‘Gouache Painting’
Materials List
With Jim Minet

Here is my recommended list of the essential items you need for the very best watercolor experience.

**Brushes:**

Because gouache needs a slightly stiffer brush than regular watercolor, I recommend synthetic brushes. I do recommend Silver Brush short handle ‘Silver Silk 88’ brushes for gouache available at [www.jerrysartarama.com](http://www.jerrysartarama.com) and my second choice for gouache would be the short handle Silver White (by Silver Brush co) at Jerry’s or at [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)

**Brush Type:** A minimum of four watercolor brushes.

1. A large 1-inch flat wash brush (recommend – Silver White)
2. A medium-large ‘flat’ or ‘bright’ brush size 8 or 10 (recommend – Silver Silk 88)
3. A medium-small ‘flat’ or ‘bright’ brush size 4 or 6 (recommend - Silver Silk 88)
4. A round- brush size 4 (recommend Silver White)

**Paper** – you can use either:

- a glued block of 100% Cotton 140 lb. cold or rough press watercolor paper, approximately 10x14 inch or larger. If it does not say ‘cotton’ then it is not. Or:

- a couple large sheets of the same grade paper (this is a less expensive option that I recommend--sheets come in 22x30 inches. Cut it into 4 or 8 pieces)

If you are not using a glued block, make sure to bring a drawing board to place your paper on. Any hard board, or inexpensive plastic or wood drawing board, not too large, will do, even a very firm piece of corrugated will do. Should not be too much bigger than the paper you will work on. You will need masking tape to tape your edges to the drawing board, very easy.

Remember to buy only 100% cotton paper, if it does not say 100% cotton then it is not. 140lb cold or rough press surface.

Recommended brands are: Arches, Fabriano Artistico, Saunders.

**Paint:**

We will mix regular watercolor paint with white gouache:

Any professional artist grade regular watercolor paint is fine (not those little oval pans that we used to buy in the grocery store! And avoid store brands please).

All you need is two of each primary color, one warm and one cool (a warm red, a cool red, a warm blue, a cool blue, a warm yellow, a cool yellow and burnt sienna – see recommended list of colors on next page for specific recommendations).
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Watercolor Palette:
Any watercolor palette will do, even a non-printed plastic or ceramic white plate is fine. Just make sure the pallet has enough area to mix color. **Don’t buy those really small circular palettes with tiny mixing area. You need a large flat area to mix paint.** A folding palette is fine since they open up into a larger mixing area.

Other:
- Some form of water container 16oz cup is fine. I cut the top off a plastic milk container and find this is a good water supply container.
- Pencil - any HB, B, or 2B preferred, but anything will do.
- A kneaded eraser, sold in all art stores or online.
- A small roll of bounty paper towels
- Watercolor Easel is top end, but you can simply use any flat surface and use a roll of paper towels under your board or block and elevate it on an angle so it is not completely flat on the table, I like an elevation of at least 33 degrees (about six inches up at the far end of your board or block)

List of recommended colors, your basic palette-
( cool and a warm of each primary color + two additional colors)

These are regular watercolors and you will need them:
- (cool yellow) lemon yellow or Hansa Yellow Medium (preferred) or Cadmium Yellow Light. You can substitute Winsor and Newton primary yellow gouache here if you like.
- (warm yellow) Yellow Ochre
- (cool red) Permanent Alizarin or Alizarin Crimson, or Quinacridone Crimson
- (warm red) Quinacradone Red (preferred) Cadmium red light or Naphthol red light, or Cadmium Scarlet Red (you can buy Cadmium “Hue” if you like, they are less expensive and non-toxic)
- (cool blue) Cyan Blue or Cerulean Blue or Phthal Blue (if the brand offers a ‘red shade version of Phthalo blue, don’t buy it, you need either straight Phthalo Blue or Phthalo Blue green shade) You can substitute Winsor and Newton primary blue gouache here if you like
- (warm blue) French Ultramarine Blue (preferred) or Ultramarine Deep or just Ultramarine
- Burnt Sienna (important color to make black and to make gray)
- Phthalo green- blue shade (to make deep dark greens and blacks when mixed with Alizarin Crimson)
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These are Gouache colors (we will mix these with your regular watercolors)

- Titanium white gouache **large** tube - I recommend M. Graham, Winsor & Newton, (both available at Jerry’s and Blick) Turner Design Gouache (Jerry’s), and DaVinci (Blick)

  Very important, **make sure not** to buy any **acrylic gouache**. These dry fast and permanently. Regular gouache or ‘designers gouache’ is always re-wet-able.

- By mixing Titanium white into your regular watercolors we will create the opaque gouache we need (that is why we need a large tube of white gouache). If you want to add a few colors in pure gouache I recommend regular size tubes of the following:
  - Winsor and Newton, primary red, primary yellow, primary blue.

Some examples of recommended professional paint brand **regular** watercolors include:

Sennelier, Winsor and Newton, Daniel Smith, Daler Rowney, Schmincke, Holbein, M. Graham. Some of these brands also offer smaller tubes like Sennelier with a 10ml tube and Winsor and Newton and Daniel Smith with 5ml tubes. Perfect for a watercolor class or workshop.

I encourage you to buy from your local art store and if you do not have one near by then you can try these reputable online retailers:

[www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)
[www.jerrysartarama.com](http://www.jerrysartarama.com)