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An eraser isn't just for erasing! It also allows you to draw in the negative. How it works You are going to open white areas in a grayed-over surface, that is, you are going to erase certain areas down to the white paper, creating areas of light.

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What you need to know

A kneaded eraser is used with unstable media such as charcoal, chalk, and sanguine. The classical rubber eraser is better for graphite leads.

- Kneaded erasers but for dabbing the area to be lightened, rather than for rubbing.
- Knead it before using it to give it the right shape.
- It's easy to clean: knead it until it completely absorbs all the pigment.

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1. Drawing in the negative with an eraser

You can work in charcoal or graphite.

- Gray over the entire surface of your sheet of paper using the side of a charcoal stick or a graphite stick. make sure to apply consistent pressure on your tool, to obtain an even background.
- Make your drawing with the tip of the charcoal or a corner of the graphite stick.
- Remove the dark material from the light areas with your eraser

Depending on how much pressure you apply to the eraser, you will obtain lighter or darker areas.

Tip: shape your eraser into a point to work on your details precisely.

2. Highlighting a shaded area with an eraser

- Gray in the area you want to shade.
- Go around it gently with your eraser.

Result: you will bring out the contours much more gently than outlining them with a pencil line.

3. What kind of eraser should you use?

You should definitely test various kinds of erasers: kneaded erasers, classical plastic erasers, rubber erasers and ink erasers. You will obtain a wide range of effects. For example, you can use:

- the edge of a kneaded eraser sharpened to a point to lighten borders.
- the end (the red part) of an ink eraser to bring out more important surfaces.

Result: you will bring out the contours much more gently than outlining them with a pencil line.

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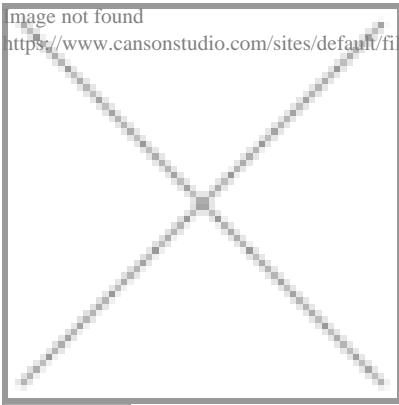


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A kitchen grater, the sole of a shoe, a doily? Those everyday objects don't look all that important. But they can add a touch of originality to your drawings! Give your creativity a boost with the rubbing technique, it's as easy as child's play.

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