



Forum: Sketchy Sketches

Topic: Drawing and Inking Tools

Subject: Inking Tools

Posted by: Biohaz_Daddy

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There are another vast array of tools available to use in the art of inking. I'll touch on those of my limited experience here. As this is likely my last post here, I encourage our more experienced members to share their knowledge and fill in the gaps in all of the areas I have touched on.

Brushes

The brush is the ultimate tool for inking. It is also the most difficult to master. In fact it can take a lifetime of pursuit. They come in a variety of sizes. The larger for laying down big areas of ink, the smaller for fine lines and detail.

Sabel brushes- Yep, just like they use in painting. The sizes 0 and 00 are capable of producing fine lines of beautiful weight variation. They are also the tool to use when shading with the old school feathering technique.

Sumi- Soft bristles capable of fine to thick line weights. This type of brush is typically a fine art tool, but has aided in producing such stunning work that it deserves a mention.

Plastic- The type of brush you get with your kindergarten water color set. Not real useful. Throw them away if you have any

A quick note on inks... India ink while well suited to the brush and the traditional pen, is somewhat grainy and will clog a technical pen. Waterproof inks have a tendency toward longer drying times.

Pens

Split Tip ink pens- These are those old school pens that you dip into the ink (there are some that are cartridge fed). These produce a nice line with some little variation. They have a tendency to grab at papers with a surface texture creating the sometimes cool, sometimes disastrous ink sputter effect.

Speedball- An improvement on the split tip, this pen reduces the likelihood of the sputter, and improves ink delivery to the tip of the pen. These come in a wide variety of tip shapes primarily for calligraphy.

Technical Pens- The most common of these in the Rpidiograph. It's a pens that delivers a consistent line width and is fed ink through a reservoir housed in the pens body.

Markers

Markers are the down and dirty inking tool. They offer a middle ground between brushes and pens. It's felt tip is soft and will allow more light weight variation than the pens, and delivers a consistent supply of ink. They tend to wear out their useful life very quickly, which can be annoying, but since they are cheap it may be a good trade off for you.

Sharpies- They make yellow with time, so a good ink and brush may do you better in covering larger areas.

Brush markers- A further refinement of the felt tip both moving closer to the line quality of a brush, and shortening the life of the marker. Yet somehow I like these

Other tools

Inking templates, triangle, and rulers- The edge is lifted off the surface of the paper to prevent the ink from drawing underneath and ruining your lines.

Inking Compass- Kohinoor makes one that you can attach your rapidograph to.

Exacto Knife/Razor blade- you can lift the ink off your paper by scrapping the blade over it. Usefull in creating texture effects.

White out- Whether in the bottle with the brush, or in a pen, white out is an inkers best bud.