

Watercolor Materials List – Jim Minet

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

Brushes: A minimum of four watercolor brushes, especially large brushes.

1. A large 1-inch flat wash brush
2. A large round brush size 10 or 12
3. A 'bright' (short flat) brush size 6
4. A small round brush size 4

If you buy synthetic brushes instead of natural animal hair, you can save some money. I recommend 'Silver White' or 'Golden Natural' by Silver Brush Ltd., I believe Blick or Jerry's Artarama carries them. (www.dickblick.com and www.jerrysartarama.com)

Paper – please only buy 100% cotton paper (if it does not say 100% cotton on the label then it is not) and make sure it is 140lb cold press only. You buy use either:

- a glued block of 100 % Cotton 140 lb. cold press watercolor paper, approximately 9x12 inch or larger. If it does not say 'cotton' then it is not. This is rather expensive.
- **or** a couple large sheets of the same grade paper (this is a less expensive option that -- sheets come in 22x30 inches. Cut it into 4 or 8 pieces). **I recommend this option** save a lot of money.

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.

Any of these brands are ok: Arches, Fabriano Artistico, Saunders.

Did I mention only 100% cotton paper, 140lb cold press only?!

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.)

List of recommended colors, limited basic palette-

I've shopped for the best value and I recommend the 10ml tubes by Sennelier are a very good value, very good quality, and have all the colors we need to make a very limited palette allowing for the most possible color mixes with the smallest investment. I've listed other options as well or preferences by brand. Daniel Smith offers a 5ml tube but prices out about the same as Sennelier's 10ml tube. Dick Blick and Jerry's both carry the line. Here is exactly what

Watercolor Materials List – Jim Minet

you need:

- Primary Yellow (Sennelier) or Hansa Yellow Medium (Daniel Smith)
- Yellow Ochre (Daniel Smith preferred but Sennelier ok too)
- Quinacradone Red (Daniel Smith or Sennelier, Daniel Smith preferred for this color)
- Phthalo Blue (Sennelier-they have the best Phthalo) or Phthalo Blue *Green Shade* – Daniel Smith, Cerulean Blue is also acceptable
- French Ultramarine Blue (Sennelier- among the best for this color, Daniel Smith good too)
- Burnt Sienna (important color to make black and to make gray- prefer Daniel Smith for this color)
- Phthalo Green *Deep* (Sennelier) – make sure it says ‘Deep’ this is the same as Phthalo Green *Blue shade* from other manufacturers like Daniel Smith. Please note that this is *not* Phthalo Blue.

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

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 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* 30 degrees (about six inches up at the far end of your board or block)
- Masking tape
- A painting board to tape your paper down on

On-line Retailers:

www.dickblick.com

www.jerrysartarama.com