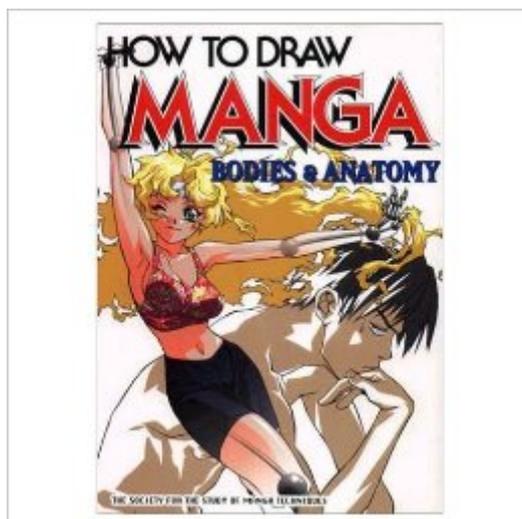


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# How To Draw Manga: Bodies & Anatomy



## Synopsis

A manga consists of showing characters' moves. One can learn to draw most manga-like poses and moves using this one book. The secret is in following these anatomically accurate drawings shown in exploded view. Slightly erotic poses are also covered. **WARNING:** This book contains nudity!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Skipping past the complaints of nudity (or not) between genders, or just how "manga" the style is, this is a great reference book for bone and muscle structure. I suppose it helps that I'm not seriously into manga; honestly, most manga characters have about as much muscle definition as a 14-year-old, and the level of body structure in here is almost geared for superhero comics. The majority of the book shows a fairly equal amount of males and females in action poses. The overarching lesson is where the muscles and bones connect and overlap, and relatedly how the surface of the body changes during movement, but you also learn a good bit about foreshortening and overlap. Most of the pictures first show a more geometric anatomical view, emphasizing the joints and bones and major muscle groups, and then next to it is the same pose shown as a surface drawing, with only light shading. The artist makes an effort to pick unusual angles and poses, ones most other books don't show--overhead views, reclining, mid-throw, etc--so it's decent reference. There is a lot of focus on the back, something very neglected. I will note if you're looking for different body types, not much help here, you've got the usual 36-24-36 anime hottie and a guy who looks like an olympic swimmer. And the book falls down when it tries to show "real" facial anatomy using

the typical oversized eye/forehead manga face...stick with the body lessons. I must reiterate, it's not for beginners. If you're just learning to draw, go far, far elsewhere. But, this is a good book for someone who is comfortable drawing the body as a whole, and just wants a little tweaking on particularly difficult poses--especially if you've got a well-built character. Can't get the neck tendons to look right on someone looking up and back? Try this.

I currently own five of this series, and continue to be impressed by the amount of detail they contain, but this one truly takes it. *Bodies and Anatomy* covers it all, and could be used for any drawing type, not just for use in manga. This book is PACKED with incredibly detailed, accurate drawings of the skeleton, muscular system, etc., for every part of the body. To me, this book felt more professionally and maturely presented than the others in the series, and I highly recommend it for any artist looking for some extra help when drawing the human form.

First off, I have to say I was very impressed at the beginning of this book. The starting chapters, covering some perspective and posing, detailed skeletal and later muscular structures were very well done. The skull, hand and feet sections were in depth and very helpful and detailed. However--when they started into full body poses I was remotely annoyed. Most of the poses and references they gave for men were in action. Throwing something, or starting to run- pictures that neatly expressed the male body in motion. That's all very nice and well, but I would have enjoyed seeing more relaxed forms as well. Not all my work and other people's work with men is drawn in motion! Quite a bit is still. And when we move into the woman, there's no action at all. Mainly references draw for woman who are stretching, or reclining and a lot of these poses are from 'suggestive' views. It's also slightly annoying to find 10 different views from which to draw a female crotch and the male subjects mysteriously elude this area. While we're at it, not all female's breasts are aroused 24/7. It's not truly necessary to draw nipples on every figure. This whole extra fascination with the female body is perhaps more annoying to me than others since I originally got this book hoping for help on male anatomy- since if I truly need a reference for a female form I can simply go into the bathroom. It would have also been nice to see more variations in the male/female models. In general a nice reference book, though it could have covered a lot more in some areas and a lot less in others.

Having finally received this book after a long drawn out shipping fiasco (thanks to UPS), I was immediately confronted with a problem. As I began to flip through the pages of this book, which I had

been so eagerly awaiting, I noticed, like many others have apparently noticed, that this is not a book about drawing manga. As far as that goes, it's probably one of the last books you should buy if you're looking to start drawing manga. However, with that said it is a good reference tool that can be used to simplify and condense muscle groups and other body parts into nice clean representations. Though the drawings aren't manga, they are somewhat stylized and could possibly work as a bridge for someone accustomed to drawing real life figures who wants to try manga. Of course, they'd have to go buy a real book about drawing manga afterwards, but... Personally I have found the book to be useful in an indirect way. Because I already know a little about manga and have been drawing for quite a while it wasn't too difficult for me to translate the images presented within the book into manga. I would imagine that this would be rather difficult for a novice though, so again, if you're just starting out I would suggest looking elsewhere for a good reference book. If you have some experience under your belt, it's a good reference for stylized anatomy but that's about it. If you're a beginner and you want to study manga, stay away. I'd suggest saving your money, unless of course you want to draw what the book demonstrates and call it manga, thus destroying the genre.

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