

## Plein Air -- Bare Bones Materials List – All Mediums

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### BRING TO ALL CLASSES:

- **An open mind, your creative spirit, and your sense of wonder.** There is no pressure! Be ready to relax, get in touch with the painter inside you, and have a lot of fun!
- **Sketchbook and fine point artist's India ink pen like Faber-Castell Pitt, or Sharpie.**
- **Water bottle to stay hydrated. Snacks if you like.**
- **Hat or cap with a brim, and sunscreen. Both are essential!**
- **Cube cart, portable wagon or backpack to take your gear into the field.**

**EASEL:** It is important to have a sturdy, lightweight easel that will not blow over. If you are buying an easel for oil or pastel, I recommend starting with a French easel. These can be found used (yard sales, etc.) for under \$50 and can be purchased new for under \$100. A “half box” is lighter than a “full box” and works just as well. If you are painting in gouache or watercolor, you can tape your paper to a piece of foam core board and hold it in your lap while seated. In that case you might want to bring a portable chair or stool and side table.

### If working in Pastel:

- Use the pastels, blending stumps, erasers, drawing board and other tools and paper you normally use. Also read the list below for what applies. I recommend that pastel painters know their materials well and have some experience before painting outdoors en plein air.

### If working in Watercolor or Gouache:

- Use the pigments, brushes, panels or papers and other tools you normally use. Splurge on the best paper you can afford, like 140 lb Saunders cold press or rough. Also read the list below for what applies. Be sure to have a yellow, a true red, Ultramarine Blue and white. You will learn to mix any other colors you need.

### If working in Oil (NOTE: Acrylic is not recommended for plein air. It dries too fast).

- **Paint** – Use the colors you normally use. If you don't already have paint, I recommend Gamblin 1980 oil paints. All you need is Hansa Yellow Light, Naphthol Red and Ultramarine Blue in 37 ml tubes, and Titanium White in a 150 ml tube. You will learn to mix any other colors you need.
- **Medium** – None needed.
- **Brushes** – An assortment, including flats in various sizes and one smaller round. I recommend Robert Simmons, Signet Flat, Size 6. Dick Blick 06646-1006. Plus, a smaller round brush like ZEN brush by Royal & Langnickel, round, size 1. Dick Blick 09149-2001
- **Painting Knife** – A painting knife (aka palette knife) shaped like a trowel, one or a variety. I like Creative Mark brand #-25.
- **Palette** – Use whatever you have. A disposable paper palette is fine. To cover and transport your palette with paint on it: Masterson Palette Seal – blue lid for oil.
- **Panels** – Your preferred canvas or panel, 8x10. Dick Blick's *Economy Canvas Panel* is nice for the price. A panel or canvas board works much better in plein air than a stretched canvas.
- **How to carry wet paintings** -- If you want to save money and recycle, use empty pizza boxes to transport your wet paintings. Or buy Guerilla Painter Handy Porter online.
- **Brush Washer** -- or tank with a tight cover. You can use a glass jar with a lid that seals tight, the size of a spaghetti sauce or mayo jar. Or a Silicoil has a coil in the bottom on which to wipe bristles.

- **Solvent** – ODORLESS Gamsol mineral spirits. Do not use any solvent with an odor!
- **Paper Towels** -- Viva brand, several rolls.

*Online Suppliers*

**Dick Blick** [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com) **Jerry's Artarama** [www.jerrysartarama.com](http://www.jerrysartarama.com) **Cheap Joe's** [www.cheapjoes.com](http://www.cheapjoes.com)

Also check **Amazon** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)