

## Hi and Welcome to Scientific Illustration!

Our first class will begin with basic drawing skills and techniques. The only thing that will be needed in the first class is an assortment of drawing pencils from hard to soft, a pencil sharpener and a sketchbook. The sketchbook will be your field book for this class and I would suggest getting something of decent quality if you don't already have one. For working in the field I prefer a wire bound hard cover sketch book of medium size similar to the Canson Field Book. (<https://www.dickblick.com/items/10349-1021/>)

The first project will be a carbon dust rendering. This will begin in our second class period. Carbon dust is a classic technique in medical and biological illustration. It's much like painting but with carbon pencil dust rather than wet pigments. It produces beautiful rich results when done correctly.

**Color aid paper:** I will be bringing a supply of 18" x 24" paper that can be cut into 8" x 9" rectangles that you can buy from me at \$1.00 per sheet. It's pretty expensive but the results are worth it. You can also order individual sheets if you wish at (<http://www.coloraid.com/sheets.aspx>). If you do order it get white sheets.

### Carbon Pencils:

We need dark carbon pencils. A good one is the "Wolff's Carbon Pencil 6B". (<https://www.dickblick.com/items/20452-2061/>)

### Brushes:

Should be natural hair which holds onto and carries carbon dust better.

Large soft haired squirrel or camel for toning large areas.

A variety of medium to small **brights** and **round** sable brushes are useful. Again these should be natural haired sable bristles. They should be clean and dry.

Sizes should be similar to:

Rounds: 0, 2, 4

Flats and or brights: 4, 8, 10

Large Camel or Squirrel brush: about 3/4" - 1"

### Erasers:

Kneaded rubber eraser (<https://www.dickblick.com/products/prismacolor-kneaded-rubber-erasers/>)

Chamois, 1 piece, is also useful (<https://www.dickblick.com/items/03462-1001/>)

Pink pearl erasers (new!) can be useful as well.

### Sand Paper:

Bring fine sand paper ~ 150 grit. Just one sheet should do. We won't be using a lot of it.

**Masking tape and Scotch tape** for taping down the paper onto a board.

**Board:** masonite or thin plywood to tape the drawing paper onto. It doesn't need to be big. Roughly 11" x 11" or so. At least big enough to tap a 8" x 9" paper to with an inch or two of extra room around the edge for holding onto.

**Scraping and cutting.** It will help to have exacto knives available. I prefer the #16 blade (<https://www.dickblick.com/items/57413-1116/>). These will come into play again when we get to scratchboard.

**Blending can be aided by Stumps**, fine grained cork (sharpen a cork from a wine bottle). Even cotton swaps can help.

(<https://www.dickblick.com/products/caran-dache-blending-stump/>)

I will supply fixative for preserving the drawings.

When we finish the carbon dust illustration we will move on to pen and ink rendering and then scratchboard after that. I will talk about the supplies necessary for pen and ink drawing in class.

