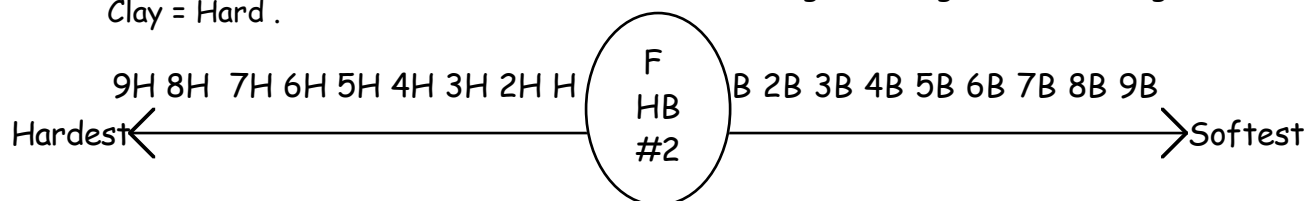


UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRAPHITE PENCILS

Today's pencils are made of graphite and ceramic clay.
Graphite = Soft
Clay = Hard .

Medium Pencils
used for outlining,
grids, or general drawing



H = Hard
The hard leads are lighter than the soft leads and produce grays instead of black.

Hard leads keep their points and will indent or flatten the paper if used with too much pressure.

The layering process is begun by applying hard leads with soft pressure. This fills the the tooth of the paper to create soft grays and prepares a base for layering softer leads to achieve the best blacks.

FYI: There is no lead in a lead pencil it is graphite. People use to write with slender shafts of lead. So when graphite was first used they thought it was lead.

B = Bituminous (Think Black)
Soft
The soft leads are the darkest and need to be sharpened often to maintain their point. They are generally layered over hard leads to create the darkest values.

Soft leads may be used alone to imitate texture.

The layering method used in class will be 2H + HB or F + 2 B
or think
hard + medium + sof
You may want to use more than one of each category

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PAPER

The texture on the paper is called tooth and may also be called surface or finish. Look for paper that is called medium or rough tooth, medium surface, or vellum finish , Plate finish is smooth with no tooth. It is not good for graphite pencil but is sometimes used for colored pencil.

The thickness of the paper is determined by the number of pounds or the number of plys. Generally use the front side of the paper because the tooth may vary on each side.