

Learn How to Draw Step-by-Step MULTIMEDIA Course

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Lesson 7 Triangulation

If you have been watching and practicing the techniques I talk about on the videos, you have been (predominately) using a calm flowing circular motion throughout your drawing process. And yes, there is the need for straight lines, especially while defining your Frame of Reference.

You have also been checking relationships between points using angles that we have become more and more dependent upon to establish the proportions that we are after.

But now I'd like to "change" your mind a little bit. And it's a small but mighty change indeed.

First, go ahead and [watch the video](#)

Draw What You See, Not What You Know.

When you look at something you wish to draw, you are "translating" what you are seeing in 3 dimensions onto the 2-dimensions of your paper. To do this as we have already seen, you need to close one eye to "make" what you are seeing 2-dimensional, and then "match" it on the paper.

That means you really have to close your mind to **what you know** about the objects you are drawing. You have to "flatten" everything, close your mind, and think away from the 3-dimensional space that you are so used to, and instead think more in 2 dimensions, length and width only.

Once you have the flat image of what you are going to be drawing, you are now ready for the next stage getting proportions much better in a shorter time.

Living in the Land of Two Dimensions.

Ok, here's a short exercise. Close your eyes. Focus your mind on everything being two-dimensional. See everything in lines. Try and turn off color and the shadows.

Look away somewhere else.

Next, take an imaginary photograph. Open ONE eye for 2 seconds only, then close it again. Ignore the colors. With your eyes still closed, imagine drawing what you just "photographed" in your mind. See it as ONLY a picture with no depth—just 2-dimensional (you know, just plain flat).

With your eyes still closed, take your imaginary pencil and outline everything you remember in that flat state only.

Do this several times in different rooms or outside.

Now for a reality check. Do the same for real. Grab your hardboard and paper, and turn around in your chair, or take your hardboard and paper to another room. Close your eyes again, "shoot" your 2 second drawing and then open and sketch what you remember.

You'll actually do better than you think you might have.

As you practice this, you'll begin to appreciate how your mind can be changed from viewing in 3 dimensions and seeing your world more as flat images.

As soon as you can begin viewing your world from this 2-dimensional standpoint, translating that view onto your paper will become far simpler.

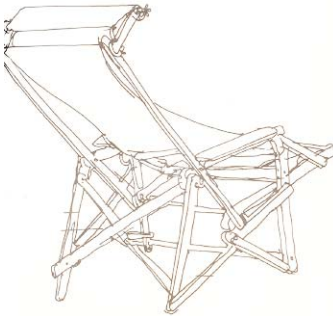
Taking your mind from 2 points to 3 points

Once you have this flat thing going on in your head, you're ready for understanding the use of triangles. Here's how it works.

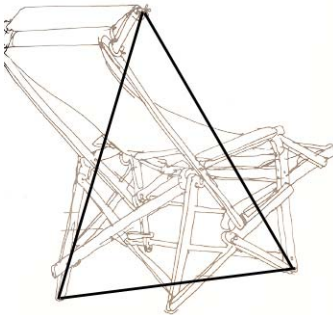
Rather than always looking at the angle of 2 points, I'd like you to focus from here on out 3 points, also known as **The Triangle**. Making use of the triangle in seeking proportion on what you are drawing will vastly accelerate your ability to get proportions right. The reason is simple—using a triangle to see relationships, you become vastly more efficient (and faster) at gauging those proportions that you were previously trying to get by just using lines at given angles (2 points).

Let me give you an example on the next page.

Finally, here is a drawing of a beach chair.

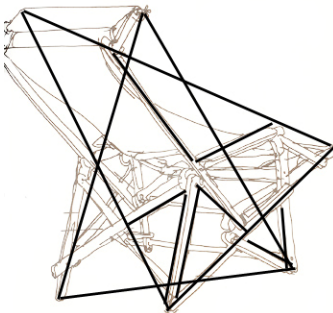


Take the longest points and "triangulate"—that is, find the most distant 3 points and imagine a triangle, thus:



Can you see how more accurately your overall proportion becomes immediately?

Next, add more triangles



What should become apparent at this point is that you can easily understand that there are an INFINITE number of triangles that you can use and work your way down to constantly check your proportions.

This will become especially useful to you when you begin drawing people's faces.

Exercise 2.

Have a supportive friend sit down in front of you for about 5 minutes and have them ask you to point out triangles in their faces. You then tell your friend the positions of the 3 points in the triangle, pointing to them (with one eye) with the tip of your pencil.

Push yourself, finding those triangles that you may have missed.

Be careful out there! Triangles can become addicting!!!

Don't be doing this when you are driving, ok?

(You think I'm kidding, don't you). Well, I'm not.

And remember, practice, practice, practice!