

DRAWING TREES

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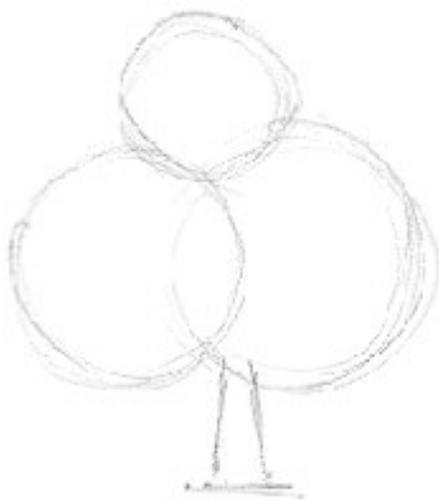


*Sketch 1
Inspiration for a tree –
The Ace of Clubs !*

Step 1

Sketch the **Ace of Clubs**. It is a perfect starting point for learning how to draw trees! In this case the Ace of Clubs represents a rounded **fir tree**. The Ace of Clubs is quite simply three circles and a triangle for the base.

My Version



*Sketch 2
Turning the Ace of
Clubs into a tree ...*

Step 2

Make the circles different sizes and the trunk more elongated. The circles do not have to be perfectly round. In fact, it's better if they are not.

My Version

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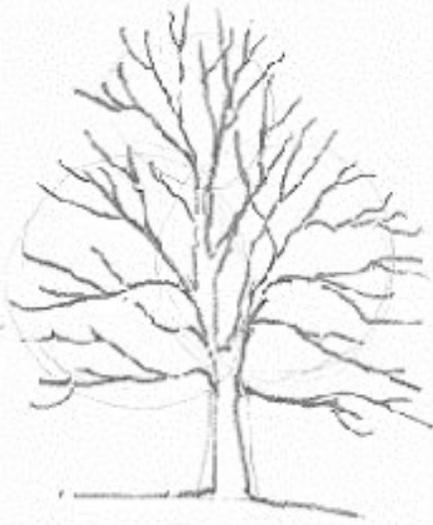
Step 3

Start to draw branches from the main trunk.

They're quite thick at first, but gradually taper as they reach the edges of the tree. Keep the lines ragged to represent the ways trees grow.

As one branch diverges from the trunk, the next diverges further up.

My Version



Sketch 3
We use the previous sketch to progress to the winter tree

Step 4

Erase some of the branches. Draw some light outlines around the remaining branches to remind you that these are your 'sky holes'. The sunny side will be the lightest. The opposite side of the branches and trunk will be in shadow.

My Version

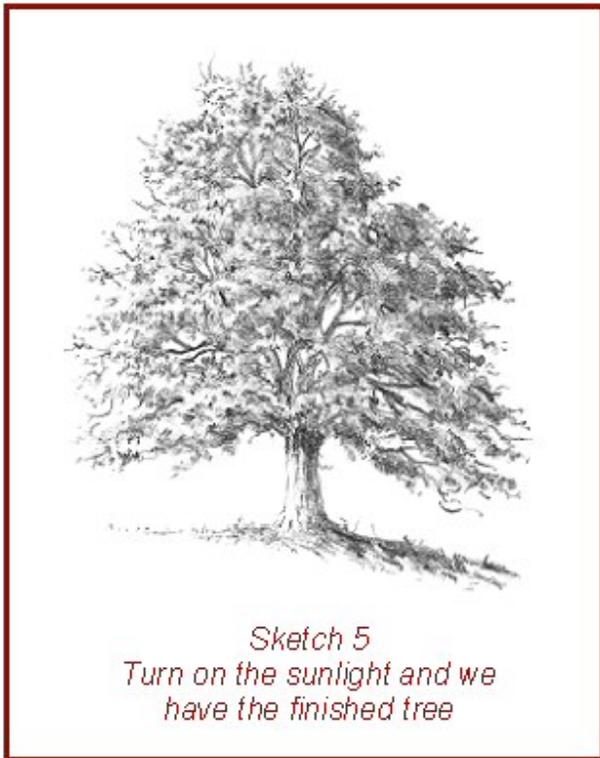
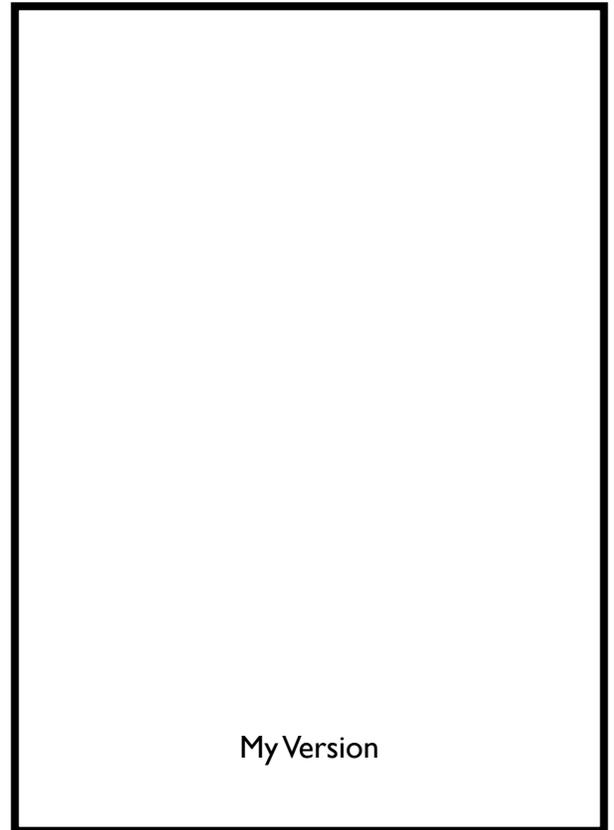


Sketch 4
Erase some of the branches and you're ready to create a summer tree when you turn on the sun...

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Step 5

Add shadows and put in some highlights. Decide which direction your sunlight is coming from. Main shadows are on the opposite side of the tree. It will be dark around the sky holes where you can see the branches. These branches will almost always be in silhouette and quite dark, as will the shadow on the ground.



Step 5

Do not draw each individual leaf. Instead, you're aiming for an impression of leaves and the lights and the darks in the tree. Let your pencil dance over the tree in a scribble or simply shade in areas of darker and lighter shade.



Using the flat of a pencil to create leaf clusters and inner branches ...



Using the 'demented scribble' to suggest leaves...

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Other Hints

When you add your shadow on the ground on the opposite side from the sunlight, put a smaller area of shadow on the ground on the sunlit side as these branches would still cast some shadows.

Leaf clusters tend to be rounded balls or flat, as in the case of evergreens.

Draw boughs and branches from the base upwards, as the tree would grow.

The trunk area immediately below the bottom leaf clusters will usually all be in shadow.

Also, take out the bottom line where the **trunk meets the ground...**



Branches generally split like this ...



...and not like this, at the same point



Two tree trunks – which one appears to be sitting on the ground and which one looks like it is growing out of the ground ?

CHOSENIA TREE



MyVersion

SPUCE TREE



My Version

PINE TREE



My Version