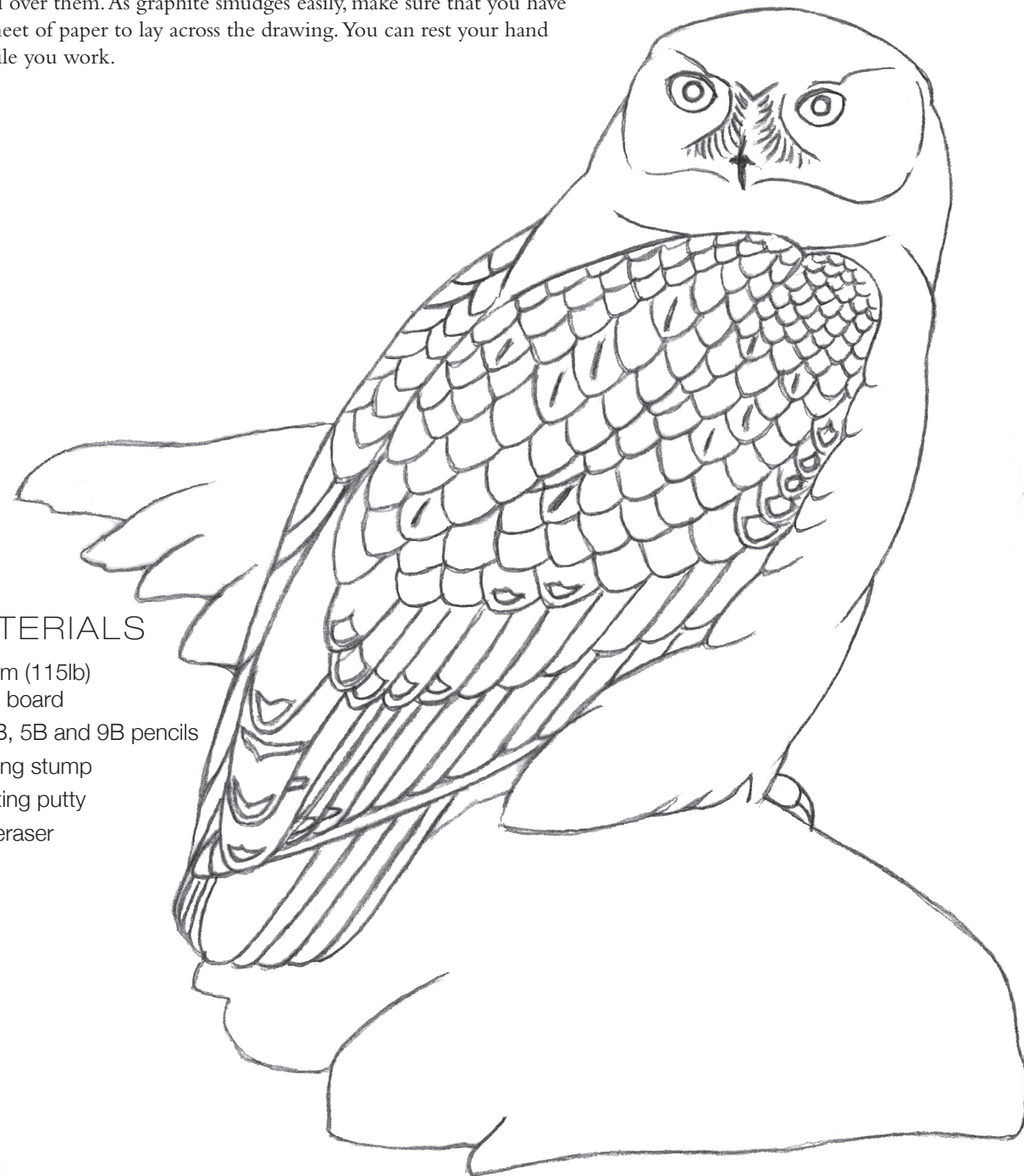


# Snowy owl

This large member of the owl family nests on the ground, so I have chosen to depict it perched on a dark rock to contrast with its pale plumage.



**1 Outline** Use the outline on this page to transfer your outline to the Bristol board. Alternatively, make your own version of the drawing on a separate sheet of paper and trace it. Once you have transferred your drawing, it is a good idea to redefine all the lines of your outline using light pressure and a sharp 2B pencil. Don't press too hard, as you will create indentations in the paper surface that might show later as you try to apply detail over them. As graphite smudges easily, make sure that you have a second sheet of paper to lay across the drawing. You can rest your hand on this while you work.



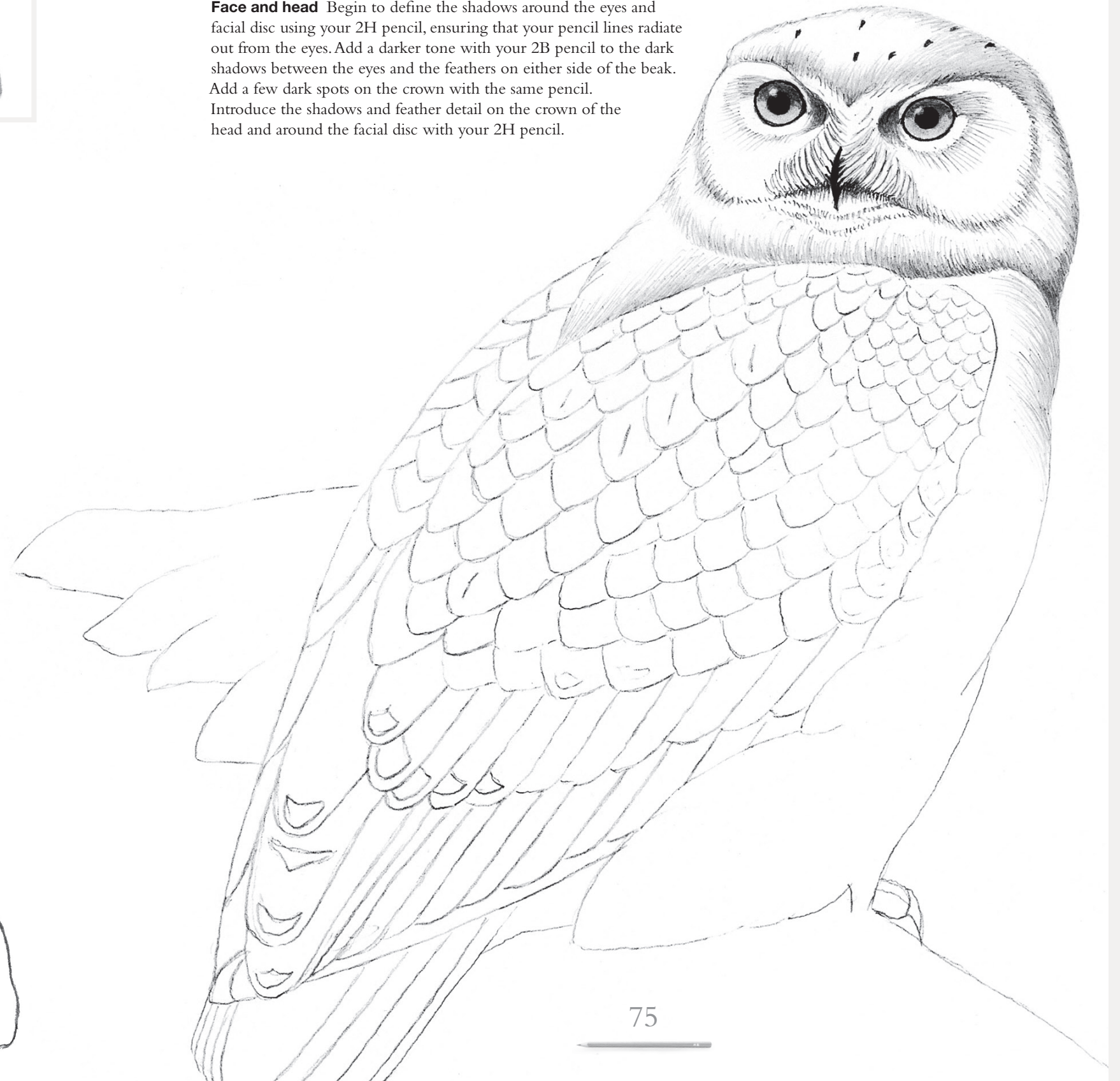
## MATERIALS

250gsm (115lb)  
Bristol board  
2H, 2B, 5B and 9B pencils  
Blending stump  
Mounting putty  
Stick eraser

**2 Beak** Begin by drawing in the dark beak using your 5B pencil. Make the edges of the beak irregular to indicate where it will be overlapped by some of the facial feathers.

**Eyes** Use your 5B pencil to draw the eye ring around each eye and to add the black pupil. Blend across the eye, leaving a small white highlight, and then create a shadow on the top half of the eye by rubbing your blender on your 9B pencil, before applying the extra graphite to the shadow area. Take care not to blend over the highlight.

**Face and head** Begin to define the shadows around the eyes and facial disc using your 2H pencil, ensuring that your pencil lines radiate out from the eyes. Add a darker tone with your 2B pencil to the dark shadows between the eyes and the feathers on either side of the beak. Add a few dark spots on the crown with the same pencil. Introduce the shadows and feather detail on the crown of the head and around the facial disc with your 2H pencil.



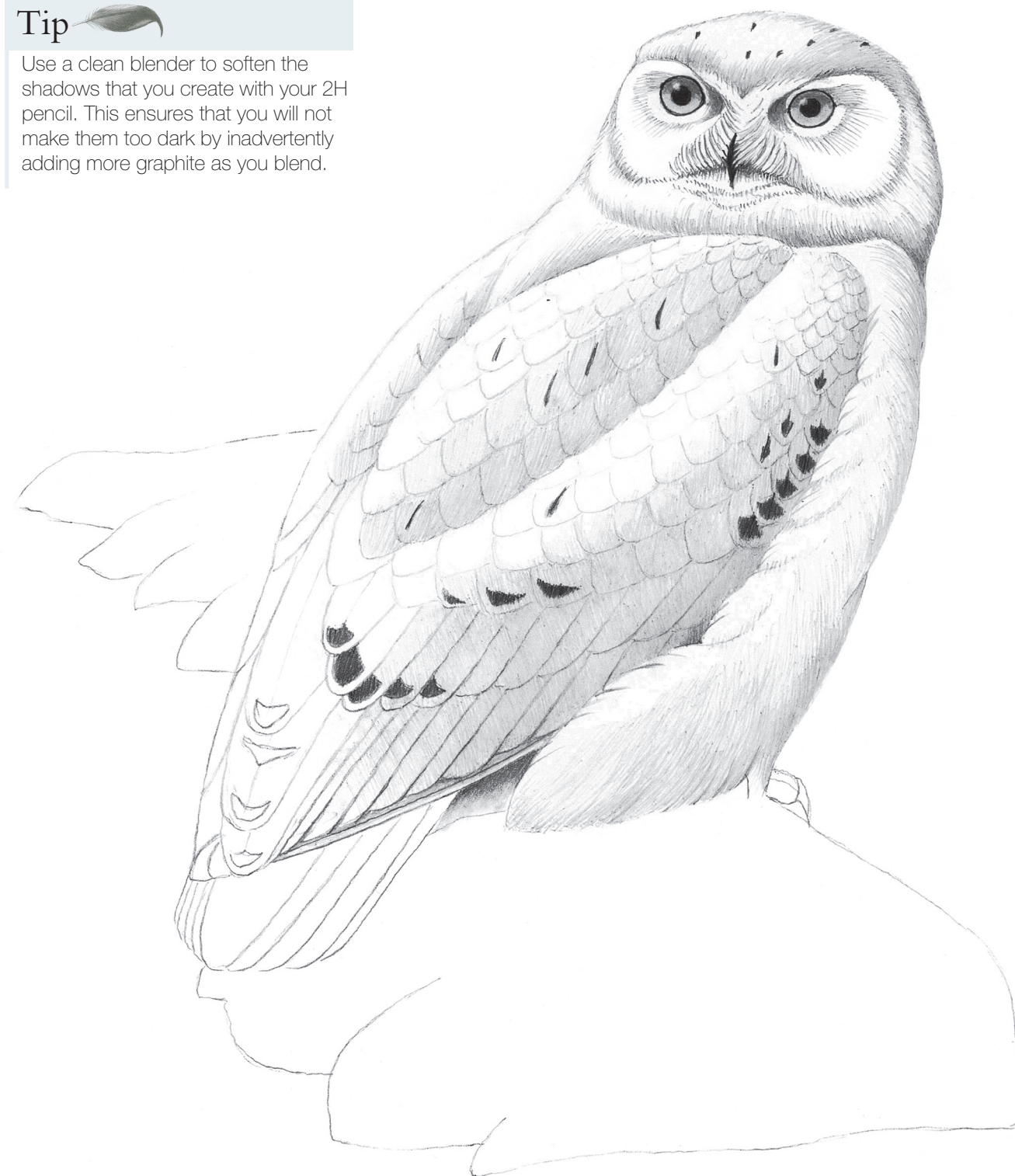


**3 Wings and body** Gradually move down the owl's body and wing, adding shadows with your 2H pencil. Add a few dark feather patches with your 5B pencil and begin to create highlights by lifting off some of the feather shapes with your mounting putty. Take care to ensure that you do not remove all the feather outlines. Squeeze your putty to a blunt point and gently dab the lines repeatedly until you have made them less distinct. Use this same technique to lighten the outline along the left shoulder and wing.



### Tip

Use a clean blender to soften the shadows that you create with your 2H pencil. This ensures that you will not make them too dark by inadvertently adding more graphite as you blend.



**4 Wing** Continue to work down the wing, adding shadows with your 2H pencil. Introduce more of the dark feather patches with your 5B pencil and also add the dark shadow lines between the primary and secondary feathers. Using the 2B pencil, add the dark shadow beneath the wing and tail.



**5 Wing, tail and toe** Complete the pale (2H) shadows across the wing and then on the tail, adding the remaining dark feather patches with your 5B pencil as before. Use the 5B pencil to draw the dark talon and the 2H to add the fine toe feathers.



**6 Rock and shadows** Use a circular technique to apply graphite with your blender to the rock surface. Build up the texture by working back and forth across the paper. Add extra (9B) graphite to the blender and darken the shadows where there are indentations along the left-hand edge of the rock and also to the area where the bird's shadow falls. Take your stick eraser and use it to lighten the upper surface of the rock where the highlights fall. Finally, darken the rock immediately beneath the bird with your 5B pencil.

