

Image not found

[L'atelier Canson](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/logo.png)

Published on *L'atelier Canson* (<https://www.cansonstudio.com>)

[Home](#) > Drawing: Selecting your material

---

Image not found

[https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson\\_commons/images/btn-prece.png](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/btn-prece.png)



[Return to article list](#) [1]

# Drawing: Selecting your material

Image not found

[Twitter icon](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/modules/socialmedia/icons/levelten/glossy/32x32/twitter.png) [2]



[https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson\\_commons/images/article-fav.png](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/article-fav.png)

---

[Art Material](#) [5]

Rate this article

Rate

---

When sketching from life, there's no point in loading yourself down with rags, erasers and fixatives: You need to take along the min-i-mum!

## 1. Select a solid, portable support

Image not found

[Dessin - Choisir un support solide et transportable](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/default/files/News/Dessin-001-D.jpg)

For obvious reasons of organization, it is preferable to avoid working on loose leaf paper (because it can get lost or damaged). Your most practical tool is a sketch pad.

### How do you select it?

Select a pad with a hard back. This provides you with support.

- Spiral pads are practical because the sheets are independent of each other.
- As for format, go for simplicity. A4 or A5 sizes provide you with a very comfortable drawing surface and are not very cumbersome. As for volume, go light... a hundred sheets are quite enough.
- Sketch paper is usually bulked, that is, both light and thick. It is perfectly suited to graphite, pastel, charcoal and sanguine drawing.

However, if you work with a felt-tip or marker, select a pad of smooth, water and ink resistant, paper (layout paper).

### How do you use it?

- When you work on a subject from various angles, do all your rough sketches on the same page. This way, you can keep an overview.
- Try turning your pad to be more comfortable. Draw in all directions.
- Only draw on the front of the paper. Transparency could play tricks on you...

### **Memo: paper with bulk!**

Connoisseurs tell us that sketch pads usually come with bulked paper. What are its qualities? It is both light and thick. It is a fairly rough paper, ideal for quick sketches and studies.

### Dessin - Choisir un médium adapté

Image not found

<https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/default/files/dessins/Dessin-011-B.jpg>

## **2. Selecting the right medium**

Any pencil or ballpoint will do. But some media have significant advantages:

- Graphite pencils, preferably very soft ones (7B or 8B), make it possible to add both light lines and dark contours.
- Graphite lead or charcoal: alternate between a lead tip for contours, and a lead edge, for areas to be shaded. Another advantage with charcoal: you can make corrections fast. All you have to do is run your finger over the line to fade it.
- A few color pencils or markers can be very useful for quick color references.

### **Suggested products**

**Canson® XL® Croquis, Extra White & Recycled**

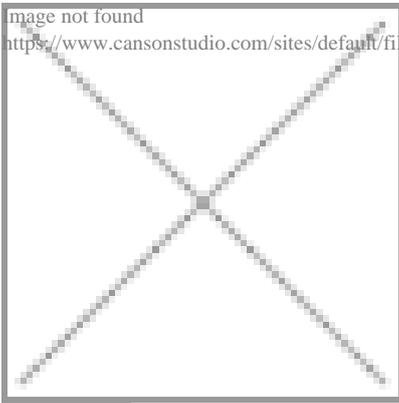


Image not found

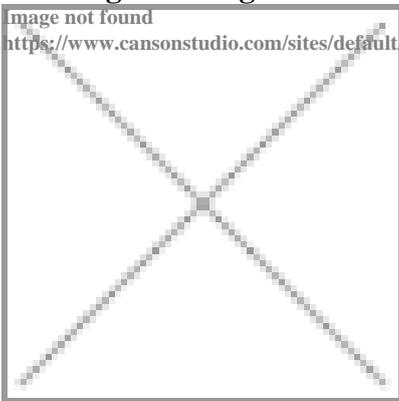
[https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson\\_commons/images/link-a-arrow.png](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/link-a-arrow.png)



[VIEW THIS PRODUCT](#) [6]

## See also

### Drawing: learning to sketch from life



Making a drawing with just a few pencil strokes isn't magic, it's sketching! Because this exercise is an art of its own. So where and how do you sketch?

Image not found

[https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson\\_commons/images/link-a-arrow.png](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/link-a-arrow.png)



[DISCOVER](#) [7]

---

## Links

[1] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/technique/drawing>

[2] <https://twitter.com/share?url=https://www.lateliercanson.com/printpdf/520&text=Drawing: Selecting your material> <https://www.lateliercanson.com/printpdf/520> via @CansonPaper

[3] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/520>

[4] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/print/520>

[5] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/art-material>

[6] <http://en.canson.com/drawing-sketch/canson-xl-croquis-extra-white-recycled>

[7] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/drawing-learning-sketch-life>