

CHOOSING THE RIGHT DRAWING MEDIA

MEDIA	 PROS	 CONS
Graphite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in varying degrees of hardness for various applications • Great for showing value • Smooth application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft leads wear down quickly • Metallic sheen
Charcoal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in varying degrees of hardness for various applications • Wide range of tones • Very rich black 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application can lack precision • Smears easily (without fixative) • Rougher to apply than graphite • Even values take practice • Dusty
Colored Pencil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in wide range of colors • Easy to use for various techniques (hatching, cross-hatching, etc) • Rich, velvety color (premium brands) • Ability to be layered and blended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft cores break easily • Can be expensive for premium brands • Can produce uneven blending • Continuous sharpening
Oil Pastels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in a wide range of colors • Easy to layer and blend for various techniques • Rich, velvety color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacks precision • Can be fragile • Smears easily (without varnish) • Fine details difficult
Pastels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in a wide range of colors • Great for showing value • Easy to layer for various techniques • Retain purity of color when not mixed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application can lack precision • Smears easily (without fixative) • Can be dusty
Crayons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be sharpened • Produces little dust • Usable on many types of surfaces • Excellent lightfastness • Great covering power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not erasable • Limited blending • Peeling labels can be a hassle
Pen and Ink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluid lines • Great for showing value • Excellent lightfastness • Very rich black 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to shade • Gradients and variation are difficult • Unforgiving when it comes to mistakes
Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in a wide range of colors • Saturated color • Designed both for detail work and covering power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be shaded smoothly • Gradients and variation are difficult • Unforgiving when it comes to mistakes • Dries out quickly without proper care
Conté	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce less dust than pastels while exhibiting a similar appearance • Easily blended • Works well in layers • Great for detail work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not suited for bold lines