

[Watercolor I](#) – [Watercolor II & III](#) – [Painting with Alcohol Inks](#)

## **Beginning Watercolor I – Supply List**

What to bring:

- Yourself, ready to have some fun! ☺
- Craft sponge brush – at least 2 inches wide. Even wider is better. You can find these for a great price in the paint section at hardware stores
- Small water mister (small with a fine spray). Dollar Stores and Hair/Beauty Supply stores are great places to find these.
- 2 water containers – cottage cheese type containers work fine, but anything similar you have around the house will work
- Gum eraser (optional)
- Paper towels (Bounty or Viva work best!)
- Blow dryer
- Masking tape – keep it narrow in width (1 inch max). Blue painter's tape you can find at hardware stores, paint section, works great.
- **\$15 to pay the instructor a materials fee for everything else**

If you have your own paints, brushes, palette, paper, etc., feel free to bring what you have and we'll negotiate a reduced materials fee.

## Beginning Watercolor II & III – Supply List

You are welcome to use the same supply list shown above for Watercolor I, plus pay the \$15 materials fee, for Watercolor II and III as well. I will provide the rest. However, if you are digging this watercolor thing and want to start purchasing your own materials, read on.

**NOTE: For Watercolor II class only, we do a project that requires several specialty items. So, even if you have and bring your own supplies, please still expect to pay a portion of the materials fee.**

Here's what I suggest as a starting point to do the style of watercolor painting I do. **PLEASE BE AWARE you will need to order your materials online for the most part.** Finding them locally is nigh on impossible, or very expensive. ☹

### **PAPER**

140 lb, cold press watercolor paper (avoid the paper on spiral bound tablets...watercolor 'blocks' are OK though and you can sometimes find these locally [Michael's, Hobby Lobby, Craft Warehouse). I prefer Arches brand, but there are many kinds you might want to try. I order the 22 x 30 sheets. Here's a [link](#) to what I buy through Cheap Joe's. The link goes to a five sheet quantity, although you can choose different amounts.

Hobby Lobby does carry Arches paper now, but it's quite a bit more expensive than buying it online.

Even as a beginner, paper is one of two things I don't recommend skimping on. Student grade, inexpensive paper, will be very discouraging for you as a beginner. Don't get lured in by the price!

### **BRUSHES**

Size 10 & 12 rounds

- Cheap Joe's Starving Artist brand is a very economical way to start out. Here's a [link](#) to their round brushes starter set.
- If you want to up the ante a bit, try Cheap Joe's [Golden Fleece](#) brand.

- If you're ready to go big time, watch for the Rhapsody sable brush set to go on sale on Jerry's Artarama website. You can find them [here](#).

**1 inch Flat.** Cheap Joe's Starving Artist brand has a great flat brush to start with. I still use mine to this day! Here's a [link](#) to their flat brushes starter set.

**Rigger** (any size). Here's a link to a [Golden Fleece size 3](#). I use rigger brushes to paint skinny trees.

**Liner.** Here's a [link](#) to my personal favorite, Robert Simmons Expression E51 Liner Size 0. I use this brush with the Schminke metallic powders.

**Mop.** Craft Warehouse carries a Robert Simmons brand watercolor mop that will work. You can buy one at Cheap Joe's [here](#).

My absolute favorite mop brushes are Stratford & York "Jet" mops. There is only [ONE](#) place in the U.S. that sells them! Black Horse Fine Art Supply. Here are the brush details. They come in two sizes...large and extra Large.

- **Holbein Black SERIES 1080 WASH. SHORT HANDLE BLUE SQUIRREL / SYNTHETIC MIX WATERCOLOR BRUSH**

**Swordliner.** This is a "fun to have" brush, not a requirement by any means, but I get asked about it a lot so here's where to find my favorite. You can paint great bamboo leaves with them. Like my favorite mop brushes, there is only [ONE](#) place in the U.S. that sells them! Black Horse Fine Art Supply. They come in three sizes.

- **Holbein Black SERIES 1090 SWORDLINER. SHORT HANDLE BLUE SQUIRREL / SYNTHETIC MIX WATERCOLOR BRUSH**

## PALETTE

No need to spend a lot of money here, although you could! Here are my two favorites. Palettes are really a personal preference though...lots to choose from. Keep it inexpensive until you figure out your preference.

- [Cheap Joes' Piggyback Palette without Extra Color Palette](#)
- [13x20 inch, 13 well palette](#). These are inexpensive palettes, but sturdy. They are the ones you used during class (that I provided for your use). The link is to where you can buy them on Amazon. I've also found an identical product, different brand, at WalMart here in town.

## **BOARD (what you put your watercolor paper on, and then paint on ☺)**

I like gator boards quite a bit, but once again there are choices and it can be personal preference. Suggest you check out the websites below and pick something low cost to start until you discover what works for you.

To get a ¼ sheet gator board (this is the size we use in class), click [here](#).

For a ½ sheet gator board (twice as big), click [here](#)

NEWSFLASH! Lowe's now has plexiglass boards that are quite spiffy. Get the 24 x 18 and have Lowe's cut it in half for you, and then have them cut 2 inches off the other end. The result? A spiffy 12 x 16 (¼ sheet) watercolor board.

## **PAINT**

Paints are the other thing I don't recommend skimping on, even as a beginner. Make the investment in buying **tube** paint, not pan paint, even if it means buying fewer colors due to the higher cost. You won't be sorry. ☺ Also, be wary of any tube paints that say *student*...they are less expensive, but the quality is low. The student grade paints tend to be very chalky and are not transparent, which is part of the beauty of the watercolor medium. They remind me of painting with tempura like we did in grade school. Look for professional or artist's quality. (Avoid Grumbacher, Academy, Cotman, Koi, or the sets you can get at CostCo.)

**Metallic Powders.** I get asked about these a lot, so here's where to find them. Not required, by any means! They are called Schminke Tro-Col metallic powders. You can find them at Dick Blick [here](#). Or at Jerry's Artarama [here](#).

**Regular Paints.** For my style of watercolor painting, transparent, non-staining paints work best. See list below for some of my favorite colors. All are Holbein brand, except as noted. The size you want is 15 ml. Here's a [link](#) to all of Cheap Joe's Holbein watercolor paints.

- Quinacridone Red
- Permanent Red
- Bright Rose
- Quinacridone Pink\*
- Opera (Pink)
- Scarlet Lake\*\*
- Brilliant Orange

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- Permanent Yellow Orange
- Permanent Yellow Lemon
- Leaf Green
- Permanent Green #1 and 2
- Hooker's Green
- Green Gold\*
- Peacock Blue
- Turquoise Blue (semi-transparent)
- Prussian or Royal Blue
- Bright Violet
- Permanent Violet
- Payne's Grey
- Quinacridone Burnt Orange\*
- Iridori Antique White (opaque/gouache).
  - This one seems to be hard for folks to fins, so here's a direct [link](#).

\*Daniel Smith brand

\*\*Winsor Newton brand

Once again, all of the above paints are Holbein brand, except as noted. I order online via:

- Cheap Joes <http://www.cheapjoes.com>

For the Daniel Smith brand paints

- Daniel Smith brand [www.danielsmith.com](http://www.danielsmith.com). **When ordering from Daniel Smith, I'd really appreciate it if you'd use my Teacher Referral Program number. Thanks! It is TRP 00449**

You can now buy artist quality watercolor paints at Hobby Lobby. The brand they carry is Winsor Newton. Not my personal favorite, but they do carry it. Also be aware, it's pricey to buy it there vs. online.

**So, if you bring your own watercolor painting supplies, the \$15 materials fee will be waived or partially waived (depending on if you consume or borrow any of my art supplies).**

If you have questions, feel free to email me at [chris@chrisblevinswatercolors.com](mailto:chris@chrisblevinswatercolors.com).

Look forward to seeing you! 😊

**chrisblevins** *watercolors.*



## Painting with Alcohol Inks – Resource List

### Alcohol Inks – where to find them

- I bought the majority of mine at Craft Warehouse
- And a few from Amazon.com
- [www.MisterArt.com](http://www.MisterArt.com) also carries alcohol inks, and for a small joining fee, you can buy inks for just over \$2/each (substantially less than anywhere else I've found)

### Alcohol Inks – what kinds (brands) are there?

- Ranger (aka Adirondack and Tim Holz) – mostly what I've used. Lots of different colors available (me likey!)
- Pinata – just tried these recently (ordered from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)). Pinata brand is more cost friendly than Ranger
- Spectrum Noir – they make alcohol ink refillable pens, which means you can just buy the alcohol ink refills and use them to paint with (here's a [link](#) to an example). I haven't tried these yet. The pens themselves come in sets—Brights, Darks, Pastels—which means there should be quite a few colors available. They look promising. The refill containers are twice as big as Ranger or Pinata.

### What to Paint On?

- Yupo is my favorite. I order from Cheap Joe's. Lately I've been buying the [11x14 tablets of Yupo](#). In the past I've bought [large sheets](#). Problem with large sheets is cutting them. My paper cutter isn't big enough to accommodate!
- Photo paper
- Transparency Film (like what used to get used on overhead projectors)
- Any non-porous surface (glass, tile, candles, dominoes, metal)

### What to Paint With

- Straight from the bottle!
- Small cast off watercolor brushes or cheapie craft brushes

## Other Stuph ☺

- **Mixatives** – Ranger and Pinata also make [Metallic Mixatives](#) that are fun. They come in several colors (gold, silver, black, white, copper)
- **Metallic Markers** – I hear [Metallic markers](#) are cool to use with this medium. Sharpie makes some metallic markers in gold, silver, and copper
- **White Pen** – Want to add detail...in white? Want no more, these white pens work great. Uni-ball Signo Angelic UM-120AC Gel Ink Pen - 0.7 mm - White Ink. Available on Amazon [here](#)
- **Sharpie/Copic markers** – for defining abstract alcohol ink paintings a bit more by adding lines and stuff with markers.
- **Artist pens like Pitt or Micron brands** - same as the above, but smaller line thickness.
- The alcohol ink painting ‘experts’ say 90% **alcohol** works better than 70%. I’ve personally never used 90% and haven’t been bothered. Ranger also sells Blending Solution. It’s expensive and regular rubbing alcohol works great.
- **Non-stick craft mat/sheet** – I’ve researched other sources for these, and have struck out. They are not cheap, although once in awhile will be on sale. I got mine on [Amazon](#).
  - Instead of the craft mat sheet, some people use freezer paper. It’s sturdier than wax paper and seems to be a favorite of AI painters
- **Masking Fluid** - this is used just like you would in watercolors, to mask off areas of a painting that you want to keep white. Be forewarned, it smells a bit icky, dries quickly and will pretty much ruin any brush you. It’s mostly clear with a slight yellow or blue tint, which means it can be hard to see. It’s also expensive, and goes bad fast.
- **Frisket Film** – similar to the fluid, but you can cut it out and apply it to your painting, then peel it off later.
- **Q-tips** – use them with alcohol and blending solution to blend and lift ink from a painting.
- **Canned Air** - you can use it to blow alcohol ink or plain alcohol around on the paper and get some interesting effects.
- **Cosmetic sponges/pads** – use them to lift ink, blend ink, or add texture to a painting.
- **Tim Holtz® Adirondack® Alcohol Ink Applicator** – I had one of these at class. Its applicator that can be used with ink blending foam or felt to create textures. I

demonstrated making a mottled background with this at class. Depending on which brand you find, it either comes with blending foam attachments or felt, both of which are available in refill packages.

- **Eyedroppers or Pipettes** - use these with alcohol to drip and dribble. I ordered a bunch of pipettes for not much moolah on Amazon.
- **Tim Holtz® Adirondack® Alcohol Ink Fillable Pen** - I have one, but haven't used it yet. Here's part of the manufacturer's description: This dual-tipped dry pen can be filled by using just a few drops of your favorite color Alcohol Inks.
- **Inkssentials® Mini Misters** – Or just get a cheapie mister at the dollar store or hair supply store. In addition to putting plain alcohol in them, you can actually put ink in them!
- **Gloves** – I only use them when teaching. When I'm at home, I just get inked up. ☺ That said, my buddy Suzi stained her wedding ring BLUE. I think she sears gloves now. LOL.
- **Palette** – I haven't used a palette to drop ink in to and paint from, but I plan to try. There are \$.99 plastic palettes or paper plates that should work just fine.
- **Toothpicks** - you might want to use a toothpick to help create details (use like a brush to move the ink around).
- **Small applicator bottles** – these are the small plastic bottles with a tiny metal applicator tip. For use with alcohol or blending solution. Just one more thing to play with!
- **Alcohol Swabs** – you can use these to moisten your whole sheet of Yupo before painting, to remove ink, to blend ink. Also to clean up yourself, your brushes, your painting!
- **Straws** – remember we used these in class? ☺ You can use a straw to blow ink or alcohol/blending solution around. Just don't go too crazy or you might pass out. LOL.