

## Wood - Charcoal as Drawing Material



You could just char wood in an open fire but much better to make your own real charcoal!

Wood, in the form of charcoal, has been used across the ages for a drawing material

Although virtually any wood species can be used to make charcoal, the most common are willow, pine, hickory, alder, oak, and maple, apple, pear, cherry, vine.

- 1. Collect wood – strip bark (preferable but optional!), cut up to short lengths with snips/secateurs/ or saw up!**



2. Place in can (Paint can/treacle type perfect) with small hole – so it does not explode!!



3. Stuff with wood - The goal is to minimize the chance of combustion by minimizing air space.



- Put in fire – rotate a bit - 45 mins - Cook the moisture out of the wood. You will likely see steam wisping from the hole in the top of the crucible. This is the remaining moisture being cooked out of the wood. As your charcoal nears completion, a small flame will appear from the hole in the top of the crucible. As this last little bit of hydrogen and oxygen burns, you'll want to pay attention to the crucible flame.



- Open up tin once cool - If you have tended your fire carefully and removed the crucible as soon as the flame burned out, you'll be rewarded with your own harvest of genuine charcoal.



**Charcoal is a beautiful and forgiving medium. With it you can achieve rich tones and contrast.**







**Paint: Grind up to make ink/paint! – add a bit of water**



**Agency in Making  
Learning through doing  
Irresistible learning  
Pete Moorhouse**