



**SKETCHBOOK
NATION**
Improve your drawing skills

HOW TO DRAW A REALISTIC HAND

A Three Step Approach

We take an ordered approach to drawing a complete, realistic drawing of hand in this lesson.

Materials:

- HB Graphite Pencil
- 4B Graphite Pencil
- Vinyl or Plastic Eraser
- Bristol Paper
- Paper Towel or Scrap Paper

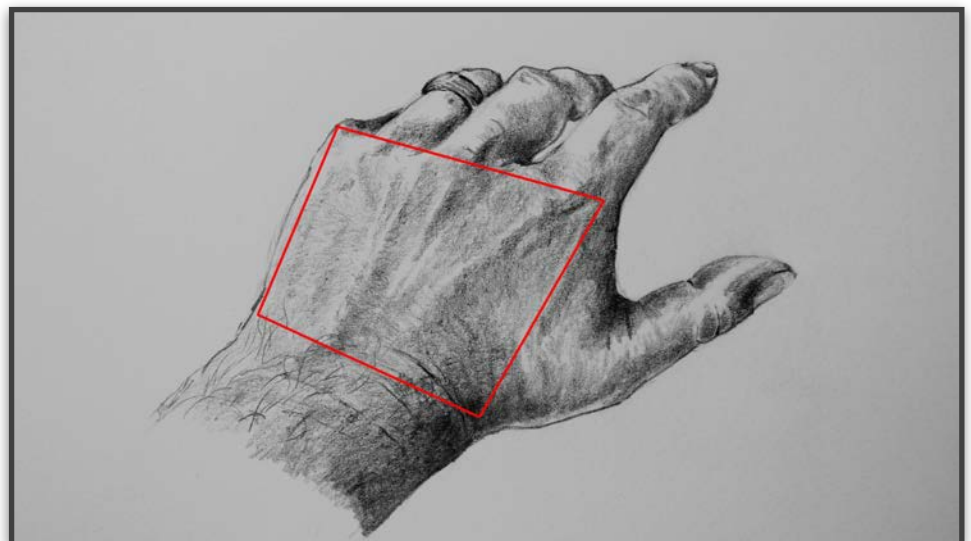
The concepts that are explored in this tutorial can be applied to any subject that you draw.

Here are the steps that are taken to complete the drawing...

1. Draw the Basic Shapes
2. Draw the Contours (Outlines)
3. Add the Value (Shading)



The first shape is identified on the back of the palm. This shape is a simple rectangular shape.

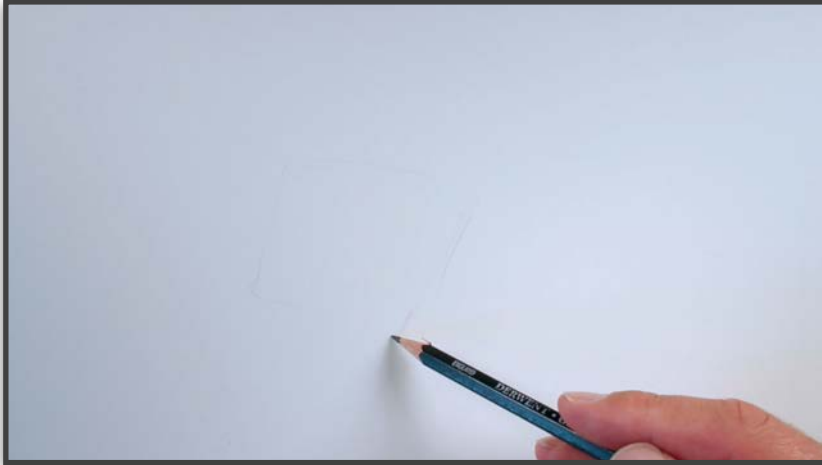




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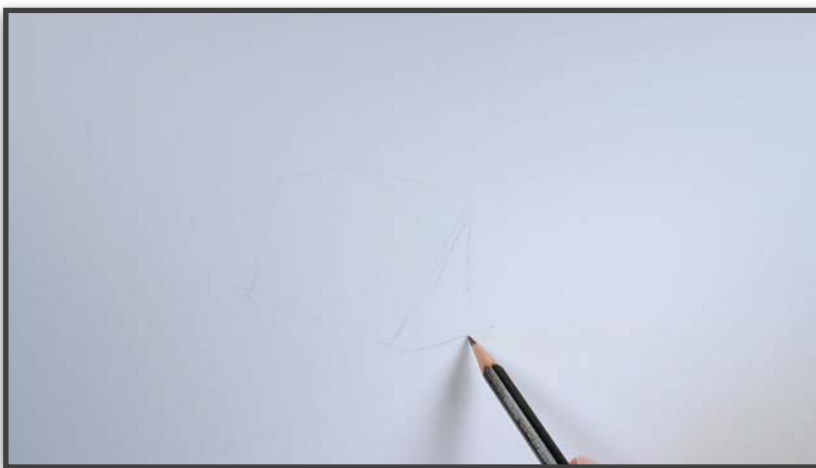
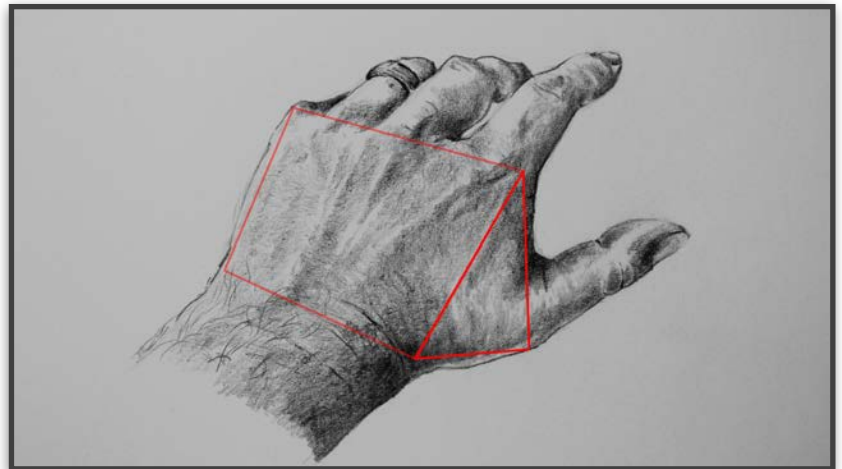
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This shape is lightly drawn using the HB pencil. The application is loose and pressure is barely applied.

The second shape is identified in the reference. This shape is simply a triangle that connects to the original rectangular shape.



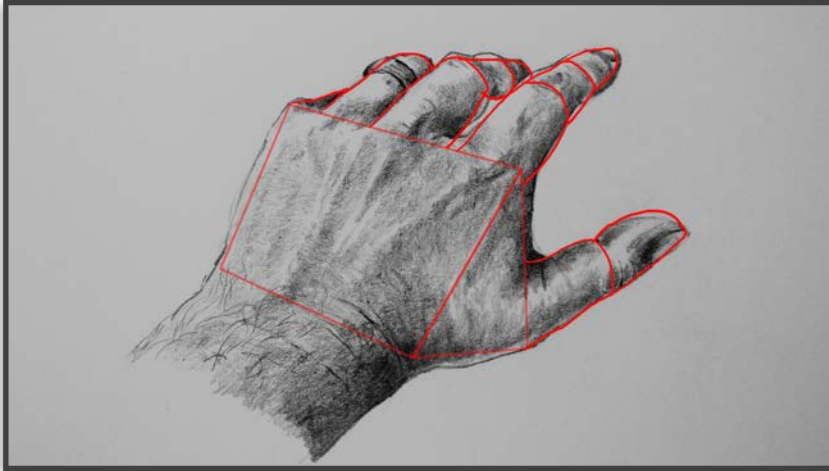
Like the first observed shape, the second triangular shape is drawn, attached to the rectangular shape. Again, the marks are applied lightly and loosely.



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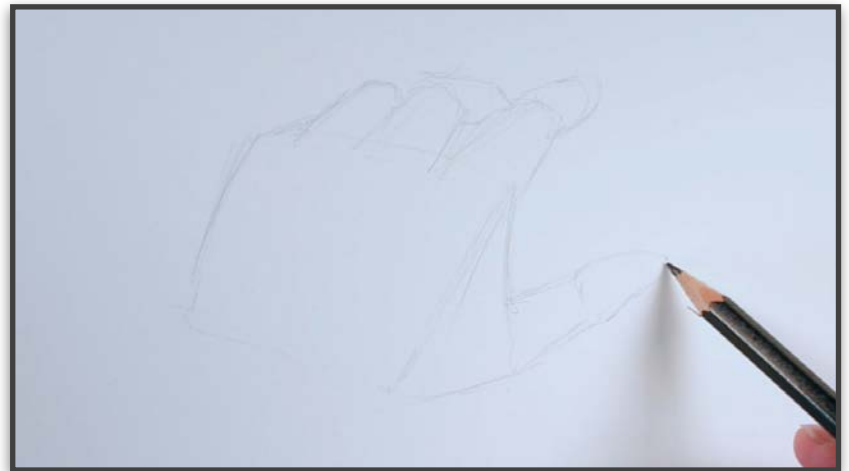
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Next, the shapes of the fingers are determined. These shapes are basically cylinders that extend outward from the first two shapes that were drawn.

These shapes are drawn as the others, with loose and light applications.



Stray marks are next erased using the vinyl eraser, taking care to preserve the outlines that have been created by the shapes.



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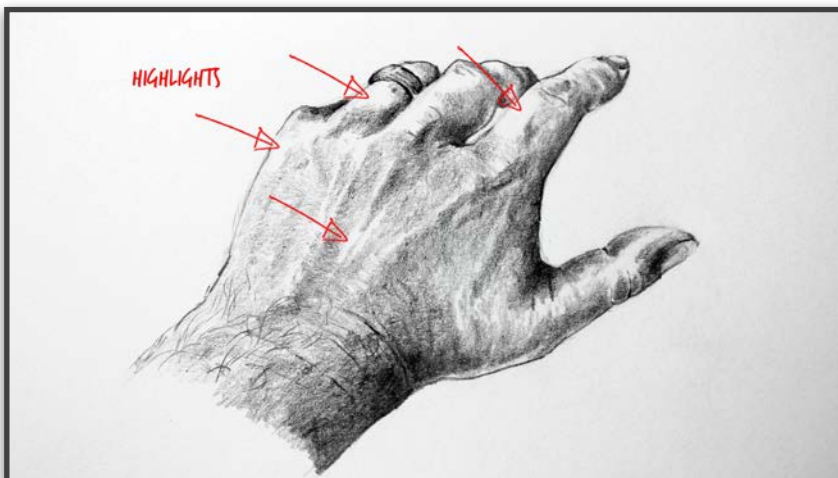
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Now that the basic shapes are in place, the contour lines can be drawn. Contour lines are simply outlines and should be applied with a varied mark. The line may become thicker in areas of shadow or where the object is thicker.

With the contours in place, the shading can be added. Value, or the darkness or lightness of a color, will be developed to create the necessary “shading”. In order to add accurate value, the light source must be considered. In this case, the light source originates from the upper left corner.



Areas where light is hitting the surface of the hand are called highlights. These areas will be lighter in value.



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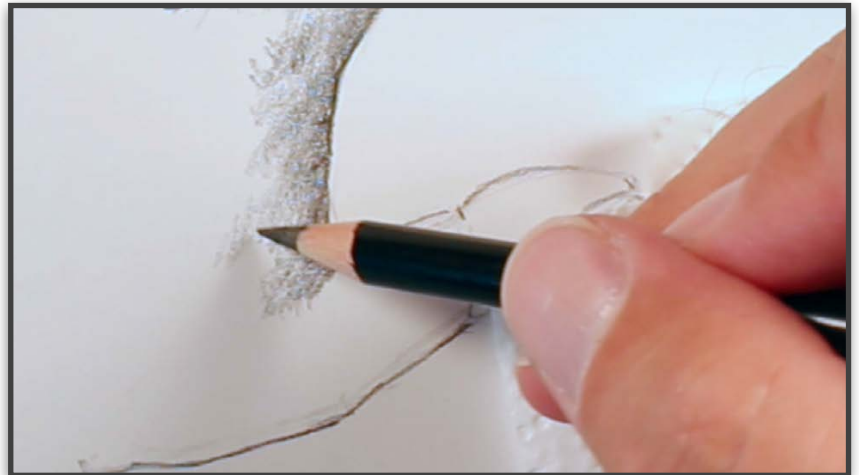
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A 4B pencil is used to add the value and shading, starting with the areas that are observed to be the darkest. Since the light source originates from the left, the shading begins on the right side of the hand.

Small circles and lines that change direction are used to build up the value. This technique will ensure an even application of the material and will lead to smooth transitions or gradations of value in the drawing.



Work continues, gradually building up the value. Areas can always be made darker, but it is harder to make an area lighter. For this reason, care is taken to work slowly.



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Subtle lines are visible as the fingers curve. These lines are called cross contour lines. As the value is added, these subtle lines can be created with the marks. This will help to further the illusion of the form of the hand.

Subtle value changes are observed on the back of the hand. These areas, like the others will be build up gradually, with multiple applications.



Value is patiently added as observations are made from the photo reference. If you have trouble seeing the value, try squinting your eyes. Doing this will help you notice the dark and light areas, so that you can add them to your drawing.



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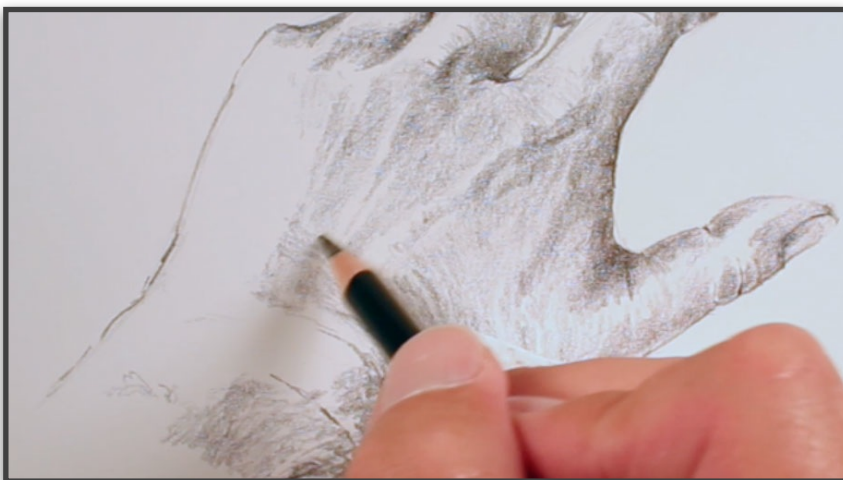
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A paper towel or scrap piece of paper is placed under the palm of the hand during this process of the drawing. Doing this will ensure that the graphite that has already been applied to the surface is not smeared by your hand.

Cross contour lines are observed on the back of the hand as well. In fact, these lines are clear in this area. For this reason, the value is added with marks that help to communicate these lines.



Subtle highlights are observed on the back of the hand. These areas are clarified by making the surrounding areas a bit darker.



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With many of the values in place, comparisons can be made. Areas that require additional applications of graphite can be made darker.

A sharpened pencil is used to create the lines for the hairs on the arm. These lines are made as the hair grows, starting as thicker lines and then tapering to a light line.



Adjustments to the values are made to complete the drawing.