

Basic Watercolor Techniques Supply List
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I realize art supplies are expensive and it's tempting to buy off brand paints at Michael's, A.C. Moore, Joann Fabrics or even Target but these inferior materials *will not give good results*.

I want all my students to have a positive experience learning the basic techniques of this craft without adding a negative factor like poorly performing materials.

Paint

Please Purchase a Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolor Tube Set (Not Pans).

The cost of a 12 tube 8ml set is **\$28.24** Dick Blick or **\$28.67** from Amazon.com a substantial savings over local craft stores and art supply Stores even with sales and discounts

Why Tubes? It's much easier to learn how to mix paints with tube colors, also scrubbing your brush over pan colors is rough on the brushes. Another reason I'm not fond of pan colors is its hard to keep them from inter mixing and difficult to clean the cakes of paint without wasting a lot of it. Pan sets are also more expensive.

Paper

Paper is another item that needs careful consideration. Don't purchase off brand papers that are not 140lb. Stay with either of the following:

Pads of paper may seem more economical, however when you factor in the cost of Artists masking tape, having to buy and carry a board to tape the paper to and the time it takes to mount, and stretch the paper watercolor blocks are worth the few extra dollars.

Arches 9x12 100% cotton pad can handle any technique. (you will need a board which to tape the paper on to and stretch it). Only 12 sheets Dick Blick **\$12.03**, **\$15.50- \$23.95** Amazon.

Strathmore **No cotton rag content, a good paper but it won't handle a lot of wet washes very well** **Strathmore** 9x12 or larger 400 series 140lb paper pad (brown cover not Yellow). (you will need a board which to tape the paper on to and stretch it). Only 12 from Dick Blick **\$6.48 \$.54/ sheet** from Amazon **\$8.32 \$.70/sheet**

Highly recommended: \$1.47 to \$1.89/ sheet

Arches 9x12 100% cotton watercolor block 20 sheets no need to stretch the paper, can handle any technique. From Dick Blick, **\$29.35** From Amazon, **\$37.86**

Brushes: Sable brushes are very expensive, fortunately, there are some reasonably priced synthetic brushes available locally and on line, however the prices can be very high.

If you visit the brushguys.com, you will find that Robert Simmons brand brushes has a good quality multimedia brush series called "Simply Simmons" at a price of \$2.99 per brush regardless of size. Usually the larger the brush the higher the cost. The Simply Simmons brushes used to be available from local stores but unfortunately are not always on hand and prices are significantly higher. I've used these brushes for both watercolor and acrylic with success.

The Bush guys also carry a brand called Silver Dynasty all brushes \$2.19 I've not tried this brand, but reviews were positive.

Other items for your kit:

Winsor and Newton Cotman Watercolor 12 tube set

Simply Simmons brushes in the following sizes:

Rigger 1

Flat Wash 1 inch

#2 round

#8 round

Black Silver Dynasty brushes in the following sizes:

Black Silver angle $\frac{1}{4}$ inch

Arches (green cover) or Strathmore series 400 (brown cover) 9 x 12 Watercolor block

Two containers for water

A palette I like Melamine plates from Target or other stores. Or even the palettes with lots of wells from the craft store, buy with a coupon.

A kneaded eraser

Some paper towels

A number 2 pencil

A board and artist tape to stretch paper

An old toothbrush

Artist acid free tape