

Mike Kowalski Material list

A note on buying supplies. Art supplies are not cheap, but trying to save money by buying student colors and paper is not advisable. Here in Melbourne I suggest Senior Art Supply, Chapman/Bailey, Neil Wallace Art Supply. Fitzroy Stretches, Melbourne Art Supply etc. In Europe, Jacksons in the UK is good. In the USA I usually use Dick Blick. There are many others online.

We will be using one sheet (A4 or larger if you like) per class. 2-3 full sheets is plenty cut down in quarters or halves.

* **Paper:** Size A4 or larger. Buy the best 100% rag cotton paper you can afford. **Arches, Fabriano, Saunders, Winsor and Newton** are good choices. A **BLOCK** of watercolor paper is more expensive than individual sheets, but they are glued at the edges making painting a bit easier. For blocks, all of the above brands are good. I like the **Stonehenge AquaBlock** as well. Most **Student grade** papers have 25% cotton and are a bit harder to work on. A 50/50 cellulose/rag paper is a much better option. The content of rag should be listed on better packages of paper. **Canson Montval** (100% cotton) is available in many formats and is usually cheaper, but slightly challenging to work on . It is also challenging and difficult to do wet in wet techniques on. If you are buying individual sheets, Buy 140lb/300 gsm as it will buckle a little less. You can cut down a full sheet into four quarter sheets and paint on both sides.

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Note #1: Stay away from cheap paper. It will make your experience much more frustrating.

Note #2: The following link may be helpful even though it does not list my favorites. W/M paper used to be my favorite until they stopped making it. They do make blocks which might be worth checking out. FLUID brand cold press blocks (or small sheets) I have found to be good as well.

<https://drawingfan.com/best-watercolor-paper/>

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Drawing board with **4 clips** and/or tape if using single sheets (note: I find tape actually creates MORE buckling by not allowing the expanding wet paper to, wet, expand!)

***Watercolor palette:**

The John Pike Palette is a great palette but not really suited to outdoor work. A hand held outdoor palette is good as well. I recommend the Holbein 1130-40 size

metal palette (color wells on one side). The Derivan or Mijello plastic folding palette is a very good inexpensive option. In order to paint well you need plenty of pigment and a **lot of mixing area**.

Colors:

Use ARTIST QUALITY paints whenever possible. They contain more pigment making your job easier. Single pigment colors are best. A “Hue” is a substitute pigment mimicking the original color pigment. I do not recommend hues in general unless for safety reasons i.e. toxicity. I recommend **Daniel Smith, M. Graham and W/N**. Stay away from cheap watercolors. A set of quality PAN colors is also great for outdoor work. I prefer tube colors.

A note on student colors; Student colors contain more fillers and less actual pigment and will have more hues to keep cost down. Some colors are OK to buy in a student line such as Ultramarine and earth colors. In the student line, **Cotman** is my recommendation, Other brands are **Rembrandt** and **Van Gogh**. Below is an article worth reading by Liz Steele as well as an in depth article on watercolors by Jane **Blundell**.

<https://www.lizsteel.com/student-grade-vs-artist-quality-watercolour-the-big-reveal/>

<https://www.janeblundellart.com/characteristics-of-watercolour.html>

SUGGESTED WATERCOLOR PALETTE:

- 1.) **Ultramarine Blue**
- 2.) **Cobalt Blue** (not a hue) Expensive, but it is a must
- 3.) **Cerulean-** M. Graham or Holbein is best
- 4.) **Nickel Yellow Azo:** Any LEMON or cool yellow will suffice (Hansa light)
- 5.) **Quinacridone Rose** (Alizarine Crimson Permanent or Rose Madder is an option) a cool red.
- 6.) **Warm red.** I use Cadmium Scarlet. Look for Pyrrol red (PR254) and pyrrol scarlet (PR255)
- 7.) **Yellow Ochre** (Daniel Smith if possible)
- 8.) **Raw Sienna** (Daniel Smith if possible)
- 9.) **Raw Umber**
- 10.) **Burnt Sienna**
- 11.) **Burnt Umber**
- 12.) **Viridian** (not a Hue) M.Graham

Note: There are many other colors you can substitute for “Yellow” and “Red”. It is a good idea to look at color charts from the various manufacturers to see what seems similar. I recommend reviewing the information in **Jane Blundell’s** posts. She does exhaustive research and it may be of help.

Brushes: I USE Round sizes 4 to 22 plus a rigger.

Bring any brushes that you have or that you prefer.

I recommend **Escoda Perla** round brushes. As a general guide I use sizes 20,16,12, 8 and 4. A rigger is also useful. For this class a size 6 or 8 and a size 12-16 will be fine. Synthetic brushes are fine. **Da Vinci** is also a good brand. I also recommend Da Vinci Casaneo brushes. They are a synthetic Squirrel hair and lovely for sketching a size 2 is a good all rounder. Pair that with a size 4 or 6 synthetic round for a simple sketching set. Prince Neptune are an economical soft brush. A small size 4 or 6 kolinsky sable is nice for details as well. **Rosemary and Co** makes lovely brushes, see link

The EASEL question.

I feel standing up is the way to paint. It allows for much more freedom of movement. It also means you need a portable easel. Most "Art" easels are not very well made to be honest, flimsy and unstable. In that case it is better to sit! The only plein air setups I can recommend are:

- 1.) En Plein Air Pro A little flimsy but OK see links below
- 2.) F-D paint Lux Easel looks fantastic 350 euros, made in Italy, see link
- 3.) Taylor Seamount easel available on etsy, there are others as well (link)

Sitting is an option. You can have your paper, a palette, water jug on the ground (though holding your palette is best). If you are to sit, a lightweight "beach" or "camp" chair, or as an option a 3 legged stool (easier to carry, but less comfy and stable for sit-in) is what you need. The lighter the better.

Other items:

- Simple thin flat kitchen type sponge

- **Old credit card for scraping.**

-**2B or 4B pencil** and white eraser, also a sharpener- A .5 or .7 Mechanical Pencil with 2B lead is a great option.

-**Sketchbook** (not too small) for notes and drawing. My favorite is Hahnemuhle

-**Tape or bulldog clips** for paper

-**Eraser**

-**Waterbucket with handle** I use a yoghurt container

-I find a 035B **Manfrotto Super Clamp** indispensable for my water jug

-**Umbrella** I do not use one much, but if you paint outdoors a lot it is helpful

I use a **BestBrella** but see they are no longer available see link below for options

-**Hat** helps to cut glare and shade your head!

Please email me if you have specific questions on supplies.

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Resources:

Paints:

<https://davincipaints.com/da-vincis-watercolor-palette/> Good cheap set-lacking cobalt blue

This other Da Vinci set looks pretty good as a starter set however does not have all my recommended colors:

Scratchmade Da Vinci Watercolor Palette

Brushes:

<https://www.rosemaryandco.com/watercolour-brushes> wonderfully made brushes

Rosemary's Brushes tell me that their SNOWDROP line is similar to Escoda

Easels:

1.) <https://enpleinairpro.com/collections/packages>

2.) This is cream of the crop... and Italian made easel that some of the best watercolorists use:

<https://www.fd-paint.com/>

3.) Ultralight Bamboo Magnetic Sketch Easel Handmade TaylorSeamountShop

video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= MUekQR_gOQ

4.) Umbrella: <https://www.outdoorpainter.com/the-best-plein-air-umbrellas-for-artists/>

