

Guidelines for Drawing Surface Pressure Contours

- 1. Use a pencil and eraser; draw lines lightly until you are satisfied with them and then label and darken.**
- 2. Draw at 4mb intervals (also multiples of 4).**
- 3. Do not draw contours far beyond where data exists.**
- 4. Contours never fork and never cross.**
- 5. Isobar: "iso" = same & "bar" = pressure; therefore, isobars connect lines of equal pressure.**
- 6. Pressure values are usually higher on one side of the isobar and lower on the other.**
- 7. Draw contours through stations only when they have the exact pressure of the isobar.**
- 8. Interpolate between points to find a point with the approximate pressure of the isobar and then connect a smooth, curved line through those points. Sometimes, however, points are difficult to include and must be excluded in order to maintain a smooth line.**
- 9. Isobars either form closed curves or go off the edge of the map; they do not end in the middle of the map.**