Draw and animate your manga characters
Draw and animate
YOUR
MANGA
CHARACTERS

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## Part two

**LEARN TO ANIMATE YOUR CHARACTER**

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Becoming an artist

My first steps in drawing

«I’ll never be able to do it, it’s too complicated. I just wasn’t born with this gift.»

You may have heard or even had these thoughts yourself. Right? Well, rest assured, I was the same! These phrases haunted me for years too.

The story I’m about to tell you may seem like a real shonen, but it’s real. It traces my journey before I became the artist I am today.

I hope it gives you the motivation you need to learn how to draw and improve your art!

I’ve been passionate about manga and anime from a very young age...

All of these beautiful drawings so full of emotion gradually became a major part of my life. I was amazed by the stories they could tell.
Draw facial features — 01 The Eyes

Two days after my decision... My lack of talent became very obvious...
My motivation flew away and abandoned me.

So, I decided to learn how to draw no matter what!

My dream was to create beautiful drawings just like my favorite artists!

The problem? I had no talent or technique.

Fortunately, the story doesn’t end there...
My love and passion for drawing proved stronger. I found my motivation again.

The formidable alliance between these two forces helped me overcome all this negative energy.

That’s me, happy to have found my motivation again.
Introduction

When you have a goal in mind and you really want something - never give up.

There are bound to be trials and tribulations before you reach your goal. Obstacles are part of the journey and the only weapon to overcome them is patience.

There are two types of artists: those who have a natural gift, and those, like me, who have to work hard to be at their level.

Which category do you think you are in?

That’s when I started to train every single day.

I reproduced basic shapes - straight lines, circles, etc.

Basically, everything you’ll learn in this book!

Three years into my intensive training and non-stop drawing, I’ve seen my technique improve.

What is the moral of my story?

When you have a goal in mind and you really want something - never give up.
There are bound to be trials and tribulations before you reach your goal. Obstacles are part of the journey and the only weapon to overcome them is patience.
The Warm-Up Exercise

As with any kind of sporting activity or physical effort, you must first warm up. Any beginning artist, or those who have returned to it after a long break and have lost their drawing habits, won’t be able to produce their best work.

You can try the following exercise to start: draw these shapes as precisely as possible.

*Use tip number three on the next page to help you.*

This exercise is very important if you’re a beginner. I recommend one hour of drawing for each shape.

**Why is it important to know how to draw these shapes?**
They’ll help you create an original drawing. Every drawing, even the most complex, is actually made up of simple shapes. The exercises in this book will help you identify these shapes so you can draw better and more easily.
Practical Tips

I’m going to share some tips and anecdotes with you. Some of them may seem odd, but I assure you they’re worth reading. They’ve really had an impact on my development.

**Tip number 1: an artist’s eye**
When I started drawing, I had a pretty strange habit. Every time I met people (friends, teachers, strangers, etc.), I tried to draw them in my head. I did the same thing with buildings, trees, and everyday objects. The idea was to follow the outlines with my eyes. So that’s my first tip: train your eyes. You don’t need to go outside; you can do this exercise in your room. Choose an object or part of your body (hands, feet) and draw the outlines in your head.

**Tip number 2: Research**
Before drawing an object, a person or anything else, it’s important to know your subject. For example, when drawing a body, it’s important to research its anatomy. The muscles of the body, how gravity affects it, etc. Make sure to always research the subject you want to draw.

**Tip number 3: anticipation**
This advice is more of an exercise, which I suggest you master and use regularly. When drawing, you tend to go from point A to point B. If you’re a beginner, your lines are never going to be straight.

Here’s how to correct this. We’ll try to draw a nice straight line here.

**Step 1.** Mark the start and end point.

**Step 2.** Draw the beginning of the line and the end of the line.

**Step 3.** Draw the middle of the line. By drawing these different lines, you’ll shorten the distance between the points and be more precise.

**Step 4.** Connect the lines together. If you don’t think you’ll be precise, draw additional lines.
What material to use?

The beginner kit

You don’t need special materials to start drawing. The bare minimum is more than enough.

These materials allow you to practice without worrying too much about the details. They don't cost very much and are accessible to everyone. You can make beautiful drawings with these materials, but only use them for practice.

- A pencil
- A blank sheet of paper
- A standard eraser
- A black pen for inking

The semi-beginner kit

You've been drawing for a while now and acquired a certain level of mastery. You’d like to go further into details and produce higher quality drawings.

The mechanical pencil helps you be more precise with your lines. It’ll save time, as you don’t need to sharpen it like a standard pencil. When it starts to wear, break off the tip and you’ll have a brand-new point.

The cardstock paper enhances your drawings. The thickness of the paper means you can ink your drawings without having to worry about tearing them.

The electric eraser lets you be very precise when you want to remove a line without touching what’s around it.

The kneaded eraser makes it easier to ink your drawing. It lightens the intensity of the pencil. As a result, you can easily visualize the inked lines.

- A 0.5mm to 0.7mm mechanical pencil
- A 120g to 180g white cardstock paper
- A black India ink pen
- A standard eraser
- An electric eraser
- A kneaded eraser
The professional kit

Drawing has no more secrets for you. You make beautiful illustrations and want to reach the next level: from black and white to luminous color.

If you want your drawings to have beautiful colors, get a set of **professional alcohol-based markers**. These markers are dual-tipped (a broad one for coloring large areas, and a thin one for details). There are several brands, some are better than others. Keep in mind that a good marker should easily blend with the colors to create beautiful gradients.

There are **professional colored pencils** that give you a beautiful intensity. You can also combine color pencils and alcohol-based markers. Use the pencils for a character’s skin or any textured area. The markers are used for smooth surfaces such as armor.

**India ink pens** are another way to ink your drawing. Drawing with this pen gives you real-time control over the width of the line. It takes some practice to get used to it. Mangas are mainly drawn with these pens. Pro tip: when you’ve drawn a few lines, instead of waiting for them to dry, take a roll of toilet paper and gently roll it over the lines to remove the excess ink. Don’t forget to remove the paper if you want to repeat the process.

**Charcoal** gives your drawing a bold intensity. You can use it in two ways. A dry charcoal won’t have the same intensity as a soft one.

**Pastels** are used in the same way as charcoal. The soft ones give you a more intense color than the dry ones.

Whether it’s charcoal or pastels, both tools need to be blended to spread their colors evenly. **Blending tools** are available in various sizes. This tool lets you spread the colors. You can also use it on pencils.

You can also use an **articulated mannequin** as a guide for the positions of your character.

There are other tools artists can use.

I’m simply giving you a list of tools you can try to add more impact to your drawings. Most of all, buying good equipment lets you draw comfortably. Good equipment doesn’t have to be expensive. In fact, I once bought a very expensive luxury pencil and was disappointed when I used it. A simple one-euro pencil gave me more pleasure. I recommend watching video reviews on YouTube before buying your equipment. Personally, I buy the cheapest and most expensive at the same time. This means I can test both. If the cheapest one suits me, then I know what my next order is going to be. Don’t forget that our material doesn’t last forever. It can be expensive in the long run.
LEARN TO DRAW YOUR MANGA CHARACTER
Chapter 01

Draw facial features
How to position the eyes?

There’s a very simple trick to positioning the eyes correctly. It’s called the three-eyes rule.

The space between the two eyes is equal to the width of a third eye. It’s very important to know this rule so you don’t place them too far apart or too close to each other.

TAKE NOTE!

The space between the eyes can be reduced when you want to exaggerate the character’s features.

For example, to show their aggressive side, or reveal how charming they are.

The eyes are the most important part of the face, as they reflect the character’s emotions and personality.

For this reason, I advise you to dedicate the first part of your training to the eyes before moving on to anything else.
Draw the shape of the eyes, front view

It’s time to get serious. Now that you know the main rules, I’m going to show you how to draw the shape of the eyes. The first step is to determine a drawing area.

**Step 1**

**Material:** 0.5 / 0.7 / or 2B pencil

Draw a large rectangle.

**Step 2**

**Material:** 0.5 / 0.7 / or 2B pencil

Divide this rectangle into three equal parts.

1 2 3

The height of the rectangle depends on the type of eye you want. It’ll be quite high if you want big eyes, and much lower for elongated ones.

**Step 3**

**Material:** 0.5 / 0.7 / or 2B pencil

Once the rectangle is done, draw an arc in the first box. Then draw a second arc (symmetrical to the first) in the third box.

When starting out, it’s very important to work in symmetry. If you draw a complete eye, you’ll have a hard time reproducing the second eye identically due to the change in direction. It can be done, but it's much more complicated.

To simplify your task, draw the two eyes line by line at the same time.
Step 4

**Material:** 0.5 / 0.7 / or 2B pencil

Draw a second arc on each side to get the main shape of your eyes.

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Step 5

**Material:** 0.5 / 0.7 / or 2B pencil

Position the two pupils to finalize the shape of your eyes.

Draw a circle on each side.

Congratulations! You've just drawn the basic structure of your eyes. It means you've done the heavy lifting, and now you just have to work out the details.

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Step 6

**Material:** 0.5 / 0.7 / or 2B pencil

To finish the eyes, add some thickness to the top contours of the eye to give it some depth.

If you want, you can add some eyelashes.
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