

Drawing Media

Art & Design

What each drawing material does, and the paper surface it needs to do it.

The medium, what it is good at, and the paper it wants.

Medium	Strength	Paper
Graphite 2H-2B	Precise line, light value	Smooth
Graphite 4B-8B	Dark mass, smudges	Light tooth
Willow charcoal	Fast, broad, erasable	Toothed
Compressed charcoal	Deep black, hard to lift	Toothed
Conté crayon	Warm darks, holds an edge	Tinted, toothed
Ink and nib	Committed line, no lifting	Smooth, sized
Silverpoint	Fine, pale, permanent	Prepared ground

Tooth is the paper surface. Smooth paper will not hold charcoal, and heavily toothed paper will not take a fine ink line.