

Painting Supplies

Note: key supplies are underlined.

1. PAINTS:

Absolutely essential colors: Primary Red (magenta), Primary Blue, Primary Yellow, & White

Many artists prefer the Golden brand, which is high quality paint. However, in my experience, mid-level paints (like Liquitex Basics) are still effective and a more cost effective option for beginners. The Golden brand primary colors listed below create clean (as opposed to muddy) mixtures, and are all organic, and therefore translucent.

- Primary Magenta (If using Golden brand, get Quinacridone Magenta)
- Primary Blue (If Golden brand, get Phthalo Blue [Green Shade])
- Primary Yellow (If Golden brand, get Hansa Yellow Medium)
- Titanium White

Helpful additional colors:

(Note: I typically work with primary colors and white, but the colors listed below are very useful and will allow you to achieve neutral tones/earth tones more easily.)

- Cadmium Red Deep or medium
- Ultramarine Blue
- Cerulean
- Viridian
- Sap Green
- Yellow Ochre
- Burnt Sienna
- Raw or Burnt Umber
- Black (preferably bone-black)

2. PALETTE:

You can choose to purchase either a “Stay Wet” Palette or a simple flat plastic palette.

- **Stay Wet Palette:** Since acrylic paint dries so quickly, palettes that keep paint wet are very useful. They prevent unnecessary remixing of colors, and lost paint. Masterson and Winsor & Newton make Stay Wet Palettes - you can find them in many art stores and craft stores. The palette has a flat sponge on the bottom that keeps the semi-permeable palette paper above moist, and a lid that seals it off. You'll need (these are often sold together) One Stay Wet palette (Size 16” by 12” recommended), Palette Paper, and the Palette Sponge
- **Alternatively, if you want to begin with a simple large plastic palette, you can.** (I've found the standard circular ones to be too small). If rapid paint drying, or the need to remix colors become frustrating, you can always purchase a stay wet palette at a later time.

3. BRUSHES:

Synthetic brushes work well for acrylic. The following brushes will be helpful to have:

- A round brush half the size of your pinky finger
- A filbert and a round about the size of your pinky finger
- A flat and a filbert about the size of your middle finger
- 2 inch flat brush

4. THE SUPPORTS/ PAINTING SURFACES:

There are many options for supports/painting surfaces. They must be gessoed, which seals the surface to accept the paint. I recommend using something around 11" by 14" to begin. Smaller supports (like 9" by 12") can be limiting. If you are a beginner, I recommend buying budget friendly supports, since they'll allow you to practice with a little more freedom and less pressure.

Support options:

- Canvas (pre-prepared or self-prepared)
- Matt Board
- Plywood or other wood boards
- Masonite (you can buy a large sheet at a home improvement store and have it cut down into smaller sheets by the staff there.)
- Pre-prepared boards for painting
- Heavy paper like watercolor paper

5. GESSO:

Gesso is a base layer that prepares a surface for paint. Many canvases that are available in art and craft stores are already prepared with gesso. If you aren't purchasing pre-gessoed supports, you will need white gesso that is water soluble. (Liquitex makes a nice gesso.)

6. MEDIUMS:

Matte medium is used to thin paint, improving the flow without losing body or changing the physical property of the polymer. Optional other mediums include: Gloss medium (which gives a shine), and slow dry medium, and many others.

7. PAPER TOWELS/ RAGS & CONTAINERS:

I typically cut rags (like old t-shirts) into small squares (about 6" by 6"), but you may prefer to use paper towels. Viva paper towels are strong and durable.

You'll need two plastic jars or cups. A cup around 16oz is a good size for water, and a smaller one will work well for mediums.