OUR TOP PAPER PAIRINGS FOR YOUR DRAWING PENCILS

Tombow

It can be overwhelming to choose the right paper for your artwork, so we've developed this handy chart for you to reference when choosing paper for your next illustration using Tombow Drawing Pencils.
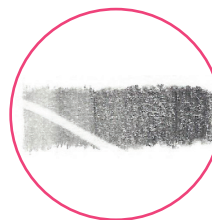
THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

When practicing and making rough sketches, you can use any type of paper. However, if you're making a detailed pencil drawing, it's best to choose an archival paper made from 100% rag for detailed drawings that will last and not turn yellow or become brittle over time. You can also get acid-free paper made from wood fibers, and other cellulose materials such as linen and bamboo.

Paper can be purchased in many different forms – sheets, boards, or pads. Pads vary from small (handy for on-the-go sketching) to large (great for finished drawings). Pads also come in coil or bound forms and keep your papers clean and tidy.
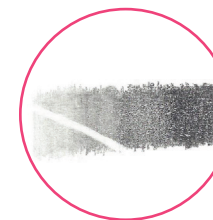
The paper's tooth (or surface texture) is important to keep in mind as well. A medium tooth paper will accept layers of graphite without a rough texture, allowing for finer details. A heavily textured paper would make it difficult to create fine, soft shading. A very smooth, slick surface does not accept darker graphite tones. Generally, a hot press paper has a smooth surface with medium to light tooth, and a cold press paper has rougher texture with heavy tooth.

Weight is another consideration. Choose a paper with a weight of at least 70 lb and over. A heavy weight paper has more strength, holds the graphite better for a variety of tones and holds up to erasing and re-working well. Thinner, lighter weight papers are generally lesser quality, and less expensive.
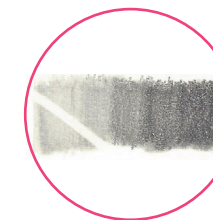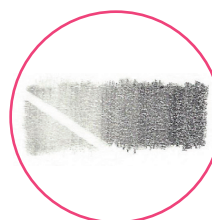
OUR TOP PAPER RECOMMENDATIONS
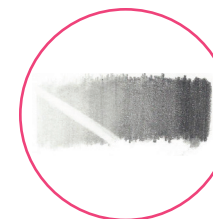

Canson Mix Media
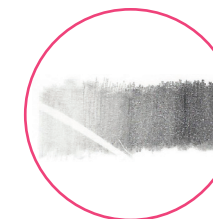98 lb

Canson Watercolor
Cold Press 90 lb

Canson 1557 Drawing
90 lb

Crescent Hot Press
Illustration

Strathmore Windpower
Bristol, Smooth 100 lb

Strathmore Mixed Media
300 series 90 lb

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS & HELPFUL TIPS

We also like Legion Paper's Stonehenge series, Arches 140 lb hot press watercolor paper, and Fabriano Bristol paper. Look for books of paper samples at fine art stores to test papers. Both Canson and Strathmore have such books so that you can try a variety of papers. Explore other drawing and watercolor papers to discover what works best for you!