

How to Sharpen Pencils: A Practical & Theoretical Treatise on the Artisanal Craft of Pencil Sharpening for Writers, Artists, Contractors, Flange Turners, Anglesmiths, & Civil Servants

David Rees

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A hilarious guide to the lost art of artisanal pencil sharpening

"...I am so thrilled David Rees is picking up the reins of the forgotten art of manual graphite-encased-in-wood point-crafting. I love my pencil!"

—AMY SEDARIS

"You may think that sharpening a pencil is easy, but David Rees makes it look hard, and that makes all the difference."

—JOHN HODGMAN

"Truly, my life before I was presented with correctly sharpened pencils by an artisan was a dull and ill-sharpened void. Learn from my mistakes."

—NEIL GAIMAN

Have you got the right kind of point on your pencil? Do you know how to achieve the perfect point for the kind of work you need out of that pencil?

Deep in New York's Hudson River Valley, craftsman David Rees—the world's number one #2 pencil sharpener—still practices the age-old art of manual pencil sharpening. In 2010, he began offering his artisanal service to the world, to the jubilation of artists, writers, draftsmen, and standardized test takers.

Now, Rees presents a book that is both a manifesto and a fully-illustrated walk-through of the many, many, many ways to sharpen a pencil. Including chapters on equipment, current practice, and modern technologies, it also points at new trends in sharpening, including "Celebrity Impression Pencil Sharpening (CIPS)," a warning about the "Psychological Risks Associated with Pencil Sharpening," and a survey of "Wines that tastes like pencils."

As Rees implores: "Sharpening pencils should be an activity that enriches the senses."

And if you think it's a joke, why don't you poke yourself with your newly sharpened pencil? Or better yet, don't—because it'll really hurt.



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From reader reviews:

Stacey Eades:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or read a book titled How to Sharpen Pencils: A Practical & Theoretical Treatise on the Artisanal Craft of Pencil Sharpening for Writers, Artists, Contractors, Flange Turners, Anglesmiths, & Civil Servants? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have other opinion?

Debera Jessie:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled How to Sharpen Pencils: A Practical & Theoretical Treatise on the Artisanal Craft of Pencil Sharpening for Writers, Artists, Contractors, Flange Turners, Anglesmiths, & Civil Servants can be excellent book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Kara Navarrete:

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