

## Adventures in Digital Art – What Equipment Do I Need to Get Started?

### Resource Sheet

#### 1) You need something to draw on.

##### **Tablet, iPad, Cintiq**

- i) Pros:
  - (1) Portability
  - (2) Feels most natural
- ii) Cons: Most expensive option
- iii) Relevant Links:
  - (1) The Best Cheap Tablets of 2019:  
<https://www.techradar.com/news/mobile-computing/tablets/best-cheap-tablets-top-budget-options-1314545>
  - (2) The Best Tablets Under \$100:  
<https://tabletunderbudget.com/best-tablets-under-100-dollars/>

##### **b) Touch-screen laptop**

- i) Pros: Same as the tablet
- ii) Cons:
  - (1) Can be expensive
  - (2) Can be awkward
  - (3) Older models can be heavy and cumbersome
- iii) Relevant Links:
  - Best Touchscreen Laptops (March 2019)  
<http://bestreviews.com/best-touchscreen-laptops>

##### **c) Desktop computer**

- i) Pros:
  - (1) Most people have one.
  - (2) Graphics tablets for PCs can be surprisingly affordable
- ii) Cons:
  - (1) Not portable
  - (2) Awkward (sometimes) to draw on a tablet while looking at a screen
  - (3) Need a graphics tablet
- iii) Relevant Links:
  - (1) The Best Drawing Tablets for Beginners  
<https://thewirecutter.com/reviews/best-drawing-tablets-for-beginners/>
  - (2) Ultimate Affordable Graphics Tablets List  
<https://www.thebestgraphicstables.com/best-affordable-graphics-tablets/>

**d) Smart Phone**

- i) Pros:
  - (1) Almost everybody has one
  - (2) Extremely portable
- ii) Cons:
  - (1) Tiny drawing surface
  - (2) Having to “borrow” mom’s or dad’s phone to draw on.

**2) You need something to draw with.**

**a) Pressure-sensitive stylus or Apple Pencil**

- i) Pros:
  - (1) Most realistic experience
  - (2) Acts like a real pencil, pen, or brush
- ii) Cons:
  - (1) Expensive (e.g. Apple Pencil or Surface Pen)
  - (2) Not “universal.” Some tablets/apps support; some don’t
  - (3) Easy to misplace, lose track of.
- iii) Relevant Links:
  - (1) Android Styluses:  
<https://www.digitalartsonline.co.uk/features/creative-hardware/7-best-stylus-for-android/>
  - (2) iPad Styluses (alternatives to Apple Pencil)  
<https://beebom.com/apple-pencil-alternatives/>

**b) Regular stylus**

- i) Pros:
  - (1) Much less expensive
  - (2) Works with virtually all tablets/apps
- ii) Cons:
  - (1) No pressure sensitivity
  - (2) Tips wear out faster
  - (3) Easy to lose

**c) Your finger**

- i) Pros:
  - (1) It’s always with you
  - (2) Works surprisingly well, especially for younger children
  - (3) Very affordable!
- ii) Cons:
  - (1) Not as “precision”  
(particularly for adults)
  - (2) No pressure sensitivity
  - (3) Fingertip covers where you’re drawing

**d) Mouse or trackpad**

i) Pros:

- (1) You probably have one.
- (2) REALLY cheap

ii) Cons:

- (1) They're terribly difficult to draw with.
- (2) Hand movements with a mouse are significantly different from drawing
- (3) High frustration quotient.

3) SUMMARY

- a) You need something to draw *with*.
- b) You need something to draw *on*.
- c) You need a medium.**  
-- but that's next week's topic!