

184

Everything in hand

Although hands are complex things, they are major players in the cartoon league. Gestures speak louder than words to convey mood and character. Add vitality to cartoon creations by finding dynamic and expressive ways of drawing and exaggerating hands. Start by learning how the real ones work.

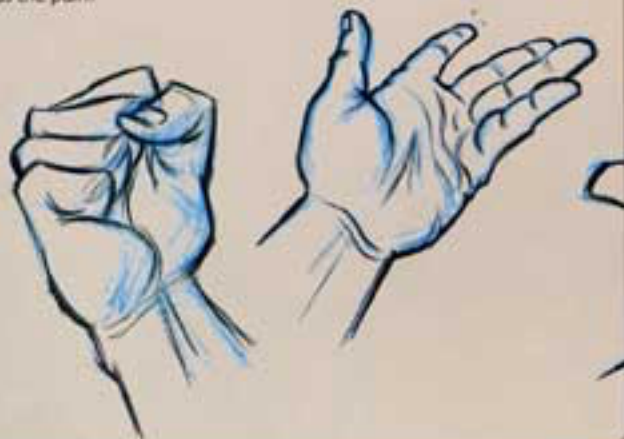


1 Study your hand and how it moves before drawing it. The middle finger is generally the longest. It usually leads the way when the fingers flex.



2 The vital thumb is strong, fleshy at the base, and flexes inward across the palm to the base of the pinkie.

3 Hands express emotion. An open hand indicates an open state of mind, whether giving or receiving. A closed fist communicates withdrawal or anger.



185

The simple approach

See the palm of the hand as a flattened block and notice that the fingers aren't simply a collection of stiff sausages. Each finger consists of three small, articulated cylinders. In this exercise, try drawing your hand in various positions.



1 Start with a simple block shape which is easy to draw from any angle.



2 Sketch the fingers gripping the palms together.



3 Add volume and detail. The palm and thumb base are fleshy and rounded, while the bony fingers are straight and angular.

