

Watercolour Supplies

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A note from David McEown:

I'd like to share a few suggestions on supplies with you, as the varying quality of products on the market can be overwhelming.

For this course, I recommend that students buy artist-quality materials. Student-quality brands can lead to inferior results, often leaving a beginner somewhat discouraged. We will be starting with a limited colour selection, so your initial investment will not be too high.

If you are an experienced student, please feel free to bring whatever supplies you may already have, so that we can learn from your experience.

Watercolour Paints:

Winsor Newton, Holbein, Daniel Smith are very good quality.

I recommend obtaining paint that is available in tubes or moist cakes. Tubes are preferred for customizing the pallet and saturation. Store paint tubes in a small box or container to prevent crushing. The paints come in various sizes of tubes, from 5 to 14 mL.

Remember: Quality paint goes a long way!

Must-have primaries:

- Aureolin Yellow
- Permanent Rose
- Phthalo Blue or Winsor Blue (green shade)

Nice to have, if budget permits:

- Cadmium Lemon Yellow*
- Scarlet Lake Red
- Ultramarine Blue
- Turquoise Blue*
- Cerulean Blue
- Quinacridone Violet
- Winsor Violet
- Cadmium Orange (red shade)

**I use Holbein's Turquoise and Cadmium Lemon Yellow*

Palette:

- White plastic watercolour palette with a folding lid

The palette should have at least three mixing pans, lots of cake wells and a thumb hole to hold it.

Watercolour Papers:

- 22" x 30" 140 lb. cold press watercolour paper

Arches, Saunders, Lana or Fabriano are acceptable brands. I prefer Arches' 140 lb. cold press (bright white and natural white). I also enjoy working with the Saunders 200 lb. cold press paper. While I prefer 140 lb. cold press paper for this class, please feel free to experiment with other weights and textures and show us what you come up with!

A purchase of the standard full sheet is the most economical solution at 22" x 30". Cut it into quarters for the first few sessions.

- Painting support board 16" x 23" or 16" x 12"

I like to have a painting support board to clip my paper to. Choose 16" x 23" for half sheets or 16" x 12" for quarter sheets. For lightweight travel, I typically make a folder out of plastic corrugate (common display board) to protect my work. This folder also provides a surface to paint on. You can also create a support board out of acid-free foam core.

I have found that watercolour blocks and pads (spiral is best) are practical.

Watercolour Brushes:

- Pointed round brushes, #12 or #10 and #4

The most affordable brushes of this type are the sable-synthetic blend, with the most expensive being pure sable. The sable-synthetic blend is good value if you are just starting out. Bring along any other brushes you may have if you wish to experiment with them.

- Large flash wash brush 1"
- House painting brush 3"
- Chinese bamboo wolf-hair brushes

I also recommend a large flash wash brush (at least 1"). I also use a 3" house painting brush. Finally, Chinese bamboo wolf-hair brushes can create interesting effects. You will be introduced to other types of brushes as you progress during the workshop.

Other Equipment:

- Brush container: Holder for brushes, such as a roll-up type. Your container of choice must be breathable, as brushes can rot if stored wet.
- Bulldog clips or adhesive tape to secure the paper (I prefer bulldog clips over tape which tends to stretch the paper).
- HB pencil
- Kneaded eraser
- Knife
- Cotton rag
- Water container or collapsible plastic container (yogurt container works very well)
- Camera, iPad to gather reference material or documentation and to photograph the step-by-step demos