Pencils for Technical Drawing

Reference | Comparison chart | LETTER

Choose a pencil by the job its line has to do. Use this chart to compare a pale construction line, a clear object edge and a darker accent. Test all three on the paper you will draw on so the finished edges stay easy to read.

Material or grade	Where to start	What to check
2H graphite	Fine construction and layout	Check that the guide can stay pale without scoring the sheet.
HB graphite	A readable general outline	Try it beside a guide on the same smooth sheet.
2B graphite	A darker mark or tone accent	Check that the accent stays distinct from the regular outline.

Match the grade to the line

A harder grade such as 2H is a starting point for fine construction marks. For a visible object edge, try HB with a well-shaped point. A softer 2B is useful when you deliberately need a darker accent or sample. Pencil pressure, point shape and paper also affect the mark, so check your own sheet.

Use one set of controlled marks and compare the real results under the same light.

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Reference | Worked test | LETTER

Original prompt

Practice a light construction line with 2H and a legible object edge with HB. Choose a separate 2B accent. Show the three roles on the same sheet.

Printed examples illustrate mark types. Make your own samples to compare materials.

2H guide



HB object edge



2B accent



Answer

Sample plan: 2H for the guide, HB for the object edge and 2B for a darker accent. Give each row its own pencil and keep the paper, setting and line length the same.

Reasoning

The three line roles separate the layout from the finished edges and keep the strongest tone for the accent you choose.

Check

Read the three marks from arm's length. The guide is easiest to overlook and the intended edge remains clear.