How to Draw

Horses
HOW TO DRAW

Ducks
HOW TO DRAW

Blue Crabs
Hands are hard to draw. Read some of the following tips and try your hand at drawing hands. It isn’t easy to find a willing model for life drawing, but you always have your hand around, eager to model!

Basic things to keep in mind when drawing hands...

- Fingers come in different sizes and arch in the middle. The middle finger is the longest and the pinky finger is the smallest.
- Fingers fold. Skin drapes like cloth. Good looking hands will have fold lines.
- Fingernails don’t go all the way to the tip of the fingers.
- Thumbs aren’t short fingers. They have only two joints and are rounder than fingers.
- Fingers and thumbs do not connect to your wrist. The palm is a rounded square that folds.
- There is space between your fingers that makes a U shape, not a V shape.
- Knuckles do not line up straight, and when you make a fist, your index and middle fingers stick out further than your ring finger and pinky.
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Pure Contour

To really draw well, you need to see well. Pure contour drawings are a way to develop your ability to see—without looking.

First find a subject with a lot of details. Then tape a piece of paper on a table. Sit so your drawing hand, holding the pencil, is ready to draw on the taped-down paper, but turn away from the paper, looking at the object you are drawing. During the time you spend drawing, you may not look at the paper.

Draw very, very slowly, without lifting the point of the pencil from the paper, following every nook and cranny of the object. Draw only clearly defined edges, resisting the temptation to color in shadows. Draw very, very slowly as you move your pencil, moving your eyes along the edge of the object you are using for your subject matter. Imagine that the pupil of your eye is the lead of the pencil. Don't look at your paper!

When you are all done, see how well you saw. The proportions of the drawing will be all wrong—that is okay. What you want to see is whether you recorded with your pencil every detail that your eye picked up.

Go back and try this exercise a few more times, then try it again but allow yourself to look three times. Finally draw it again, looking at the paper and the object and see how well you can apply your powers of observation to the final drawing.