

Learn To Draw – The Easy Way!

Lesson 1

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Materials Needed:

- 1 lightweight drawing board with clip, size 15.5" x 16.5" (approximate size)
- 1 vinyl or kneaded eraser
- 2 each: graphite pencils, sizes: 2H, H, F, HB, B, 3B, 5B, and if you can find them: 6B, 9B
- 1 Plate finish Smooth Bristol Paper Pad 11" x 14"
- 1 small pencil sharpener
- 1 sketchbook, size 9 x 12"

If you can write your name – you can learn to draw! Your ability to draw depends on your ability to see the way an artist does. Drawing is not in the hand, it's in the eyes. Learning and using these skills will greatly improve your drawing. Gradually they become a part of the way you draw and you don't even realize you are using them. It is just something that you do when you draw. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU DRAW IN YOUR SKETCHBOOK REGULARLY IN ORDER TO FULLY BENEFIT FROM THIS CLASS. Draw as many sketches as you have time for. It is best to sketch with no distractions but if you cannot then sketch while on the phone or listening to T.V. Date your drawings. HAVE FUN!

The 5 Step Drawing Process

1. Types of Lines, Feel the Shape
2. Contour Line & Gesture Drawing, Comparative Measuring
3. Primary Shading
4. Secondary Shading
5. Finishing the Drawing

Hand Positions are very important! Try to hold the pencil in these positions until you find that it feels comfortable. The writing position will probably be the most comfortable for you because you do it all the time.

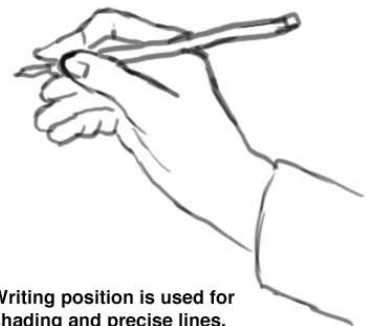
Hand Positions



Underhand position is used to blocking in your drawing. Use very light strokes and loosely in a sketching motion.



Cupped hand position is used to make underlines and precise detail over your preliminary shading.



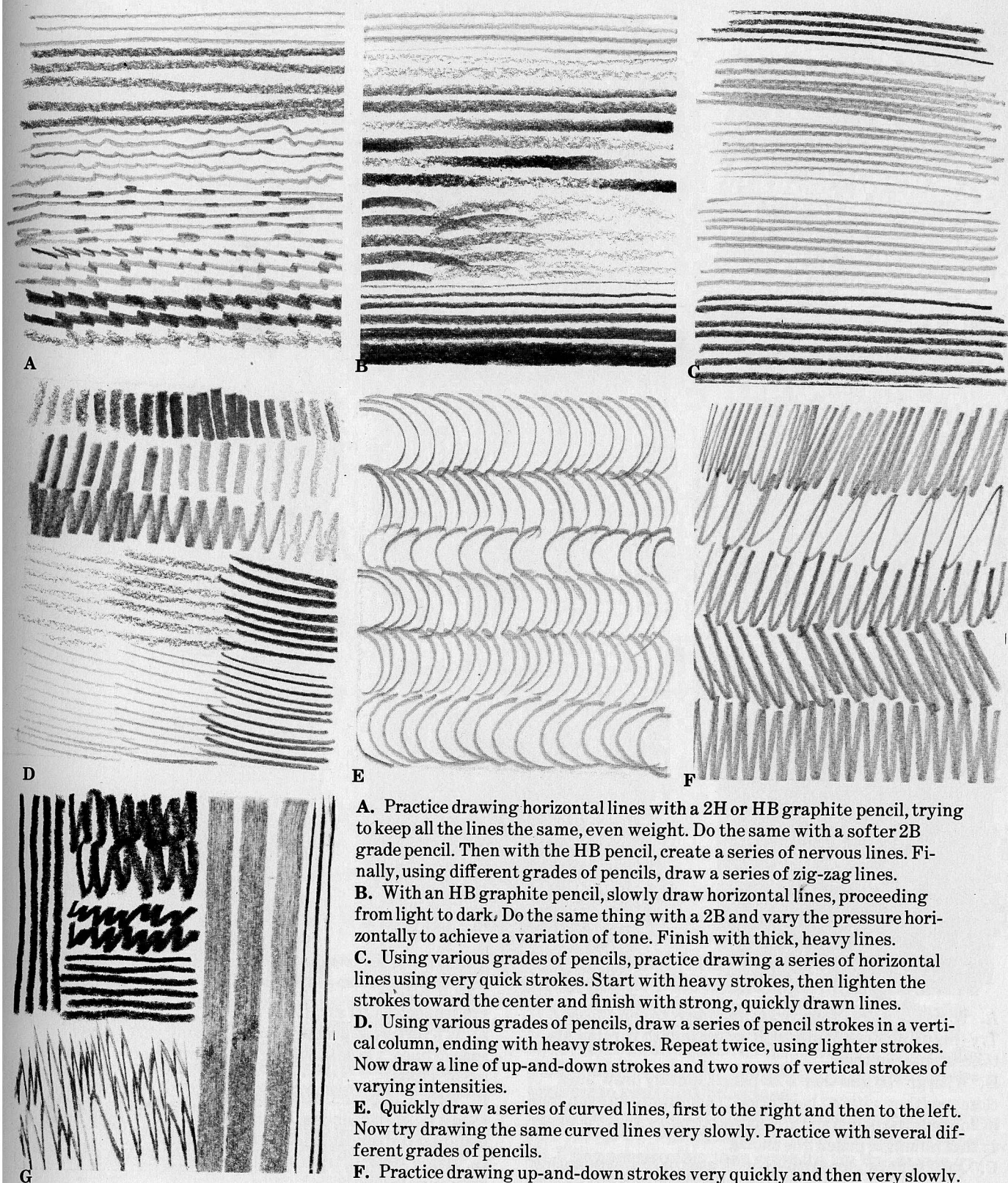
Writing position is used for shading and precise lines.

Step #1 Types of Lines, Feel the Shape

Line quality and your ability to make accurate marks on paper is a skill worth learning. The first exercise suggests types of lines you should be able to do without hesitation. After practicing that a while then go to the next exercise #2 which is about seeing things as basic shapes. Anything that you draw will consist of one of the following BASIC SHAPES: the Cube, Sphere, Cone, or the Cylinder. See examples below. So, it is important to be able to recognize what the basic shape is of your subject. Exercise #3 is where you will practice sketching simple objects using the basic shapes as your guide.

Exercise #1 Make Lines on Paper– In your sketchbook, practice making the following types of lines.

Exercise 1. Types of Lines



A. Practice drawing horizontal lines with a 2H or HB graphite pencil, trying to keep all the lines the same, even weight. Do the same with a softer 2B grade pencil. Then with the HB pencil, create a series of nervous lines. Finally, using different grades of pencils, draw a series of zig-zag lines.

B. With an HB graphite pencil, slowly draw horizontal lines, proceeding from light to dark. Do the same thing with a 2B and vary the pressure horizontally to achieve a variation of tone. Finish with thick, heavy lines.

C. Using various grades of pencils, practice drawing a series of horizontal lines using very quick strokes. Start with heavy strokes, then lighten the strokes toward the center and finish with strong, quickly drawn lines.

D. Using various grades of pencils, draw a series of pencil strokes in a vertical column, ending with heavy strokes. Repeat twice, using lighter strokes. Now draw a line of up-and-down strokes and two rows of vertical strokes of varying intensities.

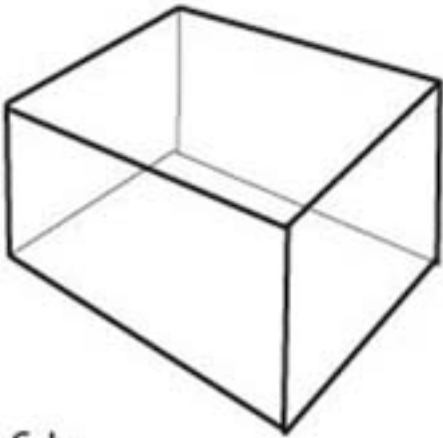
E. Quickly draw a series of curved lines, first to the right and then to the left. Now try drawing the same curved lines very slowly. Practice with several different grades of pencils.

F. Practice drawing up-and-down strokes very quickly and then very slowly. Slant some strokes to the left and others to the right. Finish by drawing up-and-down strokes vertically without any slant at all.

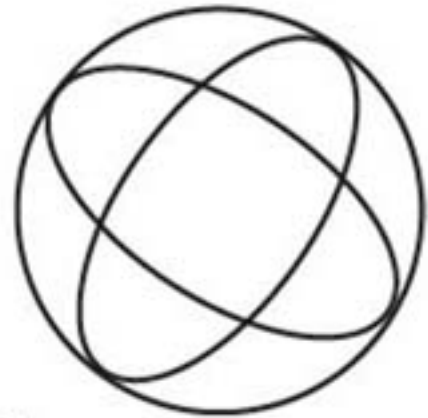
G. Do a combination of exercises using other pencils such as Stabilo All, Koh-i-noor NOOR Hardtmuth Negro pencil, Conté crayon, and even charcoal stick. The right-hand portion of these examples illustrates the use of the flat edge of a Conté crayon. The fine lines illustrate the use of the crayon's edge.

Exercise #2 Practice Basic Shapes: In your sketchbook, using your #2b pencil practice making simple shapes using light lines. Draw these shapes as many times as you can, at any size you wish. It is easier to draw them as sketchy rather than trying to be too precise. Go over and over until the lines become more like my sketches. Do not use a ruler! See samples of sketches on next page.

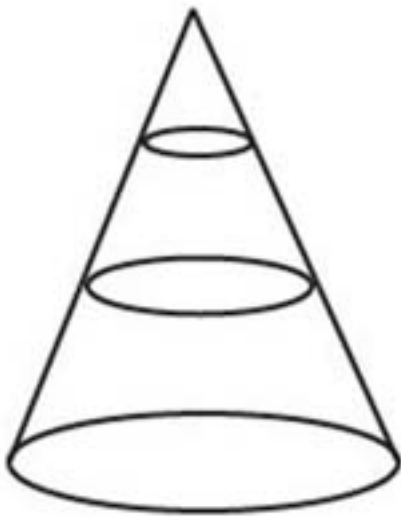
Basic Shapes



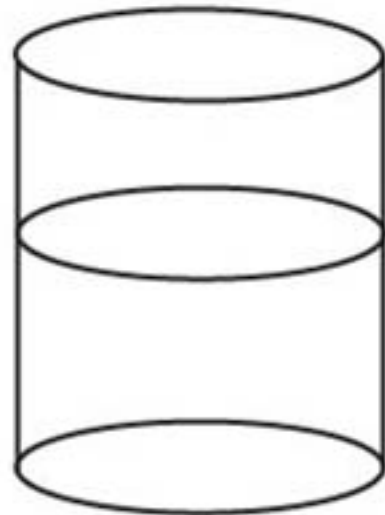
Cube



Sphere

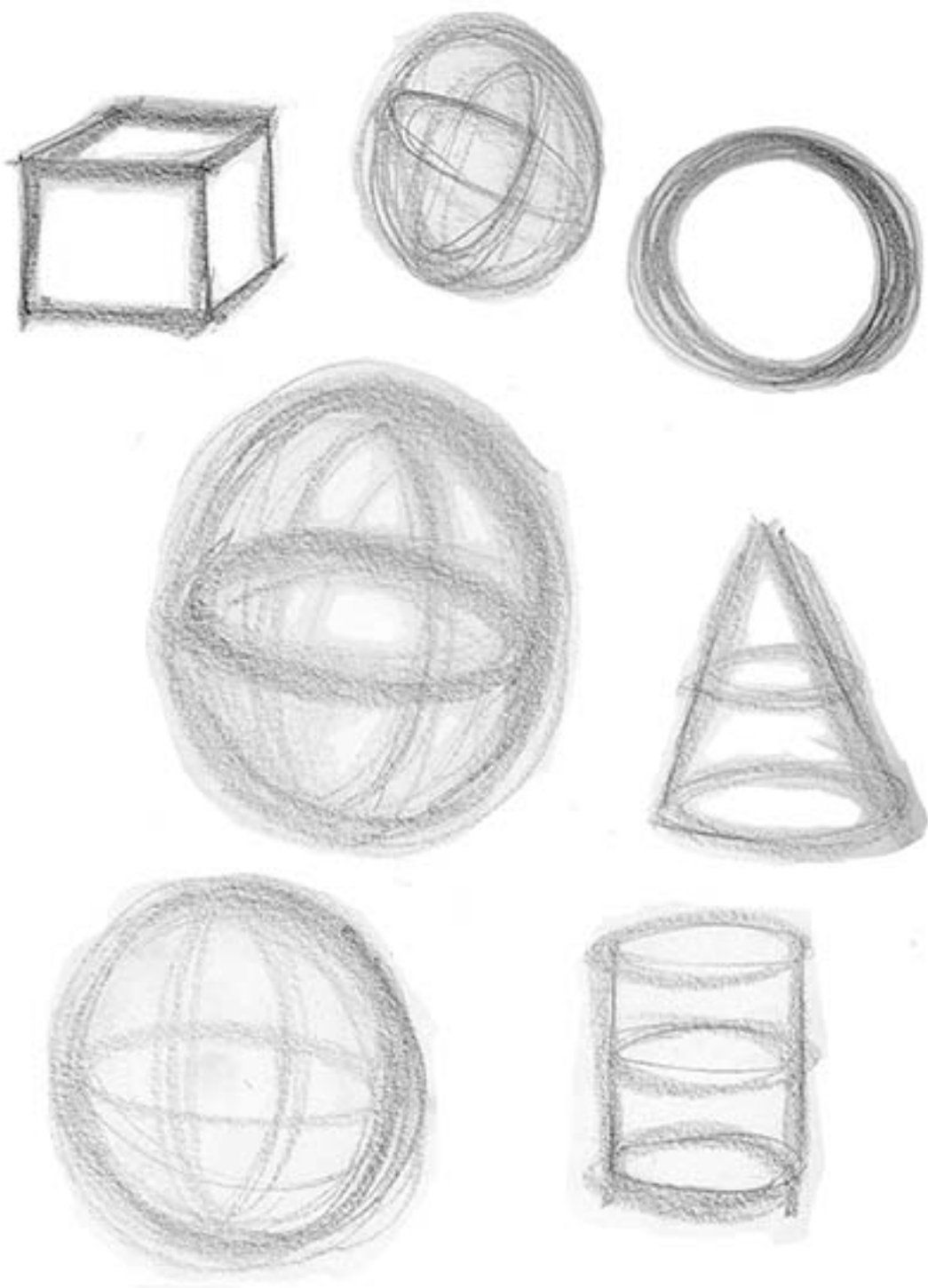


Cone



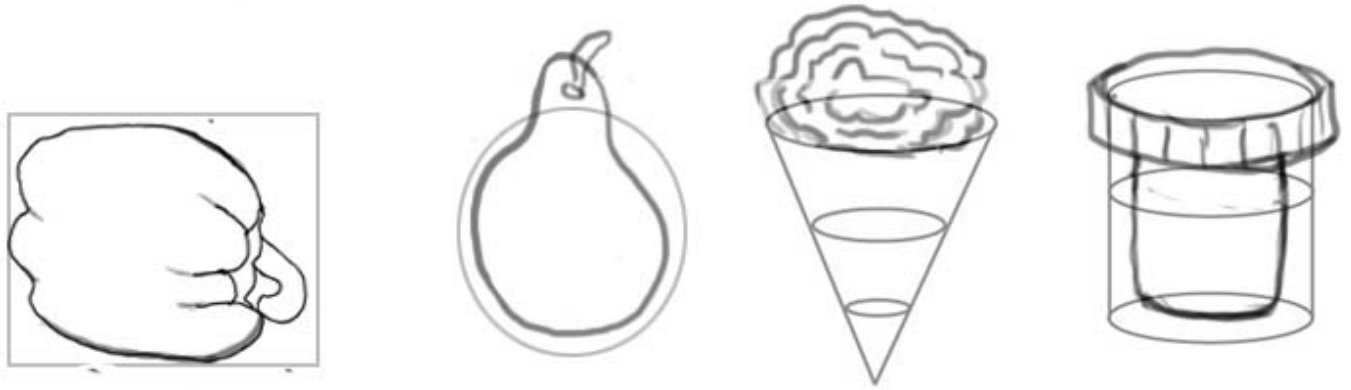
Cylinder

Sketches



Exercise #3 Feel the Shape of your Subject - using still life objects

Find simple objects and in your sketchbook first sketch very lightly their basic shape and then refine them. **No shading – just lines.** Some objects may have more than one basic shape, but there usually is one predominant one that is the best to choose. After you have drawn your object you can erase your basic shape. Eventually you will not need to draw your basic shape and you will automatically see it. Here are some examples below.



You are welcome to send to me by email any sketches you would like for me to look at. You can also, use the [dropbox.com](https://www.dropbox.com) to see all the lessons and to share your drawings. You do need to photograph your drawings and save them as .jpg files in order to attach them to an email. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!