

# How to Draw Hands Part 2: Beyond Structure

By Darlene Nguyen - September 15, 2015

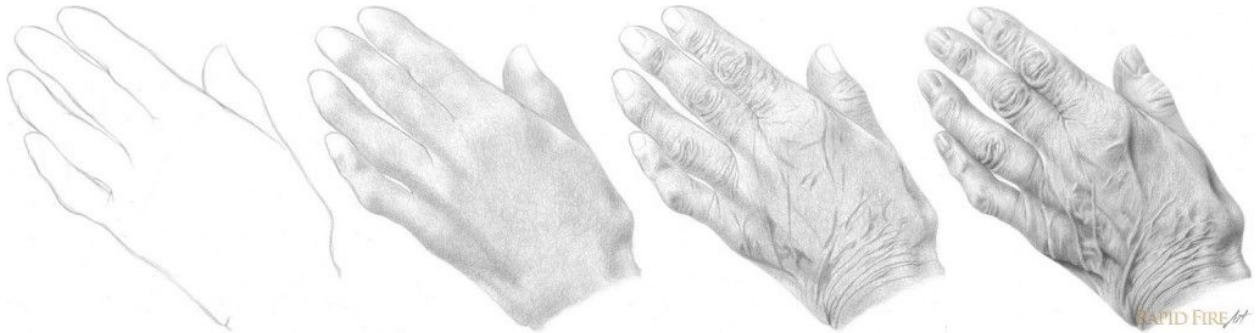


This is the last part of a 2 part tutorial. Part 1 covers basic proportions of a hand. If you have not reviewed it, please click [here](#).

Being able to draw the shape of a hand is great, but what happens after that? In this tutorial, I will be covering how to draw nails, skin, wrinkles and folds for several different types of hands: baby, elderly, masculine and feminine. What characteristics make a hand look strong, gentle or young? Read more to find out!

\*Most of the drawing techniques are covered in the first section (how to draw elderly hands). Don't skip this section if you want to get the most out of this tutorial :)

# How to Draw Elderly Hands



## 1. Structure

Elderly people generally have less body fat, so when you draw the outline, make sure to pronounce the joints.

## 2. Skin

Instead of shading with long pencil strokes, use a fine 0.5mm HB

**mechanical pencil** to create layers of circles with even amounts of pressure. Avoid shading the nails. Switch to a 2B or even 4B to darken areas between bones or around tendons to make the hand appear even skinnier. Layer the circles on until the gaps are really small, but still visible to achieve the look of fine lines.



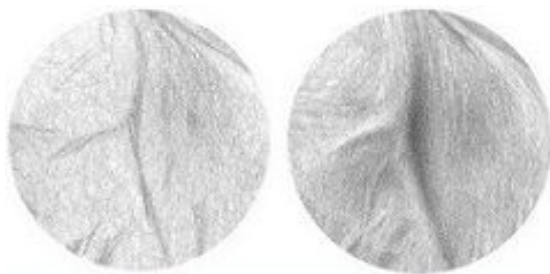
Click [here](#) to see an interactive diagram of a hand in layers

In order to retain as much realistic skin texture as possible, do not blend or smudge! If you feel the need to blend any area of the drawing, use an HB pencil to layer on even more circles.

I will go into more details in a future tutorial on skin. Follow me on Facebook to get an update whenever I post a new article!

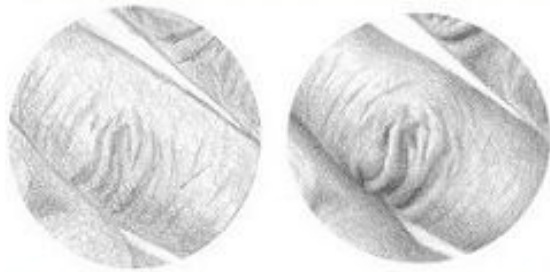
Click [here](#) to learn how to shade!

### 3. Veins, Wrinkles and Folds



Use a blunt 2B pencil to draw clean lines where prominent folds, wrinkles and veins appear. Then apply different shading techniques for each one.

**Veins:** Gradual, soft shading



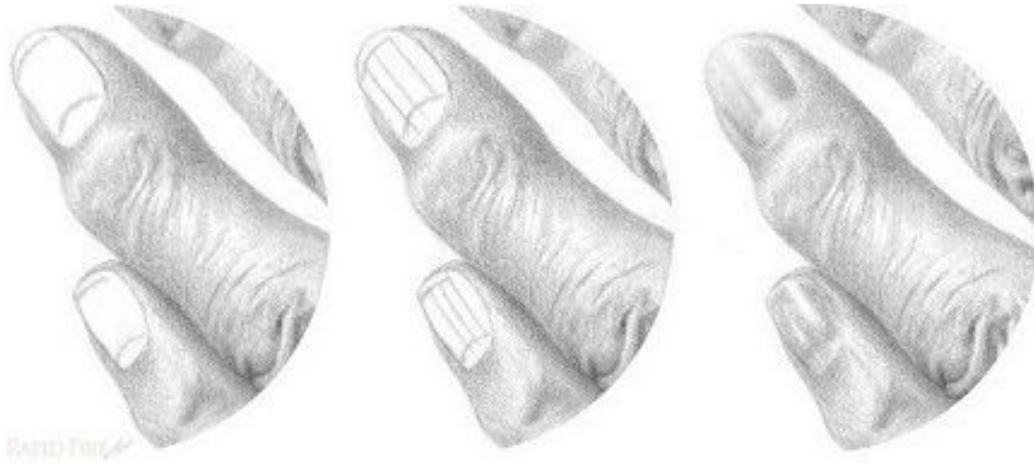
**Wrinkles:** Less gradual, darker valleys, more prominent highlights

**Folds:** Gradual, less prominent highlights



Give some of the wrinkles at each finger joint some wider valleys than others.

#### 4. Fingernails



To make them easy to draw you can section each nail into 3 main areas: the lunule (the white semi circle under the cuticle), body of the nail and the free edge.

If you look at your fingernail up close you will notice many lines stretching across the entire nail. Because of these lines, there will be breaks in the light reflected off the nail's surface. Draw lines to section off areas you need to shade or highlight. As we age, our nails grow thicker and the lines may become more apparent.

Shade these areas in one at a time. Make sure to give the nail some shape by making the left and right side darker.

# How to Draw Masculine Hands



## 1. Structure

In order to draw strong masculine hands, we need to go back to [part 1](#) and enlarge the knuckles and bottom 2 thumb joints. If you look at your dominant hand, you will notice that the bottom 2 thumb joints are more prominent than your other hand. These joints change over time, especially for those who are frequently involved in laborious physical work.

## 2. Skin

With a blunt HB pencil, use circular motions to draw the skin, but this time follow up with a blending stump to smooth out the texture. Introduce lots of lines and shapes for a chiseled look.

## 3. Veins, Wrinkles, Tendons

Accentuate tendons and veins. You can find an interactive diagram with tendons and veins [here](#). The only apparent wrinkles are located at each finger joint. Keep the lines narrow and shallow.

## 4. Fingernails

Draw short fingernails with lots of texture for a rugged look.

## How to Draw Feminine Hands



### 1. Structure

Put less emphasis on the finger joints and knuckles. Especially the bottom 2 thumb joints.

### 2. Skin

Use a blunt HB pencil to draw the skin using circular motions and then blend using tissue paper. Unlike masculine hands, avoid harsh lines and shapes. Make the skin as smooth and consistent as possible.

### 3. Veins, Wrinkles, Tendons

Tendons should only be slightly visible with very gradual shading.

### 4. Fingernails

Most people think fingernails grow out straight, when really they're curved. In fact, the longer they grow, the more apparent this curve becomes. Have you ever watched the episode of Guinness World Records featuring the lady who grew her nails 10 feet long? They literally *spiral out of control!*

Fake nails or real... there will almost always be a curve. Don't overlook this detail!

# How to Draw Baby Hands



## 1. Structure

Add thickness between each joint and round out the tips of each finger so they are nice and plump. If you are drawing a skinny baby hand, do not put too much emphasis on the bottom 2 thumb joints.

## 2. Skin

Baby hands are smooth and plump, so you want to focus on making your circles as close together as possible. Keep your pencil pressure consistent and work in layers using only a blunt HB pencil until you are ready to do some darker shading. Avoid using any lead softer than 2B. Stick to gradual shadows for a cute chubby hand. Use tissue paper to smooth out the skin.

## 3. Dimples

One big characteristic of babies or children's hands are the dimples that appear on each knuckle (minus that of the thumb) when the fingers are outstretched. Use a 2B pencil to draw these cute little dimples, making sure to appropriately shade and highlight the space around it.

#### **4. Wrinkles and Folds**

Babies have very few wrinkles, so when drawing finger joints, draw only a few large wrinkles. They should appear thick, so stick to gradual shading with less prominent highlights.

#### **5. Fingernails**

A healthy baby has smooth, shiny nails. Avoid adding any additional textures.

Need some pictures for drawing reference? Click [here](#) to download a whole bunch!

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I hope you enjoyed this tutorial. If you have any questions or comments, please drop them in the comments section below!