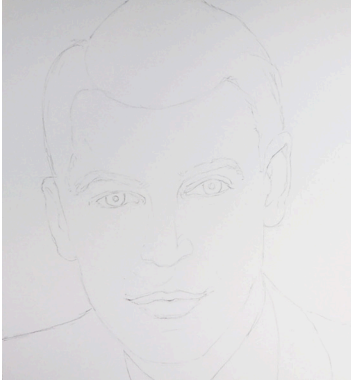


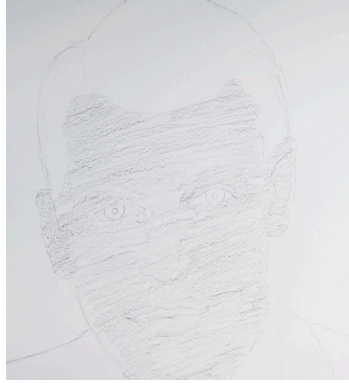
# Drawing a Portrait in Graphite

1.



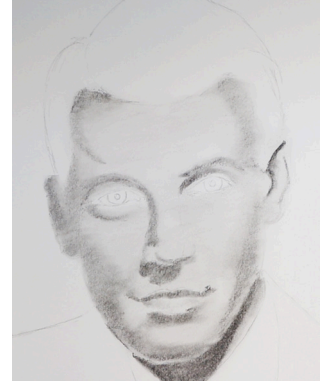
Measure your reference material and make a grid around the outside. Measure a precisely proportional rectangle on your drawing paper and make an identical exterior grid, then use the grid to make your initial drawing. Find the top, bottom, and sides of the head, and sketch the shape inside the marks. Once the large shapes are right, follow suit with the features.

2.



Add base tone to the skin by covering it with smooth, back and forth strokes using a soft charcoal pencil on the side. Make sure to only go one direction, following the contours of the face. When all the skin is covered, blend it smooth by wrapping a clean chamois cloth around your finger and making circle strokes until all the charcoal lines disappear. You'll need to re-draw the lines of the face lightly.

3.



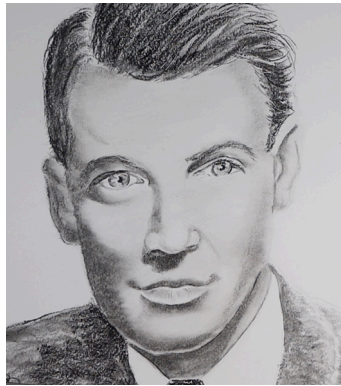
Then, add a second pass of tone over the blended base tone, this time focusing on the shadows of the face. Try to see how the small shadows on features connect to form one or two large, intricate shapes of shadow that fall over the entire face. Put them down with a soft charcoal pencil, then use a large stomp or tortillon to blend the shadows smooth. Use the largest blending tool you can for the area you're working on.

4.



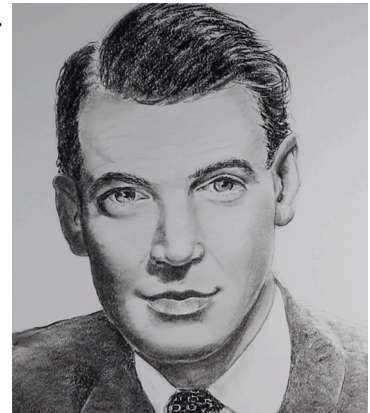
Add detail to the features of the face using a sharp, soft, charcoal pencil and a small blending stomp. Work from the top down to minimize smearing, and rest your hand on a clean sheet of paper as you work. Work up all the features at the same rate, so you can easily see where adjustments are needed before the features get too developed.

5.



Add tone to the hair and clothing the same way you added base tone to the skin. Add tone to the hair by following the direction of the hair growth, then smoothing with a stomp. Add additional passes of tone until the hair and clothing are dark enough. Mold the kneaded eraser into a blade to get into small spaces and keep the line of the shirt color clean and white.

6.



Once you have an initial pass of tone on everything, it will be easier to see where you need to go darker in the portrait to keep the right balance. Be sure to stay consistent in the lighting direction. As you work, step away often so you can come back to the portrait with fresh eyes and catch mistakes early on.

## Tool Recommendations:

Pencils: HB graphite, 2B charcoal, 6B charcoal  
kneaded eraser

chamois cloth, large, medium and small stumps (also called stumps or tortillons)

heavy weight drawing paper (110 lb or so), acid-free preferred