How to use the Pencil and Crayon Brushes
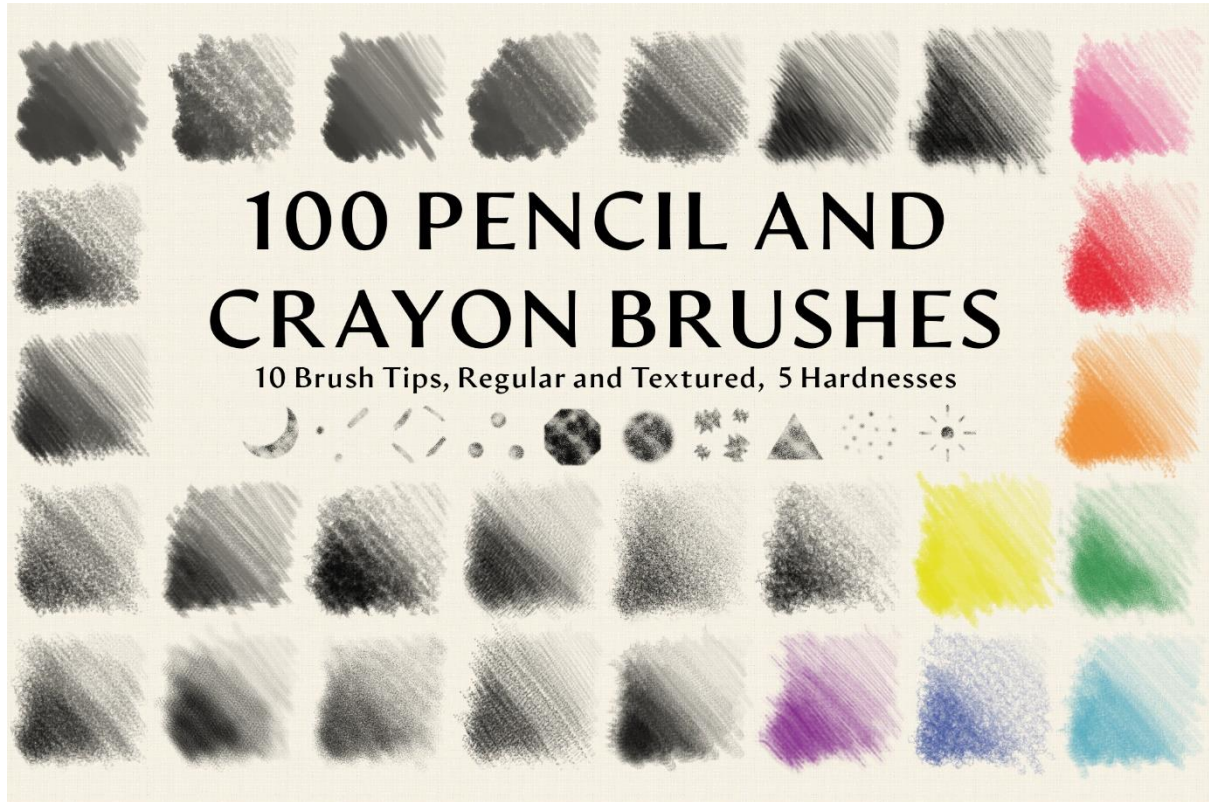
Table of Contents

Introduction

This document will give you some tips about how to use the pencil and crayon brushes I have created. The brushes work with a pressure sensitive tablet, and do not work properly by only using a mouse.

The bundle contains a total of 100 brushes:

- 10 different tips
- For each of the above
    - 5 Regular Brushes with 5 different hardnesses
    - 5 Textured Brushes with 5 different hardnesses. Compared to the regular version, these give more an impression that they are drawn on a textured paper or surface.
- Also there are two additional brushes, a hard and soft round brush. These are included for convenience, so you can access a normal brush through the regular brush menu instead of opening the Brush Settings to get a normal tip.

There should be an overview image included with some sample strokes for each brush. This can help you find the look you want.

Usages

The pencil brushes can be used in various ways:

- As pencils
- You can use them as crayons, especially the textured version gives a nice crayon-like look.
- Some of them are similar as Charcoal, especially the SuperSoft ones.
- Using them white on Black gives a chalk like result.
- You can also use them for the Eraser tool, giving your erasing a more natural look.
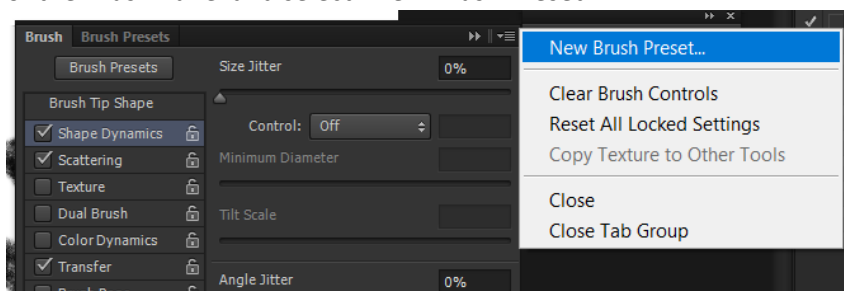
Made to Resize on Pressure

These pencil brushes are configured to resize with pressure. This is a bit different compared to a real-life pencil, as the real ones stay rather on the same size and only the "opacity" increases with higher pressure. Here a close up example to show you the differences between different usages:

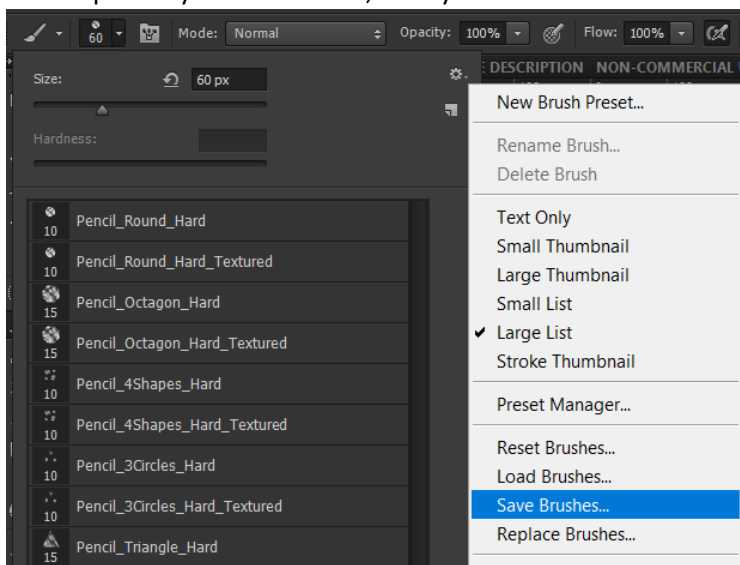Pen with Resize   Pen without Resize   Mouse ignore Pressure

If you want to turn the size change on pressure off:

1. Select the brush you want to change.
2. Open the Brush Panel using "Menu Bar >> Window >> Brush"
3. Go to "Shape Dynamics" and set "Control: Off" for Size Jitter.
4. (Optional) If you want to save this settings, click the small menu icon in the top right corner of the Brush Panel and select "New Brush Preset".
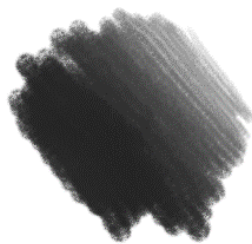

5. And to persist your new brush, save your brushes to a new file through the brush menu:
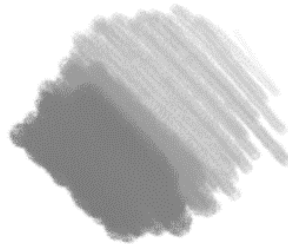
Fine Tune Hardness

You can fine tune the hardness of the brush with various settings.

Opacity and flow are the two most convenient settings to use, as they are easy accessible through the brush menu bar. While changing the Opacity will feel like reducing the maximum pressure, reducing the Flow setting will make the overall gradient between the pressures "wider", so you have to press a bit harder to get more opacity. Here some examples of various combinations of opacity and pressure:
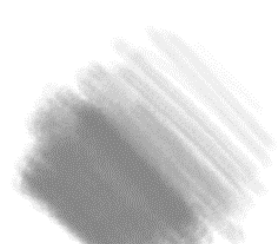
Opacity 100% Flow 100%   Opacity 50% Flow 100%   Opacity 100% Flow 20%   Opacity 50% Flow 20%
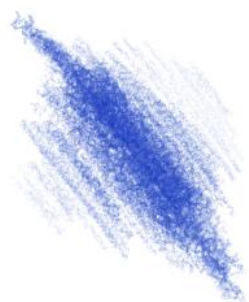
Use Solid Colored Layers

When you draw something, I would always recommend to use a Solid Colored Layer and draw on it's mask instead of drawing on an empty layer directly. These give you multiple benefits:
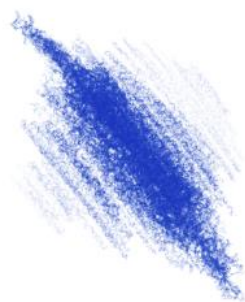
- You can easily adjust the color of your drawing.
- You can apply various adjustments like Brightness and Contrast, Curves or Levels, which don't work properly when you use it with transparency.
- You can duplicate the layer and mix two different colors and apply layer styles

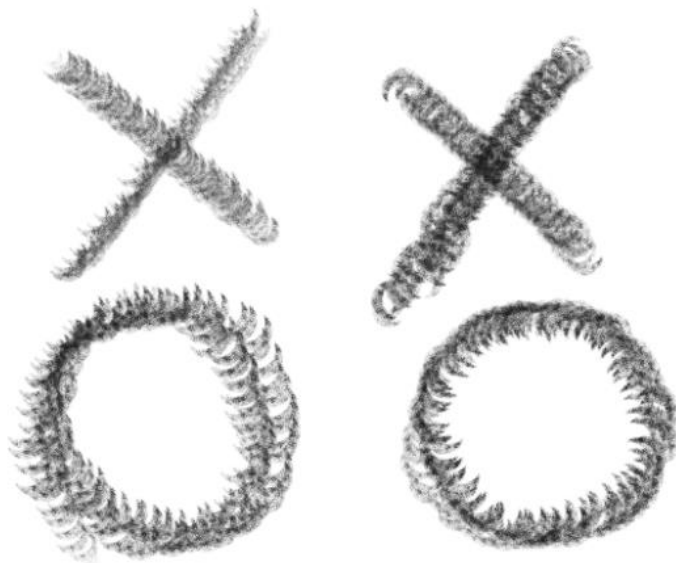Regular   Changed Color   Adjusted Brighness & Contrast   Red Copy Blend Mode Overlay

Drawing Direction Matters

For the pencils that have an asymmetric brush tip, the brush will look a bit different depending on the direction you are drawing. If you want to have a more uniform look of your strokes regardless the direction, you can set "Brush Settings >> Shape Dynamics >> Angle Jitter >> Control" to the value Direction. This will turn the tip to match the direction you are drawing. This doesn't really affect the textured brushes, but can be useful for the regular pencils.

Here a close up example for the Pencil with the moon-shaped tip:

Angle Jitter
Control Off

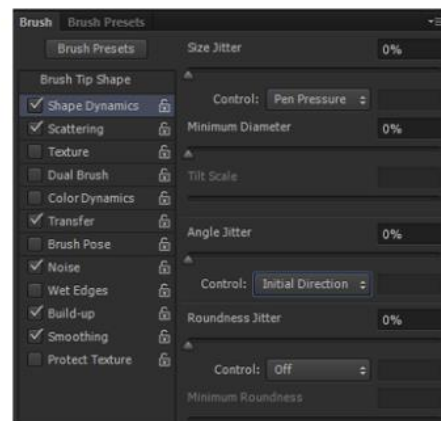Angle Jitter
Control Direction

Image Pencil Effect

Here is a small and easy image effect you can do with the pencil brushes.

The above Photo is from Pixabay, provided by the user olivves, thank you very much:
https://pixabay.com/photos/water-recreation-people-travel-3359691/

Use the image you want and give it a black layer mask to hide everything.
Then use the pencil brush to reveal the parts you like, as in the example above.