

# Introduction to Sketching

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## The Purpose of Sketching

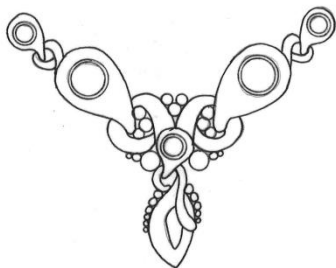
### Developing your own fast and simple ideas



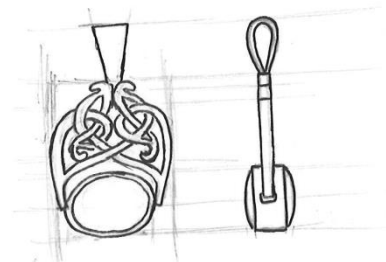
Sketching is producing an image, drawn freehand, without the use of a straightedge or any other mechanical instrument. Such sketches, though drawn quickly and effectively convey significant information if drawn with attention to proportion and accuracy. Freehand sketches are useful because they may be used to communicate ideas or designs to a customer, your employer, or just for you to record an idea for yourself quickly and simply. Developing your sketching skills will help you to develop spatial thinking abilities as well as aid in your ability to organize your ideas and record them at the beginning of any project.



A sketch can be an imagined image from your mind or sometimes you may see an object which you like and want to remember it, or a part of it, for future incorporation into a jewellery design line.



Although freehand sketches are drawn quickly, with only a pencil and paper, this does not mean that they are done carelessly. All lines should be clearly visible and the sketch should be easy to interpret so when finished it is best to trace over the most accurate lines with the black ink pen.



## The Importance of Drawing in Actual Size.

It is critical that you practice drawing any jewellery item in ACTUAL SIZE. Many like to draw what is comfortable for them and often tend to draw larger than life size (which looks very impressive) or smaller than actual size simply because they enjoy working with small details.

When drawing in anything other than actual size there are inherent problems which do not exist when drawing to the actual dimensions of the jewellery.

Problems associated with drawing a design larger than actual size: A large design shows off the details well and can look very impressive but at the same time it also gives a false sense of what the finished product will be and therefore raises cause to disappointment in seeing the final product for the first time.





Problems associated with drawing smaller than actual scale design: A smaller drawing has no real merit and raises the issue of gemstone value. A small diamond which appears to be only 0.30cts in a small scale design would not represent a high price and make the item appear affordable. If, when in actual size, the stone size has to enlarge proportionately with the piece it will then make a massive impact on the value of the finished jewellery. If the stone size remains the same while the item size increases then the overall design will be very different.

Always draw in actual size. Never draw an enlarged or reduced version to show to the customer as it can cause problems and discontent.



## Getting the proportions right.

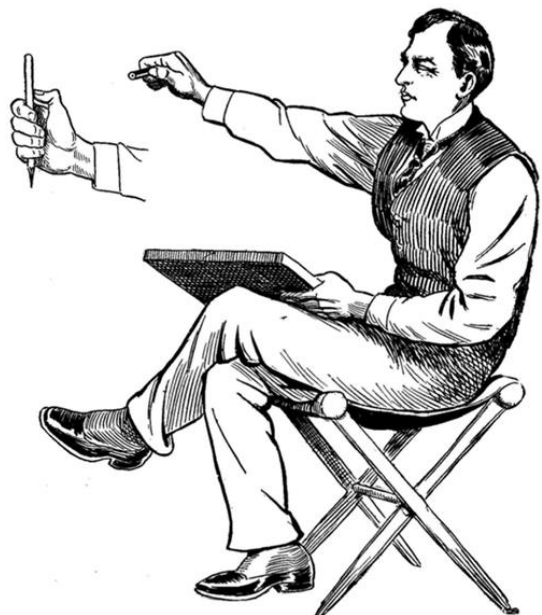
With any sketch getting the proportions correct is critical to achieving the look you want. The outline must always be drawn first and smaller, more intricate details can be added when the overall look has been achieved.

There are different ways to do this:

### Sketching an object in the distance

Imagine you are looking at something in the distance which has caught your eye. Close one eye and, using a pencil held up to the image, estimate along the length of the pencil the apparent length of the object using your thumb as a guide. This measurement can be immediately marked off on the white paper. Again in the same way, holding up the pencil against the distant object, this time measure the apparent width onto the pencil and transfer this measurement to the white paper. The apparent length-to-width box should be a smaller, reasonably close version of the distant object in the right proportions. Make sure the sketch fits within the outline you have drawn.

In both cases it is helpful to mentally divide the object in half both length and width-ways to achieve greater accuracy.



## Sketching from books, photos or magazines



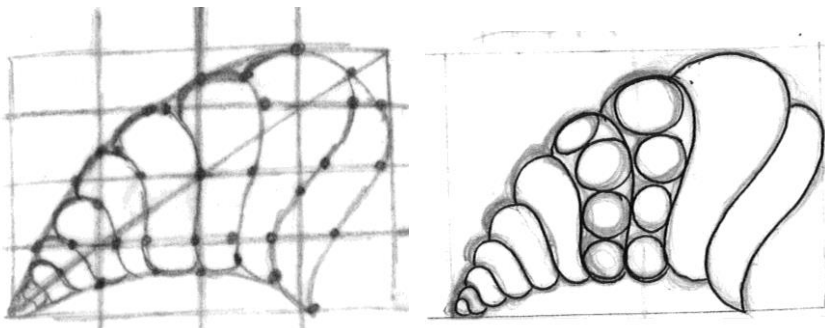
Sometimes you may find yourself in a situation out and about where you do not have tracing paper to trace an idea from a book or magazine or where it would be impossible to do so ie. A photo or picture on a hand phone or flat screen computer. Hold a ruler to the picture and measure the overall length and width of the item. Plan a box with the same length and width on a piece of white paper and make sure to sketch the overall outline carefully within the box.

## Sketching a small object in reach

With small objects that are close at hand, like a piece of jewellery, it is helpful to look down on the object from the top view. Then, using a ruler, measure the overall length and width of the item. Plan a box with the same length and width on a piece of white paper and make sure to sketch the overall outline carefully within the box.



## Sketching from your imagination



This requires starting with the length and width measurement on the white paper that you feel is suitable to contain your image. Again draw the object within the length to width proportions drawn.

In all cases it is helpful to mentally divide the object in half both length and width-ways to achieve greater accuracy.

Length-to-Width ratio of any object is important to producing a well proportioned sketch which also adds to the accuracy and overall realistic appearance of the finished product.



## Demonstrations of Sketching

### Sketching from an actual piece of jewellery

The Instructor will demonstrate the position for viewing the object, the method of measurement, planning the box or space within which the sketch will be drawn and the steps needed in order to produce an accurate and precise sketch.

