

## Product Review: Koh-I-Noor Progresso Woodless Graphite Pencils

by Jan Jones



Keep your pencil sharpeners working smoothly by occasionally sharpening a woodless graphite pencil in them. Although these woodless pencils are designed to be used as drawing pencils and come in 9B, 8B, 6B, 4B, 2B, and HB, I bought the HB strictly as a pencil sharpener maintenance tool. It has a solid, weighty feel, but without the wood casing it can be fragile so I leave mine at home in a safe place. Depending upon usage frequency, I sharpen it in all my pencil sharpeners once a month or more. They are available at most art supply stores and I bought mine at DK.

### Tidbits of information about graphite

- Graphite was called “plombago” until an 18th century Swedish researcher established it contained no lead.
- Like diamonds, graphite is a mineral
- It is very heat-resistant and an excellent electrical conductor

It is used in:

- steel manufacturing and the metal industry.
- the manufacturing of tennis racket frames, brakes, brake linings, clutch facings, engine parts, friction components, mechanical seals and anti-corrosive paints.
- the lithium-ion batteries of our laptops, small electronic devices, tools and electrical cars and in the simple alkaline battery
- industrial lubricants (the purpose for using in our pencil sharpeners) metal powders, polymer and rubber components all contain graphite.
- in medicine as an absorbant in cases of oral poisoning or intoxication.

There, now you have it – everything you ever wanted to know (or not) about graphite.

Happy, jam-free pencil sharpening to you in the New Year!