pencil's hold in order to create a darker value while then blending both values created together.

## ***Scumbling***

This is a word used to describe a drawing which includes the use of little loops for creating textures within areas of your drawing. Scumbling helps you create tone blending effect with the tones and shades.



## **Chapter 6 –Habits and Tips to Help you Develop your Drawing Skills Faster - (2-7)**



## ***2. Have a Sketch Book Handy***

One of the best ways to easily develop your drawing skills is by having a sketch book with you ready to use wherever you go. You must be able to prepare yourself to get to work at anytime and anyplace. You might just be walking along the streets and find something that interests you. When you have a sketchbook with you, you will be able to convert this inspiration into a drawing piece. An inspiration can drop at any time. It might be something you see. It might also be something that crosses your imaginative eye. Do not hesitate to take every opportunity that you find to do some drawing of objects or subjects that you come across or that comes across your mind, path and imagination. Having a sketchbook with you will allow you collect the details and put them down on your sketchbook. Moreover, as a beginner frequent practice is what you need to develop at a faster pace. Your sketch pad will come in handy for you to be able to achieve this. Your sketchbook should not be something bogus. It should rather be very handy. Something that can easily fit into your pocket.



### ***3. Use the Right type of Paper***

If you want to have your drawing done on paper, please note that not every kind of paper can be used for drawing. When you use the wrong kind of paper, you will most likely not get the desired result. Wrong paper use will make your drawing to look pale. Some of the cheap papers that you find around tend to have some sheen about them that makes them too smooth. This prevents pencil particles from being held by the pencil while being used for drawing. You can check any art store around you for papers used for sketching. Also, a good quality paper that can be used is the photocopying or office papers.

#### ***4. Practice Random Environmental Sketching***

Environmental drawings are some of the drawings that come out very beautifully on a medium. You can do a lot with this type of sketching method. Random sketching does so much good to your skill development. It will help you develop your drawing skills faster. A key achievement with random sketching is that it will help you take off any form of pressure off trying to get everything you draw right. This way, you will be open to put the skill to perfection. The more you random sketch, the better you become. Whenever or wherever you find an opportunity to put your practice into use, please do not hesitate to use it. You might just be moving around your environment, in a taxi, train, in a park, underneath a tree, use this opportunity to practice sketching your environment randomly. Try to just sketch anything. Do not restrict yourself to some particular things to be sketched. The wider the list of what you are open to sketching, the broader your creative abilities.

## ***5. Establish the Right Mindset for Learning***

For any form of learning at any level to successfully take place, there is the need to have the right frame of mind in place. What usually makes the difference between a fast learner and a slow learner most times has to do with the learning perspective in place. With a very practical activity like drawing, when an individual does not have the right perspective, learning can be very difficult especially without the presence of a physical human teacher every step of the way. While some people might find it easier to learn without a human teacher bending over their work all the time, some other people consider this as a ready means of getting nervous. Even though you might have access to online materials and tutorials all around you, without the right frame of mind, the process might be a very long one. First allow it to be established within your mind that this is a process not a destination. It is a process that involves several other processes and making mistakes is definitely a part of that process.

## ***6. Develop a Positive Disposition towards your Learning Mistakes***

Have a positive disposition towards the mistakes that you make along your learning processes. Allow them to make you better and stronger not discouraged or disheartened. The best way to overcome any form of discouragement that might arise when you see yourself making mistakes with your learning is for you to learn how to view your work from a critical point of view every time. Feeling a sense of accomplishment each time you create a wonderful piece is not such a bad idea either. Feel some sense of satisfaction with your accomplishment and don't allow any form of flaws here and there spoil that satisfaction that you derive from your accomplishment. Always remember, we all need mistakes. Mistakes are ingredients that help us get better as we learn from them.

## ***7. Upside down Style of Drawing***

I recommend this style of drawing for any beginner who wants to develop the drawing skill faster and better. The intentional drawing upside down has a good advantage that it gives to one drawing. It helps to task an individual's imaginative and coordinative prowess. When an individual is able to imagine and coordinate with drawings that are upside down, drawing on the right side up becomes much easier and achievable. To achieve this, simply turn your paper in an upside down position. If you have an image handy that you want to draw, turn the image also upside down.

Drawing upside down abstractly can be very tasking but it is worth a try. Simply bring the object to be drawn into focus in your imaginative eye and start with your line formations. Be very patient with yourself when doing this. Don't expect a perfect first time try. But the process will definitely get better for you with time and practice.



## **Chapter 7 – Best Drawing Assessment Tips (8 – 11)**

An artist is able to get better by accessing the work done yourself and with your own personal efforts. It is good to get people's views regarding your work but the best critic can only be yourself. Being able to critically work with your drawings will save you a lot of mistakes that could have been left unattended to. Don't shy away from this. Make it a regular activity that you patiently carry out on a regular basis. Below are some tips that will assist you in properly accessing your own work by your own self:

## ***8. Select Some of Your Drawings to be Accessed***

As regularly as you can, make a selection of some of the drawings that you have made. Place them side by side of each other. take some time to study each of them critically. Study how they look, take time to observe every part. Take note of what you can see in each of them. Observe every intricate detail. What can you see about the lines? How are the shades if there are any? How were you able to convert the errors you made during the process of each drawing? Are there adjustments that can be made? What are the adjustments that can make the drawings better? Do you think you made some of the mistakes as a result of the pencil shades that you used or as a result of the paper type? This selection and critical assessment is a necessary process that will help you get better with your tasks. No matter how good you feel your drawing is, don't fail to carry out this assessment procedure sometimes.



## ***9. Narrow your Assessment on Specific Scales***

Generalizing when criticizing your work is not the best. Ensure you make positive attempts with being specific during this process. If you decide to generalize your review procedure, you will definitely not be able to get the best critical review that you really need. Rather concentrate on one aspect per time. For example, if you want to make line observation the goal of your assessment, then do just that at that time. Look at the lines and note errors while putting into perspective the specific aspects. The best way to achieve this is by first creating an implant at the back of your mind that this is not meant to be a general assessment at a time. It is rather specific assessments per time. Once this has been registered, it becomes much easier for you to follow through with your aim.

## ***10. Avoid Trying to Make Several Corrections at the Same time***

You can only focus on an aspect of your drawing per time to get realistic results. When you see several errors in your drawing piece, try to concentrate on one aspect that you have observed per time and make corrections. Avoid trying to correct several aspects per time. This will only create more errors. Assessment is not complete if you are not able to determine the effect of the errors you noticed on your drawing. After observing the errors, critically determine the effect on the outcome of the specified aspect of your drawing. After you have concluded on the particular aspect. Then select another aspect that you will concentrate on the next time you want to carry out another drawing procedure. Ensure you follow through with your focus as you have planned.

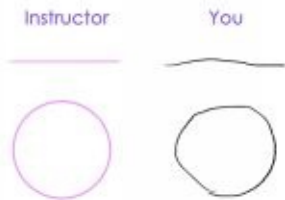
## ***11. Enjoy Your Process***

Research has revealed over time that the best ways to develop skill acquisition techniques is to enjoy the process. Processes that are enjoyed simply come out best when converted to skills. It is best to simply enjoy the process of creating your drawing pieces. Enjoy every bit from errors created to imperfect strokes to everything. Let it all be fun for you. Let your passion grow with the process and allow your creative ability to flourish.



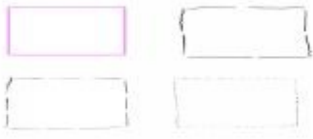
## Chapter 8 – Some Practice Tutorials to Get You Started – (12)

### *12. Drawing a Straight Line*



This is probably your outcome. Not to worry. It is expected. Straight lines are usually not real. They only exist in vectors forming the shortest lengths that exist between two points. Even though you can make a straight line with a ruler, it is most likely that you might never be able to make a perfectly straight line using your hand only. It might start off as straight, but as you continue, there would definitely be errors along the way. Here are steps to help you to go about your line drawings:

## First Step – Draw Short lines instead



If you find it difficult to maintain the stride with a long line without breaking it which is definitely expected, then rather draw shorter lines. Drawing a long straight line is almost if not completely impossible with the use of the hand. The hand is more adapted to shorter strokes. The shorter the lines drawn, the closer you will be able to get to the original picture format.

## **Second Step – Intense Concentration required with Line Formations**



When forming your lines, there is the need to fully concentrate on the process. It is about trying to draw objects at least almost as exactly as they are. When you have an object as a reference point, it is no longer about what you want or your own creative imagination. You need to draw the same thing the way it looks. If you are well focused with this, you might end up making very little mistakes. Keep your hand relaxed and focus your concentration fully on the final effect intended rather than placing your focus on some sequence of perfect lines. You need to concentrate fully without being tense but relaxed.

With the above diagram try to carry out the following while you try to create a replica:

Split the long lines into shorter lines. The more the curves, the shorter the lines will be.

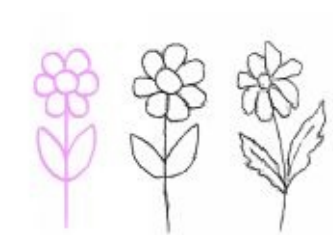
Touch on the paper very lightly while using your pencils for the foundational strokes.

Be fast with this process.

### **Third Step – Fill Up Object lines and Define the lines**



The next step is to begin to fill up the spaces between the lines initially drawn. If you take a look at the drawing at this point, you will find it looks almost completed. When done, you can now make use of a marker to intensify the strokes or press the pencil harder on the already lined strokes.



Here you go. It is done. It is definitely not perfect or close to the original but it definitely looks like the original picture in some ways. Remember, the more you practice, the better you get.



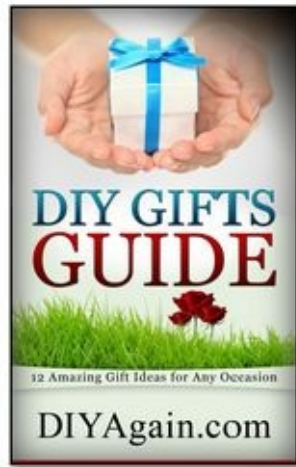


# Conclusion

After going through the contents within the pages of this book, I am quite positive that you have been able to develop some very useful skills that will serve as a platform for you to develop and grow your drawing skill. Drawing is a skill that anyone can develop if they want to because it is not as difficult as it might seem. It is definitely not impossible. This book has been able to take hold of the drawing skill and present its learning methods right from the basic to the more complex aspects without you knowing the difference because they all look simple. Whether you have been drawing previously or you have never really tried your hands on drawing does not really matter. What matters is what you are willing to put to use after reading this book. With the right kind of learning and consistent practice, you can be quickly transformed from the level of amateurism to amazing heights of expertise.

Finally, developing the drawing skill is a process. It is not a onetime developmental endeavor. There is the need to get the right perspective from the beginning to work with. Just like you have with every other form of learning, understand that learning comes with mistakes. With the development of your drawing skill you will most likely make several mistakes. Do not see your mistakes as short comings but rather see them as necessary prerequisite to get better. Turn your mistakes to developmental tools to help you get better. Good luck..!

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