

## Acrylic Materials and Equipment

### Support

*Means the surface which you paint*

#### Canvas

Linen, cotton and synthetic fibres are the 3 basic kinds of canvas used for acrylic painting.

##### Linen

Most expensive due to its superior strength and durability.

##### Cotton

At lower cost. A well-made medium weight cotton duck is perfectly adequate.

##### Synthetic fibres

Polyester is easily found in local market. Cheapest among the other two.

You can buy canvas ready-stretched and primed on a wooden stretcher frame, or, more economically, by the meters from the roll so that you can stretch yourself.

You can buy wooden stretcher bars in a variety of lengths and assemble them into the dimension you like, whereas pre-stretched canvases come in a limited range.

##### Texture

Canvas texture varied from very smooth to very rough, the heavier the weight, the rougher the texture.

The weight and texture of canvas should compliment your style of painting.

##### Smooth canvas

More suitable for detail painting style.

##### Rougher canvas

More suitable for painting style that needs to build thick layers of paint. The grainy tooth allows the paint adhere to the canvas.

##### Priming

For permanence in acrylic painting, all supports should be primed with ground before use.

The ground seals the canvas surface so acrylic is not excessively absorbed by it.

The ground also makes it easier for paint to adhere or stick.

The most commonly used ground is acrylic gesso

##### Acrylic gesso

Provides a fast and easy way to apply ground. It will adhere without difficulty to any surface that is dirt and oil free.

#### Board

##### Canvas Panel/Blockboard/Plywood/Chipboard/Hardboard/Museum board

Relatively inexpensive compare to frame ready stretched with canvas.

More permanent and durable compare to regular canvas.

May warp when size bigger.

All except canvas panel should be primed with ground before use.

Very suitable for doing small study of composition or practice, or for painting trips, when space is a consideration.

## Paper

### Acrylic sketching Paper

Available in loose sheets or pads.

Big advantage is that you can easily adjust its proportions to fit a particular composition.

### Watercolor Paper

There are 3 types of watercolor paper according to production.

They are handmade, mould-made and machine-made paper.

Handmade paper - the most natural texture that preferred by many artists

Machine-made paper - a more mechanical look paper, more suitable for graphic art or illustration.

#### Texture

Watercolor paper is available in 3 basic surfaces

Hot-pressed paper - relatively smooth surface, more suitable for fine detailed painting.

Cold-pressed paper/Not paper-medium rough or textured surface which is suitable for general needs.

Rough-heavily textured surface with pronounced "tooth" for impressionistic painting that gives ragged strokes to the strokes because the paint sticks only to the top of the paper's tooth.

#### Content

Paper is made of cotton (sometimes called rag) or cottonwood pulp combination.

100% cotton made paper is the best to be used due to its resistance and versatility to wash and corrections.

#### PH

A neutral pH is a necessity for watercolor paper; or else it will have yellow stain that grows over time

#### Weight

The weight of paper is calculated in pounds per ream or gram per square meter

The heaviest paper is usually the thickest

Watercolor paper weight range from 90 to 300 pounds (185-640g)

Lighter papers less than 300gsm/140lb tend to buckle and wrinkle when washes are applied. To avoid this, stretch paper before start working on it.

#### Absorbency and size

Watercolor paper are given a coating of glue or size during paper pulp period or after pressing, so that its surface will retain moisture and keep the color from penetrating deep into the paper. It helps produces a more luminous wash and keep the color intensity

## Paint

### Components

Acrylic paints are obtained by mixing pigment with binding medium like acrylic polymer

Acrylic paints dry on painting surface-by evaporation of water and form a film which is water resistant

### Form

There are three forms of acrylic paints available in market; tubes, bottle

#### Tubes

Most commonly used. Size varies from 20 ml to 270ml.

#### bottle

Comparatively bigger portion compare to tubes. Suitable for those artists who do large scale paintings.

### Grade of paints

There are two grades of oil paints available in market; artist grade and student grade.

#### Artist grade

Categorized from series one to seven, prices from low to high, better in stability and permanence, better in quality and density of the pigments. Brands available in market include Winsor and Newton, Talens and Daler Rowney.

**Student grade**

Consistent in prices. To maintain the cost, substitution pigments is used when indicated as "hue". Brands available in market include "Galerie" of Winsor and Newton, "System 3" of Daler Rowney, and "Amsterdam" of Talens.

**Permanence**

Refers to the resistance of pigments to the sunlight. Some color may fade under sunlight. Indicate with \* on the label.

**Transparence**

Pigments differ in transparence.

**Transparent pigments**

French ultramarine, Cobalt blue, Hooker's green, Alizarin crimson, Viridian, Prussian blue.

**Opaque pigments**

All cadmium, Yellow ochre, Burnt umber, Cerulean blue, Lemon yellow

Transparent pigments are more suitable for glazing technique; which layer of darker color to be applied on top of fully dries under paint.

**Tinting strength**

A strong tinting strength color means the color will easy overdo other colors when mix with it.

**Strong tints**

Alizarin crimson, Cadmium red, Phthaloyanine blue, Burnt sienna.

**Low-strength tints**

Yellow ochre, cerulean blue.

**Medium**

*Use to dilute, change effects of acrylic paints or protect acrylic paintings.*

**Gel/Glazing medium**

Reducing the consistency of paint, increasing flow and fading brush-strokes.  
Increases transparency and drying time.  
available in glossy or matt finish

**Retarder**

slow down paint drying time

**Impasto Gel**

Increase the body of paints without fading the colors

**Texture Paste**

create highly textured surface  
Available in different substances like pumice, sand and etc...

**Picture Varnish**

Gives paintings a protection from dust  
Available in glossy or matt finish

**Brush**

**Hair types**

**Hog bristle**

Is harder enough to spreads medium to thick paints smoothly and evenly.

Is a far less expensive alternative to good-quality softer hairs.

### **Badger Hair**

Is thickest at the point, and relatively thin at the root, so it has a distinctive "bushy" appearance. Suitable for blending paint on canvas.

### **Kolinsky Sable**

Softer than hog bristle.  
More suitable for fine detail painting.  
Holds a very fine point or edge.  
Very Expensive, up to few hundreds.

### **Red Sable**

A good alternative to the more expensive Kolinsky.  
Less expensive in price compare to kolinsky hair.

### **Synthetic fibres**

Are man-made of either nylon or polyester filaments.  
Harder and resistant compare to natural soft hair.  
Can point very sharp.  
Hold less point combine to natural hair.  
They are easier to keep clean than animal hair brushes because the filaments don't have animal scale structures to trap paint.  
They are better suited for painting with acrylics because a synthetic filament will withstand the caustic nature of acrylic paints with less damage.

## **Shapes**

### **Round**

For fine detailing, fine lines, spotting, and retouching.



### **Flat**

Provides lots of color capacity and easy maneuverability.  
Use for bold, sweeping strokes, or on edge for fine lines.  
Use heavier filling for heavier paint.



### **Bright**

Useful for short, controlled strokes, and with thick or heavy color.



### **Filbert**

With its soft rounded edges, the filbert is suitable for blending and figurative work.



### **Fan blender**

Useful for smoothing and blending.



### **Rigger**

Very long and thin hair.  
Suitable for line works.

### **"Spalters" (large flat brushes)**

Generally used for applying varnish, for priming grounds (canvas, for example) and for painting large surfaces.



### **Brush's handle**

Handles are available in different length.

Long handle-more suitable for free and spontaneous strokes.

Short handle-more suitable for control and delicate strokes for detail painting style.

### **How to clean Brushes**

Wipe off any excess paint using a cloth or soft tissue.

Gently squeezing the bristles from the ferrule edge outwards with your fingers, or with a cloth, will help remove paint from the brush. But be careful to avoid pulling on the bristles.

Rinse the brush in lukewarm water. Never use hot water as it can expand the ferrule, causing the hairs to fall out.

Wipe it on the cloth again to remove the last of the excess paint.

Wash gently using a little bit of mild soap or dish washing liquid. Dab the brush gently onto the piece of soap, then work up a lather in the palm of your hand.

Rinse and repeat until there's no trace of any color coming out. Over time a brush may become stained, but don't stop rinsing until you're sure there's no paint left.

Rinse once more in clean, lukewarm water to remove any traces of soap. Shake off the water.

Use your fingers to gently shape the brush head into its correct shape.

If necessary, wrap the bristles in a piece of tissue or toilet paper while the brush is still wet. When the paper dries it'll contract, pulling the bristles into shape.

Leave brush to dry at room temperature. Ensure it's not resting on its head as it will then dry misshapen. Standing it on the back of the handle works well.

## **Accessory**

### **Palettes**

#### **Materials**

Plastic, paper or glass is commonly used material.

Disposable paper palette is time saving for cleaning.

#### **Thumbhole**

Some palettes have thumbhole for ease of holding.

### **Shapes**

Oblong and kidney-shaped are most commonly used.

Kidney-shaped-designed to suit body and arm contour when being hold by arm.

### **Palette knife**

For mixing, and cleaning up paints on palette.

Available in metal or plastic.

### **Painting knife**

For applying paints on supports.

Different shapes are available.

**Dipper**

Dipper is for holding mediums.

They are available in single cup or double cups, with or without caps.

The bottom of these cups has a clip, which slides over the edge of a flat color palette.

There are metal or plastic dippers available.

**Washer**

For washing brushes.

**Cotton rag/paper towel/newspaper cuts**

They are used for cleanup brushes,color stains on hands/body/dress