

The Melbourne Painting Workshop

Drawing material list

If you attend for the first time the Melbourne painting class, it is recommended to start with a drawing project before proceeding to painting projects.

Charcoal:

- **Natural willow charcoal** - produces a strong black, is very soft and can be used for expressive notes, is easy to erase, good for under drawing or bigger projects.
- **Natural vine charcoal** - similar to willow charcoal, but harder and produces more grey shade, great for under drawing.
- **Nitram fine art charcoal** - comes as H, HB, B - you can get a pack with all three grades - excellent for more controlled work and details.
- **Charcoal pencil** - can come in a different range from hard to soft, makes a very black shade, hard to erase - so excellent for guidelines and as final details.
- **Compressed charcoal stick** - similar to a charcoal pencil just without the wooden shell - good for covering a bigger area.
- (Optional): **charcoal powder** - highly versatile, allows for quick covering.

Graphite:

- The pencil grades go from Hardness (H) to Blackness (B). The harder it is, the lighter it will be, and the blackest it is, the softer it is. H contains more clay, B contains more graphite. Get at least 4 pencils from the range of HB to 8B.

****If you want to add white to your charcoal/graphite drawing:**

White colour from least intense to more intense:

- **White pastel / white pastel pencil** - soft, powdery, very blendable and transparent.
- **Charcoal pencil white** - clay-base binder with titanium - more powdery and not very intense white, mixes well with charcoal.
- **Conté à Paris white pencil** - carbon-base, especially good for highlights, it is sharper, and when blended it is semi transparent.

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- **Prismacolor Premier white pencil** - wax-base coloured pencil, it is more creamy and a little glossy, excellent for highlights because it is highly opaque - not good to mix with charcoal as it is glossy, use it just for highlights in the final stage or on toned paper.

- **Paint markers / white gel pen / white gouache / white ink** - used for very opaque highlights, can be used as pen or with a fine brush.

- **Oil-based white pastel** - used only as a top layer - to add a final brilliant accent, can also create texture - must be applied last as it never fully dry and its a poor base for other materials.

Paper:

- **For graphite only drawing** -

look for hot pressed (smooth texture but with some teeth)

archival = 100% cotton,

at least 200 g.

- **For charcoal and graphite** -

look for cold pressed (texture with teeth)

archival = 100% cotton,

at least 250 g

Accessories:

- **Charcoal fixative**

- **Table sharpener or utility knife** - table sharpener saves time but is less economical as you waste more of your pencil core compared to a utility knife.

- **Faber-Castell kneadable eraser** - the only eraser you will need.

- **Rice paper stumps** - good only for blending small surface details.

- **Sandpaper sharpening block** - essential for sharpening fragile pencils.

- **Clips to hold the paper or the yellow frog tape** - excellent cellotape that does not tear the paper after use.

- **Goat mop brush** - excellent blender, plus - it is very soft for smooth even blending. Cons - can reduce quite a lot the intensity of the darkness of the charcoal.

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- **Bristle fun brush** - plus - great for blending charcoal without reducing the intensity as it pushes the charcoal into the paper's tooth, cons - good for small surface blending but not for bigger surface as it does not create very smooth even blending.
- **Paper towel** - great for even blending tool, but mainly great for reducing the intensity of the charcoal quite significantly.