

PAINTING THE EN PLEIN AIR LANDSCAPE IN WATERCOLOR

Equipment & Supplies

Below is a list of supplies for a light, portable and flexible set up for painting the landscape on location.

Recommended Materials and Supplies

Palette – sturdy plastic palette with a lid for portability. Shown, at right, is the John Pike palette – a very sturdy option. But any good sized palette with lid will work. Also shown in the photo are two collapsible containers for water. These are sold in pet stores as portable feed and water bowls. They collapse and store inside the palette itself.



Brushes – only a few basic brushes are needed. Note that they should be large! The photo shows a handful of brushes that will easily do the trick. They include: **a large round** (about 1/2" wide at the ferrule), **two medium rounds**, but you only need one (about 1/4" wide at the ferrule), **two flats**, but you only need one at least 1 1/2" wide, **a small rigger** (#4 or 5 will do) and a dagger liner (this brush is unnecessary and is

use only for special effects).

Paper – I recommend Arches 140lb Cold Press paper. It is a high-quality, versatile and durable surface to work on. Paper cut and mounted in blocks is popular but relatively expensive. Full sheets (22 x 30) divided into individual quarter (11" x 15") or eighth sheet (7 1/2" x 11") size ready to be clipped to a mounting board is the most cost effective way to purchase paper.



Sketchbooks – for plein air work, you'll want a good quality watercolor sketchbook about **9"x12"** or so in size. Bring whatever you have already, as most anything will work for en plein air sketch explorations. If you need a new one, I recommend the **Aquabee** sketchbook. It is high-quality, but relatively inexpensive. And the paper has an interesting texture and interesting working character.



PAINTING THE EN PLEIN AIR LANDSCAPE IN WATERCOLOR

Equipment & Supplies

Paint - I recommend using professional grade colors. You will get the best results from professional grade paint. Professional grade paint includes: *Daniel Smith, Winsor & Newton, DaVinci, Utrecht, Dick Blick, Holbein, Mijello Gold, QoR, and American Journey.*

The table below lists a versatile basic set of professional grade color.



NOTE: Where there is more than one Brand/Brand Color Suggestion – YOU ONLY NEED ONE, NOT ALL LISTED!

	Brand / Brand Color Suggestions	CIGN Pigment Code
Cool Red	Winsor Newton / Permanent Alizarin Crimson	PR206
	Daniel Smith / Permanent Alizarin Crimson	PR177, PV19, PR149
	Blick / Permanent Alizarin Crimson	PR48:4
Low Intensity Cool Red	Daniel Smith Quinacridone Burnt Scarlet	PR 206
Warm Red	DaVinci / Cadmium Red Light	PR108
	Winsor Newton / Cadmium Red	PR108
	Blick Artists Watercolor / Cadmium Red	PR108
Secondary Orange	Any Brand / Cadmium Orange	PO20
Cool Yellow	DaVinci / Aureolin	PY40/PY3
	Any Brand / Azo Yellow	PY150
Low Intensity Cool Yellow	Daniel Smith Quinacridone Deep Gold	PO48 / PY150
Warm Yellow	DaVinci / Cadmium Yellow Medium	PY35
	DaVinci / Indian Yellow	PY97
Primary Blue	DaVinci / Cobalt Blue	PB28
	Winsor Newton / Cobalt Blue	
	Daniel Smith / Cobalt Blue	
Light Cool Blue	Winsor Newton / Cerulean Blue	PB35
Warm Blue	Winsor Newton / French Ultramarine Blue	PB29
Secondary Violet	DaVinci / Thalo Violet	PV23
	Winsor Newton / Winsor Violet	PV23
Light Neutral	Da Vinci / Raw Sienna	PBr7
Dark Neutral	Da Vinci / Burnt Sienna	PBr7



Water containers and rags – really anything that will hold water is fine -flat plastic containers designed for food storage work well and are relatively less bulky than other choices. For blotting your brushes and otherwise managing the water, you'll need paper towels or rags. Many people use paper towels, but, for the sake of the environment, I recommend using old towels, wash cloths, dish cloths, etc. They are absorbent and can be rinsed, dried and re-used over and over.

Support – loose sheets of watercolor paper need a sturdy support. Anything solid and inflexible will work. I use a product called **gatorboard**, which is essentially a bulked up piece of foamcore board. It is lightweight but also sturdy. Other possibilities include **plexi-glass**, **thin plywood**, and **tempered Masonite**. Any wood board like plywood or Masonite should be protected with polyurethane to keep it from warping.

Bulldog clips – to clip unstretched paper to board

Pencils – any brand 2B

Eraser – gray “kneaded” eraser

Materials & Supplies Checklist

- Palette
- Brushes – a handful of large brushes is all you need
- Paper – Arches 140lb Cold Press recommended!
- Sketchbook – Aquabee 9x12 if you are buying new
- Paint – any colors, professional grade!
- Water container and rags
- Support for loose paper
- Clips to hold paper to board
- Pencils – any brand, 2B recommended
- Eraser – kneaded eraser, these are usually gray rectangles wrapped in cellophane

Suggested Supplies for Comfort

Hat – coverage from the sun

Sunscreen

Insect repellent

Drinking Water

Layered clothing

Camp Stool - or other comfortable seating alternative

Optional equipment

Easel

Umbrella – for protection from sun or rain

