

Oil Painting Supplies – Getting Started

Brushes: the initial goal is to get used to how different brush types and shapes feel, and how they affect the outcome of your work. The brushes below are of medium stiffness and lend themselves to a range of applications.

[Silver Brush Grand Prix Brush Set](#) set of 5 brushes, hog hair, size 4 – a variety of brush shapes

[Princeton Aspen Series 6500 Synthetic Brushes](#) - Set of 4: one Bright 2, one Flat 6, one Filbert 4, and one Round 2/0

Oil paints: I recommend [Winsor & Newton Artist Oils](#) (*not* student grade) in the following colors. There are many high-quality oil paint brands, and I use an assortment of most, including W&N. I recommend starting with this brand to give you a baseline, then branching out as you get to know the qualities of paints and mixing over time.

Start off with 37 ml size for each, except for White – you will often use white for mixing, so a 200 ml tube is more economical.

- Ivory Black
- Titanium White
- Raw Umber
- Burnt Sienna
- Sap Green
- Permanent Rose
- Cadmium Red Light
- Ultramarine Blue
- Prussian Blue
- Raw Sienna
- Yellow Ochre
- Cadmium Yellow Medium

Canvas: for introductory exercises, a pad of canvas paper is an excellent way to get started. It is a medium grade canvas, just not stretched onto stretcher bars. You will tape each sheet onto a board using masking tape or art tape. (Suggested board and tape below)

[Fredrix Canvas Pad - 12" x 16", 10 Sheets](#)

Once you get past the introductory exercises, working on canvas panels is a good next step.

[Blick Studio Cotton Canvas Panels - 12" x 16", Pkg of 5](#)

Depending on the type of art you want to do, you will then continue on a higher-grade canvas panel, or on a traditional canvas. [The Fredrix brand is a good quality canvas](#) with a range of finishes. You will

choose the canvas based on the type of painting you want to do – smooth for details, medium to heavy weight for landscapes and abstracts, etc.

Other useful items:

[Glass Tabletop Palette - 12" x 16", Gray](#) Although it is traditional to use a wooden palette, I find the glass ones to be the easiest to clean, and the grey neutral background helps judge color mixtures. However, any palette that strikes your fancy will be fine, if it is sealed (not bare wood.)

[Palette knife – Richeseon No. 895, 2 1/8 x 5/8](#) for mixing paint, I find a size something like this works well – not too long, not too small.

[Gamblin Gamsol Odorless Mineral Spirits](#) for thinning paint and cleaning brushes – this brand is the best, not like hardware store OMS

[Gamblin Stand Oil](#) to be mixed with Gamsol to make a painting ‘medium’

Easel: The type of easel is a personal preference. Right now I have 6 different styles! A table top easel is very useful, however once you start working on larger canvases, you will want to stand up to work. I recommend not making a large investment to start with. Once you decide what type of painting you will be doing (large, small, indoors, outdoors) there are a wide variety of options to choose from.

‘Nice to have’ items:

If you don’t have a drawing board or some other (smooth plywood?) onto which you can tape canvas paper, I recommend using gator board – it’s lightweight and useful as a support for drawing, as well. One sheet of this will last for years.

[Gatorfoam Gatorfoam Board - 23" x 31" x 1/2", White](#)

[Artist’s tape](#) (You can also use good quality low-tack masking tape instead of artists’ tape)

Also have on hand:

Paper towels

Rags

2 small or medium-sized glass jars with lids (for the OMS, and the ‘medium’ mixture you will make)

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