

CORRECTIONS

“If you cannot correct your mistakes, don’t make any!”

It can take just as long or longer to correct a mistake as it might take you to simply begin again. Lots of patience and perseverance are needed to successfully remove a mark from the paper.

Supplies:

- Magnifying glass
- Gum Sandarac Powder wrapped in a cloth square and secured
- Bone Folder
- White plastic eraser
- Gritty eraser – Hyperaser by Pentel
- Fluffy brush or drafting brush
- Eraser shield
- X-Acto knife
- Optional: Black eraser, kneaded eraser

Corrections are best attempted on good art paper with some weight. It would be very difficult to make a good correction on thin paper. It is also easiest to make corrections on marks made with gouache rather than ink.

The first thing to do is make an Eraser Shield so that the mistake to be corrected can be accessed, but the rest of the page is protected. Simply cut an appropriate size hole in a piece of clean paper with an X-Acto knife. Place this over the mark to be removed/corrected.

Gently scratch the mark with the X-Acto knife blade, holding the blade low to the paper. This action is to just begin to loosen the pigments. Don’t try to remove the mark entirely at this point.

Next, use a brush to remove any bits that were loosened. Don’t blow, because it is very likely you will spit instead. Use this brush between each of the actions.

Now use the white plastic eraser with some pressure to see what it can remove. Brush away anything that was loosened.

The Hyperaser (or gritty eraser) is used next to work back and forth across the mark, brushing aside any bits occasionally.

Use the white plastic eraser for a final touch, and the mark SHOULD be gone by now.

The fibers of the paper have been disturbed, and need to be burnished. Place a piece of clean paper over the correction and rub through with a bone folder to lay the fibers down.

If you need to letter OVER this correction, rub the area with Gum Sandarac Powder before trying to lay down gouache. Writing over a correction with ink is not recommended.

