

# Albright Art Supply

## Things to Know about the Eraser

### Adapted from Facebook Live Presentation

Prior to 1770, many used de-crusted moistened bread to remove marks on a page. Joseph Priestly discovered rubber could erase marks (he described using a vegetable gum to rub out pencil marks). Edward Nairne, an English engineer, is credited with developing and marketing the rubber/eraser in Europe.

Thomas Hancock, a scientist, vulcanized rubber receiving a British patent in May 1845. Charles Goodyear received a US patent in June 1845. Some say Goodyear patented it in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1844. He is known for marketing the eraser making it become a popular household item. Vulcanization, a scientific process of curing, made the rubber durable.

When deciding upon an eraser there are four important features to consider: erasability, paper trauma, residual mess, and lifetime.

- Erasability denotes how many strokes it takes to remove a mark.
- Paper Trauma implies whether the eraser destroys or create a hole as you erase a mark.
- Residual Mess means the small pieces created during erasing clump together or can be brushed away easily. It can also refer to whether a coloration or stain appears on the paper while using the eraser.
- How long the eraser lasts determines its lifetime. Will it be used only once or last longer?

There are various types of erasers each having their own characteristics and are used for different reasons. At Albright Art, we have the following erasers: Synthetic Eraser, Plastic Eraser, Black Soft Eraser, Art Gum, Kneaded, Pencil Eraser, Pink Pearl Eraser, and the Colored Pencil Erasers.

- Synthetic Erasers such as Milan 4020 and 4024 will remove most graphic pencil marks on all kinds of surfaces.
- Plastic Erasers, PVC erasers, are suitable on all kinds of surfaces. The Milan 320 is a plastic eraser.
- The Black Soft Eraser has great absorption power. It is suitable for soft pencil strokes while not staining the surface. Milan 7020 and 7024 are examples of this eraser.
- Art Gum Erasers is a soft rubber eraser. One uses it to absorb large areas of graphite. The gum eraser crumbles easily—the crumbs absorb the graphite during the process. This eraser does not have a long lifetime.
- A kneaded/putty eraser removes graphic and charcoal by absorbing it. There is no residue created when using and will last a long time.

## Albright Art Supply

- The pencil eraser looks like a pencil but is actually an eraser. It is a hard vinyl eraser and may have a brush on top to remove any residue. It is great to use when removing small details. Some pencil erasers can also erase ink, India ink and ball-point pen marks.
- The Pink Pearl is a best-selling eraser. It is soft and pliable. It contains pulverized pumice (volcanic ash) enhancing its ability to remove marks.
- The Color Pencil Eraser is like the Pink Pearl as it also contains pulverized pumice helping it to remove colored pencil marks.

---

### Classes:

Interested in instructional or online classes? Remember to check out Concord Art and The Umbrella Arts Center.

### References:

Joseph Priestley & Edward Nairne Invent the Rubber Eraser?

<https://www.historyofinformation.com/detail.php?id=1291>

Edward Nairne, The Man Who Invented the Eraser, Should Be Thanks for Making Our Lives Easier

<https://procaffenation.com/edward-nairne/>

10 Things You Probably Did Not Know About Eraser Technology

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/08/10-things-you-probably-did-not-know-about-eraser-technology/279028/>

Invention and History of Erasers Facts and Types

<http://www.historyofpencils.com/writing-instruments-history/history-of-eraser/>

### Video Reference

Albright Art Facebook Live Presentation: Everything You Need to Know about Erasers

<https://www.facebook.com/141264825912953/videos/1546471948725560>