

# MUST-HAVE TOOLS



## GRAPHITE PENCILS

All you need are these grades: **HB** for fine lines and light outlines, **2B** or **B** for soft sketching and light shading, **5B** for smooth medium-to-dark shading, **8B** (or **9B** if available) for the darkest shadows and bold .



## PAPER or SKETCHBOOK

For this course, just use any smooth, thick, affordable paper like hard white chart paper or a basic sketchbook — no need for fancy brands. Hot-pressed, non-textured surfaces work best for clean, realistic shading!



## SIMPLE ERASER

A basic, rubber eraser commonly used for general erasing of pencil marks. Ideal for large areas or quick corrections, Often used in backgrounds or final touches.



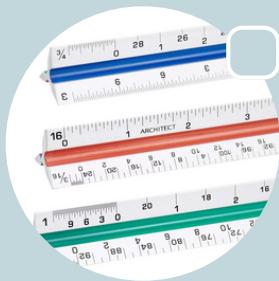
## SHARPENER

You'll need a sharpener to keep your pencils crisp — a simple handheld one works fine, but a craft knife plus sandpaper gives pro-level control if used carefully. Stick to what you're comfortable with, but keep those tips sharp for clean, detailed work!



## MAKEUP BRUSH

Unlike ordinary paint brushes, makeup brushes are soft bristled brushes that help blend graphite smoothly without damaging the paper. Great for light shading and achieving soft, even gradients in detailed drawings.



## SCALE (Ruler)

You'll definitely need a ruler — a simple 12-inch transparent one is perfect for grids, borders, and perspective work, but small or extra-long rulers can help for detailed or big projects. That's all you really need to start; the fancier tools come later if you want to level up!

# RECOMMENDED TOOLS FOR REALISM



## KNEADED ERASER

A soft, pliable eraser that can be shaped to lift graphite without damaging the paper. Perfect for creating highlights and precise corrections in detailed drawings.



## MASKING TAPE

Useful for securing your paper to the drawing board and for creating clean edges during your artwork. It prevents unwanted shifting and helps maintain a neat workspace.



## PLASTIC SHEET

A plastic sheet or even A4 paper under your drawing hand acts as a smudge guard, keeping your artwork clean from finger oils and smudges. A smooth plastic one slides better and is easier to clean, but plain paper works fine too!



## PENCIL EXTENDER

A pencil extender lets you use short pencil stubs comfortably, saving you from wasting those last bits — especially with pricey soft grades like 8B. It's a small, cheap tool that gives your pencils a second life!



## MONO ERASER

A high-precision eraser that offers clean, sharp erasing with minimal pressure. Ideal for detailed work and removing small areas of graphite or pencil without smudging.



## SCRAPER

A scraper is a multitool for sharpening pencil tips, making graphite powder, cleaning Mono Zero erasers, and refreshing blending stumps. I recommend the metal abrasive version for durability and less mess, but sandpaper scrapers work great too!

# OPTIONAL TOOLS FOR HYPER-REALISM



## PERFECTION ERASER

A fine-tipped, Chalky texture eraser designed for softer erasing and correction in detailed drawings. Its firm texture allows for clean, controlled removal of graphite without smudging. Works better in lightening darker tones or base layer without sharp white line, scraping or lightly scratching.



## ELECTRIC ERASER

A battery-powered eraser that offers precise, controlled removal of graphite. Ideal for fine detailing, highlights, and creating sharp edges in your drawings.



## GRAPHITE POWDER

A versatile medium for covering large areas, blending, and creating soft gradients. Perfect for smooth shading, texturing, or adding depth to graphite drawings.



## INDENTING STYLUS

A fine-tipped tool used for creating indentations or light impressions on paper. Ideal for adding texture or white hair or fine white lines in detailed drawings.



## GELLY ROLL PEN

A smooth, gel-based pen used for adding fine details and highlights to drawings. Its white ink is perfect for creating white highlights on dark surfaces. Optional alternative for indenting stylus.



## MECHANICAL PENCIL

A precision tool with a refillable lead, perfect for fine details and consistent line thickness. Ideal for sketching and detailed work without the need for sharpening.

# OPTIONAL TOOLS FOR HYPER-REALISM



## COTTON BUDS & COTTON BALLS

A simple yet effective tool for softening graphite lines and blending small areas. Ideal for creating smooth transitions and subtle gradients in detailed work. Also helps in picking up extra graphite from small and detailed portions.



## FIXATIVE SPRAY

Fixative spray protects your drawings from smudging — use workable fixative if you plan to keep layering, or final fixative when you're fully done. It's optional but super useful for preserving detailed, hyperrealistic work!



## DESK LAMP

A desk lamp isn't essential, but it's handy for clear lighting, reducing eye strain, and avoiding hand shadows if you don't have a bright workspace. Focus on building your toolkit slowly — patience and observation will always matter more than fancy gear!