



Watercolor Fundamentals, Spring 2023

Liv Braiker, Instructor
Materials List

Materials Introduction:

I created this little booklet of information for you to help you in your decision making at the art store or online. *I do not expect you to use the most expensive materials or even the brands I suggest. Get what is within your price range.* I will say that starting with good quality materials and tools benefits your ability to learn the skill as well as eliminates the need to replace poor quality ones later. If you have any questions about materials, you can wait until the first day to ask me. The following items 1-12 are needed, in whatever brand you have or will buy, but the following links are advice and suggestions.

Items needed for this class, I elaborate more below on each item to help you navigate the myriad of possible supplies:

- 1. Masking tape
- 2. Roll of Paper towels
- 3. Sealable Water container
- 4. Brushes (4 round, 2 flat, 1 wash)
- 5. Watercolor Paper (one 9x12 pad or larger, like 11x15)
- 6. Pencil and eraser
- 7. Fine tip pen
- 8. Paint palette (not if your paint already comes in one that is large enough)
- 9. Masking fluid/Frisket
- 10. Painting board
- 11. Paint (12 color set of tubes or half pans)
- 12. Ruler
- 13. White gouache (suggested but not required)

1. **Masking tape:** there is tape marketed as Artist masking tape at art stores and Amazon, you can use this, but most generic masking tape works well. You do not want it to be 'extra strength' though as it will rip your paper.

2. **Roll of paper towels:** household paper towels work great.

3. **Sealable Water container,** any tightly sealable container that is sturdy, a mason jar with lid works great.

4. **Brushes:** look for well-reviewed brushes in a variety of sizes. Sable is the best to get, it's weasel hair and holds its point. There are many sets on Amazon of sable brushes that would work great. I like the brands Princeton, Windsor and Newton, and Di Vinci. You can buy individual ones online or at art store if you already have some like the requested sizes.

I will ask that you get each of the following

- a. Rounds: rounded and pointed
 - Very small (size 0)
 - Small (size 3)
 - Medium (size 5-6)
 - Large (size 12)
- b. Flat: square shapes
 - Medium (size 5-6)
 - Large (size 12-14)
- c. Wash Brush: This is a large brush used for washes, ox hair or a Japanese style 'hake' brush will work great. Get one that is at least 1.5 inches wide.

5. **Watercolor paper:** I would suggest one of the brands below.

- Canson is budget friendly 9" x 12"
- Strathmore is great and I suggest getting this paper - 9x12 for in-class experimentation and demos.
- Arches is professional grade. If you like it, then you can try getting a pad of Arches to experiment on. I personally only use my arches paper for creating finished pieces, not experimenting like we will in class. The quality of the paper will affect how the paint reacts to the page so getting generic kinds you may find at the grocery store is not suggested.
- Getting a larger pad like 11x15 or even 18x24 can be great too as it can cost less to buy bulk/ larger sheets and cut them down to a variety of needed sizes.
- Another option is a paper pad in a "block" that has all sides glued. Because the sides are glued, the paper won't warp and you won't need to buy a Painting Board (item#10). You separate the layers with an exacto knife when you are done. The disadvantage of this is that you can't use more than one sheet at a time, and if you wanted to add to a painting later that has already been cut from the block, you'd need to tape it to a painting board to work on it again anyway.

6. **Pencil and eraser.** An HB pencil and kneaded or plastic eraser. Pencil and Eraser: Any artist's pencil and eraser will do, if you have a couple of pencils in different ranges of hardness (i.e. 6B 4B HB 2H) that is great and may help you. You can also buy individual pencils at an art store.

7. **Fine-tip pens:** pens like Micron or Coptic fine liners work great. I only require that you get at least one, in size around 03, to experiment with pen and watercolor. They can come in packs that offer multiple sizes of tips usually ranging from 0.05-0.8.

8. A paint pallet: This one will mostly come down to preference. If the watercolor paints you choose already come in pans or half pans (the little cubes of dried paint) that are in a container already, like a Winsor and Newton travel kit, then that will work great. If you choose to get watercolor paint that comes in a tube, you will need to get a separate palette to put them into. Unlike oils or acrylic. Watercolor needs little boxes that are deep enough to let a little water sit on the paint.

If you choose the tubes of paints, you can get a palette that comes with mixing trays and clicks closed, like the MEEDEN-Airtight-Leakproof-Watercolor-Palette linked below. But I personally prefer the grid sealable palette like the Honbay 24 Deep Compartments Plastic Paint Palette linked below, and a separate porcelain mixing tray.

If your set doesn't come with a mixing tray, or it is very small, like if you got a travel set of paints, I would also suggest a porcelain paint palette or rimmed dish mix paints in. A mixing tray is a versatile tool that gives you more control over your color mixing and makes large washes easier. I use my paint this way. I would suggest the separate porcelain mixing dish in general as

9. Liquid Frisket or Masking Fluid: this works like glue that keeps paint off the surface of your paper. I prefer the fine-tip bottle but the container of it works well too.

10. Painting board: watercolor is unlike other mediums because the paper is not on a canvas or any hard surfaces. While you are working on your art, the paper has to be taped to a hard surface the entire time, until you are done with it, and it is completely dry. A drawing board, piece of hardboard, or gator/stretch foam board is needed for this. Any of these options work great. If you have a drawing board from a previous class, use that!

11. Paint: this is also a big one. It will come down to price and preference. Tube or half-pan paints work the same. The difference being you have a bit more control over the tubes. Many half-pan sets come in a palette container already so that is convenient. I prefer tubes as you can get a little better price for the amount of paint and working up a good puddle of paint to work with is easier. The colors in each set are a little different between each one but whatever you get you should have a good range that we can work with.

12. Ruler: please bring whatever ruler you have. I prefer a clear ruler. It is very helpful to measure accurately.

13. White Gouache: (suggested but not required) to go back and correct mistakes or make highlights. I suggest Winsor and Newton Designer's gouache or Holbein Acryla Gouache.

** Shop local at Oregon Art Supply and receive a 20% discount off materials**

**Eligible until the second week of your class! **