

Kids:
Steal these
tips from a
professional
artist



Art Thief

Vol. 2, Heist 4

DRAW A ROBOT

and learn 2-point perspective



DIFFICULTY METER

by AMY RAUDENBUSH • art@phillynews.com

What you need

Ruler, pencil, eraser and markers. A small plastic T-square is handy but not necessary.

Why learn perspective?

Using perspective will make your drawings more realistic by making objects recede into space in a predictable way.

In an earlier Art Thief lesson, we drew a city street in 1-point perspective. Two-point perspective works best when you are looking at the corner of a box, building, street or robot.

Keep in mind

In addition to the horizon line, there are only three kinds of straight lines in 2-point perspective: vertical lines (shown in orange); lines that recede to the left vanishing point (shown in blue); and lines that recede to the right vanishing point (shown in violet).

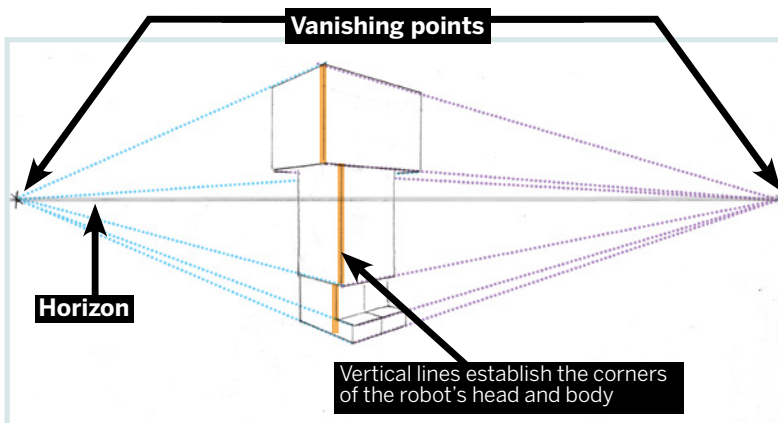
Vertical lines are easy to draw with 12-inch plastic T-square.

Key vocabulary

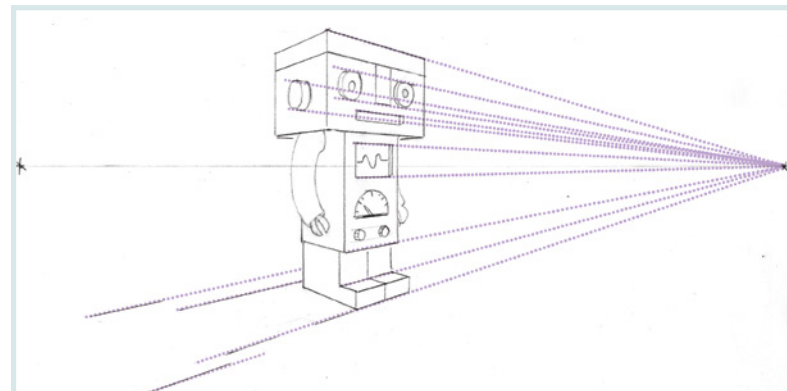
Horizon: The horizontal boundary line between Earth and sky.

Vanishing point: The point on the horizon where parallel lines meet and disappear.

Vantage point: The point where the viewer enters the picture. In our drawing the vantage point is several feet from the front corner of the robot.

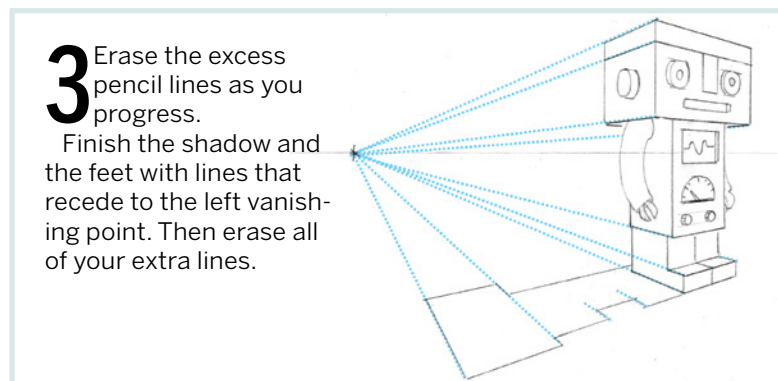


1 Hold your paper sideways and lightly draw your horizon (gray line). Mark your two vanishing points far apart with small X's on the horizon. Think of your robot as a stack of boxes with the head box completely above the horizon. Start with the vertical lines that form the closest corners of the robot (shown in orange) and from there define the tops and bottoms of the boxes by drawing straight lines to the closest vanishing point.



2 The front of the robot is made up of lines that recede to the right vanishing point. You needn't draw the lines all the way to the X, just be sure that the edge of your rule touches that point. Perspective guidelines will make it easier to draw the dials and gauges on the face and belly.

Add an arm and both pincer hands. Begin to draw the shadow by drawing the lines that recede to the right vanishing point.



3 Erase the excess pencil lines as you progress. Finish the shadow and the feet with lines that recede to the left vanishing point. Then erase all of your extra lines.

4 Ink your pencil lines with a fine, black felt-tip marker. A heavy, black shadow on the left side of your drawing will add drama. When the ink is completely dry, lightly erase all of the remaining pencil lines. Add colors of your choice to complete the robot.

Contact:

Amy Raudenbush
Philadelphia Daily News
801 Market St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Or email art@phillynews.com.

