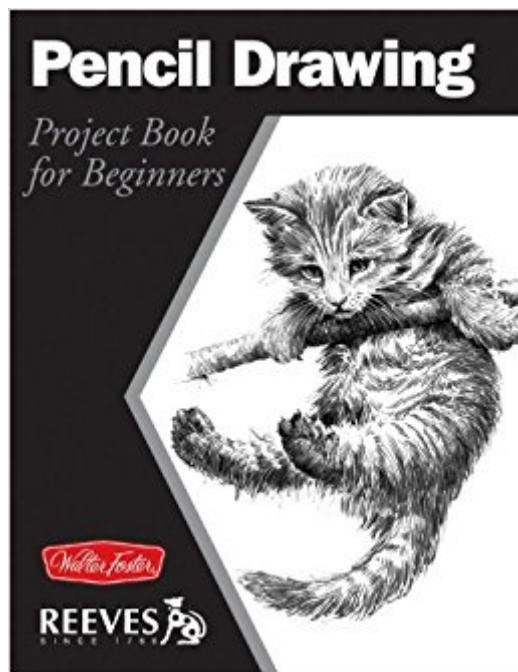




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Pencil Drawing: Project Book For Beginners (WF /Reeves Getting Started)



Synopsis

'The age-old art of drawing is one of the most important foundations of all the visual arts—and it's also a relaxing and enjoyable pastime! This book offers a simple, step-by-step approach to learning the fundamentals of sketching—from starting with basic shapes to rendering accurate still lifes, landscapes, animals, and portraits. You will learn techniques used to render various textures, including glass, metal, foliage, and fur. Even if your only experience with a pencil is writing with one, you're still perfectly capable of executing these easy-to-follow basics. Everyone who wants to practice and perfect their drawing skills will find this project book created by Walter Foster Publishing and Reeves to be a valuable tool.

Book Information

Series: WF /Reeves Getting Started

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Walter Foster Publishing (January 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1560107391

ISBN-13: 978-1560107392

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 242 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,159 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing > Pencil

Customer Reviews

The Walter Foster/Reeves "Getting Started" Series Walter Foster Publishing--the leader in art instruction for more than 80 years--has paired up with Reeves--the leading manufacturer of quality art materials for beginners since 1776--to create the "Getting Started" series books. This exciting series gives aspiring artists the knowledge they need to create beautiful drawings and paintings, no matter what previous art experience they've had. Each title provides simple, step-by-step instructions for rendering a variety of subjects, as well as clear, uncomplicated instruction to aid the beginning artist with a specific medium.

Michael Butkus was trained at Otis Parsons in Los Angeles and the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. He has taught illustration and rendering techniques, along with character

design and visual development, to art industry professionals and commercial art students. Michael has worked on more than 2,500 films in the areas of advertising, movie poster art, set design, and character design. Michael also invented and illustrated hundreds of characters for Lucasfilms's Shadow of the Empire. Clients include Paramount, Warner Brothers, Universal, Disney, DreamWorks, and LucasArts, as well as a number of toy companies that employ his imaginative creations and conceptual renderings for product design. Michael lives in Los Angeles, CA. Eugene Metcalf's career as an artist-designer has been punctuated by national and international awards. Metcalf's natural talent in the various art fields has established him as a top calligrapher and designer. Lettering design became a specialty leading him to the creation of logos with a variety of commercial applications. Of his more than 30 years in the commercial art industry, almost half of them were spent as art director and top designer for major outdoor advertising companies in the Los Angeles area. In the past several years, Metcalf has been a freelance artist in the full spectrum of commercial art, including national magazine covers. Recognized as one of America's foremost colorists, William F. Powell has taught art classes and workshops for 35 years in various art media. Today he is an extremely popular author, and he attracts more admirers each year with the numerous titles he has produced for Walter Foster Publishing, including Color Mixing Recipes, which he originally conceptualized, designed, and illustrated himself. Mia Tavonatti is an artist with a variety of interests, including a strong passion for painting and drawing. She moved from Michigan to California to attend art school at California State University, Long Beach, where she earned her BFA and MFA in illustration. She has also studied painting abroad, and she loves to spend her summers painting in Greece. Mia has exhibited her work extensively, both in Europe and throughout the United States. She is the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards, and her work can be seen on more than 45 book covers and in several magazines. In addition to her illustrative work, she has created a number of murals and commissions for restaurants, private residences, and corporations. She teaches illustration and painting and the Art Institute of Southern California in Laguna Beach and currently resides in Costa Mesa, California.

I purchased this book on a whim at my local art store. Having gained curiosity into what else is out there I found myself with mixed thoughts on the reviews of this book, some saying that the person they bought it for liked it, others claiming that it's pedantic or insulting, etc., so I thought I would offer a review as one for whom this book claims to be written. This book, subtitled "Project Book for Beginners" is me. I am a true beginner. I'm the guy that is content with being able to draw not just stick figures, but gender-appropriate stick figures (the triangle for the dress!). I'm the guy that looks

at all those "real" artists saying "woooooooooooooow" as they draw something with distressingly impressive ease. For me, the difference between a kneaded eraser and silly putty is that a kneaded eraser does not make imprints nearly as well as silly putty. I have never taken an art class nor have I spent years just drawing whatever I see (though I do admit to some impressive doodles over the years!). So what this book has to offer: A decent intro for the concept of starting tools. Being published by Reeves, it should be no surprise that they recommend Reeves supplies, but I assure you that I have seen far worse by way of shameless promotions - The book on Colored Pencils by Veronica Winters, I hope she received a lifetime of free Prismacolor supplies for all the advertising she did for them! ã ã Master Realist Techniques in Colored Pencil Painting in 4 Weeks: Projects for Beginners: Learn to draw still life, landscape, skies, fabric, glass and textures ã ã What I like most is that it emphasizes that some pencils, a sharpener, an eraser, and any paper will get you started. For a guy like me who wants to purchase an entire workshop before I start a new hobby, the simplistic view can be refreshingly encouraging. Basic techniques. If you're wanting to learn key concepts behind drawing, you can expect to be satisfied. You'll learn some clever tips on how to draw long vs. short grass, some shading concepts, how to draw tree bark, how to draw "negative space", and how to see an item to be drawn first as a collection of basic shapes. Some very decent drawings. Reproducible? Not any time soon, but then again, the book does claim that tracing paper isn't cheating as it helps to build drawing skill and practice! It includes "step-by-step" (more on this in a bit) instruction on specific items. This is the heart of the book and in eleven very truncated chapters, which the book appropriately entitles as "Lessons", they cover fruit, flowers, dogs, horses/ponies, cats and kittens, still life, and textures, landscapes, portraits, children, and figures in action. Why I say "appropriately", is I believe that what you are learning is more conceptual lessons than actually being able to draw that figure as you're reading the book. I put "step-by-step" in quotes because I don't believe a hairy dog complete with facial expression is really drawn in just three steps or that a horse can be drawn in four. Expect these lessons to roughly guide you in the direction you want, followed by many hours and many many sheets of paper on practice. Where this book might not be ideal: In three steps you should be able to draw a detailed and impressive still life consisting of a jewelry box, a flower, another flower in a vase, and a candle, all situated on white delicately-draped cloth replete with subtle shading and perspective. Worth \$8? Considering how much classes go for, easily Yes. The knowledge contained is definitely worth sacrificing a large Burger King value meal. Is it the best use of your \$8? Probably not. Considering that I have found many books on beginner drawing here on for \$4-5 more dollars with 150-200 more pages of instruction, you can probably get more detailed and clear instruction for your dollar. Where this book

shines is as a solid no-nonsense bullet-point-construct drawing cheat-sheet (or cheat-book). If all you need is some decent guidance and to let the understood need for practice rule the day, then this book will suffice. If you are like me and would prefer a few more than four steps to draw a bridled horse, then there are likely better avenues out there. All in all, having already spent \$8 on this book as an pure impulse purchase, I'm not upset.

I paid \$6 for a pamphlet. Well, a few pages of VERY basic instructions... If you've ever taken an drawing class, or watched a you tube video on drawing you are throwing away your money buying this.

I never learned to draw as a child and this book is a must have for beginners

Not the world's best instruction book, but it is filled with many interesting drawings (like the one on the cover) that will provide treasures of inspiration!

My sister, who I bought this book for, definitely loved it. She's a beginner and reading it and following the guided instruction allowed her to explore her interest in sketching and gave her the foundation for moving forward in the drawing arts. It also serves as a solid "refresher" for artists who have taken a break or who want to brush up on their sketching skills. My only concern was the length; the book was great but it would have been amazing if it allowed for more opportunities to test and expand the reader's drawing ability.

Bought along with an art box and drawing pad to encourage drawing, and love of art. This book has good instructions and examples to help learn line and shading, with subjects young people enjoy. For the beginner: I would recommend for ages 5-13 generally, depending on the child, or even an adult.

The book is kinda small and it's not very helpful...well for beginners anyway. It's like they go from a simple step to a really difficult one in a single leap. It's like okay, let's go from a circle to a realistic face in one step. We're not gonna give exact details, but here's a picture to get an idea of what it looks like. I didn't like that. However, it did give me some project ideas. I give it 2 stars.

I just received and have not had time to actually work with the book. I am counting on earlier reviews

that it will help me get into drawing quickly. Delivery, price and condition are excellent....rating does not reflect product content.

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