

## **Watercolor Materials List – Jim Minet**

### **For Classes: Watercolor Boot Camp and/or Everything You Every Wanted to Know About Color in Watercolor**

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

**Brushes:** A minimum of three watercolor brushes, especially large brushes.

1. A large 1-inch flat wash, *or* large squirrel quill mop brush (or synthetic quill mop)
2. A medium-large round brush size 10 or 12
3. A small round brush size 2 or 4.

If you buy synthetic brushes instead of natural animal hair, you can save some money.

**Paper** – *please only buy 100% cotton paper* (if it does not say 100% cotton on the label then it is not) 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.

Did I mention only 100% cotton paper!

**Paint:**

Any professional artist grade tube 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).

**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**

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**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 on line.
- 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)
- Masking tape

**List of recommended colors, your basic palette-**

( cool and a warm of each primary color + two additional colors)

- (cool yellow) lemon yellow or Hansa Yellow Medium (preferred) or Cadmium Yellow Light
- (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 Phthalo 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)
- (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)

*Note:* many students get confused between Phthalo *Blue* Green Shade and Phthalo *Green* Blue Shade. They are two distinctly different colors.

Some examples of recommended professional paint brands include:

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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)