

Required Materials

Sketchbook

Each student will need a hard-bound or spiral sketchbook by the 2nd week of class. There are many options out there, so find one that works for you! We would like you to have a full-size sketchbook (roughly 8½" x 11"), but you may select any model that you like. This is the only required material – everything else in this document is optional. Here is a good economical and functional sketchbook: <http://www.dickblick.com/products/canson-field-sketch-artbooks/>.



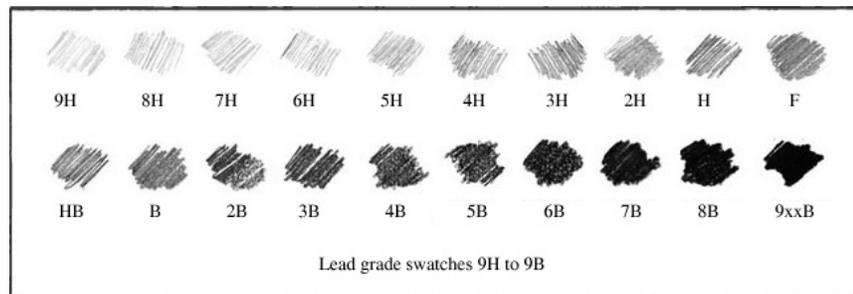
Recommended Materials



We'll have a selection of the following materials on hand for you to check out from the Honors Program for an hour at a time during normal business hours. However, you may find it more convenient to purchase them for personal use.

Pencils and Pencil Accessories

There are many good pencil manufacturers. Some common brand names are Staedler, Mars, Faber-Castell, and Kohinor. These pencils aren't very expensive, but are only found at art supply stores. Pencils come in different grades of graphite. Hard graphite (H) is very light, but you can sharpen it to a very fine point; soft graphite (B) is really dark, but cannot be sharpened to a fine point and is muddy. This graphic from pencils.com shows the various grades of graphite:



“F” and “HB” are good intermediate grades for every-day use. You may want to get one harder pencil (say 3H) and one softer pencil (say 2B) to supplement your every-day pencil. Avoid the super-hard and super-soft grades. Avoid mechanical pencils entirely.

We recommend the General's Draughting Pencil (previously known as the Berol 314) for freehand sketching. This pencil will run you around \$3, but it makes anyone's marks look good. One pencil should get you through the semester.

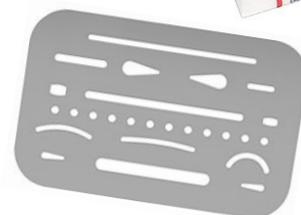
A simple and inexpensive pencil sharpener will be useful, such as the Staedler model pictured at right.



We recommend you purchase an inexpensive soft white eraser, such as the Pentel model pictured at right.



An inexpensive aluminum erasing shield, such as the one pictured at right, will allow you to make clean erasures on a technical drawing – or on homework assignments in other classes.



Black Pens

Ink pens are recommended because you can control line-weight by varying pressure and speed. The ink pools as you pause, which tends to thicken the ends of lines. This is visually appealing. Avoid ballpoint pens, which do not permit this behavior.

We recommend the Pilot Precise V5 Extra Fine Rolling Ball, shown below. It's relatively inexpensive and is available at Target and similar stores. Be careful though -- Pilot makes a lot of other similar pens, and the others aren't as good as this model.

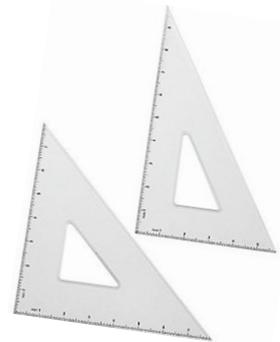


In addition to a fine pen, you'll want to add emphasis with a thicker black felt pen. Sharpie pens are not recommended because their point quickly dullens into a curved surface. Make sure you get a pen with a nice, sharp point. An economical option is the Papermate Flair shown below, and you'll find a wide array of options at an art supply store.



Straightedges

We recommend a set of 2 plastic, transparent triangles -- one 45-45 and one 30-60. The transparency is an important feature. The larger size (~10") are nice for larger sketches and the smaller size (~5") are more convenient. Either are acceptable, but if you just buy one, we recommend the ~10" size. We'll have some on hand, too.



Colored Markers

Consider purchasing a few Prismacolor markers. These are relatively expensive and can be purchased individually. Don't feel compelled to buy a full set - try starting out with 2 or 3 very light colors: a cool gray, a light sepia, a light sky blue, and/or a light pastel yellow. We will have some of these markers on hand for you to borrow. These markers overlay pencil well, but they will smear ink pen. If you want to use markers with pen, underlay with marker and then overwrite with pen. For bright colors, a cheaper marker (like Sharpie brand) is suitable.

Colored Pencils

Consider purchasing a few Prismacolor pencils. Again, don't buy a full set - these pencils are very nice but very expensive. Select 3 or 4 light colors (light yellow, light blue, etc.), plus a brighter color or two. We will have some of these pencils on hand for you to borrow, too.

Watercolor

Cheap watercolors, like those marketed to children, are perfectly fine (in fact, coffee works well). Get the cheap solid discs or cubes of pigment, not the expensive tubes of paste. You will mix the colors yourself, so just get the basic 8-12 color sets. The Sakura Koi Sketch Box (right) is a great option that travels well (priced under \$20). Watercolorists would also need to buy a single brush: a "round" watercolor brush, as shown at right. The profile of the brush must come to a point and the brush acts as a reservoir for the liquid. Brushes that are designed to be used with oil or acrylic paints will not work for watercolor. Buy a brush that is roughly ~3/4" to 1" long (the tip will still give you plenty of precision). Used pill bottles are ideal for storing a small quantity of water.

