

Sketching

A short shoe-string budget guide

First of all, just stop it.
No really,

STOP IT

Don't even consider buying that \$20 sketchbook with premium paper in it.

You're a beginner and WILL regret it when buying it and trying to sketch in it.

The psychology issue.

A lot of artists, even in the digital age tends to have this notion of "needing the best" material to start sketching.

But, that's not the case.

In the pipelines of making art, it's much better to just use a simple bic pen and copy paper with a flat and smooth working desk and just a lot of time and intense focus of sheer practice.

Because the materials and tools one uses is simply more abundant and less costly, there is this psychological hiccup where one is more willing to get messy with these tools and say a fountain pen and Bristol paper.

You have to conquer the underlying notion of "good art" have to be preserved like the old masters.

If anything, just scan them and have them in either 'Drives or 'Clouds.

The age of digital information technology most likely will only get better at their jobs and having the ability to store them and share them instantly via a simple light device , instead of a heavy bulky portfolio will be the way to go.

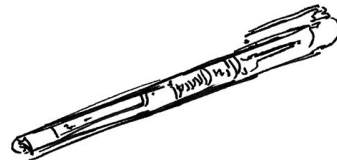
Types of Materials to buy or acquire

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Sketchbook
-portable and easy to work from



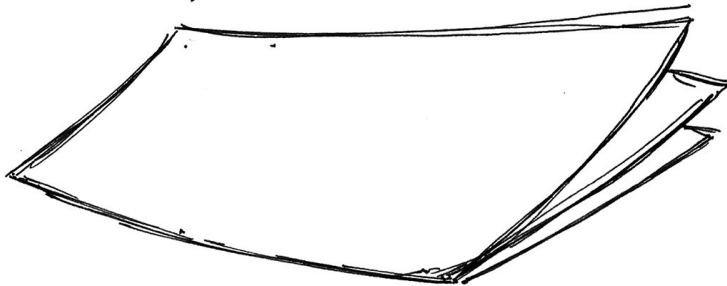
Gel/Pen
-red,blue,blacks, smooth flow of lines



Brushpen
-felt or real brush, covers ground easily and steady hands is a must



CopyPaper
-easy to scan and do mass work



Bic/Ballpoint
-incredibly abundant and easy to work with pencil but in pen form



Figure 1: these materials other than the brushpen is easy to get in the local dollarstore, just get them all in one swoop in a day. They don't have to be exact, but as long as the function is close enough they will give the muscle memory needed to sketch.

Speed and Focus is the emphasis here.

Sketchbook

ones you can find at the local dollarstore or discount stores, but personally, I tend to go for a smaller/medium sized “landscape” layout sketchbook from Daiso, under \$3 dollars but does the most practical and on the go. Best value for my tools to work on.

Pens

Usually a felt-tip using non-alcohol based ink, sharpie recently have launched series of non-felt tip based pens and some of them works quite well.

Brushpens

I used to use various types of brushpens, but this one isn’t “budget”, kind of a mid tier price item but have done so well in many places that it’s a no-brainer for me to have it in my daily rotation.

A pentel pigment brushpen is ideal.

Red Gel/Ballpoint

for underlays and just an alt color for sketching. Could be used as a base when scanned and can “ink” over it with a black pen on paper too.

When all else fails, a bic pen will do to.

Copy Paper

sometimes a sketchbook is fine, but it’s rather limited nature of being smaller for my case and having less pages. Having a large stack of copy paper allows a more disposable approach to sketching on a budget. Not to mention the scanning process for digital art stuff is easier too.

Imagination and Guts to keep drawing

Maybe this is the only non-tangible thing that is a requirement.

But, it’s important to just keep practicing and drawing despite the lack of immediate results.

You might start noticing results an year later and it could be small. Most could take 10 years to get somewhere if starting from zero, but some can take a mere 5 years.

Get used to the process of just sketching bit by bit almost everyday.

The first few days of practice

It can be exciting, or boring. But getting your first sketches or doodles on page is important. Since, you can fantasize about the potential of drawing given your clean slate.

But, it’s only the first few days, think about the rest of the week, month, seasons, and years even.

It's not going to end for some

Could be the feeling of inadequacy or something to do with the drawings “not being good enough” but overall, the idea of sketching your ideas and thoughts for long term might be a life-long thing.

Maybe sketching is going to be habituated and even if one get a years worth of hiatus, they will return to sketching anyways.

Some final notes or things to say

It could be that sketching is not your thing after year-1, that's fine. Since it's not for everyone, but it would be useful skill of just sketching even rudimentary objects with level of speed, and knowing what objects actually looks like for references.

For those who choose to sketch again and again, year after year like me. Always be practicing and making progress in the process. Whether your sketchbook's have been upscaled in price and quality, or still working from the base level.

Just remember why sketching from the basics is an important thing.

Always be sketching.