

Coloured Pencil Starter List

Essential Pencils for Animal Portraits

My Essential Coloured Pencils

It's very easy to become overwhelmed when it comes to knowing the best pencils to buy when you're first starting out, so I have listed what I feel are essentials for animal portraits.

Artist quality coloured pencils can be an expensive investment, however, using quality pencils does make a difference. Buying the pencils singly means you don't have to pay a huge amount for a whole set - you may wish to do that at some point, but this shortlist will give you a really good start, these are the ones I use in almost every drawing.

I've included four of my favourite pencil brands. Polychromos are oil-based, hard, great for details, blending and just a good all-round pencil. Pablos are great for smoothing and have some super colours, Luminance are expensive but amazing for blending and adding those little touches of colour, and the Drawing is a big fat wax pencil - the blackest black and fab for covering large areas.

If you'd like to start collecting more, you can use my Core Pencil List which has a much larger selection.

Faber Castell Polychromos

Black
Dark Sepia
Warm Grey 1
Warm Grey 2
Warm Grey 4
Cold Grey 1
Cold Grey 3
Dark Indigo
Sky Blue
Burnt Siena
Burnt Ochre
Terracotta
Raw Umber
Indian Red
Caput Mortuum Violet
Cinnamon
Walnut Brown

Caran D'Ache Pablo

White
Granite Rose
Apricot

Caran D'Ache Luminance

Brown Ochre 10%
Sepia 10%
Sepia 50%
Buff Titanium

Derwent Drawing

Ivory Black

If you'd like to continue learning new coloured pencil tips and techniques and keep developing your skills, these free tutorials are the perfect next steps...

[The 45-Minute Cat's Eye Challenge](#)

[The 40-Minute Dog's Nose Challenge](#)

[The 45-Minute Perfect Paws Challenge](#)

[3 Tips for Elevating Your Coloured Pencil Drawings](#)

[How to Layer with Coloured Pencils](#)

[How to Use the Subtraction Technique](#)

[How to Use the Indenting Technique](#)

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