

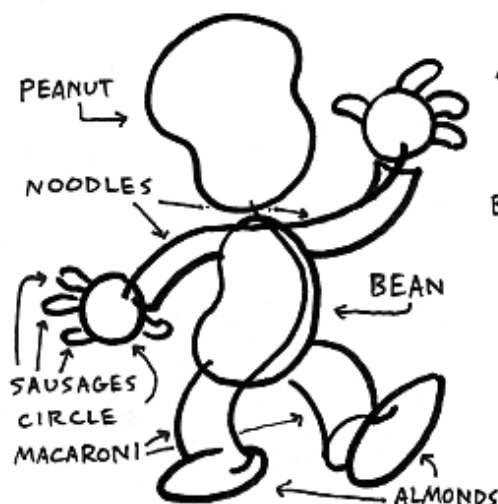
TIPS FOR DRAWING CARTOON CHARACTERS

BY T. MOTLEY

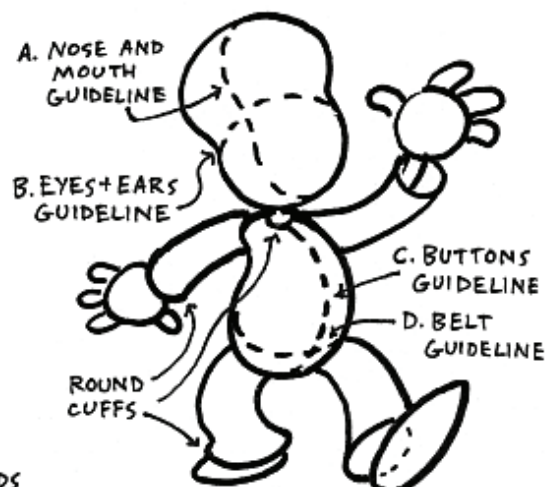
1. WORKING IN PENCIL, ESTABLISH THE POSE WITH A CURVY STRING MAN.



2. DRAW SIMPLE ROUND SHAPES ON TOP OF THE STRINGS.



3. ROUNDED GUIDELINES ON THE SHAPES HELP AIM THE FACES AND BODIES IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.



4. ADD FEATURES AND DETAILS FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES.



5. TRACE WITH BLACK INK MARKERS THE LINES YOU WANT TO KEEP, AND ERASE ALL THE PENCILLING.



6. ADD SOLID BLACK, PATTERNS, AND SHADING.



EXAMPLES

BEAN+NOODLE MAN



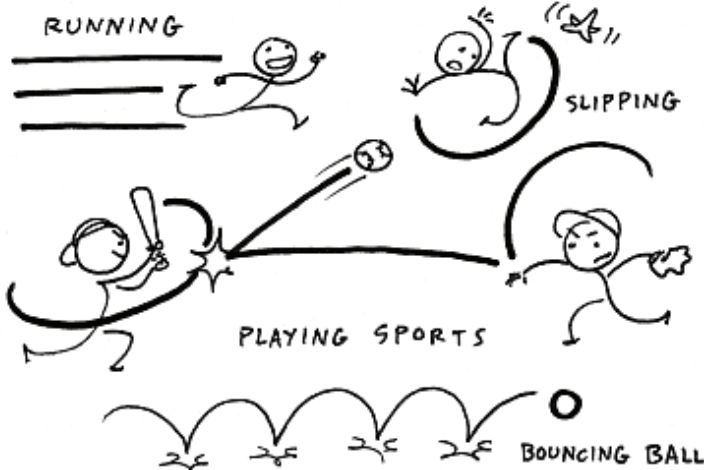
EGG+PEANUT LADY



LIGHT BULB BABY



FOR ACTIONS, DRAW MOTION LINES BEFORE YOU DRAW THE STRING PEOPLE.



PARTS OF A COMIC PAGE

1). **TITLE** IN OPEN, FANCY "DISPLAY" LETTERS (ALSO CALLED "BUBBLE" LETTERS).

2). **CHARACTERS**.

3). **BACKGROUND**. IS IT INSIDE OR OUTSIDE?

4). **CAPTION**, ALSO CALLED "DESCRIPTION BOX", TELLS THE READER WHAT'S HAPPENING.

5). **BALLOONS** SHOW WHAT THE CHARACTERS ARE SAYING AND THINKING:

THE STORY BOXES ARE CALLED "PANELS".

i) PANEL BORDER
ii) GUTTER SPACE
iii) MARGIN SPACE

THE CHARACTER WHO SPEAKS FIRST NEEDS TO HAVE HIS BALLOON TO THE LEFT OR ABOVE THE BALLOON OF THE CHARACTER WHO TALKS NEXT.

SOUND EFFECTS ARE ALSO DRAWN IN DISPLAY LETTERS



A. THE **SPEECH** BALLOON IS OVAL. ITS **STEM** POINTS AT THE MOUTH OF THE CHARACTER WHO'S TALKING.

B. THE **THOUGHT** BALLOON IS A CLOUD. ITS **STEM** IS MADE OF BUBBLES. IT POINTS AT THE BRAIN OF THE CHARACTER WHO'S THINKING.

6). PANELS CAN SHOW DIFFERENT KINDS OF **CAMERA SHOTS**: CLOSE-UP, FULL BODY SHOT, LONG-SHOT, AND MANY MORE.

7). **MOTION LINES**, STARS, CURLICUES, AND OTHER "INVISIBLE" GRAPHICS CAN HELP THE READERS TO UNDERSTAND THE ACTIONS.

HOW WE MAKE UP COMIC STORIES (A GOOD WAY TO BEGIN):

- IN PANEL ONE, DRAW A TITLE IN DISPLAY WRITING, AND SHOW THE CHARACTER.
- IN PANEL TWO, DRAW THE CHARACTER DOING SOMETHING, AND EXPLAIN IT IN A CAPTION.
- THEN, FOR EACH NEW PANEL, SHOW AND TELL WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT. YOUR STORY CAN BE ABOUT ANYTHING YOU LIKE. IT CAN BE AS MANY PAGES AS YOU WANT TO MAKE IT.