

Materials List
Colored Pencil II
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January 9-February 13, 2023

Pencils

Colored pencils come in different grades of soft and hard. Soft are better for the kind of dense, saturated tonal values I promote; hard are better for adding precise details. I use two kinds, Caran d'Ache's Luminance 6901 for the soft and Tombow's Irotijen for the hard, but there is no need to require them here. In last year's class, we found **Faber-Castell Polychromos** pencils provided the best of both worlds, and that is what I recommend. A 24-pencil set costs \$25.23 on the DickBlick website, 36 costs \$34.61, and 48, \$52.90. In general, more is better, but don't feel you can't start small. You can always add individual pencils as you find you need them.

If you already have a set by another manufacturer, **keep using them**. You'll be able to tell soon enough whether they can be pushed as far as I want you to push them. See the "Coloured Pencil Brands" page on Pencil-Topics' UK website (<https://www.pencil-topics.co.uk/pencil-brands.html>) for additional information.

Paper

Strathmore's 400 Series Colored Pencil paper works very well. A 6 x 8" 30-sheet pad is \$4.73 at Dick Blick's; 9 x 12" is \$9.95. I recommend the larger size, or even an 11 x 14" pad. But if you're feeling a bit tenuous, by all means, start small.

Strathmore also offers toned paper pads. Feel free to consider their Mixed Media vellum surface, 15-sheet pads, in either gray, blue, or tan (6 x 8" is \$3.92, 9 x 12" is \$8.10, and 11 x 14", \$10.86. Colored paper has its own problems . . . and benefits.

It looks like Stonehenge's Legion Drawing paper would also work. They make multicolored pads (that include white), and warm white and cool white pads. I have yet to try them myself, but you should feel free to experiment. 5 x 7", 15-sheet, multi color is \$9.51; 9 x 12" is \$19.47, and 11 x 14", \$25.03. Their whites are less, but comparable.

Everything Else

1. Some means of organizing your pencils if you're not going to leave them in their packaging. I use Global Art's leather cases.
2. Traditional graphite pencils for the initial drawing. 2B is my go-to pencil, but I have other grades, as well.
3. Tortillions—short, pencil-like tubes of pressed paper used for blending and softening. They're useful, but not before you've gotten layering down.

4. Pencil sharpener. I swear by two—Xacto’s KS wall-mounted sharpener for a quick, efficient, clean cut, and Carl Angel’s No. 5 table-top sharpener for the same result. Either one will do. I bought both only because I had the Xacto wall-mount sharpener before I knew I would need one for classes and Studio Day.
5. Kneaded eraser
6. Tombow Mono Zero Elastomer Eraser—or a similar product
7. Artist tape, archival quality
8. Backing board for taping down your paper while working on your drawing. I use Ampersand’s Museum Series 1/8” flat hardboard.
9. Protective sheet to cover your work during storage. I use Bienfang’s Parchment 100 Tracing Paper.
10. Pencil extender. Derwent has a package of two, one that can hold standard-size pencils and one for thicker, Caran d’Ache-size pencils. Make sure the extender you choose can in fact encase your pencils.
11. Embossing stylus tools. These are useful for certain special cases, eg., drawing leaf veins. Wet Paint has an inexpensive (\$6.19) 3-pack set of soft-grip embossing styluses, one stylus at each end—and hence, six in all.
12. A soft cosmetic brush for removing excess bits from the drawing surface. Much better than whisking with your hand or blowing. (Thank you *pencil-topics uk!*)
13. Brush and Pencil’s Advanced Colored Pencil Textured Fixative. You might want to wait on this until you see it in operation.

Websites

As you might expect, a Google search for “how to draw with colored pencils” will churn up A LOT! DO NOT GO DOWN THIS RABBIT HOLE! Pick one, if you must. My not-often-consulted-but-useful-when-I-do site is <https://www.pencil-topics.co.uk/>.

An exception to the above rule: Rhonda Nass’s website. She’s got it down.

Books

“Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh,” Ecclesiastes 12:12. What’s more, I’m a firm believer that learning by doing is the best kind of learning. That said, here are three titles even so:

Ann Swan, *Botanical Portraits with Colored Pencils*, Barron’s Educational Series (in the US; Collins published the UK edition), 2010.

Janie Gildow and Barbara Benedetti Newton, *Colored Pencil Solution Book: Tips and Techniques for Winning Results*, North Light Books, 2000.

Alyona Nickelsen, *Colored Pencil Painting Portraits*, Watson-Guption, 2017.