

DAVID WEBB'S BASIC MATERIALS LIST FOR WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOPS & PAINTING BREAKS

This is my standard list of materials, which may vary slightly, depending on the course. As you can see, you don't need too many colours as I prefer to work with a limited palette. I also think that quality is much more important than quantity. I recommend that you only use materials from reputable art manufacturers.

Paints

Suggested colours (or similar):

Cobalt blue

Burnt sienna

Alizarin crimson

Lemon yellow (transparent variety)

Indian yellow

Raw sienna

plus **Sepia or Black** (just for monotone sketches)

Palette

A mixing palette with 5 or 6 large mixing wells. One that has a lid is the best type, and should contain small slots for colours, and larger ones for mixing. The lid helps to keep the colours moist when not in use.

Paper

Quarter imperial size (15x11") not surface, or rough surface, 140lb to 200lb weight. I use 200lb Bockingford for workshops. If you prefer, you could paint on half imperial size (22x11"). I always buy my paper in Full imperial sheets (30x22"). Most suppliers sell all three cut sizes though.

Scrap Paper

I suggest keeping a supply of any failures for testing colours and trying out techniques, as you can paint on the back. It makes sense to do these on watercolour paper as cheap kitchen paper, or cartridge paper, will not produce the same results.

Brushes

A couple of brushes, one large and one small. The large one should be big enough to paint a sky on a 15x11" sheet. If the brush has a decent point, it will be suitable for most of the painting. A 'round' is the most useful.

Synthetic, sable or squirrel are all good. I use a size 2 Jackson's Raven synthetic squirrel mop for paintings up to 15x11", which is about 12mm width. *

A smaller brush, like a rigger or swordliner, is useful for details like lines, branches etc. I also have a 1" flat nylon brush, which I use for lifting out.

**brush sizes tend to vary between manufacturers, which can be confusing when ordering online.*

Pencils

I find that softer grades, such as 2B – 4B are better for working on watercolour paper, as harder grades tend to make a groove in the surface.

I also use Graphitone pencils for outdoor sketching. I find them really useful for making tonal studies as they are also watersoluble.

Drawing board

This should be at least 2 inches wider all round than your paper size.

Sketchbook

For working outdoors and collecting reference sketches.

Additional items

Water pot, masking tape, eraser, kitchen roll.

Suppliers of art materials

www.jacksonsart.com
www.saa.co.uk