

Materials List for Beginner/Intermediate level Watercolor Classes - Johannes

If you have been painting – by all means start with what you have; you will learn very quickly if changes would improve your experience! If you already have **ARTIST GRADE** watercolor materials, refer to the list to see if you might have major gaps, you can add to or change out as you learn and experiment more.

The most common problems/frustrations students have:

- not using Arches paper (yes – it makes a difference!)
- inappropriate brushes (specific qualities required for watercolor – you'll learn more!)
- trying to work with student grade paints (not enough pigment and/or too much filler).

Because materials are expensive and starting out can be a big investment, Craig at Spokane Art Supply has offered to assemble a beginner's kit including artist grade watercolor paint, covered palette, and brushes with recommended paints for our beginning classes. (You **will require** tube purchases as you use up your paint). This list will give you a warm and cool of each primary, plus a few sedimentary paints and a few mixing darks. Daniel Smith, Holbein, Winsor Newton (in that order) are my favorite manufacturers. M.Graham is possibly most economical, but tends to stay goeey in the palette which leads to more mess with traveling to and fro.

At Spokane Art Supply: In a #1013 Jones Palette with the following paint (special pricing of \$55):

Ultramarine Blue Light - Holbein	Raw Umber - Daniel Smith
Cobalt Blue - M.Graham	Azo (Aureolin) Yellow - M.Graham or Hansa Yellow
Quinacridone Magenta or Permanent Alizarin Crimson – Daniel Smith or Holbein	Yellow Ochre - Daniel Smith
Quinacridone Rose - Daniel Smith or Holbein	New Gamboge or Cad yellow medium - Daniel Smith
Cad Red Light - M.Graham	Sap Green – Holbein
Burnt Sienna - Daniel Smith	

The brush set includes the following (50% discount price is \$119):

- 1/2" Black Velvet flat
- 1" 2008 Gold Natural flat
- 1 1/2" Robert Simmons Sienna Wash - flat
- #16 Designer Round Gold Natural
- #16 Cosmotop Spin Round

Purchase paint, palette, and brushes separately or online:

(If you are purchasing full tubes of paint – refer to the above list. Must have a covered palette with at least 16 wells -consider a more durable Pike Palette – approx. half the price if purchased online.)

Also on my palette that students often add:

Mineral Violet or Quinacridone Violet* (cool)	Cadmium Orange or Winsor Orange – Winsor Newton* (warm)
Neutral Tint* (cool)	Cerulean Blue* (cool)
Shadow Green* (cool)	Lavender* (Holbein)
Undersea Green* (warm)	
Quinacridone Burnt Orange* (warm)	

*optional but mighty useful!

Brushes: Stick with synthetics or blends for now – they have improved. Cost is not always the best indicator of quality, but the clearance or bundled packs of brushes are usually not a good option. Wait to see what we are using for more options and a better idea of what appeals to you if you like. As you learn more techniques, you may want larger sizes, mops, liners... Please use me as an information resource!

For basics, I would recommend:

Rounds: have two, Size 10 and 14-16 usually good to start with. You won't need smaller brushes at first! (Loew-Cornell Ultra Round 7020 size 12 or 14 – one of my favorites – online only)

Flats: ½" and 1" – one should have an aquarelle handle – a slanted end that can be used to scrape and scratch on paper. (Silver Black Velvet ½" one of my favorites!)

Wash: 1 ½" – 2" (Hake brushes are very inexpensive and serviceable as a wash brush, but are difficult to use as painters.) (Example: Robert Simmons Sienna series are good for washes AND general painting on larger paper.)

Paper – 140lb. Arches Cold Press, Bright White – THIS IS CRITICAL, please don't substitute!

Full sheets are generally the most economical, you will learn to tear into desired sizes. Watercolor blocks are not the best substitute for table/studio work and are more expensive. The 5 full sheet pack size at SAS is \$38 or so, (10 pack online is usually around \$40). You will likely need a **minimum** of ½ sheet per class (Number of classes vary from quarter to quarter) – buy a larger pack and you can share with another painter? I will have extra sheets at class for purchase if necessary.

Board supports: Two lightweight support boards such as Gator Board, or plywood (3/8") 17 x 24". The 3/8" plywood is a less expensive option – allow 1" border. Regular foam core, ¼" Masonite, and other flimsy supports will only work for small pieces and aren't suitable for stretching wet paper.

Board prop: Something to elevate your board to a 4-5" angle on your table surface. A styrofoam corner angle (15" length or so) from a packing box works well.

Small color wheel

Roll(s) of **Viva or blue shop-grade paper towels** (texture-free, non-shedding, and are very absorbent)

Sketchbook (9x12 or so is good size), **2B pencil** and **kneadable eraser**, **Xacto knife**, **regular masking tape (off-white)**

Small water spritzer bottle – The Holbein small spray bottle is also a painting tool! Otherwise, something portable!

Several plastic **water containers** (cottage cheese-type – avoid glass)

Plastic **table cover** (large trash bag).

Other useful commonly used materials – use your judgment and make reasonable substitutes (or ask!!)

Small **PEBEO masking fluid** and rubber square pick-up for removal

Tracing paper (9x12 size)

Transfer paper (purchase by the sheet, don't buy a huge roll!)

Apron

Extra mixing tray such as Masters

Ruler

Gray scale evaluator

Small metal **triangle palette knife**

Brush mat or dishtowel

Rubber tote (or collapsible cart from Staples) to carry everything is helpful – you may want to see what others are using. I use a small tacklebox to organize little stuff – fits inside a Staples cart (under \$20).

Inexpensive portfolio to carry boards and paper (make one with cardboard and duct tape!)

If you intend to purchase online you can usually save substantially on paper and often other items:

www.cheapjoes.com, blickarts.com, jerrysartarama.com, utrecht.com are all worth checking out as sales events are common. Usually there is a break on shipping costs with a minimum purchase amount. Also – if that is your plan, please email me for some minor changes in brush options and a different palette. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery – packages often arrive much sooner, but sometimes there is a hold up.