

# Reference links for SCBWI Tips & Tricks Meeting

## Photomerge video from Laura fisk - watch here

- This is SUCH a helpful feature in photoshop when you have scanned an image in pieces and you need to piece the image together - which is usually extremely tedious.
- Once you've scanned all the pieces of your image, in photoshop - (you do **not** start with a document) - in the dropdown menu, go to **FILE > AUTOMATE > PHOTOMERGE**.
  - I recommend that you leave the file as you scanned it and do all your brightening etc once the separate documents are merged, not before.
- With the default settings, choose your files you'd like to merge. I usually have two from where my scanner cuts off, and then press AUTOMATE
- Let photoshop do its work, make sure the layers look good, and merge your two mask layers, DONE!

## Drawing books - Laura Fisk

- Drawing books with spaces and prompts - especially for kids! - are great books for warm-ups.
- Just because they're geared towards beginners or kids doesn't mean that you can't use them too. It's a great way to get your brain moving and have fun!
- Pro tip - look for ones in used book stores. So often they are given as gifts and are usually donated blank.
- Some of my favorites are:
  - [Start with a Scribble](#) - Quentin Blake
  - [Draw Everyday Every Way](#) - Jennifer Orkin Lewis (this one's fun because it's in different mediums which makes it an extra challenge)
  - [642 Things to Draw](#) - There's a bunch of versions of these, including mini book size and a painting one. All fun - I see these used all the time.

## [PenTips nibs for Apple Pencil](#) from Lee Reed Zarnikau

- Really cool options for different nibs to use on an ipad, especially without the need of a screen protector!

## Inking pens and inks from Michelle Lambing

- Refillable brush pen - <https://www.jetpens.com/Pentel-Pocket-Brush-Pen-XGFKP-A-Black-Ink/pd/1793>
- Brush pen for sketching - <https://www.jetpens.com/Tombow-Fudenosuke-Brush-Pen-Soft-Black/pd/5036>
- Favorite nib holder - <https://www.jetpens.com/Tachikawa-T-40-Nib-Holder-Natural/pd/4573>
- Drawing nib - <https://www.jetpens.com/Nikko-Dip-Pen-Nib-G-Pack-of-3/pd/12006>
- Nib sampler pack - <https://www.jetpens.com/Tokyo-Slider-Nikko-Dip-Pen-Nibs-N2395-Set-of-5/pd/14726>
- Dinky dips - [https://www.johnnealbooks.com/search.php?search\\_query=Dinky+dips&section=product](https://www.johnnealbooks.com/search.php?search_query=Dinky+dips&section=product)  
(what I have: <https://www.johnnealbooks.com/product/small-screw-top-dinky-dip>)
- Waterproof inks that work well when painting with watercolor:
- Liquitex Acrylic Inks - <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/liquitex-professional-acrylic-ink>
- Higgins Black Magic - <https://www.jetpens.com/Higgins-Black-Magic-Ink-1-oz-Bottle/pd/12381>
- Dr. Martin's Bombay - <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/dr-ph-martins-bombay-inks>
- Coban wrap for adding grip to any drawing utensil - [https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Coban&crd=35LC2YPGHVLUI&srefix=coban%2Caps%2C133&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Coban&crd=35LC2YPGHVLUI&srefix=coban%2Caps%2C133&ref=nb_sb_noss_1)
- And generic version from HEB - <https://www.heb.com/product-detail/h-e-b-2-quot-tender-tape-2-2-yd/673833>

## [Various tips from Tiffany Shih](#) - Click on link for deck

- Stationery, pens, and lighting she loves
- Amazing way to do large scale tile printing on 8.5x11 paper
- Domestika classes and why they're awesome

## Graphic novel tips, including mixing traditional and digital - Christopher Jennings

**Everything he does is all about maintaining the character and an exciting gestural line:**

1. Starts out drawing traditional because that's where you can get those rough gestures.

- a. Draw your roughs small - on paper, use smaller paper. This helps you **not be precious** or **caught up in too much detail**
  - b. Even if you're drawing digitally/on a tablet - make the "page" smaller.
2. For final work, work in the actual size or close to it on your screen or zoom in for smaller panels. He likes doing his final work digitally because he can work bigger without using giant sheets of paper - which then require scanning and cleaning up. With a big graphic novel, streamlining the process is so important.
  - a. This helps keep the characters consistent no matter what the size because you're able to still keep loose and draw the gestures.
  - b. "Character is consistency, shape is consistency" - Character shape is critical to keeping the character themselves and recognizable.
3. For any book, **when working on final**, illustrate the middle of the book first and then draw to the end. It'll help you get to know your characters without the pressure of starting right at the beginning and so that your drawing for both the beginning and end will be the strongest. This does mean that sometimes you'll have to re-illustrate some of the middle, but it's worth it!
4. Work how it helps you think the best. He thinks best with a pencil in his hand so that's why he starts out with pencil and even holds a pencil while writing (even on a keyboard).
5. Work in your spreads so you make sure you're guiding your eye through the page from page to page.

## Use a mirror (or your phone)! From Patty Barton

I have a very simple tool recommendation to share. An excellent, inexpensive tool that will help you capture emotion in your character sketches. **A mirror.**

For example, if you're trying to draw an angry toddler, act like one, assume an angry pose, then go stand in front of a mirror.

Capturing anger is more than drawing "down eyebrows."

Notice - are your shoulders pulled up high/ chin tucked down, are you tense? Clenched fists?

Also, rotate while in front of the mirror. Find the angle that really shows the gesture best.

(From Laura) You can also use the self timer on your phone to capture these images.



## Gouache effects - Cindy Corkill

Using a paper towel gets you really cool effects by pressing on it while the paint is wet.

Try different things that work for you. A reminder to experiment with your paint!

The best/fanciest paper is not always the best for what you're trying to do. For her, smooth cheap paper works so much better than fancy (expensive!) watercolor paper/