

SCRATCHBOARD ART

Adapted from Russ McMullin's Scratchboard Tutorial

COMMON MISTAKES

The first mistake people usually make is drawing everything with a white outline.

Don't do this...



Do this...



When sketching with a pencil or ink you build up the shadows first.

When working with scratchboard start with the highlights first and work toward the shadows.

IT'S NOT A NEGATIVE

People often say "So, it's like a negative. You have to train your mind to think in reverse". It much simpler than that. Though it may seem like you are working in reverse because you are using white marks instead of black, the result will not be a negative image.



positive



negative

In the positive image the highlights and shadows are in the same places they would be if the picture was drawn with ink.

The negative is on the right for comparison. It's the positive image you're after.

TOOLS

Xacto blade,

Specialized carbide points,

Fiberglass brushes,

Erasers, and anything else they can think of to make unique marks.

MISTAKES CAN BE FIXED

Black India Ink or Faber Castell Pitt Pens

TRANSFERRING YOUR IMAGE

DIRECT DRAWING ON THE SCRATCHBOARD

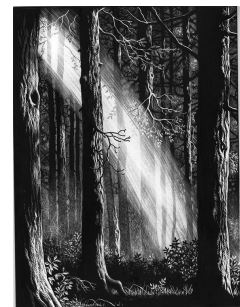
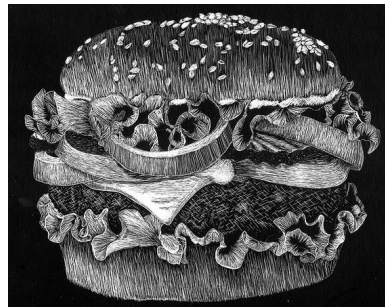
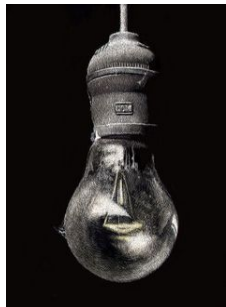
This is the easiest way to get an image onto the scratchboard. Use a pigment pen for this. The ink has enough shine to make it visible even after it dries. It's good for simple drawings.

BALLPOINT PEN INDENTATION

place or tape your drawing on the scratchboard with the image face-up. Trace over the lines of the drawing with a fine ball-point pen. This leaves indented lines on the scratchboard that can't get brushed away. When applying pressure be careful the drawing doesn't shift.

SUBJECT MATTER:

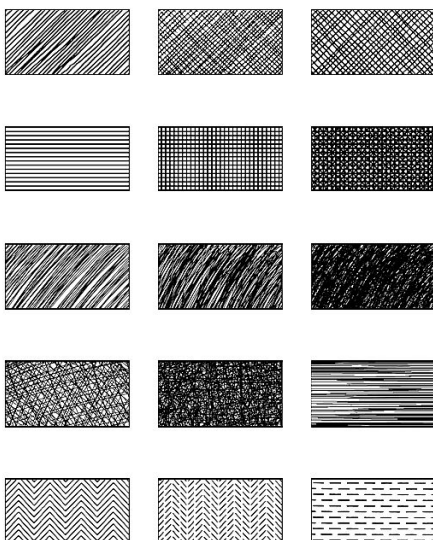
Select an image with an unusual composition. Try and work with a landscape or still life as your subject matter. Find a photograph with visible texture and a background designed with an aesthetic purpose.



PRACTICE TECHNIQUES:

Once you have a drawing transferred, it is up to you to decide how to do the rendering. It is all a matter of style. Some artists use thick strokes, while others make tiny scratches. Some keep it very linear, while others like to crosshatch. Coming up with unique textures can make your work more interesting. Take a look at the work of other artists to see how they have solved the same problems you are facing.

Hatching and Cross Hatching Examples



Stippling Examples

