

Dylan Pierce Watercolor Supply Guide

You don't need to own every exact brand or color I use to follow the lessons. Good-quality watercolor materials will make painting easier and more enjoyable, and comparable artist-grade colors can often be substituted. This guide covers the supplies used throughout my Illuminating Watercolor classes. If you'd like to set up your palette the way I use mine, you'll find my current palette layout below. I recommend artist-grade tube watercolors for the techniques I teach.

Palette Layout

My palette is arranged so that complementary colors generally sit opposite one another. This makes it easier to mix neutrals, control color temperature, and quickly find useful color relationships.

PAINT BRAND KEY

MG = M Graham & Co.
DS = Daniel Smith
WN = Winsor & Newton
QoR = QoR Modern Watercolors

LEFT SIDE COLOR	SWATCH	RIGHT SIDE COLOR	SWATCH
Gamboge (MG)		Ultramarine Violet (MG)	
Transparent Pyrrole Orange (QoR)		Ultramarine Blue (MG)	
Burnt Sienna (WN)		—	—
Pyrrole Scarlet (DS)		Manganese Blue Hue (MG)	
Brown Madder (WN)		Antwerp Blue (WN)	
Quinacridone Rose (MG)		—	—
Amethyst Genuine (DS)		Hooker's Green (MG)	
Cobalt Blue Violet (DS)		Sap Green (MG)	
Ultramarine Violet (MG) (repeated)		Azo Yellow (MG)	

Some colors appear more than once on my physical palette because of where they are positioned.

Brushes

You don't need a large collection of brushes. A few good brushes in different shapes and sizes will cover most situations.

RECOMMENDED:

- Princeton Neptune Quill #4
- Princeton Neptune 1" Oval Wash
- Quality synthetic round brushes in sizes 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8
- Inexpensive 1/2" angled synthetic brush for lifting and scrubbing

OPTIONAL FAVORITES & WHERE TO BUY:

- Da Vinci Petit Gris Pur Series 418 – JerrysArtarama.com
- Happy Dot – OrientalArtSupply.com
- HIF Red Feather S – OrientalArtSupply.com
- HSP02 Happy Tail – OrientalArtSupply.com

Need help getting started with your supplies?

Watch my Supplies & Getting Started tutorials:

illuminatingwatercolor.com/supplies

Scan the QR code to go directly to the tutorials.



Paper

Paper quality makes a significant difference in watercolor. I recommend 100% cotton, artist-quality watercolor paper.

Preferred paper: Arches Cold Pressed – 300 lb / 640 gsm

Other Useful Supplies

- Water container
- Paper towels
- Sketchbook
- Artist tape
- Kneaded eraser
- No. 2 pencils and pencil sharpener
- Masking fluid
- Toilet paper roll, paper towel & rubber band – brush-cleaning pad

Palette

Masterson Aqua-Pro works well for this palette layout. But any palette with enough mixing space and wells for your colors can work. My favorite is the John Pike Big Well Palette, but I put two colors in the same well since it doesn't have enough wells.