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Cartoon Cool: How To Draw New Retro-Style Characters



Synopsis

Love that Sponge Bob? Always lurking in Dexter's lab? Wishing for Fairly Odd Parents? Millions of fans watch these shows avidly, often solely for their zingy, stylized look and hip visual jokes. Now there's a drawing book just right for everyone who admires that quirky style: Cartoon Cool.

Top-selling author Christopher Hart shows beginning cartoonists, retro fans, and all other hipsters how to get that almost-1950s look in their drawings. His trademark step-by-step drawings and crystal-clear text are sure to make Saturday mornings more creative!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

CHRISTOPHER HART is the world's bestselling author of drawing and cartooning books. His books have sold more than 7.4 million copies and have been translated into 20 languages. Renowned for up-to-the-minute content and easy-to-follow steps, all of Hart's books have become staples for a new generation of aspiring artists and professionals, and they have been selected by the American Library Association for special notice.

If you are looking for a 5-star book on cartooning, Christopher Hart has written many of the best. This particular book, that focuses on retro-style, is a little more advanced than Chris' other books and omits many of the concepts beginners will find rewarding. Chris' "Humongous Book of Cartooning" is spectacular for the novice, as is the wonderful book "(Art for Kids) Cartooning" by Art Roche. (BTW: It is NOT just for kits!) Start with these books to learn the ropes before you tackle the

more challenging projects in this "Retro-Style" book. This is a great book for the intermediate/advanced cartoonist. For the absolute beginner, you can't go wrong with the other 2 books I have mentioned. Christopher Hart is great! His books rock! I can't give him less than 4-stars!

If you are interested in learning to draw the new retro-style cartoons, you can't go wrong with this book. Christopher Hart begins "Cartoon Cool" by explaining what makes cartoons retro as opposed to more traditional style of cartooning. He then moves on to specifics such as standard characters often found in retro cartoons. Characters such as kids, the shopaholic mother, the clueless dad, mad scientists and family pets are described in great detail. Mr. Hart makes this a fun read by adding humor to the text. He also includes tips that, while specific to the particular project, will be useful in any style of drawing. But what I really loved about this book is how it's written so a young teen or bright tween will understand it, but adults who use it don't feel like they're using a children's book, and that's important to an adult beginner like myself. As I wrote in the first sentence, anyone who's interested in this style of cartooning will love this book. I'd go as far as to say it's the only book you'll need.

As most people reading this review probably know, Hart's books are a mixed bag. But some of them are surprisingly good if you're willing to take them as they are, and Cartoon Cool is one of those. Basically, Hart outlines a cartooning style that isn't profound, but is a lot of fun. I don't know if I'd really call it the most retro thing you could ever imagine; it's sort of Flintstones meets Oddparents. I'd rather see something like simplified Dick Giordano/Vince Colletti. (Giordano does have a book, but I haven't heard the best reviews, and there are only so many things I'm going to spend money on!) But there are so few books really dealing with the subject of how to draw truly retro cartoon-style comics that it's nice to see anything at all. As other reviewers have noticed, this is NOT a book about the fundamentals of drawing. This style isn't really as easy as it looks, and if you haven't already covered the basics, you'll be much more lost than you think when you pick it up. That having been said, it's a good addition to knowledge you already had. It covers the basics of how to get figures to look like this style, as well as specific groups (family, teenagers, pets, boys, girls, etc.) I could really have lived without the commentary, but there's enough in here to make it worthwhile if you skim over any irrelevant statements that annoy you (the "ADHD family" being a good example.) Overall, I'd recommend this, keeping its limitations in mind.

This was a special request from a 5th grade student who loves to draw. I purchased it to use at a

center in the school media center. I love the step-by-step directions and the detailed explanations in each section.

Good author, Love his books! Very informative and fun to read and easy to learn,,,,I was disappointed at how fast this book fell apart, however. It was more than slightly used.

Clear and good for the beginner and the experts

very good service and the book is what it was expected to be

An amazing book, and filled with help on creating this awesome cartooning style!

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