

## **My Top 10 tools for drawing comics**

### **1. Staedler 25% Rag Vellum**

I follow the practice of (flipping) looking at the reverse image of my drawings to help me see mistakes. You can look at your drawing in a mirror. If you're working digitally, just flip the canvas horizontally. I draw my layouts on vellum paper. It's almost as thick as regular copy paper, but with transparency close to tracing paper. When I finish a rough layout, I flip it over and make corrections on the reversed image.

### **2. Red Prismacolor col-erase pencil**

I draw my rough layouts in red pencil. I need a pencil that's a different color from the pencil I use to make corrections on my flipped roughs. Otherwise, I won't be able to tell the original lines from the corrections. The red can also be removed very easily in photoshop.

### **3. Ticonderoga HB pencil**

Cheap and reliable with a nice grain to the line. These are go-to pencils for doodling and the previously mentioned layout corrections.

### **4. Sakura Electric Eraser**

When you want to be very precise and clean with your erasures. Plus it saves wear and tear on your hands.

### **5. Pencil extenders**

We all want to save money by getting the most out of each pencil. These will let you draw all the way down to the nub.

### **6. Staedtler leadholder with F lead**

I ink my comic book interior pages, but I usually draw covers in pencil. The Staedtler lead holders give you a clean line and the F lead in particular comes to a crisp and sharp point. Between H and HB hardness.

### **7. Blick round synthetic brushes - sizes #00, #2, #4**

These brushes are affordable and decent quality. Not as fine as a Windsor Newton sable, but they are cheap enough that I can be brutal on them and treat them like the disposable nibs of a crow quill inker. #00 for detail, #2 for honing lines (the silhouette of a figure/object), and #4 for larger areas of black.

### **8. Speedball Super Black or Higgins Black Magic india ink**

I'm not an ink snob or aficionado. I have tried a few Japanese inks that give super-rich blacks, but they're pricy. When it comes to affordable/dependable, these two are stalwarts.

### **9. Assorted Sakura micron pens**

I got sick of spending fifteen minutes cleaning my rapidographs everytime I want to ink a car or a building. Wow, I'm starting to sound cheap and lazy. Let's reframe that... I'm frugal and efficient. Seriously, Sakura makes great disposable technical pens. And pretty solid brush pens to boot.

### **10. Pentel Presto correction Pens**

I know you never make mistakes, but mere mortals like myself occasionally have to cover up a stray line or draw white lines into black. The Presto correction pens are almost like a fat Rapidograph. It's not going to give you a super fine line. It's closer to a fine point Sharpie. They're handy, though. If I make a really big mistake, I usually redraw the panel on a separate piece of bristol board and add it in Photoshop. Why gunk up the page with a ton of corrective fluid.

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