



# CREATIVE INSPIRATIONS FROM HERE AND NOW

## NICE-TO-HAVE for illustrators - Part 1

This is a list of what we consider the ultimate tools for illustration, because working with good tools is both enjoyable and generally more effective. It does not claim to be complete and will continually be updated.

... please remember that it's the mind and not the pen that counts.

### Pencils

Pencils for professional illustrators are usually available in a range of degrees from 9H (very hard) to 8B (very soft – sometimes up to 14B) Just try them out!

- **Faber Castell 9000**
- **Städler, f.e. Mars Lumograph (black 100 B)**
- **Blackwing 602**
- **Koh-i-Noor Toison d'Or**

#### SPECIALS:

- **Eberhardt Faber – Noblot ink pencil „A bottle of ink in a pencil“** (water soluble from grey to blue)
- **Faber Castell – Pitt Graphite Matt** This one has been specially developed to reduce light reflections on the paper and to create maximum depth effect by varying the different degrees of firmness.
- **Faber Castell – Graphite Aquarelle** (water soluble)

### Sharpener

- **M+R**
- **Faber Castell double sharpener sleeve** ... or a Pocket knife!

### Mechanical pencils

- **Faber Castell Grip Plus 1307** has a three-sided rubber grip and a spring-mounted, retractable lead, usually 0.7 mm. It also has twist-out eraser in the cap.
- **Kaweco SketchUp Grip 5,6 mm**  
Its compact structure and thick lead means it is also ideal for working on a larger scale.
- **Koh-i-Noor refill holder 2 mm & 5,6 mm** (also for coloured pencil leads)

### Graphite Sticks

- **Creatacolor Monolith** – Graphite Stick
- **ArtGraf Graphit Softstick** (water soluble)
- **Lyra graphite crayon**

### Charcoal Pencils

- **Faber Castell Pitt** They range from medium to extra soft.
- **Faber Castell Pitt Oil Base Pencils** (very soft)
- **Conté à Paris**



## NICE-TO-HAVE for illustrators

### Coloured Pencils

Colored pencils use pigments and binders like wax or/and oil to create color. These binders determine the pencil's characteristics. Mainly wax-based pencils are known for their ease of blending and layering, while oil-based pencils are valued for their durability.

It is not only the type of ingredients used, but rather the ratio of oils to waxes.

- **Caran d'Ache Luminance** These wax and oil-based pencils are arguably the best colored pencils you can buy. The high percentage of waxes and oils makes them super soft.
- **Caran d'Ache Museum Aquarelle** Highly concentrated pigments in a water soluble formula
- **Caran D'Ache Pablo** if you don't want to buy Luminance pencils ... try these!
- **Prismacolor Premier** Super soft and creamy mainly wax based pencils
- **Faber Castell Polychromos** These colored pencils have a soft, waterproof oil-based lead.
- **Derwent Lightfast** is an oil based pencil with an opaque, vibrant laydown.
- **Derwent Coloursoft** pencils contain a high level of waxes.

... and of course there are many more!

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### The Making of a Colored Pencil

The manufacturing process and composition play a significant role in determining their characteristics and overall quality.

For instance, **Pablo** and **Luminance pencils (both Caran d'ache)** are made using a unique blend of pigments, gum binders, and fillers.

Pigments provide the colour, while binders (such as wax or oil) help the pigment adhere to the paper and glide smoothly. Additives, like clays and fillers, modify the colour and provide durability.

What you should keep in mind:

**Pigment quality:** Look for pencils with high-quality, lightfast pigments that will resist fading over time.

**Binder type:** Wax based pencils are ideal for smooth, even coverage, while oil-based pencils are better suited for detailed work and layering.

**Additives:** Some pencils contain fillers that can affect the colour's vibrancy and durability.

Look for pencils with minimal fillers for the best results. You may find that cheap coloured pencils produce weaker colours due to a higher proportion of fillers.

Now find out which coloured pencil suits you best;-)