

Painting and Drawing Classes for Beginners and Absolute Beginners

Recommended materials for watercolour and pen wash section

There are so many art material manufacturers producing materials of a variety of qualities so it is quite a nightmare deciding what to buy. You can more or less guarantee that the cheaper the materials the poorer the quality – sometimes this is not an issue but in my opinion working with poor quality paints is. Watercolour is such a fickle medium to work with in the first place and, I believe, the hardest medium so why make life more difficult. Some of the pigments are expensive (especially cobalt) however, unlike many classes I recommend just 7 pigments from these you can exploit all the qualities of watercolour and create many hundred colours. *(Currently the cost of the 7 tubes of Maimeri Blu Italian 15 ml tubes is £34.25 these will last you for years!)*

1. Watercolour Paint - tubes

Artist quality tubes are the best value for purity and consistency, the student paints or hues are false economy as you end up paying for a lot of filler and not much pigment.

The best value I have found are the Italian – Maimeri Blu and Michael Wilcox School of Colour the tubes are 3 times the size of Windsor Newton and the quality of the pigments are excellent.

We will start by using the insoluble sedimentary pigments:

- Ultramarine Deep – Sodium Polysulphide-Aluminosilicate PB29**
- Burnt Sienna – Calcined Natural Earth PBr7**
- Cobalt Light – Cobalt-Aluminium Oxides PB28**
- Raw Umber – Natural Earth PBr7**

Then move on to the soluble (staining) penetrating pigments:

- *Primary Blue - Berlin/Phthalocyanine Blue - Phthalocyanine Alpha PB15:1**
- *Primary Yellow – Cool - Arylide Yellow PY97**
- *Primary/Permanent Red Deep - Cool - Anthraquinone PR177**

Note: **names vary according to the manufacturer*

***pigment chemical number – found small letters near the top of the tube on all artist quality paints*

2. Watercolour Paper

The paper I recommend is Bockingford 140 NOT surface – this is a very versatile and forgiving paper. As it is internally sized you can get away with using both sides. I normally keep some in stock and it works out to about 35p per sheet.

Do not buy the Crimson Blake paper or pads they are cheap but not cheerful!!!!

Tear off pads work out expensive too and there is always the problem of carrying wet work inside a pad unless you do tear it off plus initially for the work we will be tackling you will have better results by stretching the paper.

To save stretching watercolour paper, you can use a peel off block for exercises, however they are rather expensive.

3. Watercolour Brushes

For preference I would chose those with some sable such at Pro Arte Connoisseur Range, though not pure sable. However there are some very good 100% synthetics such as the Prolene and Prolene Plus also by Pro Arte, I personally enjoy using these brushes and they are made locally (Keighley).

Sizes:

- 2 x No: 8 Round (*general all rounder suitable for all paintings and very useful for all exercises*)
- 1 x No: 4 Round
- 1 x ½ inch Flat

Then if you have the opportunity to have more I suggest any combination of the following will be useful:

Rounds Nos 6, 10 & 12

Flats 1/8, 1/4, 1 & 1 1/4 ... and, of course, anymore that you fancy!

4. Palettes

For the initial exercises you will need a 3 or 4 well palettes, plastic ones are fine (Art Express do some suitable ones for just 80p that have 11 wells). You will find it difficult to mix required amounts if you only have flat palettes or saucers.

5. Pens

Fine Pens – water resistant, 0.1mm to start with – Pilot or Edding makes are fine, for choice I prefer to have 1 black and 1 sepia (an 0.3 mm is useful too)

Plus

- Gummed brown paper tape for stretching watercolour paper (not Masking tape)
- Thin plywood board roughly 14 x 16 inches (not hardboard or MDF as you cannot stretch paper on these)

Art Material Suppliers

Local – remember – **take your student receipt/card for 10% discount**

Ashley Jackson Arcrafts, 5 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth
Calder Graphics, Byram Arcade, Huddersfield

Mail Order

For Maimeri Blu Artist's Watercolour, Christine Burnett, Westgate Gallery, 83 Westgate, Grantham NG31 6LE Tel: 01476 578800

Art Express, telephone 0800 731 4185 for free catalogue, free delivery on orders over £35 big discounts on rrp's

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