

Materials list / painting kit – acrylics or oil

This list is designed to be a guide. You don't have to rush out and buy everything I have on this list. This is my system that works for me, and it may also work for you. This is an acrylic-focused list, you are welcome to bring oils, as many of the principles of painting are eminently transferrable, however the paint's application and manipulation will be different to what I'll be teaching.

Canvas/panels

Lots of them, ranging in size and format from 8" to 24". They could be stretched canvas, canvas board, painted wood panels, gator board, whatever you feel comfortable with. If in doubt, bring a range.

Ideally you'd have at least two canvasses to take with you each day (there's no problem in having too many, but there's a big problem if you have too few when there's something that catches your eye late in the day).

A portable easel - preferably one that you can lift rather than roll on wheels. Greater portability increases the number of painting sites you can reach. I use a Soltek, and a U.Go Plein Air Easel.

I also bring with me a white Best Brella umbrella that helps me to keep shade on my canvas, and on my paints. There are many different umbrellas on the market, I just think the Best Brella one works best for me as it has a great clamp, and allows the wind to whistle through it.

Paints - acrylics

I use a stay-wet system that only a few others seem to use. You are welcome to copy it, or to find your own version of it. Or ignore it and just take notes from my colour palette. Everyone is different, and one size doesn't fit all.

I use a few small fishing tackle boxes/multi-organizers that I load up with paint in the studio before I head out. The paint stays wet in the box and on location, but you need to keep direct sunlight from it, and you need a laundry spray to mist the paint regularly to avoid a skin forming.

A photo of the system is below. The major benefit is that I am quicker to get going, so I maximize my painting time. I also have plenty of paint available to me at all times so I'm not tempted to scrimp and save when I'm squeezing out the liquid bank notes from my tube of cobalt blue! The paints I use are normally Golden Heavy Body Acrylics for all colours, although this sometimes varies to another brand of artist-quality, high-pigment paint.



Here are the colours:

- Titanium White
- Hansa yellow light
- Cadmium yellow medium
- Cadmium orange
- Quinacridone magenta
- Violet oxide / Indian Red / Red Oxide
- Ultramarine blue
- Cyan blue
- Dioxazine purple
- Pthalo green (yellow shade)

I may also carry with me a couple of tubes of something fun to try – a different green, cadmium red, a mars black, a naples yellow – but the colours in the list above are my trusted friends.

Paints - oils

I'll take with me a pot of walnut oil as a medium, and a pot of odorless mineral spirits to thin and clean brushes.

For the paint, I normally use Gamblin, Winsor & Newton or M.Graham & Co., and these are the colours I'll take with me:

- Titanium White
- Naples yellow
- Lemon yellow
- Yellow Ochre
- Cadmium yellow medium
- Cadmium orange
- Cadmium red
- Quinacridone magenta
- Burnt umber
- Ultramarine blue
- Turquoise

Other painting equipment

- Paintbrushes of all sizes, a few at least 1", and down to something really fine. Mix of filberts and flats. My favourite brush is the Isabey Isacryl brush line, but they're expensive and hard to find, so often I'll use Opus Mezzo brushes.
- A paintbrush holder/carrier – one that absorbs the liquid that leaches out of the ferrules after washing the brushes
- A stool (either to sit on, or to rest paintbrushes on)
- A laundry spray for the acrylics
- A water pot for the acrylics – could be anything, but I use a collapsible dog water bowl as it saves space in my pack
- Water bottles – for drinking and brush washing
- Paper towel and cotton rags
- A palette – a 12"x16" piece of plastic signboard
- And I put all of this into a 40L backpack. The flat items – palette and canvas, go in a box that I made out of signboard, which is velcroed to the pack.

- I carry wet oil paintings using a system similar to the panelpak system that you can find online.

To wear

- Sunglasses
- If I'm going to be on or around rocky areas I make sure I have good, hardwearing shoes with a solid sole. Otherwise I'll be in flip-flops.
- Wide-brimmed hat
- Sunscreen
- A loose-fitting long-sleeve shirt if it's really hot
- A light rain jacket
- Warm layers, including a warm hat and gloves – as you never know what you'll get in the mountains

Other items

- Food/snacks
- Map/chart
- A multi-tool and duct tape – because you never know when you'll need to repair your easel/backpack/paintbrushes etc.
- Phone – here are 3 great apps that you could consider buying:
 - *Sunseeker*, which plots the course of the sun through the day, so you can work out how much light you have, and where the shadows are going
 - *PeakFinder* – so I know which mountain peak I'm painting
 - *The Weather Channel* – which gives hour to hour info on weather conditions

