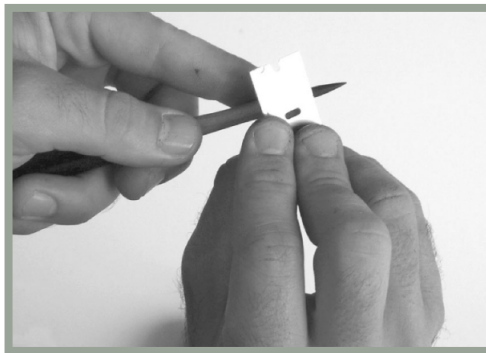


OVERVIEW

In the following handout, I will go over with you the proper way to sharpen a charcoal pencil to a long taper. This is more easily said than done. Be patient, and you'll be up to speed in no time.

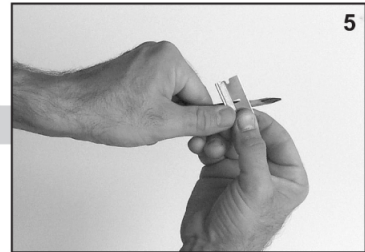
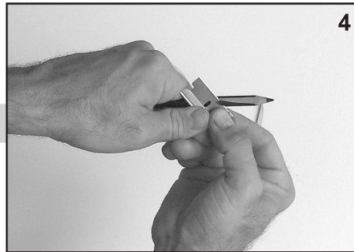
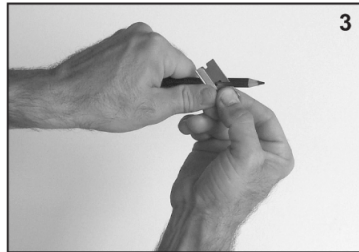
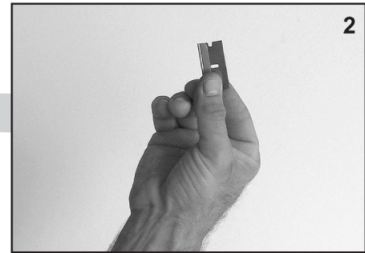


- TIP -

Sharpening the pencil in the Watts method is no easy task. I often tell students upon entering the atelier that the first semester is about mastering sharpening the pencil. Here I have provided you with a step-by-step tutorial on how to sharpen the pencil. I have also shot a short video going over this process. Make sure and watch this first. Then you can use this as a quick reference in the future. I can't stress enough how important this will be to cultivating a painter's hand.

Preserving the Traditions of the Masters

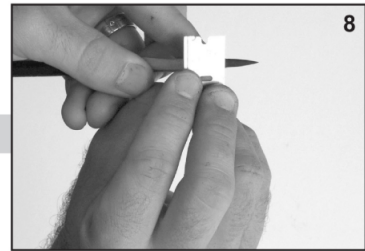
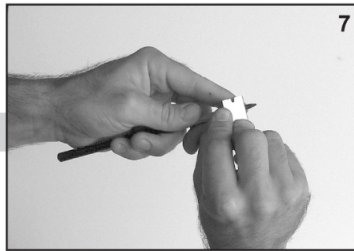
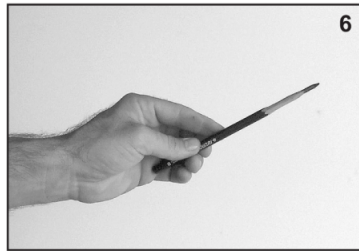
SHARPENING
 YOUR
 PENCIL



Push blade with left hand.

Keep blade parallel as you peel.

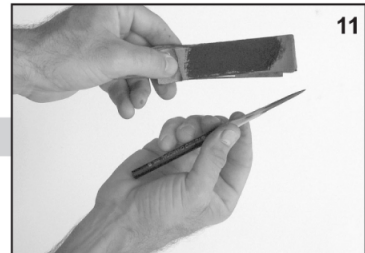
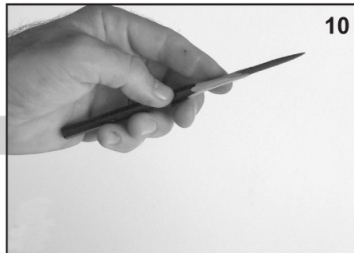
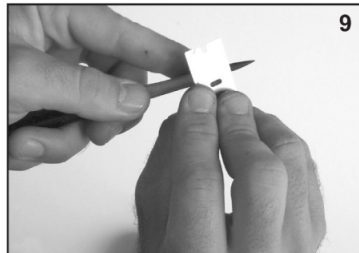
Rotate pencil as you peel off wood.



Long wood shaft. Small charcoal tip.

Sharpen tip to start taper.

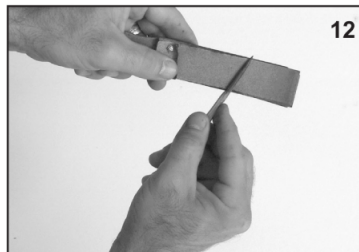
Watch your fingers.



Use small chipping motions.

Work towards a smooth taper.

Use sanding pad to remove divots.



Use back & forth motion. Rotate pencil as you go.

Clean off excess charcoal residue.

You are ready to draw.

Preserving the Traditions of the Masters