

watercolor materials

WITH ROSALIE HAIZLETT



A few thoughts about materials...

Having expensive materials won't make you better at watercolor. **The real difference will come from spending lots of time practicing your skills.**

I used an inexpensive travel watercolor palette (which I'll feature in this guide) for the first 5 years of my watercolor journey. It worked great for me! **In fact, I've only started exploring new paints and more expensive brushes and paper in the last two years.**

I'd suggest starting with the basics. Then, if you continue to be interested in watercolors after a while, branch out to professional level supplies. I'll feature both my favorite basic and professional level supplies in this guide.

There are so many amazing brands of watercolor supplies that are out there... these are just a few that I use and enjoy. **Hope this helps!**

- ROSALIE

MATERIALS LIST

01. Paints
02. Brushes
03. Paper
04. Palette
05. Water cup with water
06. Paper towel
07. Sketching pencil & eraser
08. Brush roll (optional)

PAINTS

Watercolor comes in tubes and pre-made pans. The Winsor & Newton Cotman pan set (under “Basic”) was my first real watercolor set and I used it for years! Once I started painting more frequently and going through more paint, I transitioned to tube watercolors. However, I still use the pocket box for painting while traveling and hiking. The more expensive paints are typically more pigmented, so they will provide you with more intense color.

BASIC:

[Winsor & Newton Cotman Sketcher’s Pocket Box](#)

PROFESSIONAL GRADE:

[Daniel Smith Extra Fine Watercolor - Essentials Set, 5 ml Tube](#)



BASIC



PROFESSIONAL

BRUSHES

It is important that you use brushes that are specifically made for watercolor. Most of the time, I use just 4 different sizes of brushes: 2 round, 4 round, 6 round, and 1/2 inch flat.

BASIC:

[Princeton Select Brush Set](#)

PROFESSIONAL GRADE:

[Winsor & Newton Cotman Brush Set](#)

I also just recently tried this bigger brush, and I love it:

[Princeton Size 12 Aqua Elite Long Round Brush](#)



BASIC



PROFESSIONAL

PAPER

There are three types of watercolor paper: cold-press, hot-press, and rough. I prefer cold-press watercolor paper because it has a slightly toothy texture and is very forgiving when blotting up mistakes. Hot press is smooth and allows you to “wash” your paints across the page in a loose way, if that’s what you’re going for. Rough watercolor paper is extremely textured.

BASIC:

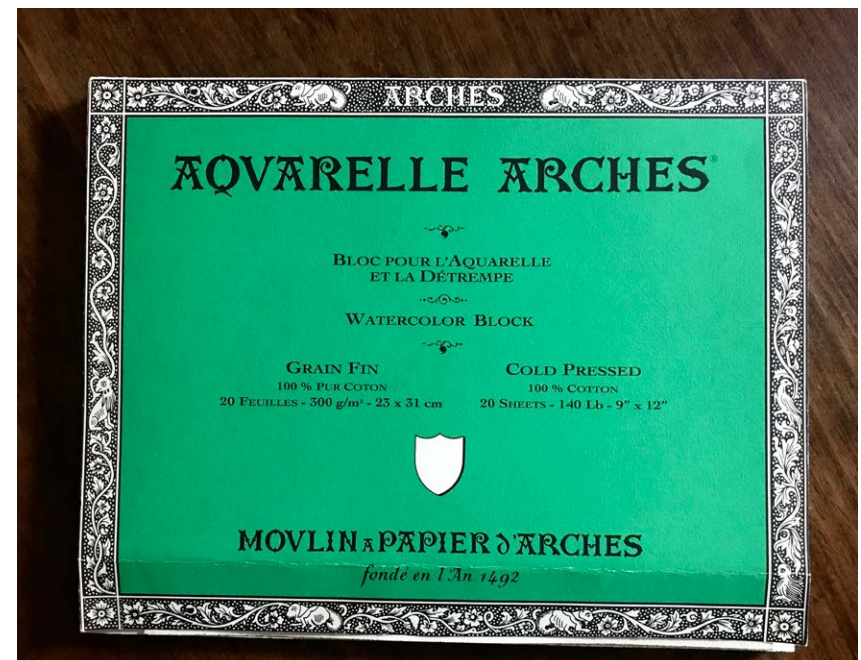
[Strathmore 400 Series 140 lb. Cold-Press Watercolor Paper](#)

PROFESSIONAL GRADE:

[Arches 140 lb. Cold-Press Watercolor Paper](#)



BASIC



PROFESSIONAL

PALETTES

If you purchase a pan watercolor set, you don't need a separate palette. If you're going with tube watercolors, though, you will need a place to squeeze your paint out into. The basic plastic tray will work well for painting at home, but I would go with a tray that closes (like the Kremer below) if you like to travel with your paints.

BASIC:

[10-Well Plastic Tray](#)

PROFESSIONAL GRADE:

[Kremer Pigment Palette](#)



BASIC



PROFESSIONAL

BRUSH ROLL

Brush rolls are totally optional. I enjoy mine because it keeps all my brushes in one place and helps protect them better than if I threw them all in a pencil bag or box. This one is handmade by a small business in Philadelphia, and it even has a pocket in the back for a small sketchbook!

BRUSH ROLL:

[Peg & Awl Sendak Artist Roll](#)



FAVORITE HANDMADE PAINTING MATERIALS

I've found a couple of small businesses who create watercolor products that I love. It feels great to shop small AND score some amazing products! Keep in mind that these are handmade items, so they may be released in limited quantities at a time.

HANDMADE WATERCOLORS:

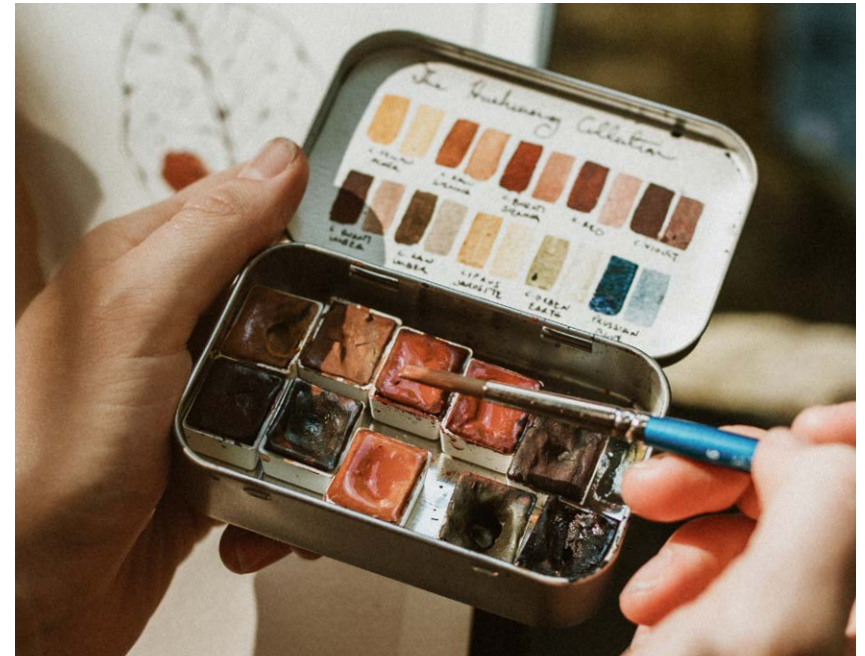
[The Hushwing Collection Handmade Watercolors](#)

CERAMIC PALETTE:

[Ryan Elizabeth Studio Ceramic Palette](#)

or

[Moon Mountain Pottery](#)



happy watercoloring!

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www.rosaliehaizlett.com

