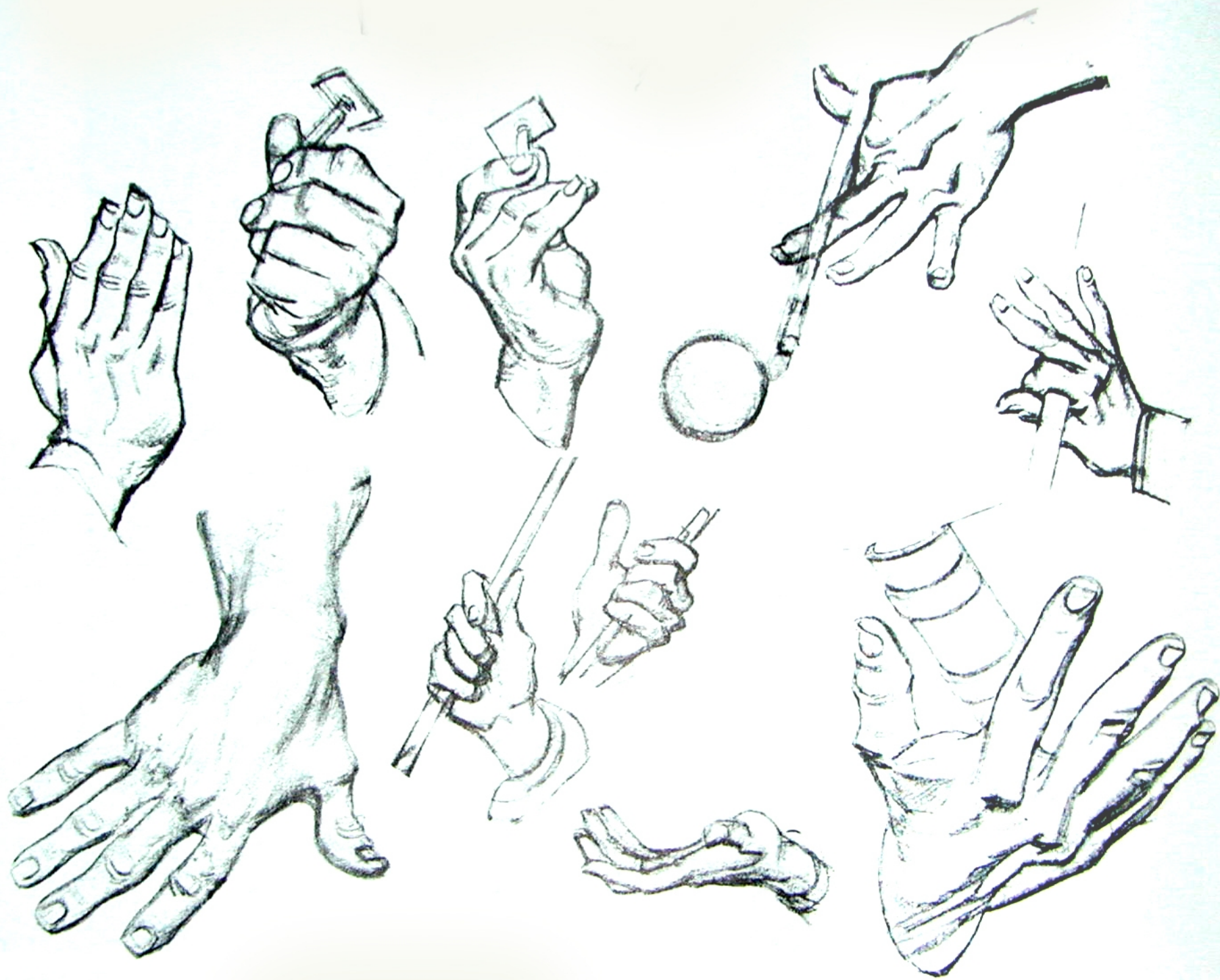
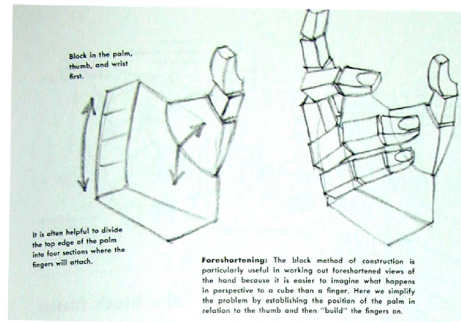
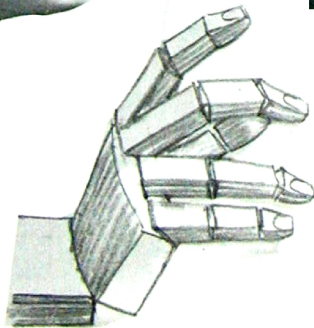
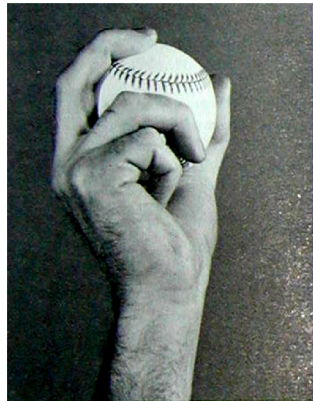
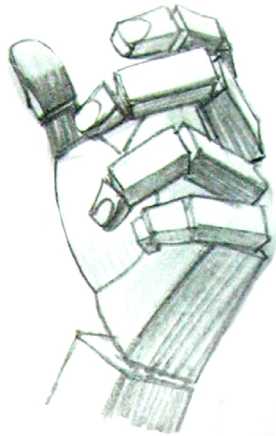
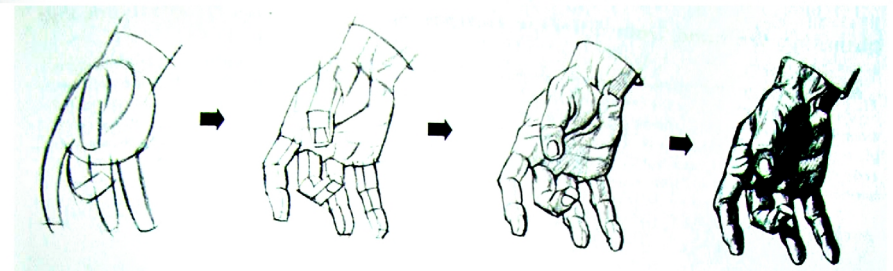
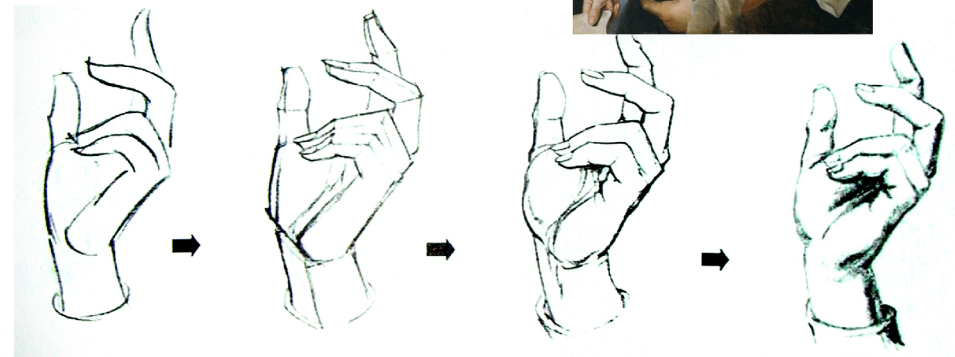
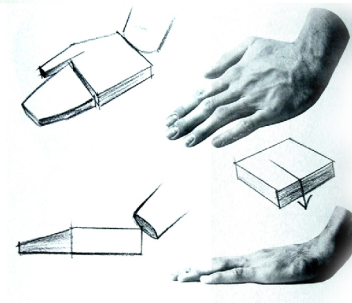
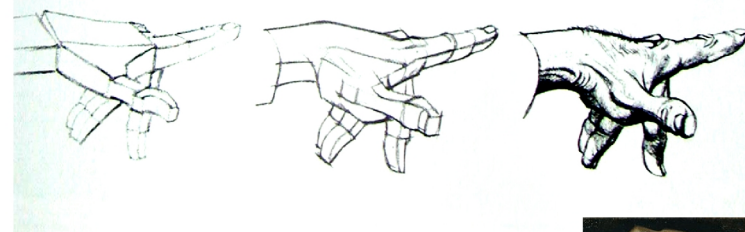


Les Mains





Important points in the action, proportion, and movement of the hand, wrist, and fingers.



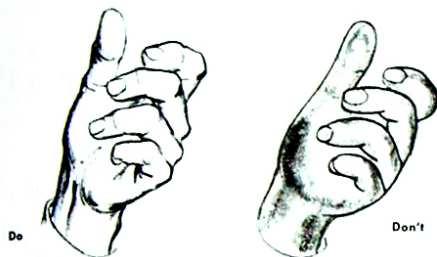
Do's and don'ts

There is general agreement among artists that hands are among the most difficult parts of the anatomy to draw. In fact, one of the giveaways of an inexperienced artist is a weakness in the construction of the hands in an otherwise competent drawing or painting.

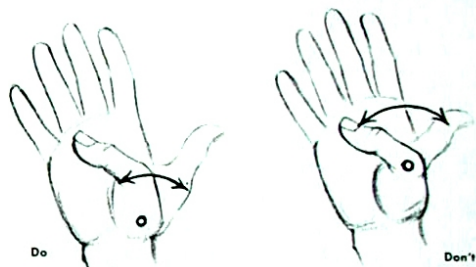
Illustrated here are some of the most common pitfalls. By consistently following the principles demonstrated in this chapter you should not fall into them.



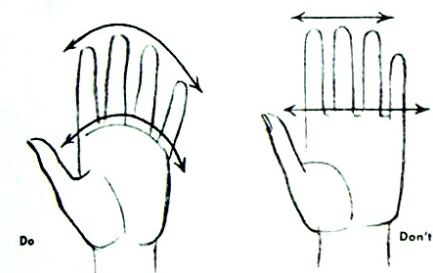
Start with the blocking-in method shown on pages 108 and 109. Be sure the various parts of the hand fit together before putting in surface details. No amount of detail will save a poorly constructed hand—but the cubes can prevent one.



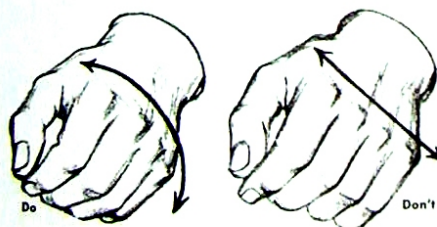
Keep in mind the bone and muscle structure beneath the surface. In some places the surface is influenced by the angular bones, in others by the soft muscles. Don't round off all the forms of the hand or it will look rubbery.



Remember that the thumb is attached at the wrist and swings independently of the rest of the hand. Don't limit the action of the thumb by swinging it only from the middle joint, but make it work in a natural, lifelike way.



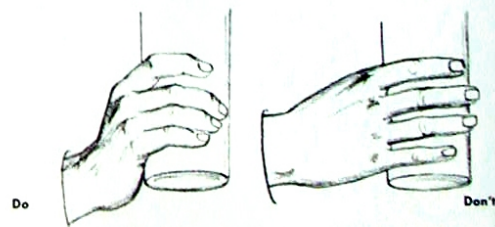
The fingertips form a curved line, and another curved line is formed where the fingers join the palm. Make sure these lines really look curved—not straight—in your drawing. The arch of the curve is highest at the middle finger.



When the fingers are closed the back of the hand curves, and this curve is most noticeable along the line of the knuckles. Don't flatten them out.



When the hand is closed, the fingers should point slightly toward the center of the palm. Don't fold the little finger straight down the side of the palm or it will look stiff and unnatural. Its tip should be well in from the side.



The wrist is quite flexible, and the fingers, thumb, and palm adopt themselves flexibly to whatever the action may be. Don't make hands look stiff.

