

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 three watercolor brushes, especially large brushes. All SHORT HANDLE brushes.

1. A large 1-inch flat wash brush
2. A large round brush size 10 or 12
3. 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) Also you may consider, for top, quality buy "Black Velvet", all by Silver Brush Co.

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.**

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

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

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 and quality. Daniel Smith offers a 5ml tube but prices out about the same as Sennelier's 10ml tube. Winsor & Newton also make a small 5ml tube that is good.

You can find all supplies at www.dickblick.com or www.jerrysartarama.com

Please do not show up with store brand paints such as 'artist's loft' for example, the quality is not up to the job in my opinion.

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Here is exactly what you need:

- Primary Yellow or Hansa Yellow Medium, or Cadmium Yellow Light Hue
- Yellow Ochre
- Permanent Alizarin Crimson
- Cadmium Red Light Hue or Vermilion
- Cerulean Blue
- French Ultramarine Blue (Sennelier- among the best for this color, Daniel Smith good too) if you can't get 'French' just buy regular Ultramarine
- Burnt Sienna
- Phthalo Green Blue Shade also called "*Deep*" or "*Cool*" (different manufacturers use different names)- do not buy yellow or warm shade. 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 deli tub is fine. I cut the top off a plastic milk container and find that the bottom is a great 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 or equivalent quality paper towels
- Masking tape
- A painting board to tape your paper down on (any board that is slightly larger than the paper you will be using) – art stores sell many versions of painting or drawing boards but anything inexpensive is fine – even a Masonite panel you can buy at home depot. If you are using a glued block you don't need a board

On-line Retailers:

www.dickblick.com

www.jerrysartarama.com