



Materials List

WATERCOLOUR PAINTS:

TUBE PAINTS: I prefer tube paints because they produce more solid colours. You will need an oval-shaped palette for these paints (see below). Pan Paints, the ones that come in cases with dried paint “cakes”, take more work to get a strong colour.

The watercolour tube paints I use for class demonstrations are from a Chinese brand called Reno Art. These may be hard to find as most art stores stock Mont Marte products.



These sets are about \$12 to \$15, although you may find them for less than that.

If you can only find Mont Marte Watercolour tube paints, you may have to purchase a better-quality Ultramarine Blue, as the Mont Marte Ultramarine Blue is way too violet to be a real Ultramarine Blue. A set like this is usually about \$10 to \$12, and a 24-tube set is about \$20.



PAN PAINTS:

Pan paints are sets of paints that are in a “Cake” form, similar to the type of paints kids use. They come in a huge variety of shapes, sizes and colour combinations. To use them, it is best to “wet” them up by adding a few drops of water to each cake about 10 to 15 minutes before using them. However, I find they lack the colour strength of tube colours.

There are way too many to recommend a particular set of Pan Paints, but while you’re at an art store that sells Mont Marte paints, perhaps something like this set may be okay.

It’s about \$20 to \$25 for a set.



PALETTES:

Tube paints are squeezed into a plastic palette similar to the palette shown to the right.



This **oval-style palette** has 12 deeper wells for the paint (*just right if you buy a 12-tube set*) and has 5 good-sized mixing wells. One of these palettes usually cost about \$5, so it's not a big investment.

I don't recommend the Round Palettes or the ones with shallow round wells that are available at a much cheaper price. They only have 10 shallow wells for paint (and you may have 12 tubes?), and there is only one mixing area.

If you buy the Pan Paints, they will have small mixing areas in the lid.

BRUSHES:

There are so many brushes to choose from, and over time, you will find a favourite brush to use, but to start with, look for a **Mont Marte set of 5 ROUND Watercolour Brushes in the "Signature" series**. While a low-cost set of brushes, I use these for most of my watercolour painting today.

This set has a large round brush called a "Mop" for wetting big areas of paper, a large "Pointed Round" brush for painting large areas of colour and a smaller Pointed Round for detailed painting. You may not use the other two "Flat" brushes very often. A set like this is about \$12 to \$15. **DON'T Buy Hog Hair Bristle brushes.**



WATERCOLOUR PAPER:

Watercolour paper is available in all sizes, weights, types and brands and prices so it becomes your choice !!

Material: The first thing to look for is whether or not it is **made from 100% cotton**.

Some watercolour paper is made from wood pulp, like normal writing/printer paper. Wood pulp watercolour paper will not be labelled as such, and you will find it is cheaper, but it really soaks up paint, making it difficult to get even, uniform colours in your painting. You will also find wood pulp paper buckles more than 100% cotton.

Weight: The next thing to consider is the "Weight" of the paper. This is measured as a metric weight of Grams per Square Metre (**GSM**) or as an imperial weight of Pounds per Ream (*500 sheets*) (labelled **LBS**)

The weight you should look for is **300gsm (140lbs) and higher**. Anything lower than these weights will buckle easily.

Availability: You can buy watercolour as loose sheets, in a spiral or glue-bound pad, or a “block” that is glued on all four sides with a small space to allow separation of the sheets in the block.

Loose Sheets: These come in Full Sheets that are 30 inches (763mm) by 22 inches (558.5mm). You can halve them to get two sheets a bit bigger than A3 or quarter them to get four sheets a bit bigger than A4. You may have to consider mounting these sheets on a firmer backing.

Pads: Watercolour pads allow for a bit more organisation by keeping the sheets together, and they usually have a firmer backing to provide more support when you are painting on them.

Blocks: Having 12 or more sheets plus a backing board held together on all four sides gives a firm support and reduces buckling considerably.

Other Materials:

Apart from the above, you will need:

- **PLEASE NOTE: We are using a different method of treating watercolour paper before painting on it.** (stretching)

Using the new way of watercolour painting, we are drawing our image on the front of the paper, then wetting the back of the paper a few times so the water soaks in. The paper is then turned right-side-up and laid it on a smooth non-porous surface **like a sheet of glass (use a picture frame with glass in it)**, or a ridged (hard) smooth plastic, a large smooth (glossy) ceramic tile, etc., that is bigger than the watercolour paper you have. It must be solid and not flexible (*bendy*)

- a variety of pencils,
- a ruler,
- a Kneaded and a Plastic eraser,
- a roll of paper towels,
- something to hold water, like an open-topped plastic container
- and, to get you started, I have some videos on my website that may help you. You can find them by going to GrahamWade.com and clicking on the “My Videos” tab, or just [**CLICK HERE**](#)


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2026 Thurgoona Easy Art Lessons

11:00am to 3:00pm Mondays

Mostly Watercolour Painting or Drawing Lessons

Weeks Beginning on a Monday	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Week 1	2 nd February 2026	27 th April 2026	27 th July 2026	12 th October 2026
Week 2	9 th February 2026	4 th May 2026	3 rd August 2026	19 th October 2026
Week 3	16 th February 2026	11 th May 2026	10 th August 2026	26 th October 2026
Week 4	23 rd February 2026	18 th May 2026	17 th August 2026	2 nd November 2026
Week 5	2 nd March 2026	25 th May 2026	24 th August 2026	9 th November 2026
Week 6	9 th March 2026	1 st June 2026	31 st August 2026	16 th November 2026
Week 7	16 th March 2026	15 th June 2026	7 th September 2026	23 rd November 2026
Week 8	23 rd March 2026	22 nd June 2026	14 th September 2026	30 th November 2026

 We miss 8th June
due to the
King's Birthday