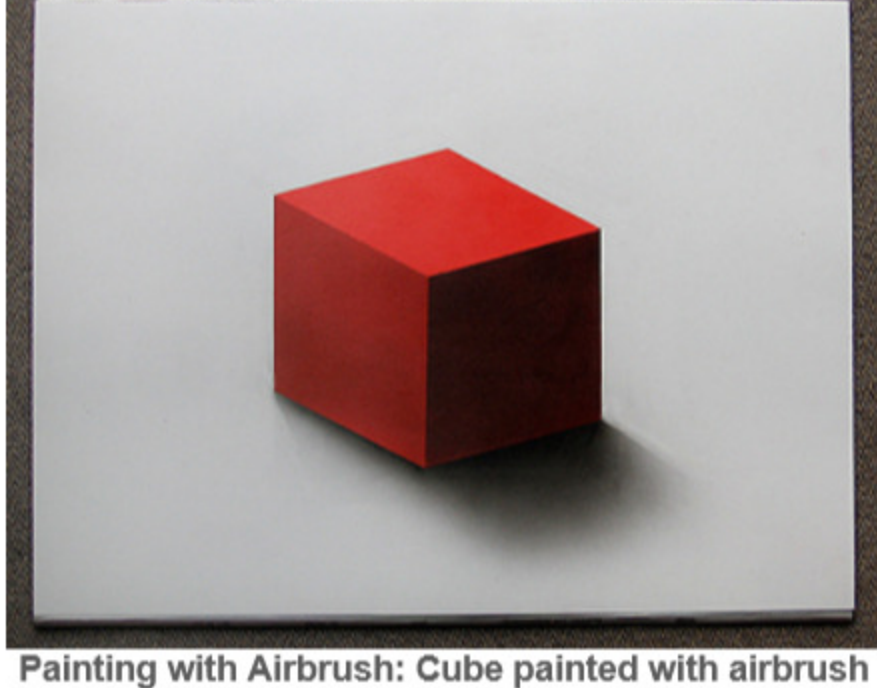




Learn to paint with Airbrush - Page 1

Introduction - Painting with Airbrush

In this guide you can learn the basics of painting with airbrush. The guide is suitable for everybody who allready started with painting with airbrushen or want to start. This guide will show you the right handling of the airbrush, compressor and the standard tools that are needed to airbrush. At the end follows a short step-by-Schirtt tutorial for a simple airbrush paintings.



Painting with Airbrush: Cube painted with airbrush

Handling the Airbrush

Depending on the strength of the air flow and the amount of color, you can paint a fine line with the airbush but also large areas. You can airbrush the colour opaque but also a transparent color film. In the description of the right handling of the airbrush I assume that an airbrush with a double action function is used - that means an airbrush which can regulate the airflow and color quantity independently.



Painting with Airbrush: airbrush pistol with a double action function



Painting with Airbrush: airbrush pistol with a double action function disassembled

At **airbrushes with a double action function** the strength of the air flow can be adjusted by pressing the trigger (on the upper side of the airbrush). The stronger the trigger is pressed down the more air flows through the airbrush - the airflow get stronger. The precondition for this is, of course, that the compressor has enough compressed air in it and that a corresponding air pressure is set at the compressor.

The color flow can be regulated by moving the trigger backwards. When you pull the trigger backwards a needle is pulled back, which blocks normally the nozzle. If you airbrush for the first time or your are just starting to learn to airbrush, you should first try out to paint with the airbusr a little bit. You will quickly get a feeling for the handling of the airbrush and soon the handling will become very intuitive.

Painting with the Airbrush

The right handling of an airbrush with a double action function has been described above. To learn to paint with the airbrush it's not enough to know the right handling. It also requires the right technic.

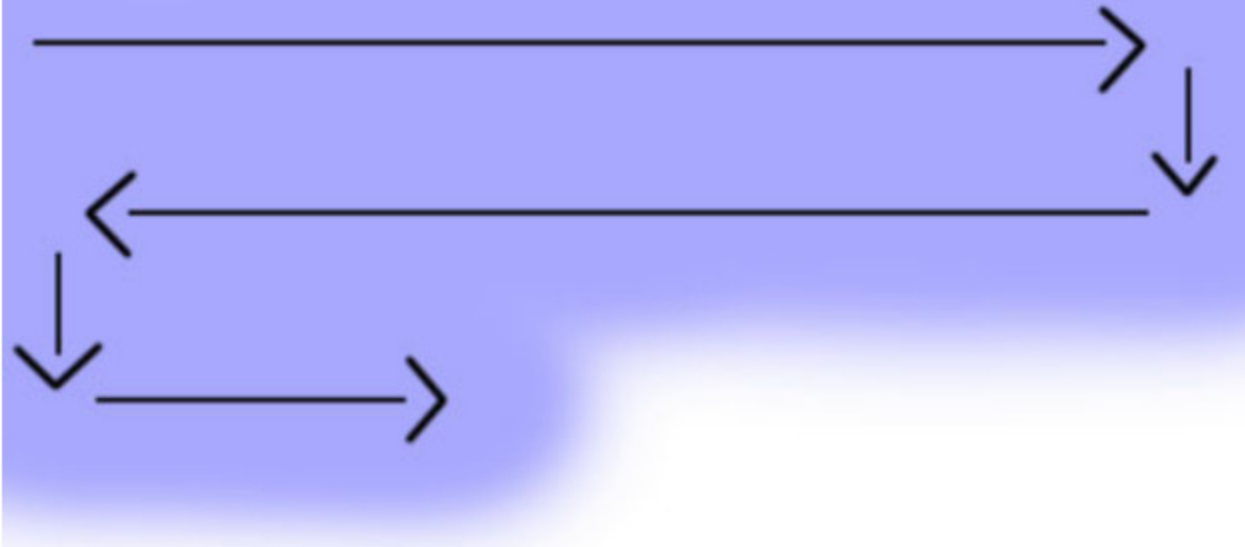
Airbrushing Lines

It requires some exercising to airbrush a thin straight line. Basically you have to make sure that the color is sprayed dry. That means that the color has to be dry when it comes down to the painting ground, so that it doesn't run over the paper. If the color gleams on the ground, it is usually wet. This should be avoided, since the color on the painting ground can quickly run. You can avoid that by pressing the trigger of the airbrush less far backwards and / or a reduced the strength of the airflow.

Airbrush Areas

A second exercise, which is not quite as easy as it initially sounds, is to airbrush a larger area in the same hue. It is easy it the hue should be airbrushed with full opacity. But it will be difficult if you intend to airbrush only a slight color film, as it happens quickly, that too much colour is sprayed on some spot. Such errors can hardly be removed or are even irreversible. Either you live with the unevenly colored area, or you airbrush the rest of the area in the same (wrong) intensity.

It's best if you airbrush large areas in snake-sprayed lines. You begin, for example, in the upper left corner with airbrushing, spray in a straight line to the right side, then a bit down, airbrush the second line from right to left and repeate that until the entire area is coloured. It may be that you have to airbrush several tracks until the entire area is coloured (see figure below).



Painting with Airbrush: Airbrushing a smooth area

Airbrush Lights and Shadows

Shadows are airbrushed simply with black paint. You should paint with a little water dilution to get a finer color spreading. And in addition, the area won't become too fast too dark during airbrushing.

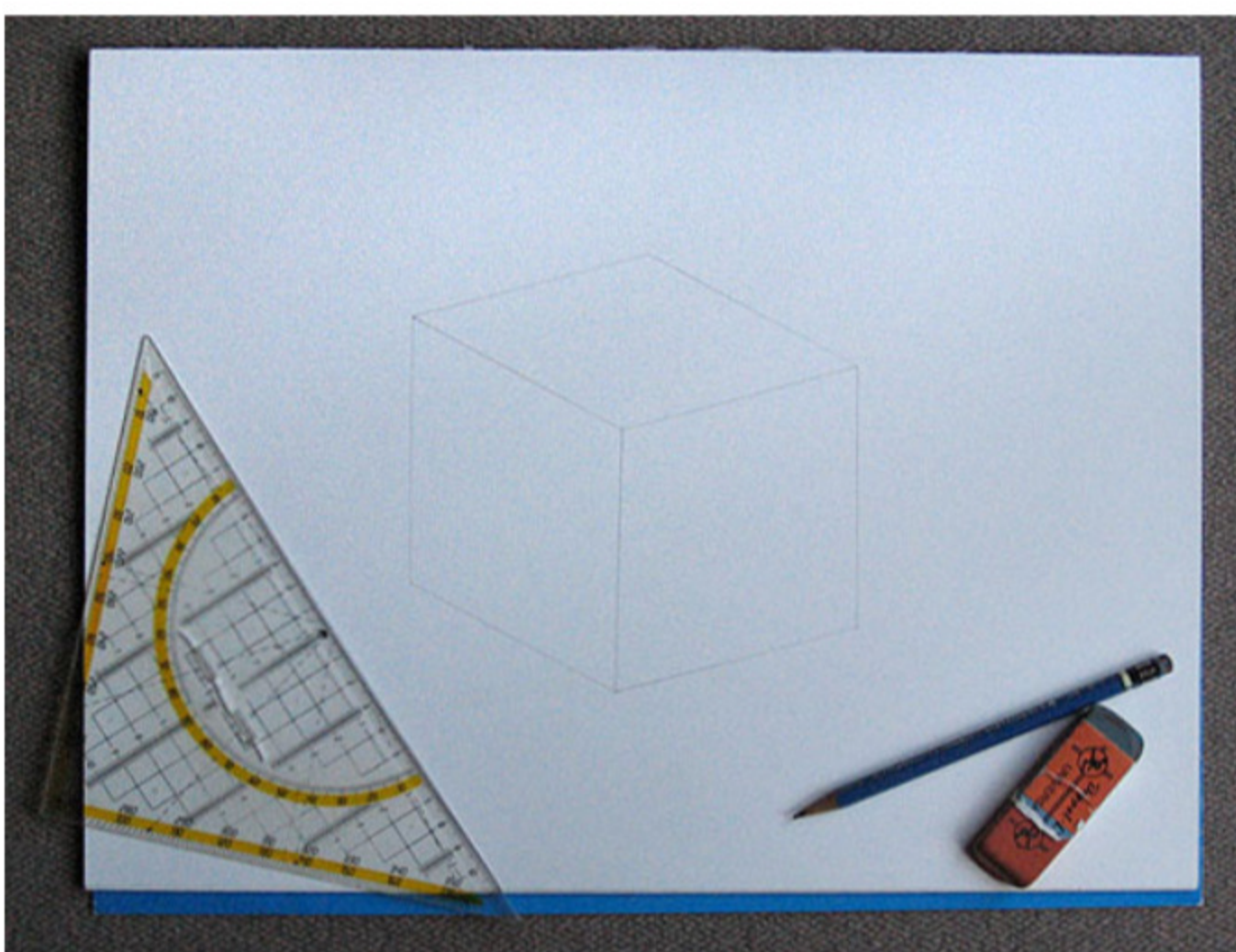
Reflections, light edges, highlights, bright areas, etc. are made by airbrushing less paint so that the white of the paper can shine through. You can also airbrush with white paint, remove paint with an eraser (eraser pencil) or paint whitth colour with a ordinary brush. Depending on the situation the one or the other method is more suitable for the desired effect.

So far to the basics of airbrushing. The main thing is that you get much practise and that you exercise a lot with the airbrush, if you want to learn to airbrush. And now we begin immediately with the promised step-by-step instructions for a small simple airbrush painting.

Step-by-Step Instructions for an Airbrush Painting

Presketching

If you want to realise a picture with airbrush you should start with a presketching on the painting ground. In this simple guide we draw a cube. The drawing is best created with a hard pencil, as it's lines will be almost invisible. But don't imprint with the pencil to strong. You see the finished sketch in the image below.



Painting with Airbrush: Presketching for the airbrush painting

Masking

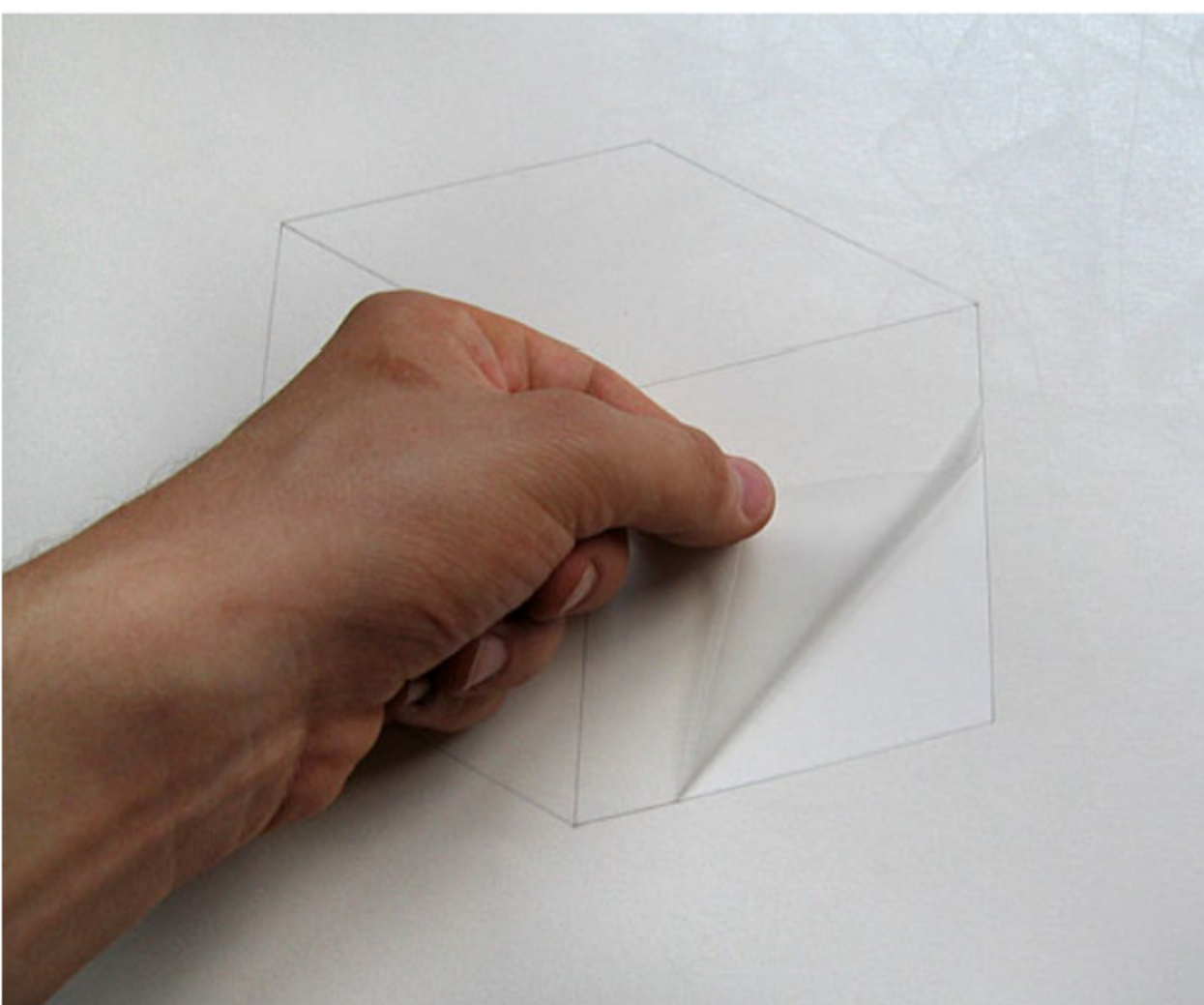
In the next step you can mask the picture with masking material (film). Therefore you stick the special airbrush masking film on the (airbrush) paper - at best so that no air bubbles are closed in under the film. Then the masking film can be cutted along the edges of the cube with a cutter. You should cut the film very careful that only the masking film will be cutted. Don't cut into the paper (or at least not too deep).



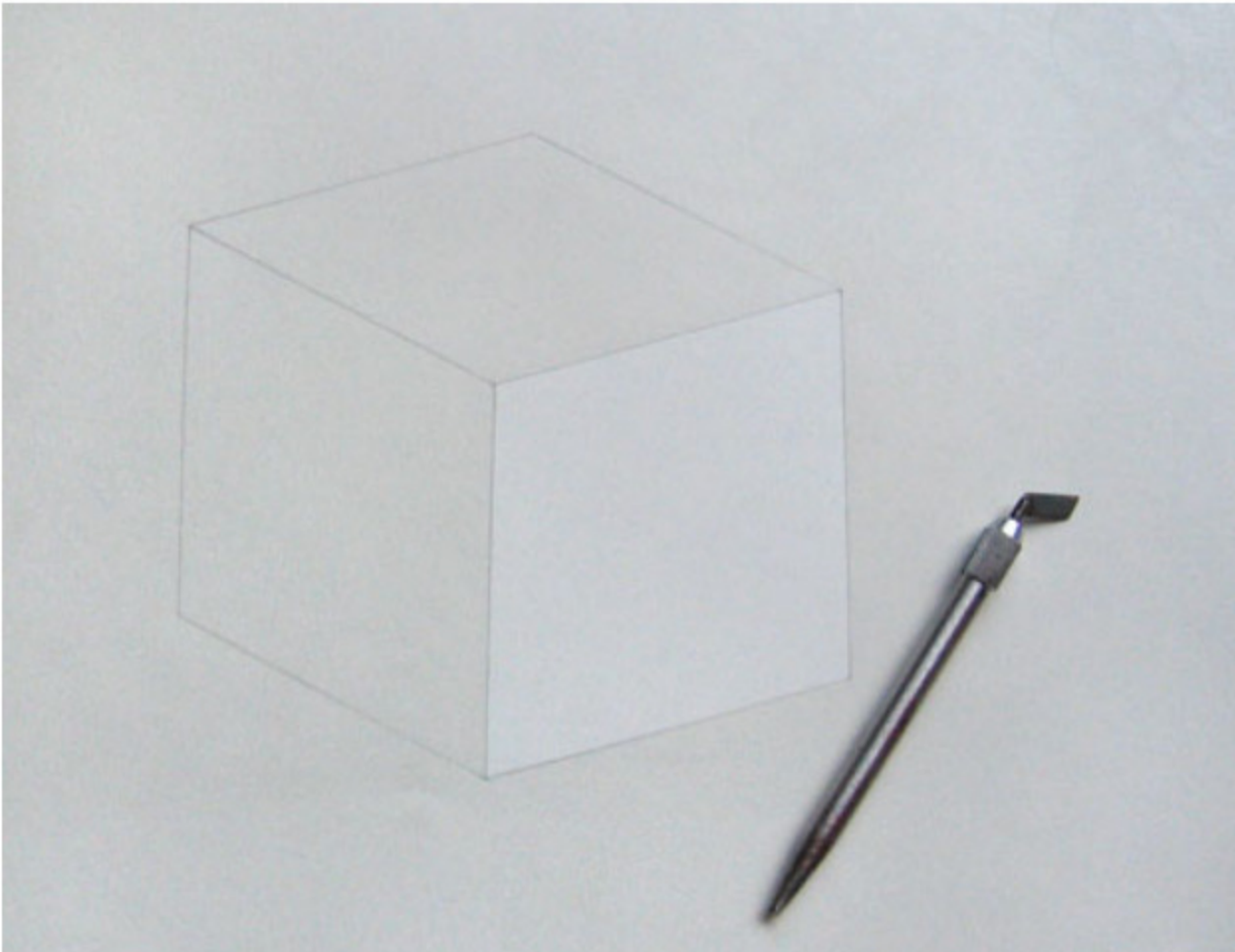
Painting with Airbrush: Cutter and airbrush masking film

The image gets masked in this way to get sharp edges when you airbrush. If the image would be airbrushed without masking film, all objects would have blurred edges through the airbrush overspray (spray fog) and would painting the picture be meore time consuming.

When the image is masked and the edges of the cube were cut, you can unmask the entire cube. That means that you can removes the masking film carefully in the area of the cube. Take care that your masking film won't be damaged and keep the pieces that you have removed, because you have to mask the cube with it again later.



Painting with Airbrush: Removing the airbrush masking film from paper



Painting with Airbrush: One side of the cube demasked

[Continue with page 2](#)

About this Website

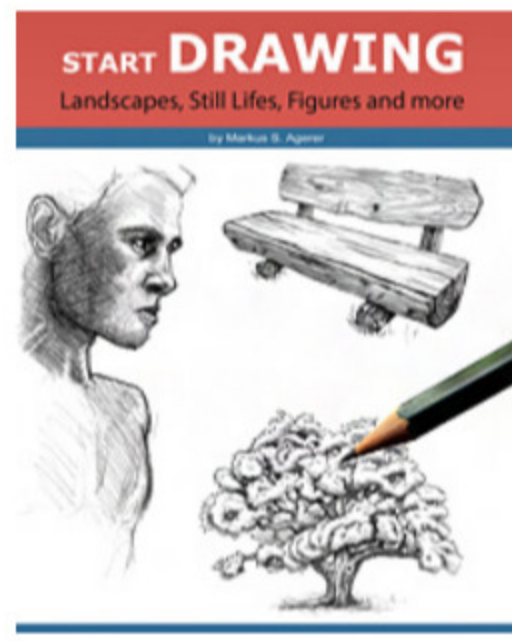
This website is about how to draw and paint. You will learn to use pencil and brush and how to drawn and paint your own pictures.

* = affiliate link

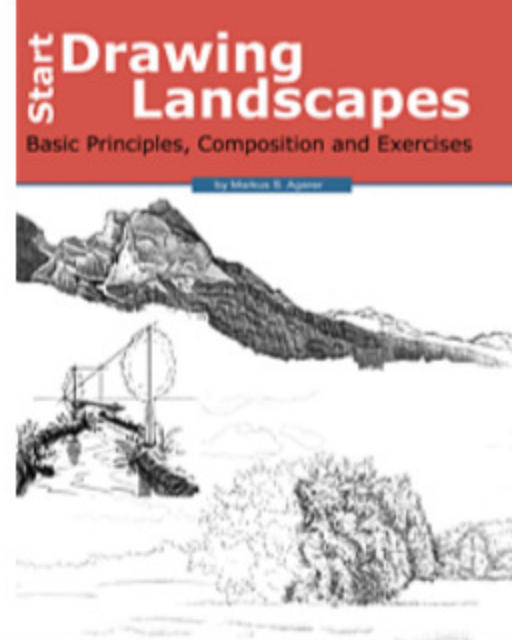
Books

Ads

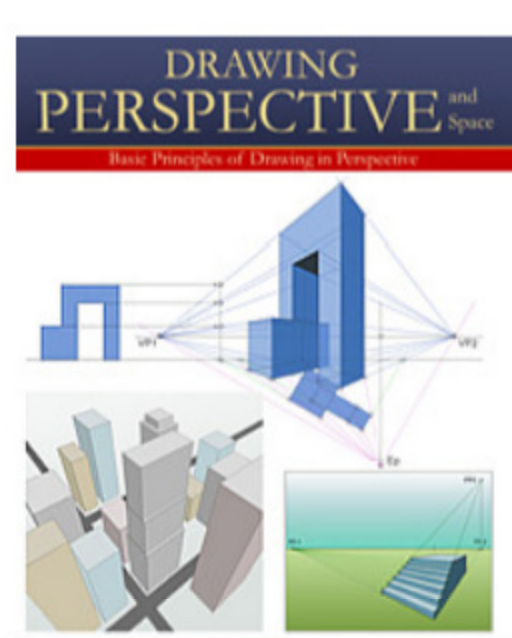
Book Recommendations:



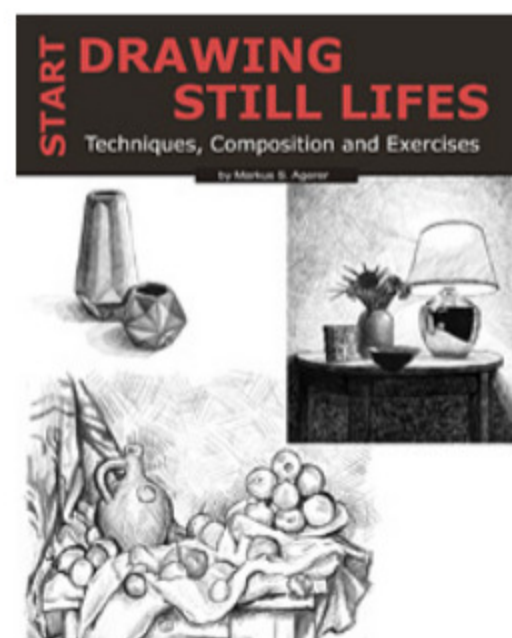
[Start Drawing](#)



[Start Drawing Landscapes](#)



[Perspective Drawing](#)



[Start Drawing Still Lives](#)

Best Articles

- [Learn to draw](#)
- [Drawing in perspective](#)
- [Draw with colored pencil](#)
- [How to draw portraits](#)
- [Paint with oil colors](#)

Categories

- [Drawing](#)
- [Painting](#)
- [Figure](#)
- [Animals](#)
- [Landscapes](#)
- [Comic & Manga](#)
- [Miscellaneous](#)
- [Material](#)



Learn to paint with Airbrush - Page 2

After the drawing is masked, you can begin with airbrushing. There you have to connect the airbrush first with the compressor (and of course the compressor to the outlet). The compressor has to be set on the operating pressure which depends on the size of the airbrush. To airbrush the cube I set the pressure e.g. to approximately 2 bar.



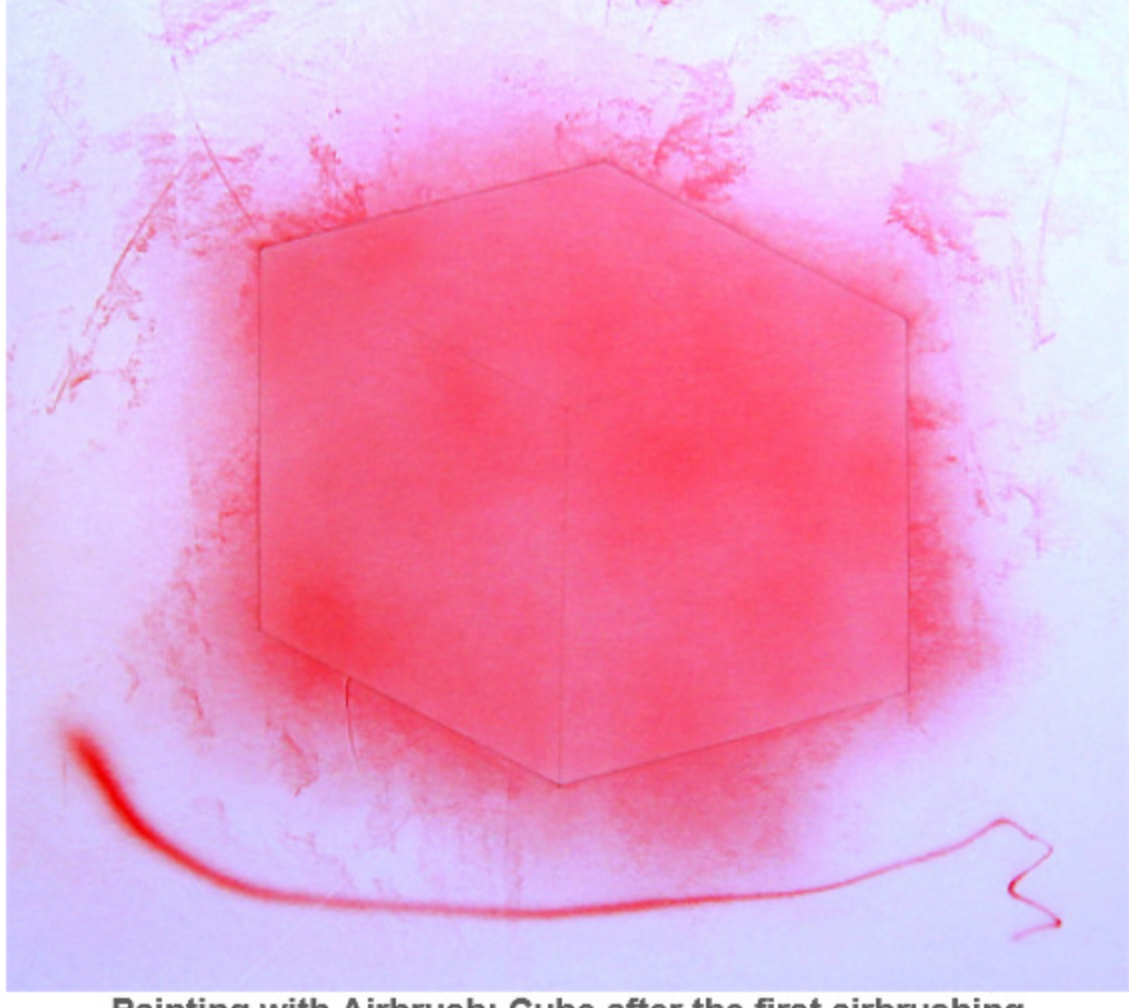
Painting with Airbrush: Pressure regulator of the compressor

Now the airbrush can be filled with paint. You can put a few drops of paint into the paint pot on the airbrush. Not too much, because when you spray, the paint can and slop out of the airbrush and drop on the image. You can dilute the colour with a few drops of water to get a finer color look.



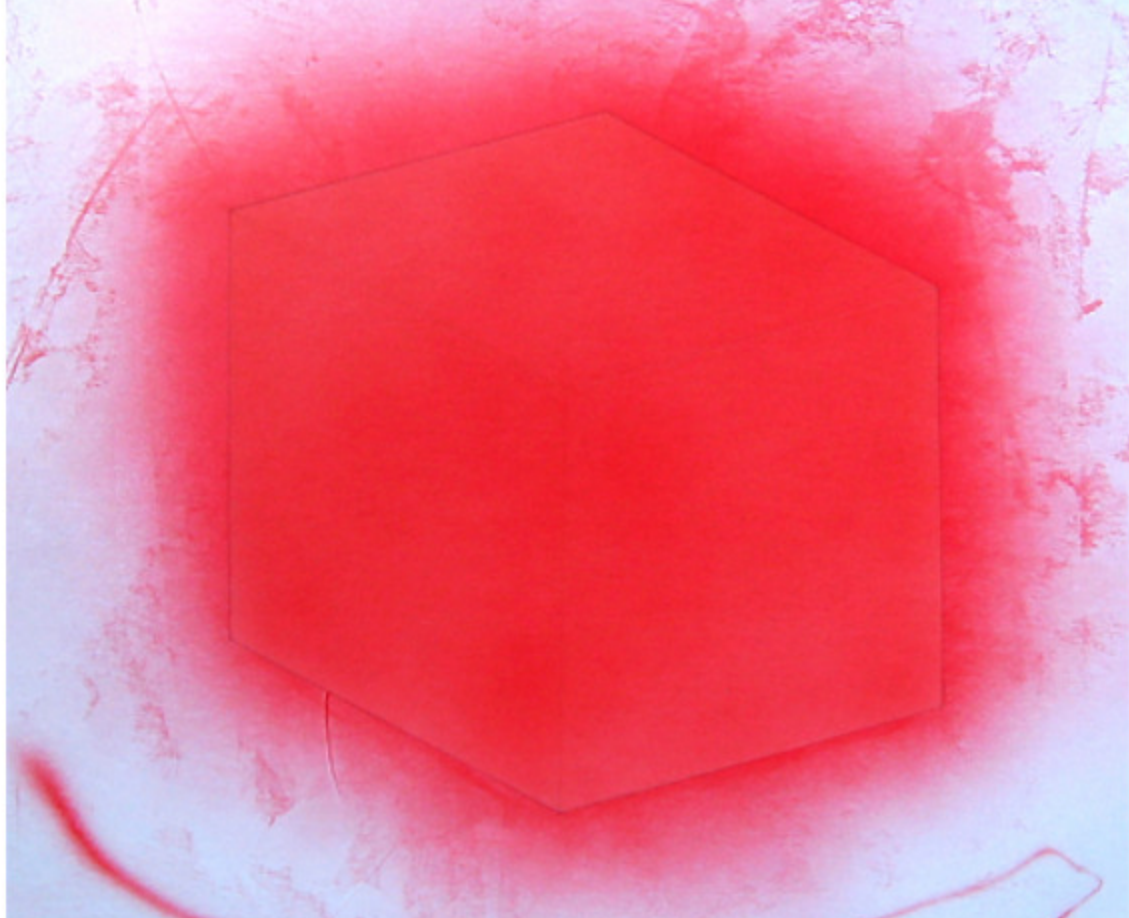
Painting with Airbrush: Airbrush filled with colour

Now follows the first step of airbrushing the completely uncovered cube. As the rest of the paper is covered with masking film, we will later get a cube with sharp edges. Since the upper side of the cube is supposed to be somewhat brighter than the others, the color is not airbrushed to 100% opaque. Just airbrush a brighter hue. The color should be airbrushed as equally as possible and that's not as easy as it sounds like. As you see, my work wasn't perfect as well :-).



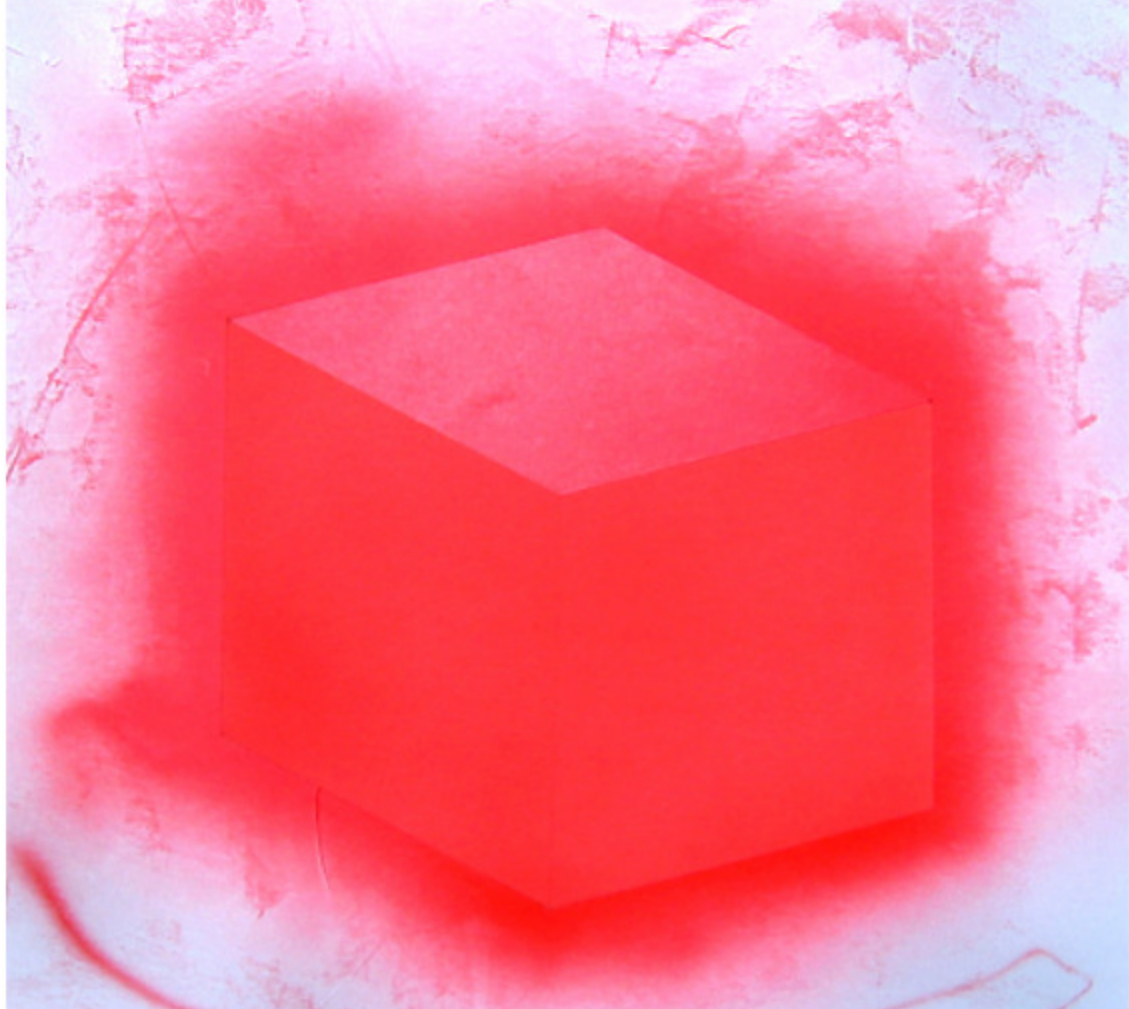
Painting with Airbrush: Cube after the first airbrushing

It is very effective to airbrush repeatedly over the image - that means you paint several layers of color over the paper. This technique can save you from airbrushing too much color at once and to get thus a too dark/strong hue. Furthermore you get a higher quality of the airbrushed color.



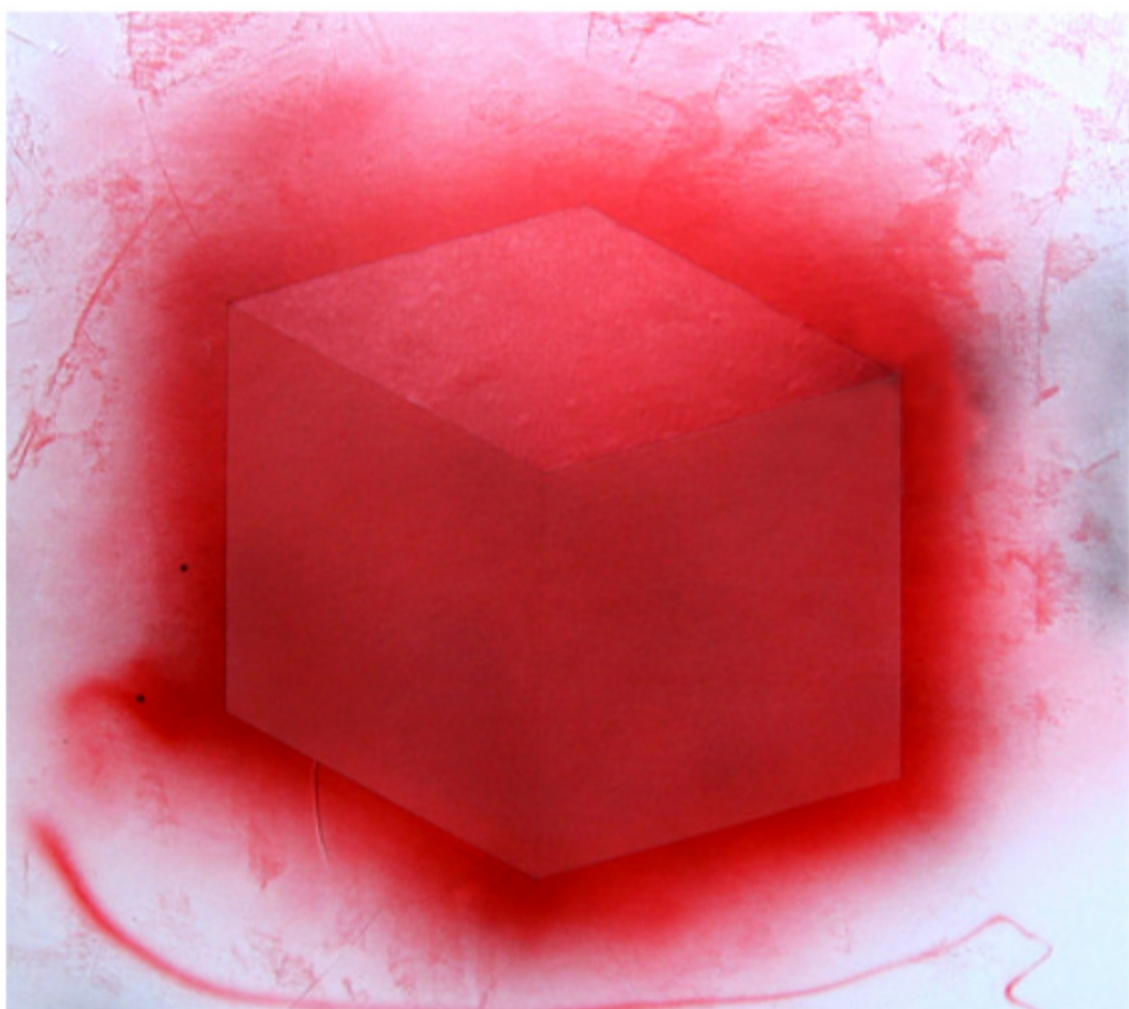
Painting with Airbrush: The cube after the second airbrushing step

When the upper side of the cube has the desired hue, it can be covered with masking foil again (but only the upper side). Then the two remaining sides of the cube have to be airbrushed again with red paint until they have the desired hue.



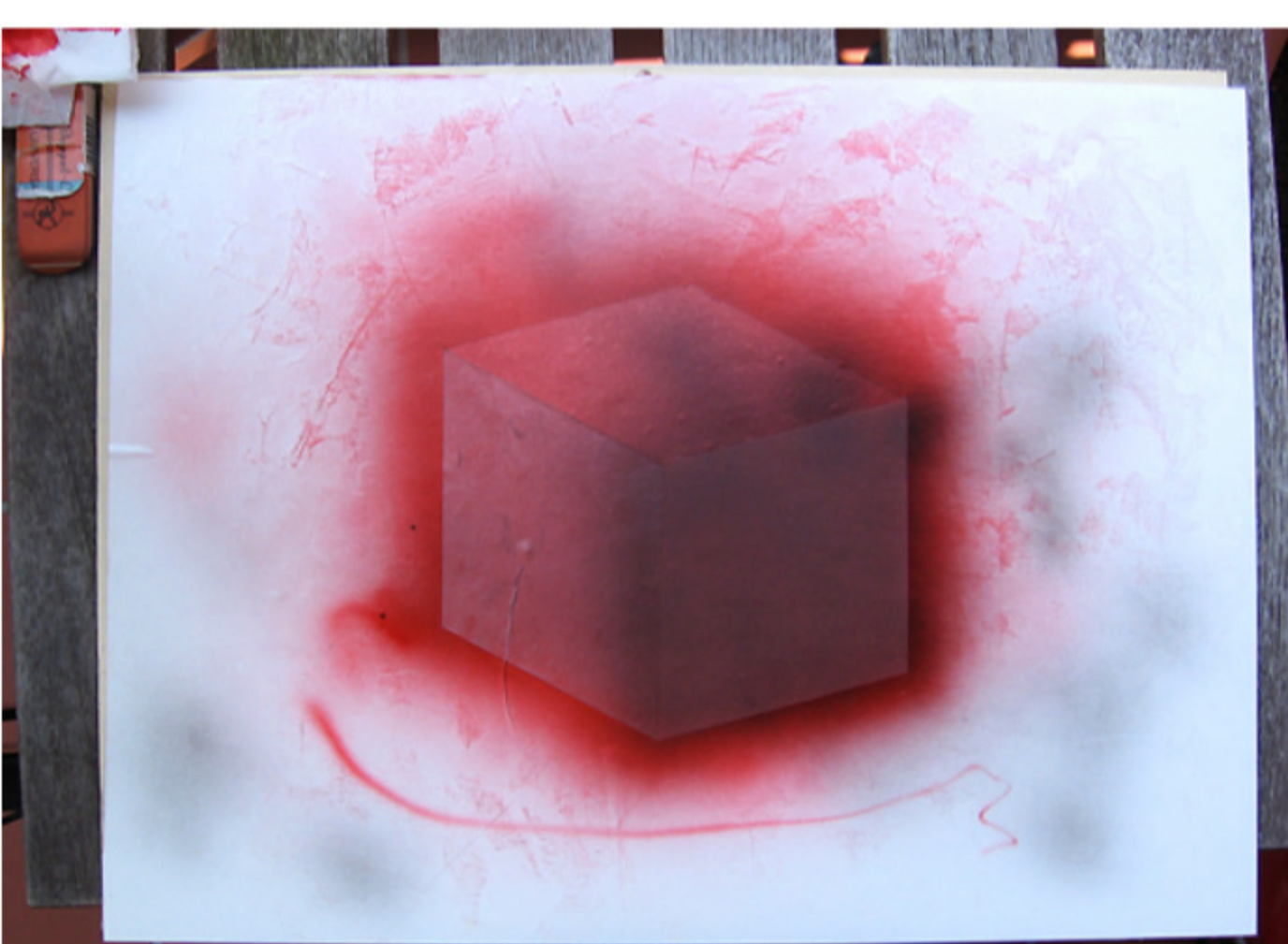
Painting with Airbrush: Cube with masked upper side

Now the shadows on the sides of the cube will be airbrushed. The left side should be slightly shaded, the right side has a stronger/darker shadow. Therefore we have to airbrush an even hue over both sides with black paint, the color red light abdundant. If you airbrush with black paint you should always be careful as black color is very dominant and the surfaces get quickly too dark. It's best if the paint is mixed with a little more - eg 50:50.



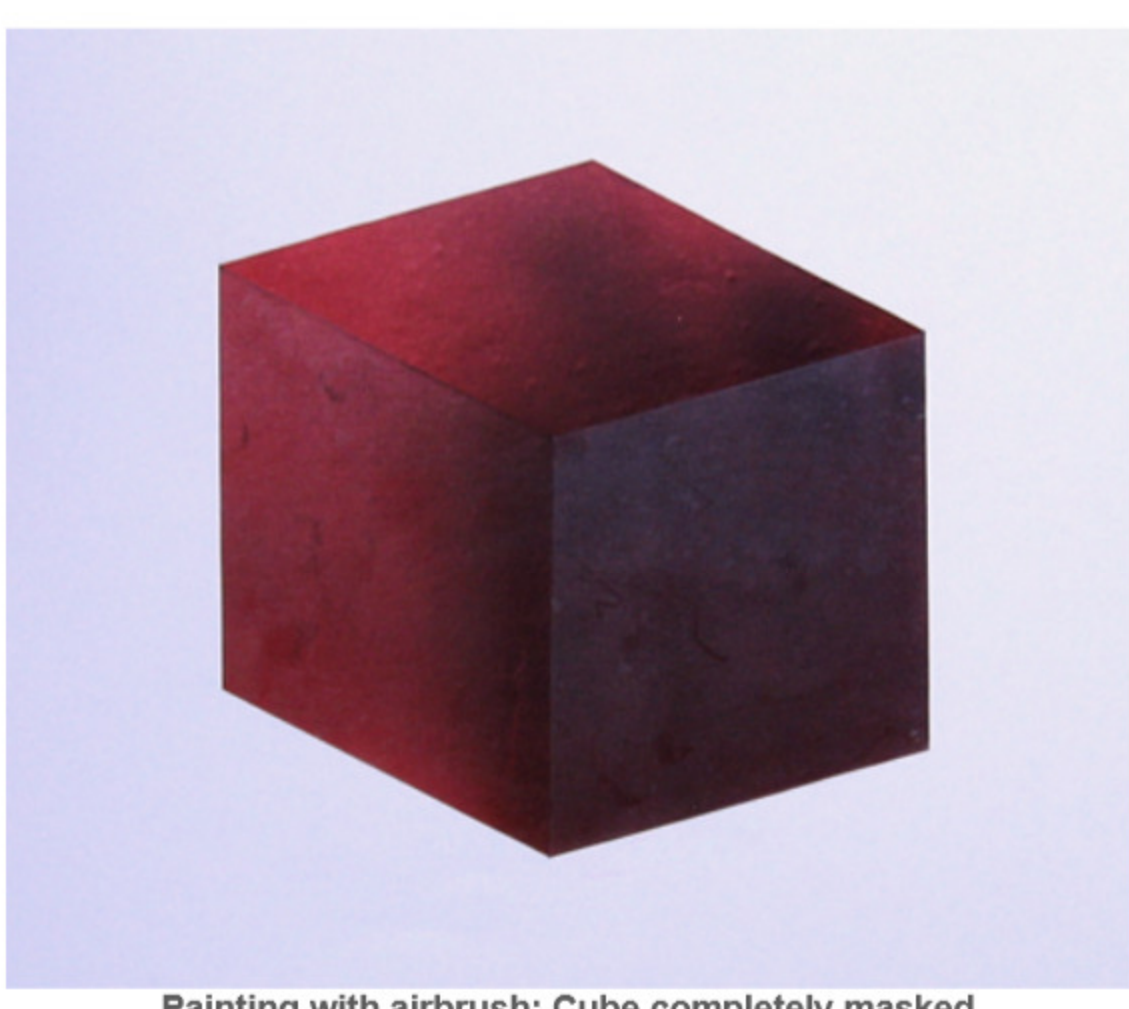
Painting with airbrush: Both sides of the cube slightly darkened

After this step, the left side of the cube again escaped. But can use the same pieces of Maskierfolie reuse, which previously has declined. The right side of the cube, which now only have unmasked, is now slightly darker gearbrusht. The area should not be completely black spray.



Painting with Airbrush: Cubes with right airbrushed dark

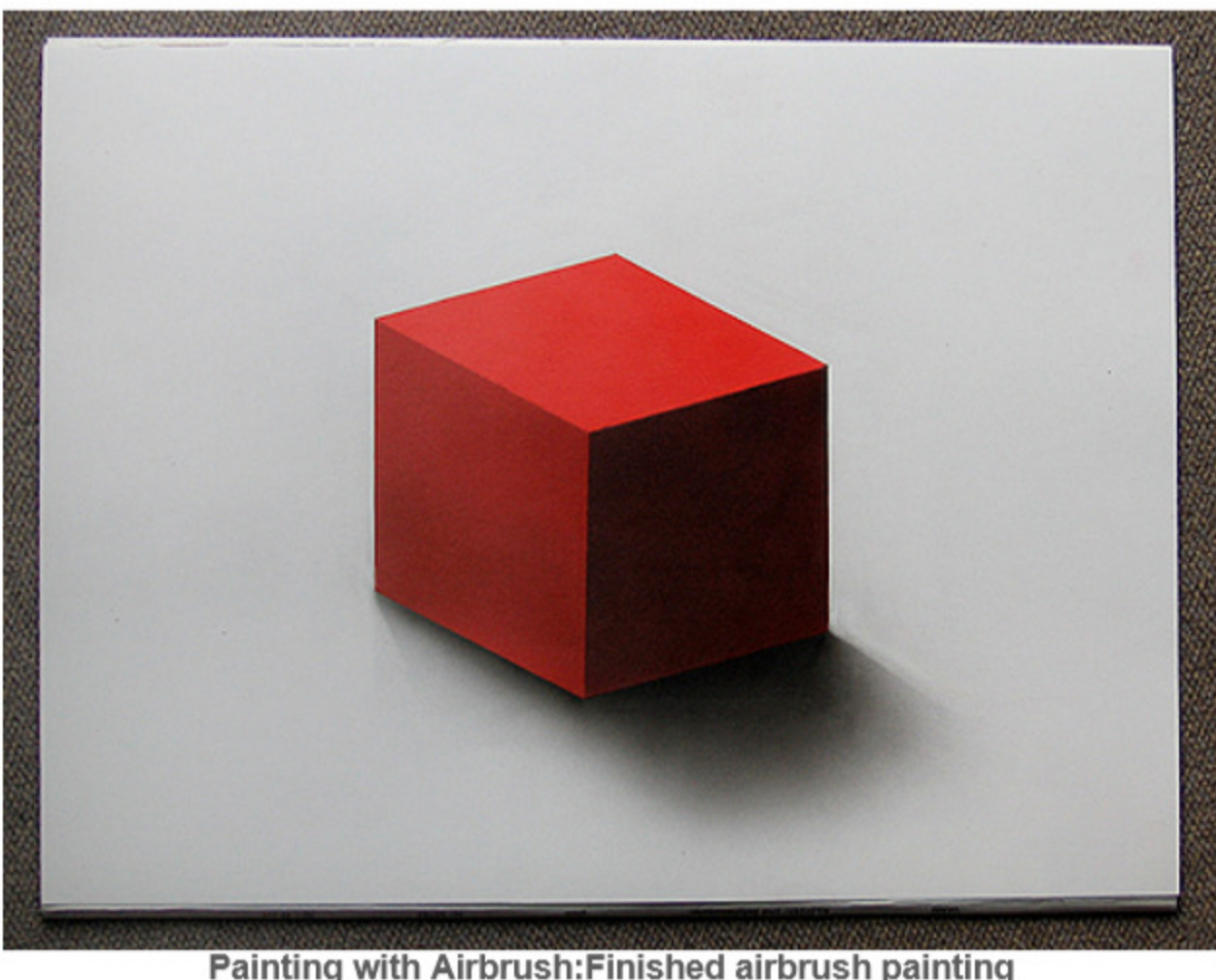
Now the shadow gearbrusht by the dice thrown to the ground. You use the whole cube masking, and the rest of the paper by the Maskierfolie exempt.



Painting with airbrush: Cube completely masked

Now you can airbrush the main shadows of the cube with black paint. You should pay attention at the edges of the shadow something. If you want you can also use masking film to avoid overspraying. You can work over the main shadow with an eraser and remove unnecessary paint.

Here you can see the finished airbrush paintings:



Painting with Airbrush:Finished airbrush painting

You try it at best yourself. Or dare yourself to airbrush a more difficult object if the cube is too boring for you. And always remember: To [learn to airbrush](#) you need a lot of practise.

About this Website

This website is about how to draw and paint. You will learn to use pencil and brush and how to draw and paint your own pictures.

* = affiliate link

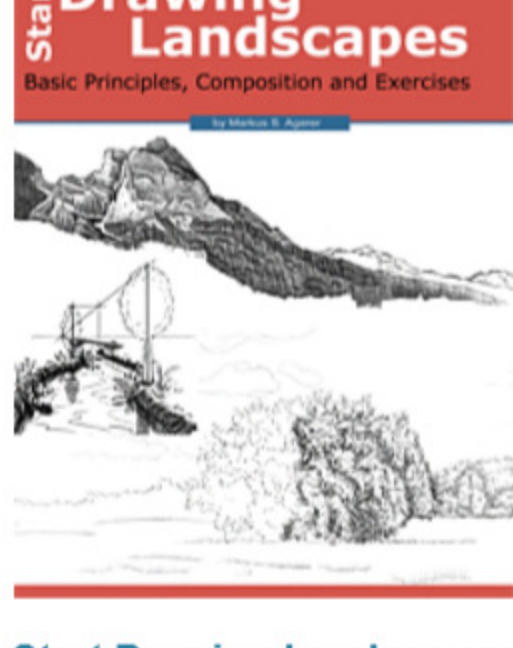
Books

Ads

Book Recommendations:



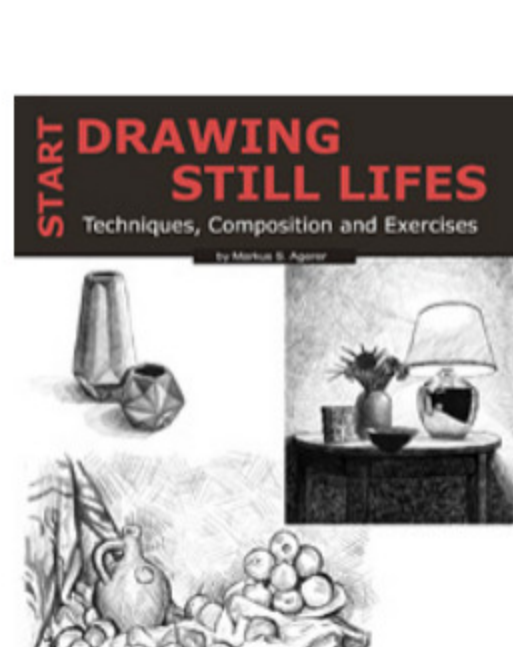
Start Drawing



Start Drawing Landscapes



Perspective Drawing



Start Drawing Still Lives

Best Articles

- Learn to draw
- Drawing in perspective
- Draw with colored pencil
- How to draw portraits
- Paint with oil colors

Categories

- Drawing
- Painting
- Figure
- Animals
- Landscapes
- Comic & Manga
- Miscellaneous
- Material