

Conté à Paris™

DEPUIS 1795

FABRIQUÉ EN FRANCE - MADE IN FRANCE

THE FRENCH BRAND FOR DRAWING AND SKETCHING,
CHOSEN BY ARTISTS



HISTORY



THE HISTORY OF CONTÉ À PARIS IS INTRICATELY TIED TO THE VISION AND INGENUITY OF ITS FOUNDER, NICOLAS-JACQUES CONTÉ, BORN IN 1755 AND THE INVENTOR OF THE MODERN PENCIL.



Nicolas-Jacques Conté was a multifaceted individual — painter, chemist, physicist, balloonist, and inventor — during his fifty years of life. His historical contributions are undisputed. In 1794, he revolutionized the pencil by perfecting the modern graphite lead, crafted from a mixture of clay and graphite, allowing for variations in lead hardness. The pencil manufacturing process he developed in 1795 enabled France to produce its own writing and drawing instruments, breaking free from the English embargo.

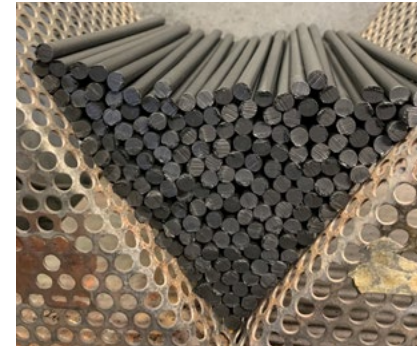
Later, Conté pioneered 'pencils without casings' (bare leads) to replace those made from 'Italian stone.' His dedication to making colors fixed and unalterable to meet artists' expectations led to the creation of art pencils and pastels. These innovations are the ancestors of today's Pastel Carrés.

The exceptional quality and extensive range of Conté à Paris products have made it a staple for artists seeking various techniques and effects for drawing, sketching, and pastels. Esteemed masters like Picasso, Degas, and Toulouse-Lautrec, as well as amateur artists and students, have all been captivated by its offerings.

Today, Conté à Paris stands as the premier French brand for drawing and sketching, chosen by artists worldwide.

EXPERTISE

IT TAKES 4 DAYS TO MAKE A PENCIL.



Although the recipe for each core is closely guarded, it generally consists of a mineral filler, pigments and an additive.

The paste obtained is mixed, passed through a cartridge machine and then dried to obtain its cylindrical shape. It is then extruded.

The degree of hardness of the core is determined by the drying time and the proportions of the recipe.

To form the pencil, the cylindrical core is laid between 2 grooved plates of California Red Cedar wood, a world-renowned species renowned for its art pencils.

The plates sandwiching the core are then planed to produce individual round pencils cut from the wood.



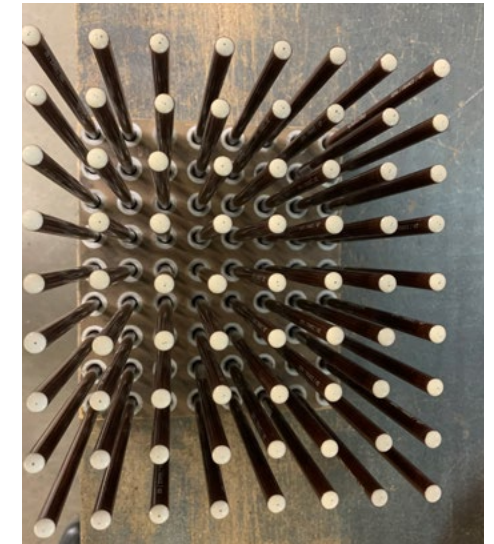
The next stage is staining. For Conté à Paris, a varnish of the same colour as the core is used.

Up to 12 coats are needed to achieve the desired finish on a Conté à Paris pencil. This varnish makes the pencil pleasant to hold and enables the colour to be identified quickly.

Each pencil reference has its own markings. A bronze mold is made with the final information visible on the pencil, i.e. the Conté à Paris logo, the type of pencil, the colour / degree, the French origin, the colour code and the barcode.

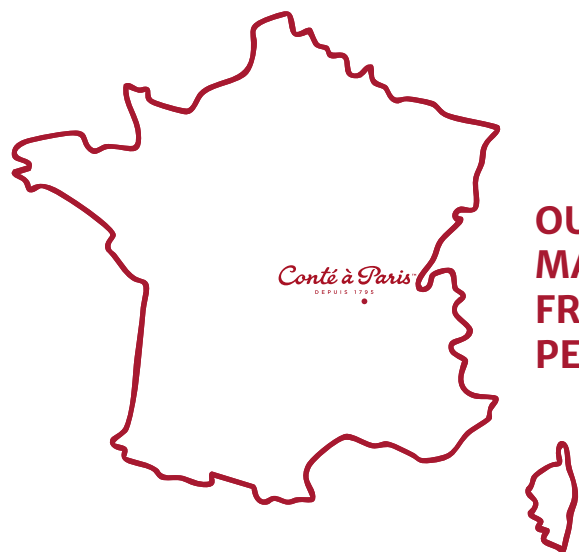
The final stage is a drop of varnish applied to the tip of each pencil by an expert hand, meticulously and gracefully finishing off the pencil's look.

After drying overnight, the pencil is sharpened and ready to go into the hands of artists eager to create.





**DESIGNED IN PARIS. INVENTOR
OF THE MODERN PENCIL.**



**OUR PENCILS ARE
MADE IN FRANCE.
FRANCE'S LAST
PENCIL FACTORY.**

**VERSATILE USE:
THE ICONIC
PASTEL CARRÉ
OFFERS PRECISE
LINES, FLAT TINTS,
AND POWDERY
BACKGROUNDS.**

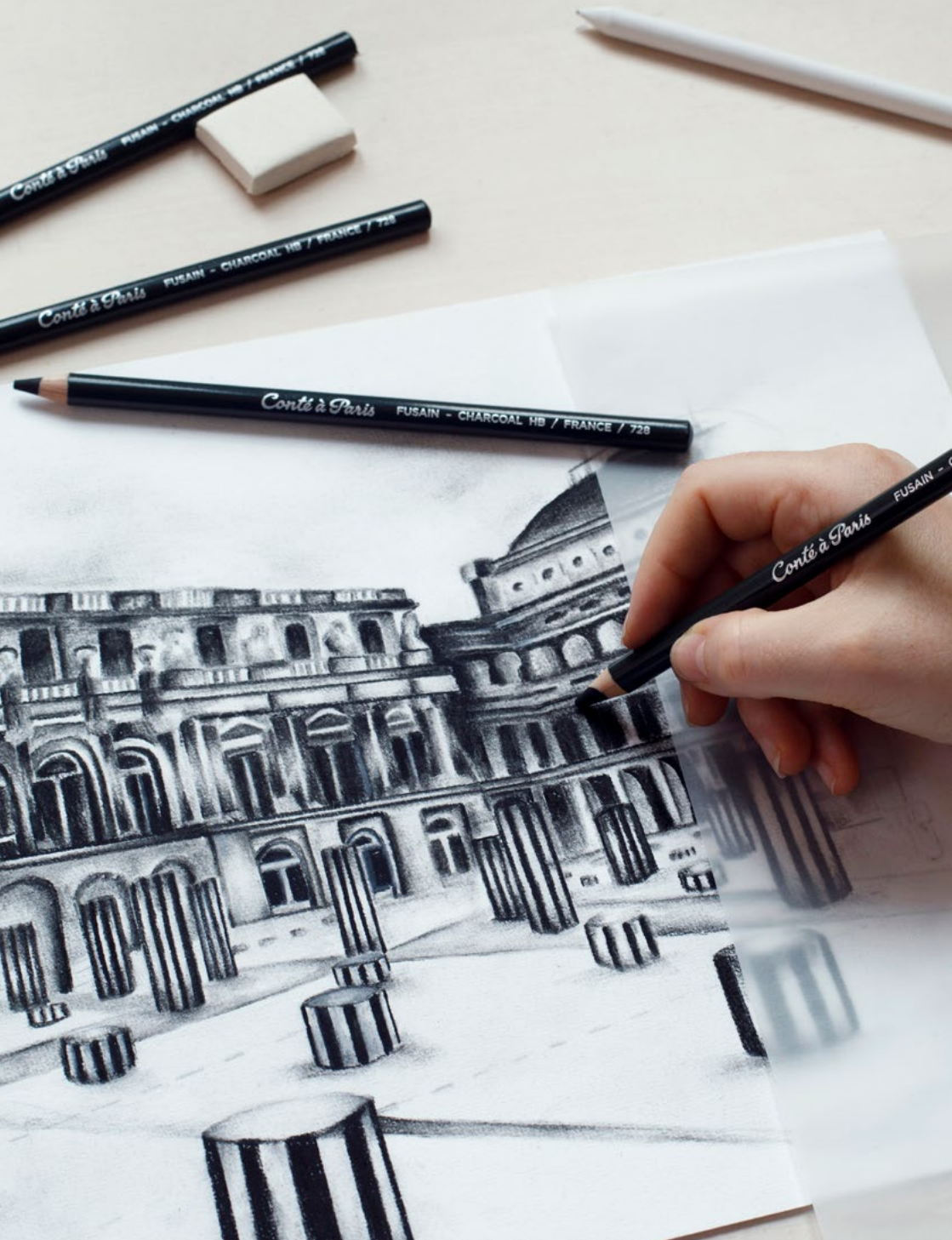


**EXCEPTIONAL
PIGMENT
RELEASE:
THE 5 MM
DIAMETER CORE
PROVIDES A
UNIQUE VELVET
FINISH.**

SKETCHING & DRAWING PENCILS

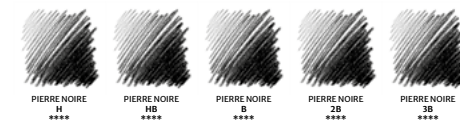
34 DIFFERENT PENCILS

Conté à Paris provides a rich range of sketching and drawing pencils with exceptional cores: Pierre Noire, Sanguines, and Graphite. Slightly harder than Sketching Pastel Carrés, they offer precision and finesse for small and medium formats. These pencils can be mixed with Pastel Carrés, oil paints, or acrylics and preserved with spray fixative. The actual hardness ranges from 3H (Hard) to 6B (Bold).



PIERRE NOIRE

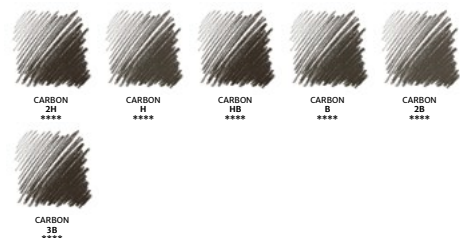
The iconic Pierre Noire is a must-have in every drawing and sketching kit. Its black colour is extremely intense, indelible, matte and velvet-like. Pierre Noire is a pencil made exclusively by Conté à Paris. Renowned by art academies for centuries and used by the greatest artists, such as Picasso, Pierre Noire is made from natural pigments and is perfectly suited to realistic drawings, quick sketches and light and shadow studies.





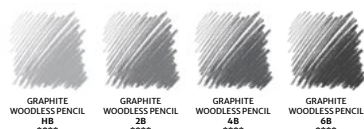
CARBON

The Carbon pencil is a variation of traditional charcoal, more resistant, non-crumbly and smear-free. It delivers meticulous rendering for sketches, perspectives, and technical drawings.



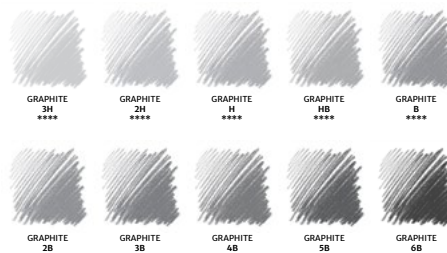
GRAPHITE WOODLESS PENCIL

Solid graphite, the size of a pencil but wood-free, offering flexibility and ease of use without sharpening. Ideal for sketches on any paper type.



GRAPHITE

A silky graphite that glides over paper without scratching. Ideal for precise work, from sophisticated perspectives to cartoon characters and nudes.



SANGUINE

Sanguine pencils are commonly used for sketching the body. Its colour is a deep red, varying on rust. There are two other colour pencil variations in Sanguine: Sanguine Médicis has a darker hue, reminiscent of Renaissance Sanguines and Sanguine XVIII which is particularly intense and luminous, with a hint of orange. The core formula gives a dry line that blends easily.



SEPIA

The colour Sépia evokes burnt umber. Recommended for quick sketches, nudes, portraits and landscapes. It can be used to underline and enhance values. The Sepia pencil can be used minimally on its own, but its miscibility means it can be used with the colours Sanguine, White, Charcoal and Pierre Noire pencils for a more elaborate rendering.



WHITE

White is the essential complement to all the other pencils, its primary function being to suggest the rendering of light, soften values or add volume.



CHARCOALS

Conté à Paris charcoals give a dry, dense, deep black finish. They are available as a wood case pencil, natural or compressed form.

Charcoal Pencils are more solid and precise.

Natural Charcoal comes from the carbonization of small branches of soft wood. They have a rough shape and are particularly rich in material. They are easy to blend and give a warm tone.

Compressed Charcoal formulation gives the charcoal a regular shape that feels comfortable in the hand. These charcoals are less volatile and last longer than natural charcoals, but their black is deeper and slightly oilier than natural charcoal.

Available from H to 4B.

COLOUR PASTEL PENCILS

48 SHADES



Pastel Pencils are ideal for portraits, life drawing and general figure work. Slightly harder than Carrés, they allow for details requiring precision and finesse in small and medium formats. The exceptional diameter of the core in Conté à Paris Pastel Pencils offers an unrivalled feel for a unique velvety finish. The pencils are made from California Red Cedar wood, a world-renowned species for art pencils and has a diameter of 8.5 mm. The range includes 48 vivid, balanced colours.



SKETCHING PASTEL CARRÉS

14 SHADES



Sketching Pastel Carrés are an essential drawing tool. Their rich pigment content gives them a unique texture for precise or quick sketches, monochrome or polychrome work. Their soft texture makes them easy to apply to medium-weight media, guaranteeing exceptional, incomparable results. The Carré, a traditional means of artistic expression used for centuries, is recognised by art academies around the world. The Carré's unique shape means it can be used in a variety of ways: precise lines thanks to the edges, powdery backgrounds and flat tints thanks to the edge. They can be mixed with oil or acrylic paints and preserved with spray fixative.

The Conté à Paris range of Sketching Pastel Carrés is made up of 14 different shades: 4 sanguines, 1 grey, 1 bistre, 1 light pink, 1 brown and 3 gradations of whites and blacks



SANGUINE



SANGUINE XVIII*



SANGUINE WATTEAU



SANGUINE MEDICIS



BISTRE



LIGHT PINK



BROWN



GREY



BLACK
HB / B / 2B



WHITE
HB / B / 2B



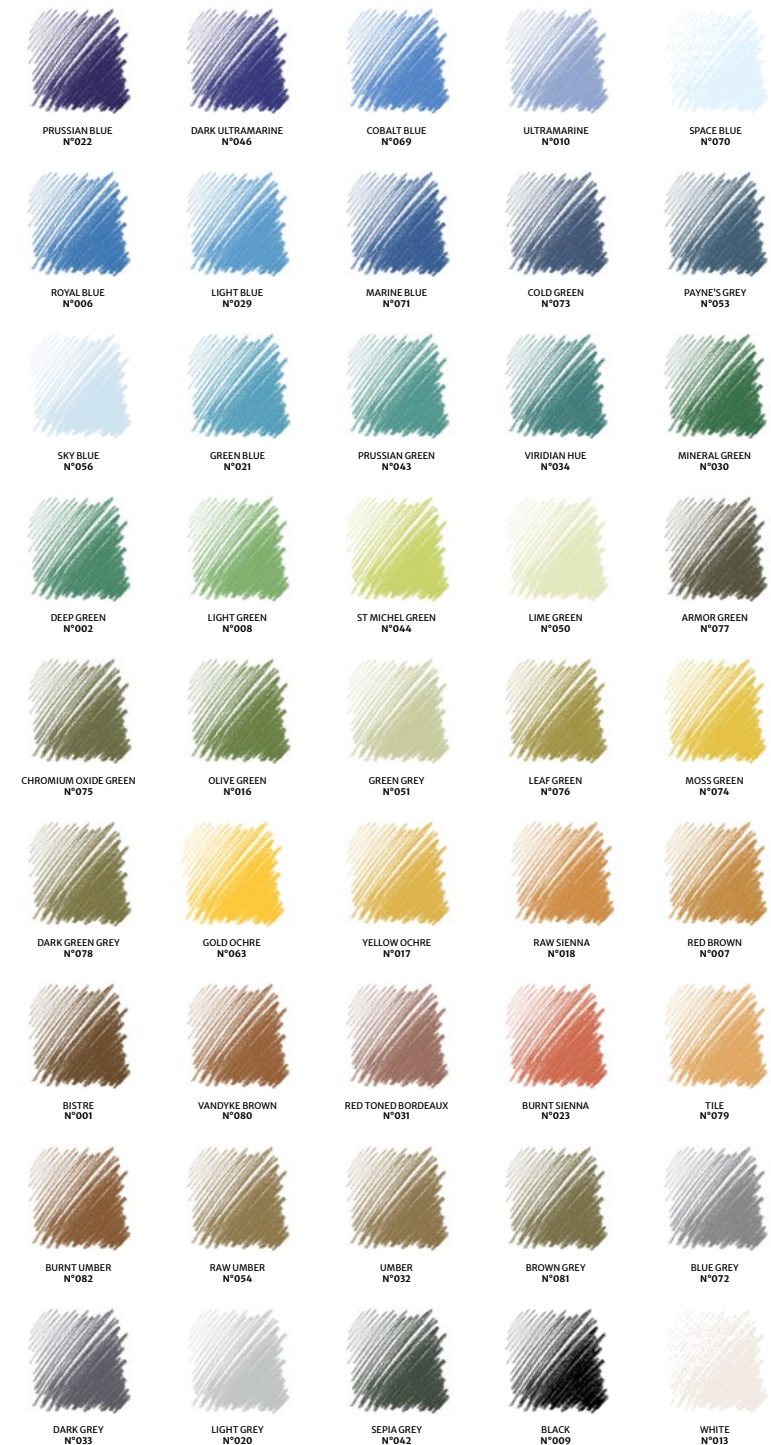
COLOUR PASTEL CARRÉS

70 SHADES



Conté à Paris Pastel Carrés are renowned for the quality of their pigments, their lightfastness and the exceptional brilliance and purity of their colours. Chosen by the greatest artists, Picasso, Degas and Delacroix, Carrés have always been the benchmark for pastels. The range includes 70 shades that offer exceptional luminosity and intensity, ideal for landscapes, portraits and still lifes.

Conté à Paris Pastel Carrés have a unique shape, 6 x 6 mm square and a length of 65 mm. They can be used in a variety of ways: for precise, edgy work using the edges of the Carré, or for flat tints using the edge of the Carré to mark values.



SOFT PASTELS



50 SHADES
SOLD IN SETS OF 10, 20, 40 AND 50

Conté à Paris Soft Pastels are made from fine pigments ground with a mixture of chalk and clay. Bright, vivid colours make these pastels popular with modern artists and students alike.

Their 10mm diameter allows for very colourful applications. They can be used in mixed techniques with acrylic, oil, gouache and watercolour and in combination with Pastel Carrés and Pastel Pencils.



THEY CHOSE *Conté à Paris*™

<<

I discovered Pierre Noire Conté à Paris, which gave me a more matte finish with far fewer reflections than in my early work.

>>

SKIMA DRAWING

<< *Highly pigmented, the pencils and squares can be used to create very intense colour spaces*

>>

Laëtitia Lafort,
illustrator at KIBLIND Agence

<< *The great thing is that it feels like you can do pastels while holding a pencil. Even the grip is different, as the pencils are wider. This allows you to play with all its specific features, particularly its grain.*

>>

Déborah Schmitt,
illustrator at KIBLIND Agence



METAL TINS & BOX SETS

Conté à Paris metal tins and box sets are ideal for starting out in drawing and sketching. Made up of Carrés or pencils, specifically selected for sketching, drawing or both, they offer a vast range of possibilities, from creating portraits to landscapes. These tins and boxes allow you to store your tools neatly and carry them with you.



ACCESSORIES

Designed to accompany and refine your work, Conté à Paris accessories include stumps, kneaded erasers, fixatives, and more.



FIXATIVE

Odorless, non-darkening, and rub-resistant, this fixative sets your work firmly without altering its color.



KNEADED ERASER

Shapeable and precise, this eraser absorbs color powder without leaving a trace or dust.



PENCIL SHARPENER

Especially designed for Conté à Paris pencils and wide core up to 8.5 mm in diameter.



STUMPS AND TORTILIONS

Rolled paper stumps for blending and shading, perfect for adding finesse to your drawings.

*Conté à Paris*TM

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www.conteaparis.com

