

INTRO

While most artist's supply lists give you a brief list of what to bring to class, students with little exposure to watercolor are not ready to make decisions on supplies. I also do not expect students to work in the same manner that I do. This gives you broad freedom in selecting your materials. In this list I provide a brief background on the materials you are selecting. You can choose to purchase the cheapest and smallest quantity needed for this class. If you plan to pursue watercolor over a longer period of time, I have provided more in-depth background to help you build an excellent foundation of supplies.

MAIL ORDER: Dick Blick (also in Sugarhouse), Jerry's Artarama, Cheap Joes, Quality Art in Idaho. Some supplies @ Staples
Most links I set at Dick Blick, but you can purchase from anyone. It is cheaper to order from Dick Blick on-line than to buy at the store.

WATERCOLOR IS A BEAUTIFUL MEDIUM

The quality of paper and paints you choose affect this beauty. They enhance your ability to create beautiful washes and diverse marks resulting in nice paintings.

Student grade papers are OK for studies, to loosen up. Note: Strathmore is the most frustrating paper to work on.

I highly recommend 140 lb or 300 lb professional papers and professional paints.

PAPER > INTRODUCTION TO WATERCOLOR PAPERS

If you have a favorite paper, or already own some professional paper, use that. The majority of professional artists using watercolor paint on ARCHES, SAUNDERS OR FABRIANO. You want to look for 100 % cotton, some add linen.

Student grades and less archival papers will contain cellulose from wood. ARCHES, SAUNDERS/ST CUTHBERT MILLS, OR FABRIANO offer student grade papers and pads if you do not want to purchase professional paper. Saunders/St Cuthbert Mill offers several lines of paper, see their new RWS paper, but harder to access from England. At some point you may want to purchase several sheets of different brands to find your favorite. There are also several mills around the world that create beautiful handmade papers.

Watercolor paper is created in several surface textures; cold-press, rough and hot press. I used to work exclusively on rough, there are times I work on a cold-pressed sheet. Most commonly used is cold-pressed. Hot press can be used for creative effects but is not common.

The mills offer natural white and bright white. I prefer the newer, bright whites.

Watercolor paper comes primarily in 2 weights. 140 lb (300 gsm) is commonly used especially in the beginning. Some professionals prefer it in the long run. You may want to prestretch the 140 lb, tape it down, or buy it in a pre-stretched block. Others, like myself, work almost exclusively on 300 lb (640 gsm). You do not have to prestretch or tape 300 lb.

I sometimes tape 300 lb paper.

PAPER YOU NEED FOR WATERCOLOR CLASS

1ST OPTION > **PAD or BLOCK** > select one

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/arches-watercolor-blocks/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/saunders-waterford-watercolor-blocks/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/fabriano-studio-watercolor-pads/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/arches-watercolor-pads/>

2ND OPTION > **SHEET OF PAPER** > select one or several to experiment

1 -2 SHEETS DIVIDED INTO 1/4 OR 1/8 SECTIONS WILL BE ENOUGH. TO BE SAFE BUY 2 SHEETS.

Below are links to several options. You can find some of these in stores like Dick Blick in Sugarhouse.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/arches-bright-white-watercolor-paper/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/fabriano-artistico-extra-white-watercolor-paper/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/saunders-waterford-watercolor-sheets/>

SUPPORT BOARD

YOU ONLY NEED THIS IF YOU BUY SHEETS OF PAPER, NOT IF YOU BUY A PAD

ALSO BUY BULL CLIPS or WHITE 1 INCH ARTIST TAPE or MASKING TAPE TO ATTACH PAPER TO BOARD

Corrugated plastic boards are great with watercolor. Easy to clean. Foam core works also but cannot wipe clean. I hesitate to use wood boards since the acids from the wood could soak into wet paper. Mary Whyte uses gator board.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/corrugated-plastic-panels/>

WATERCOLOR PAINTS > INTRODUCTION TO WATERCOLOR PAINTS

I do not recommend wasting money on student grade paints. You will shortly want to buy professional quality paints due to your frustration. To keep cost down just buy fewer colors, you can add colors later. There are many excellent professional grade watercolor manufacturers. I prefer GRAHAM & SENNELIER. Other brands professional artists use include Daniel Smith and Winsor & Newton. If you already have professional grade watercolors use those. Any of the colors I link you to can be purchased in any of the professional brands. The names may vary by brand. Check the pigment names to match colors.

PAINT YOU NEED FOR LIGHT & SHADE IN WATERCOLOR CLASS

You only need 1 COLOR for this class if on a limited budget.

I provided additional options so you can learn to mix grays and translate your values into color.

1ST OPTION > **1 COLOR** > select just one

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/m-graham-artists-watercolor-paynes-gray-15-ml-tube/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/m-graham-artists-watercolor-ivory-black-15-ml-tube/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/m-graham-artists-watercolor-neutral-tint-15-ml-tube/>

2ND OPTION > **2 COLORS > need both to create grays and black**

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/m-graham-artists-watercolor-ultramarine-blue-15-ml-tube/>

+

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/m-graham-artists-watercolor-burnt-sienna-15-ml-tube/>

3RD OPTION > **3 COLORS > need all 3 to create grays and black**

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/winsor-newton-professional-watercolor-permanent-rose-37-ml-tube/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/winsor-newton-professional-watercolor-winsor-lemon-5-ml-tube/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/winsor-newton-professional-watercolor-winsor-blue-red-shade-5-ml-tube/>

4TH OPTION > **NICE SET** > select one set

This option gives you a broader range of colors to pursue painting in watercolor

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/sennelier-french-artists-watercolor-set-metal-case-set-of-12-colors-10-ml-tubes/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/m-graham-artists-watercolor-basic-set-set-of-5-colors-15-ml-tubes/>

5TH OPTION > **CREATE YOUR OWN**

With time you will develop your own preferences. Here is my list of pigments.

Ultramarine Blue, Cobalt Blue, Viridian by Graham, Cobalt Teal, Raw Sienna, Raw Umber, Sennelier Red, Bismuth Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Orange (can select alternate orange), Purple Helios (can use Graham Quinacradone Rose), Quinacradone Violet by Graham, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Sepia sometimes

BRUSHES > INTRODUCTION TO BRUSHES

Classic watercolor brushes - sables and squirrel mops - are made from tail fur of animals trapped for this purpose.

Depending on how you feel about that it might determine your choice of brush. I have found plenty of synthetic brushes I like which are usually cheaper. I do own and use some natural hair brushes, both sable and squirrel.

YOU ONLY NEED ONE ROUND BRUSH TO START. I am presenting multiple options depending on how much you want to spend and for your future progression. Get good paper and paints first. I am presenting options for ROUNDS and MOPS. The cat's tongue is somewhat of a mop.

CHEAPEST OPTIONS > purchase a **ROUND** first

1ST OPTION > **THE PRINCETON NEPTUNES ARE CHEAP, SOFT AND A GOOD STARTING BRUSH.**

YOU ONLY NEED THIS ONE BRUSH FOR LIGHT AND SHADE IN WATERCOLOR CLASS.

ALTERNATELY TRY THE ESCODA PERLA, a bit more expensive.

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/princeton-neptune-synthetic-squirrel-brush-round-short-handle-size-16/>

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/escoda-perla-toray-white-synthetic-brush-round-short-handle-size-14/>

MORE EXPENSIVE OPTIONS > NOT NEEDED FOR LIGHT AND SHADE IN WATERCOLOR

AGAIN, PURCHASE A SINGLE ROUND BRUSH FIRST, YOUR NEXT ADDITION WOULD BE A MOP

2ND OPTION > **SABLE & SQUIRREL > MOST EXPENSIVE**

THESE ARE THE PRIMARY WATERCOLOR BRUSHES ALL OTHERS ARE JUDGED AGAINST

1 ROUNDS

A classic SABLE natural hair would be the **DA VINCI MAESTRO** size 8 or 10 or 12. EXPENSIVE!

I find I wear out the points faster on these than the synthetic but they do have a lovely feel. Some handmade papers are more delicate and I find I almost have to use sable or squirrel.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/da-vinci-maestro-kolinsky-brushes/>

<https://www.saa.co.uk/hazel-soan-kolinsky-sable-brush-set-249462.html>

2 SQUIRREL MOPS

<https://www.escoda.com/set-2-joseph-zbukvic.html>

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/isabey-original-siberian-blue-squirrel-quill-mop/>

3 CAT'S TONGUE > This is real squirrel

<https://www.artxpress.com/ccp9387-mary-whyte-squirrel-cat-s-tongue-wash-ae801-06-ae801-06.htm>

3RD OPTION > **EXCELLENT SYNTHETIC BRUSHES**

LESS EXPENSIVE THAN SABLE OR SQUIRREL > THESE ARE EXCELLENT QUALITY

1 ROUNDS

ESCODA PERLA IS A NICE LINE > I use various sizes

ESCODA PERLA size 14 is a good start

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/escoda-perla-toray-white-synthetic-brush-round-short-handle-size-14/>

2 MOPS

ESCODA ULTIMO MOP size 14 see below

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/escoda-ultimo-synthetic-squirrel-brush-mop-size-16/>

<https://www.escoda.com/set-1-fabio-cembranelli.html>

I use this ESCODA ULTIMO ROUND in a size 22 for large washes, functions like a MOP, nice point

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/escoda-ultimo-synthetic-squirrel-brush-round-size-22/>

3 CATS TONGUE

This is one of my favorite new brushes. You could try it in a smaller size but point is lovely in 1 inch.

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/escoda-ultimo-synthetic-squirrel-brush-flat-size-1/>

4 FLATS > a later addition to your collection

I use flats for a wiping out technique. Any flat will work. This particular brush creates a lovely effect wiping out paint in a wet wash on Arches.

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/robert-simmons-sapphire-brush-flat-wash-short-handle-1/>

PALETTE

Yogurt container lids, white plastic plates, egg cartons all can be used as mixing palettes.

My favorite large white plastic palette is TOM JONES. It is very white, large wells and much easier to clean due to its design. Mail order it.

Robert E. Wood & John Pike are classic palettes.

Folding plastic and metal palettes are good. You can find plastic folding palettes for very cheap.

WATER CONTAINER > you need 2 one to keep clean

PAPER TOWELS, SPONGES OR RAGS