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# Pastel & Colour: Sketching successfully

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While it is quite possible to create a work off the cuff, doing a preliminary drawing is always advisable.

## What you need to know

There are two techniques for creating a sketch:

- Using square pastels to lightly shade in the main forms with colors appropriate to the final result.
- Lightly drawing with charcoal: this is more precise, and includes the broad lines, contours, and even, if you wish, the details.

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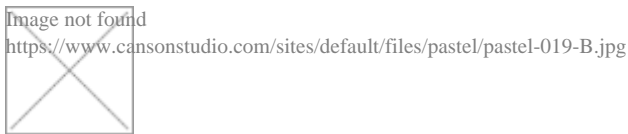
## 1. Shading with dry pastels

- Use the edge of your sticks to add light blocks of color, representing the main masses, and allowing you to readily visualize the various tones.
- You could also sketch the volumes: draw light oblique lines or widely spaced hatching with the tip of your pastel.
- If necessary, draw a true preliminary drawing with square pastels or pastel pencils, defining each contour with the appropriate shade.

**Note:** do not use a graphite pencil because its texture "repels" pastels!

## 2. Oil pastel sketching

Like dry pastels, this is done directly with sticks in the color you are planning to use, without pressing too hard and lightly shading the main masses.



## 3. Charcoal sketching

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- Draw your lines lightly, without pressing too hard.
- Include the details that are needed to compose your piece.
- You could also shade your future contours using oblique lines or cross-hatching.
- Use your finger or a rag to erase any mistakes.
- Once you've finished your sketch, rub the drawing with a dry rag. Most of the charcoal will disappear, leaving a light trace.

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For a truly personalized result, certain artists prefer to tint their medium themselves. Play your hand!

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