

DRAWING BASICS COURSE

5-WEEK ONLINE COURSE

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For help and support during this course, please email info@classicalartatelier.com or call +353 (0)87 660 9644

Materials List

PENCILS

The Drawing Basics Course will use graphite pencils only. You will need the following pencils, and I've recommended specific brands, which are optional:

Graphite Pencils

2 x 2H pencils

2 x HB pencils

1 x 2B pencil

1 x 2B pure graphite pencil

Recommended Brands

General's 2H

Staedtler Mars Lumograph HB

Staedtler Mars Lumograph 2B

Cretacolour Monolith Pure Graphite 2B

Suggested **graphite pencils**: Staedtler Mars Lumograph, Faber-Castell 9000 or General's.

You'll find that you can use HB (and 2H) for most drawings. The harder the pencil, the more passes you will need to do. Make sure that the pencils are sharpened to a very fine point. By sharpening the point quite long, it also forces us to hold the pencil further back and not in the tripod grip. Initially, practise drawing some long flexible lines, and try to develop the motor skill of hatching and cross-hatching.



ERASERS

Putty / Kneadable

Putty or Kneadable Eraser

Plastic Eraser

Recommended Brands

Prismacolor, Sandford, or Faber-Castell

Staedtler Mars Plastic or Caran d’Ache Artist

A **kneaded eraser**, like Prismacolor, is a must. You should be able to knead it into long strings. This gentler and softer on the paper. You can also roll it into a sausage shape to lighten a whole pass evenly.

A **white gum or plastic eraser**, like Staedtler Mars Graphite, is also necessary when you need to completely erase something, although it is harder and more aggressive on the paper. To keep your eraser clean and sharp, you should cut off any blunt or dirty parts.

PAPER

Drawing & Sketching Paper

Multi-Purpose Drawing / Sketching Paper

Drawing Paper

Recommended Brands

Gerstaecker No. 5 Universal Block Multi-Techniques

Strathmore Smooth Surface, 400 Series

Fabiano Disegno Sketchpad

Stonehenge (Colour: White or Warm White)

Canson Mi-Teintes (Colour: White)

The best and standard paper I recommend for graphite drawings is **Stonehenge**. It is one of the integral materials used at the Florence Academy of Art. It was a print-making paper originally. It’s a hard-working erasable paper, which you can work on without destroying its surface. It comes in a variety of colours, and in values that suitable for Bargue studies. You can use either side of the paper. A nice effect is to tear rather than cut the paper to size, so that you create a ‘live’ outside edge, showing off the handmade quality of your drawing. Simply crease the paper, burnish the edge and then tear.

Canson Mi-Teintes is also good for graphite (or charcoal). However, it’s not double-sided – the front is smoother and the back is rough or textured. It’s not as resilient as Stonehenge. Colours: Blanc, Coquille, or Lis.



ACCESSORIES

For Pencils, Sharpening, Cleaning, Etc.

Pencil Extenders

Sanding Block

Craft Knife

Fan Brush (Bristle and/or Synthetic)

Tortillions, Torchons and Paper Stumps

Recommended Brands

Caran d'Ache, General's or Jackson's

Faber-Castell (2 grades of sandpaper plus sponge)

X-acto or Tactix

For Measuring & Support

Knitting needle

Mahlstick

Plumblines

Black Hand Mirror ... *you can use a smartphone*

For Paper

Tracing Paper A4 and A3 sizes

Tape

Masking Tape

Recommended Brands

Clairefontaine, Canson or Create

Magic Tape or Scotch 3M

For Storage

Crystal Paper ... *for protecting drawings*

Archival Folders

Recommended Brands

Clairefontaine

Use a **soft synthetic fan brush** to remove dirt or excess graphite and to soften passages.

For bigger drawings, you will need a **mahlstick**, which braces your drawing hand and protects the drawing underneath from smudges. You can make your own mahlstick by taking a long $\frac{3}{4}$ inch dowel, wrapping a ball of newspaper in tape at one end of the stick. You can also use your little finger to balance or stabilise your hand.

Masking tape and **drawing clips** are also essential.

A **plumblines**, about 50-10cm long, made from black string with a weight at the end of it will be needed as you move into larger studies. As Sargent said, "A plumblines should never leave a student's hand." It can be used to check vertical and horizontal alignments, as well as to take measurements of distance. Having said this, the eye is very good at recognising horizontal, vertical and 45 degree angles.

Using your smartphone or a hand-held **black mirror**, look straight up or down, to the left or to the right, to see the reverse true image of what you're working on. This is a useful way of tricking the eye when it becomes tired

or biased. Any piece of reflective piece of glass, welding glass, or glass painted black will work, and help you assess values.

Art Supply Stores

Below is a list of art supply stores that I use (or have used).

Ireland

Cork Art Supplies Cork	www.corkartsupplies.com
K & M Evans Art Supplies Dublin	www.evansartsupplies.ie
Kennedy Art Supplies Dublin	www.kennedyart.com

U.K.

Jackson's Art London, U.K.	www.jacksonsart.com
Cass Art London, U.K.	www.cassart.co.uk

Germany

BOESNER GERMANY (Also France, Denmark, Sweden, Etc.)	www.boesner.com
Gerstaecker Germany	www.gerstaecker.de

France

SENNELIER PARIS	www.sennelier.fr
DALBE PARIS	www.dalbe.fr
LE GÉANT BEAUX-ARTS PARIS	www.geant-beaux-arts.fr

U.S.A.

BLICK U.S.A.	www.dickblick.com
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