

NYBG

Small Potatoes in Graphite - Materials List

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As Drawing 1 is a prerequisite for this class, you will probably have these materials, so this list will most likely serve as a checklist for you.

Pencils

Graphite pencils: You will need at a minimum, 2B B HB H 2H 4H. However, if you buy a set, you will have a wider range which you can also use. My favorite brand is Derwent but other brands such as Faber Castell, Staedtler, Mono are good.

Please make sure that all your pencils are of the same brand as the tones of the same brand relate to each other but vary across different brands.

Measuring Tool

A metal divider (or caliper) with points – This is an essential tool for measuring your subject. You do not need one that holds a pencil. The larger plastic ones are no good. Please make sure you have one for this class! Please see the reference photo below Erasers.

Kneaded eraser - You will learn on this course that erasers are not just for taking out mistakes, they are an essential tool used in drawing. A *kneaded* (soft) eraser is essential for this purpose. Kneaded erasers come in different sizes and a small one is fine. However, make sure you buy the **Faber Castel** kneaded eraser. Do not buy the Prismacolor kneaded eraser. It looks just like the Faber Castel one but does not knead properly or self-clean when you fold the graphite into it.



Please make sure you get a divider with two points like this and a Faber Castell Kneaded Eraser as in the photo. The Prismacolor one also looks similar to this so double check.

White hard eraser for taking out long sketchy lines.

Eraser ‘pen’ for taking out detail. This is a great tool for Botanical Artists!

The best one is the Tombow Mono Zero refillable eraser (round). A battery operated eraser is ok as well, but the Tombow Zero is the most precise for lifting graphite (link below, copy and paste, sorry it’s so long!).

https://www.dickblick.com/items/tombow-mono-zero-refillable-eraser-round-single/?clicktracking=true&wmcp=pla&wmcid=items&wmckw=21576-9330&country=us¤cy=usd&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=16552518873&gbraid=0AAAAAD_wX_EEhUGSFkgRJ9CZxnsFgN74u&gclid=CjwKCAjwo4rCBhAbEiwAxhJlCWbduhpUF9gRDPceY0A3__dNNkn-GZYvzm6kWkxVKbW3IjEOa0e_TxoCRRkQAvD_BwE

Also, a regular plastic block eraser is useful for erasing larger areas of graphite.

Pencil sharpener

You will be sharpening constantly as a good sharp point provides the best result, so a good battery powered electric sharpener is very useful. However, a small metal sharpener would work if it is new. I will have an electric one in the class for you to use as well.

Paper

Choosing paper can be confusing. However, I have tried to make this material list as clear as possible. In this class you will learn about the different weights of paper and the difference between hot press and cold press as well as other terms used by the paper industry.

It is essential you have **good quality smooth** paper for this class, so look for paper that is **Hot press**. **Cold press** has a grain that is too pronounced for smooth tonal shading in graphite.

Good brands are: Strathmore 400 (brown cover), Fabriano Artístico hot press 140 lbs /300 gm², Strathmore Bristol Vellum surface, Stonehenge made by Legion Paper and Arches Hot Press. Arches is very expensive and there are cheaper options that will serve you just as well. I only listed it in case you had any at home already. As to the size of the pad or block, 9"x12" or a bit larger is good.

For your convenience, I have included links to the drawing pads/blocks on Blick so you can recognize the right brands.

Don't worry that the Fabriano Artístico is a watercolor pad. Watercolor paper is great for graphite. Do not buy any paper that says "Sketch" or "Student", it won't be a high enough quality. **Also do not buy Bristol Plate**. Plate has a coating on it, so it is good for ink-based media but not graphite. You will see and understand why in the class.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/strathmore-500-series-bristol-pads/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/strathmore-400-series-drawing-paper-pads/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/fabriano-artistico-enhanced-watercolor-blocks/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/legion-stonehenge-spiral-pad-9-x-12-white/>

Duster - A large cheap paintbrush 1-2" wide or an Alvin Draftsman Duster. You can also use a brand new make-up brush