

Drawing & Painting Media Reference Guide

A Structured Classification System for Traditional Tools and Digital Brush Architecture

1. DRY & GRAPHIC MEDIA

Graphite & Charcoal

- **Graphite Pencils:** Graded by hardness and darkness from 9H (hardest) to 9B (softest).
- **Carpenter Pencil:** Broad, flat-graphite core for wide strokes and varied line weights.
- **Powdered Graphite:** Fine graphite dust used for large-area shading and smooth tonal blending.
- **Compressed Charcoal:** Dense charcoal bound with gum, producing deep, rich blacks and hard lines.
- **Willow / Vine Charcoal:** Burnt natural twigs; soft, powdery, and easy to erase or smudge.
- **Charcoal Pencil:** Encased in wood for clean handling and precise detail work.

Pastels & Chalks

- **Soft Pastels:** High pigment content with minimal binder; offers powdery, easily blended colors.
- **Hard Pastels (Conté Crayon):** Higher binder content; ideal for sharp edges, outlines, and details.
- **Oil Pastels:** Bound with non-drying oil and wax; buttery texture with strong opacity.
- **Water-Soluble Pastels:** Can be used dry or dissolved with water to create watercolor-like washes.
- **PanPastel:** Cake-format pastel applied using specialized sponges and applicators.
- **White Chalk & Sanguine:** Traditional earthy monochrome media used for highlights and anatomical studies.

Colored Pencils

- **Wax-Based Colored Pencils:** Soft core, ideal for rich color layering and blending.
- **Oil-Based Colored Pencils:** Harder core, break-resistant, well-suited for fine detail work.
- **Watercolor Pencils:** Water-soluble pigment cores that react with wet brushes.

2. INKS & MARKERS

Markers & Felt-Tip Pens

- **Alcohol-Based Markers:** Fast-drying, streak-free blending ink (e.g., Copic).
- **Water-Based Markers:** Water-soluble ink; ideal for general illustration and light wash effects.
- **Acrylic Paint Markers:** Opaque, water-based acrylic paint for multi-surface application (e.g., Posca).
- **Brush Pens:** Flexible nibs (felt or synthetic hair) for variable stroke width in ink illustration.

Inking Instruments

- **Indian / Drawing Ink:** Waterproof, highly opaque shellac- or acrylic-based liquid ink.
- **Dip Pen / Nib Pen:** Traditional metal nibs dipped into ink for calligraphic or cross-hatching work.
- **Technical Pens (Rapido):** Precision engineering pens delivering exact, consistent line widths.
- **Fineliners / Graphic Liners:** Pigment-based, lightfast, fine plastic-nibbed pens for line art.

3. WET & PAINTING MEDIA

Watercolors & Water-Based Paints

- **Tube & Pan Watercolors:** Highly transparent pigments activated by water for delicate layering.
- **Liquid Watercolors:** Concentrated fluid pigments popular in graphic arts and illustration.
- **Gouache:** Opaque watercolor drying to a smooth, matte finish.
- **Acryla Gouache:** Water-based paint combining gouache opacity with acrylic water-resistance when dry.

Oils & Acrylics

- **Traditional Oil Paint:** Linseed oil binder; slow-drying, allowing extensive blending and impasto.
- **Water-Mixable Oil Paint:** Modified oils that thin and clean up with water without solvents.
- **Heavy Body Acrylic:** Thick, buttery consistency that retains brush and palette knife marks.
- **Fluid & High-Flow Acrylic:** Low-viscosity acrylics for smooth coverage, glazing, or airbrushing.
- **Egg Tempera:** Fast-drying traditional medium using egg yolk as a binder.

4. DIGITAL-SPECIFIC BRUSH CLASSIFICATIONS

Digital Engine Types

- **Pixel / Raster Brushes:** Simulates traditional media textures using bitmapped stamps and opacity dynamics.
- **Vector Brushes:** Creates resolution-independent paths with editable stroke profiles.
- **Smudge & Blending Tools:** Manipulates existing canvas color without applying new pigment.
- **Stamp & Texture Brushes:** Applies pre-rendered patterns or shapes (e.g., foliage, skin texture, clouds).
- **FX & Dynamic Brushes:** Particle- or physics-based brushes generating glows, sparks, or fluid effects.