

Watercolour Materials List

Adam Cope - Painting Holidays. © 2019

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Packing your art materials for a painting holiday needs preparation.

TIP : Do a dummy pack beforehand to make sure that it all fits & that it's not too heavy to carry.

Your total loaded weight shouldn't be more 4 kilos max. Travel light! Reduce it! Don't bring too much.

You will need a bag to transport your watercolour materials. When there, you will have to carry your stuff to the place you are going to paint. So choose one which is easy to carry, ready to grab & light weight. This purpose made artist's backback: [Art storage bag by Kurtzy](#)

Please note it is probably best to put your art materials into checked hull luggage, not cabin. Watercolour artists colours (not paints) are allowed on most European flights. Please check this with your flight provider. Pack tubes into zippable freezer bags to protect against cabin pressure in air flight & for ease of airport inspection. Never bring any knives or inflammable solvents.

Here are the required materials that you need to bring:

DRAWING

- A5 sketch pad for drawing. Cartridge 160 GMS. Make sure it's this heavy, so that you can lay a fine watercolour wash over the drawing.
- 2H, HB & 3B pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Plastic eraser, not putty
- Black biro
- Black rollerball pen or felt tip
- Pencil case

BRUSHES

- 1 x No 6 (3,7mm) sable round pointed watercolour brush
- 1 x No 10 (6mm) sable or sable mix round pointed watercolour brush
- 1 x 'one stroke flat' brush either sable or nylon. About 1 cm or 1/2 inch wide.
- 1 x 1/4 inch approx. Cheap pointy nylon brush
- 1 x organic sponge
- 1 x [medium tip waterbrush](#) (a pack of three is best for sketching).
- [A brush wallet](#) or bamboo roll
- A water pipette or syringe

Optional : if you like wet in wet, [a small goat hair hake](#)

Or a small oval mop mixed synthetic & squirrel Brush.

I recommend Yorkshire based [Rosemary & Co Artists Brushes](#)

WATERCOLOUR PAINTS

8ml tubes. Winsor & Newton. Artists quality is better than student quality. You really see this in the transparent yellow and the cobalt blue.

The Split-Primaries – a warm & cool of each.

This is the place to start learning colour mixing. Watch the Winsor & Newton Masterclass video 'Mixing primaries that have a similar secondary hue bias' (find it via a google search).

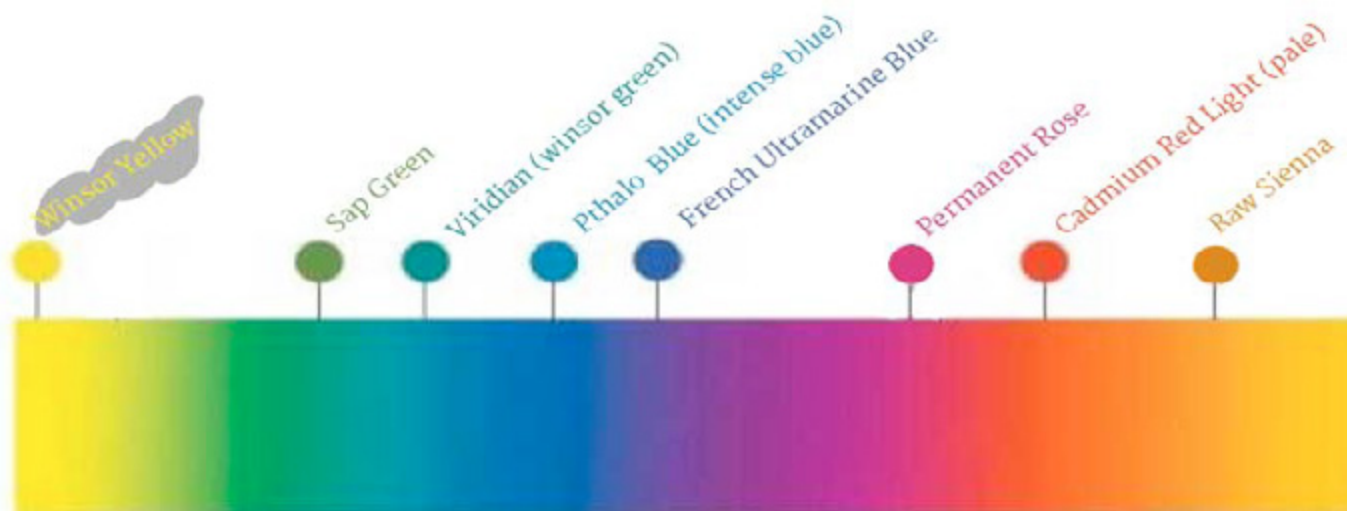
- Artists Quality Transparent Yellow (winsor yellow)
- Yellow Ochre
- French Ultramarine Blue
- Cerulean Blue
- Cadmium Red Light
- Permanent Rose
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Then you will need these colours as well:

- Burnt Sienna
- Warm or Coloured Sepia
- Sap Green
- Artists Quality Cobalt Blue
- Dioxazin Violet (winsor violet)
- Neutral Tint
- White gouache

You can bring a travel set of pans/cakes but these are not ideal and will be difficult to use with the well palettes. Too dry. Please make sure your set has all these colours. If not, bring extra tubes.

Pack paints into zippable freezer bags to protect against cabin pressure in air flight.



Mapping Pigments to the spectrum. To understand the cool & warm varieties of each colour, it is helpful to see where each pigment falls along the colour spectrum. The magenta-like Permanent Rose, for example, lies closer to the violet end of the spectrum, while red light is relatively warmer and lies towards the yellow end of the spectrum.

4 round plastic palettes with wells

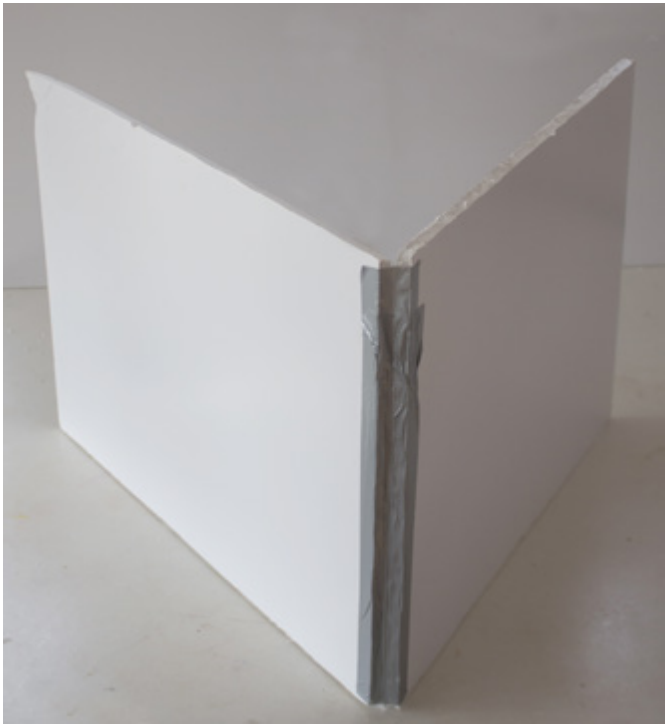
Please get yourself four of these as I will teach you how to dilute & mix with these.



Plastic Atomiser / Diffuser
I like 250 ml because it can double up as water bottle.



LIGHTWEIGHT DRAWING BOARD/ PAPER TRANSPORTER



You will need one of these drawing boards on your painting holiday. They are easy to make. You will need :

- two A3 x 5mm thick foam board
- tape top (shortest) edges (tape both inside & out) with a taped hinge using Gorilla tape.
- 3 big clips
- [A3 plastic sleeve](#) to transport & protect your paintings/paper.

[There are various suppliers of A3 5mm foam board on Amazon](#)



This system doubles up as a really very comfortable, light weight drawing board. There is no point in bringing a watercolour pad on a painting holiday week. Most of the weight is the cardboard backing, which you will never use. Make this board size A3 because we will painting A4 or 9 x 12 inches. The margin acts as a hand rest.

PAPER

We will working 9 x 12 inches (A4 will do, if you must). You can work larger if you like. But larger often takes longer. I'm hoping that 9 x 12 will take students two to three hours in one sitting. Then a finishing session in the studio.

Please do buy a gummed pad. Take it off the cardboard back. Slip it into the A3 plastic sleeve and tuck it away into the light weight drawing board/paper transporter. Your paper will be nice & safe, with no risk of being damaged in transit.

I recommend these papers:

[Bockingford NOT Watercolour Paper Pads. 9"x12" gummed \(140lb, 12 sheets\).](#)

This is a good paper for beginners. The NOT surface is neither too smooth nor too rough.

[Arches Aquarelle Gummed Watercolour Paper Pads. Gummed 9"x12" \(140lb, 12 sheets\).](#)

This is the classic paper. Rough, Not or Hot Press, as you like.

Please also bring a few scraps of waterpaper for your colour mixing swatches.

