

Mike Mahon's Painting Workshop

Supplies for Pastel Painters

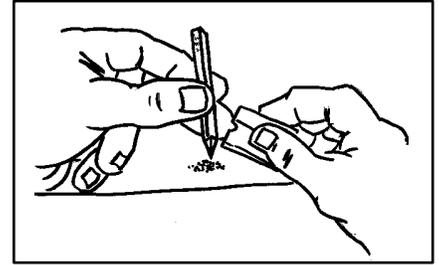
Pastels:

Minimum required:

Set of 72 or 96 Nupastels (96 preferred)

Break off 3/4" to 1" off the non-numbered end of the hard pastel. With a single edge razor blade sharpen the non-numbered end of the longer pastel stick. Sharpening may take up to 2 hours, so have much of this done before the class begins. You can save some time by waiting to sharpen the reds and oranges as you need them since the other colors are the most used. This will help familiarize you with the varying hardnesses of the sticks.

If you or your spouse is handy with a rotary sander or drill with rotary sander attachment, you can sharpen your hard pastels in a fraction of the time. Save your pastel dust in a container or baggy. I'll show you how to make use of it.



Additional pastels recommended:

Soft Pastels:

Any good quality brand of soft pastels (not oil pastels) in as large a selection as you can afford. I recommend softer pastel brands such as Unison, Sennelier, Terry Ludwig, Schmincke, and Mount Vision, and Mungyo. A half stick set of soft pastels is most economical and will last because they are mostly used in the later stages of the painting. Mungyo is probably the most economical.

Pastel Painting Surface:

I will do my demonstrations on Premier (400 grit), sanded paper. For the workshop, I highly recommend that you use Premier Italian Clay available in the 12x16 packs. Dakota Pastels as well as other online supply stores handle the Premier. I will have some of the Premier paper available for the workshop if you are not able to acquire it in time.

Painting Support: 3/16" or 1/2" Fom Cor board, 1/8" masonite, or commercial drawing board. Your board should be large enough to leave at least a 1 inch space around a 12"x16 or 18" sheet.

Source photos:

Photographs from which to paint. Bring several so that I can help you select the best ones.

Easel:

Any portable easel on which you can securely attach your drawing board will suffice. The Julian type portable easel works well.

Miscellaneous:

Sketch book (approx. 6"x9"), apron, palette knife, rags or paper towels with plastic zipper bags for disposal, metal or plastic can with lid for odorless turpentine (Turpenoid, Gamsol, or Bio Shield Citrus Thinner), 12" or 18" ruler, hand cleaning towelettes or Hand Sanitizer, disposable rubber gloves if desired. For plein air workshops I recommend bringing insect repellent, suntan lotion, portable water jug, and broad-brim hat.

Almost all art supplies should be available at local art supply stores but some may be only available at large mail order art suppliers as those below:

Artisan / Santa Fe - 800-331-6375 • ASW (Art Supply Warehouse) - 800-995-6778 • Dick Blick Art Materials - 800-621-8293 • Jerry's Artarama - 800-827-8478 • Dakota Pastels - 1-888-345-0067 • Utrecht - 800-223-9132

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