



YOUR PENCIL GUIDE

FOR PASTEL PENCILS

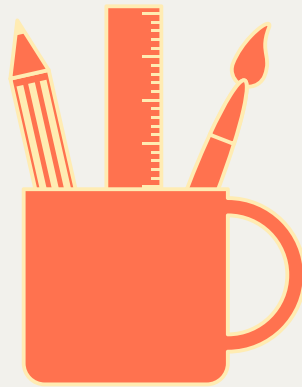
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A HANDY
GUIDE FOR
CLASSES

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

WHAT IS THIS THING?



The first thing to clear up, is what are you using? The term 'pastel' is certainly a general one and you may be confused when it comes to buying your supplies.

Firstly, you are not using 'oil pastels', these are not pencils but they are also very different. The pigment, that is the colour, is bound together with a filler and oil, like a solid form of oil paint almost.

A 'soft pastel' or 'hard pastel', is a little closer, these are both similar to each other and are pigment, with a filler and their binder is gum arabic, (the same as watercolours). These are like chalk, they come in sticks and create an amazing mess! I sometimes use soft pastels for very large underpaintings. The difference between the two is simply that a hard pastel has more gum arabic in it, meaning the pastels stays together better whereas the soft crumbles and blends more easily.

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WHAT WE ARE USING



We, on the other hand, are using a pastel pencil, these are pigment plus filler plus gum arabic and bound up into a pencil lead. The pencils have more binder in them than the soft pastels so that they hold their shape as a 'lead'.

Different brands of pencil produce different types because the amount of pigment to filler to binder will vary. I tend to favour the Faber Castell as they have a good amount of pigment, (this means that they are artist quality and have good colour), they aren't so soft that they break too easily or blend too much, but, they are softer than a pencil lead so we can get some lovely effects.

Other brands you will see me use are Cretacolor and Derwent. I find the Derwent a little chalky, (they have less pigment in them and more filler, they are also a bit soft for adding details), but they have some amazing colours which are useful at times. The Cretacolor are a fairly hard pencil but again they can be a little chalky and the wood is difficult to sharpen at times.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

WHERE SHOULD I BUY FROM?



I am a kid in a sweet shop with art supply shops; touching all the paper, drooling over the colours of paint and most likely leaving with something I didn't need and won't use. Ooops.

WHERE TO SHOP FOR WHAT

Please note that the following recommendations are not in any way sponsored links or affiliates. These are simply the business I use to get my supplies and I have found them to be most reliable and the best prices, too.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

LET'S GO SHOPPING



PAPER STORY ART SUPPLIES

I favour 'Paper Story' for my Faber Castell pencils. The service is excellent, the prices are great and they are a small business which is always nice to support.

www.paperstory.co.uk

If are struggling to find something on their site, just use the search bar or contact Angie and Chris who are always happy to help.

My 'beginners set' would consist of the following pencils, (plus the Cretacolors overleaf). However, please note that if you intend to follow the tutorials with the 'correct' pencils you will be better off buying a full set instead. To kick you off, try:

175, 199, 101, 102, 103, 181, 273, 233, 230, 270, 180, 183, 182, 280, 118, 143, 151, 170, 173, 187, 169

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

LET'S GO SHOPPING



CRETACOLOR & CARBOTHELLO

Paper Story has just started stocking Cretacolor pencils, which really is something to shout about as they are tricky to come by but useful to have. I would suggest the following:

Bistre, Umber, Titanium White, Yellow Grey, Ochre Light, Ochre Dark.

I do use some other colours by them in my tutorials but the above list are my most frequently needed pencils and a good place to begin.

Lastly, one lonely pencil from Stabilo is a good bet too:

Cold Grey II 722

EXTRAS

FANCY THINGS



Really, there are relatively few extras you actually need for pastel pencil drawings. People can try to sell you the next 'best' automatic-non-pencil-breaking sharpener, but you don't need it and the likelihood is that our method is much better, especially for using the pencil on the side.

However, an extra which I do stand by you acquiring is a practical little tool: the pencil extender. These excellent additions allow you to quite literally extend the life of your pencil and use almost every last inch of pastel.

You simply pop your stub of pencil, which is so small you can no longer use it, into the pencil holder. Tighten the vice that holds it in and then get drawing. I use these all of the time and they're dirt cheap – hooray!

You will also need some P120 sanding paper, some kitchen towel and a sharp craft knife with extra blades. The knives do blunt rather fast so make sure you have a few spares in and keep away from kids!