

Illustrating nature with pastels

Materials list. Winter 2019.

Pastel paper. Look for one that has a "toothy" surface. It may feel a bit like fine sandpaper. stels on a toothy surface that grabs the pastel particles and holds them in place. Pastel paper is usually toned (colored).

Recommended brands:

- Strathmore
- Canson
- UArt
- Art Spectrum
- Borden & Riley

Soft pastels set. For soft pastels, you'll better go with artistic quality materials. It may be better to choose a set with half sticks, with wider range of colors. The minimum set of 24 colors is recommended. You can buy individual pastel sticks of different brands to add more colors.

Recommended brands:

- Sennelier
- Prismacolor Nupastel (the most affordable)
- Rembrandt
- Faber Castell Creative Studio Pastel
- Blick Artists' Soft Pastels Sets

Soft watercolor brush for underpainting

Oil pastels set. For oil pastels projects you can use inexpensive student-grade pastels (Suggested brands: Van Gogh, Sargent, Holbein Academic, Sakura Expressionist). Also, you don't need special paper for this medium, however, I will recommend using thick toned paper with rough surface.

Vine charcoal sticks or charcoal pencil

Sketchbook or sketch paper

Regular pencil

Pencil sharpener

Blending stumps, cotton swabs to blend and lift the colors

Portfolio folder to carry your works

Optional:

- spray fixative

- pastel pencils to work on the details. You can buy individual pencils in the art store.

Note: Fixatives are notorious for darkening or dulling the vibrancy of pastels, so use them with caution, and always do a test spray first on a scrap paper to see if you like the results.

Where to buy:

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- Blick Art Materials
 - 619 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139
 - 401 Park Drive, Landmark Center – Fenway, Boston, MA 02215
 - dickblick.com
- Michael's
 - 17 Mystic View Rd, Gateway Centre, Everett, MA 02149
 - 37 White St., Porter Square, Cambridge, MA 02140
 - michaels.com
- Play Time: 283 Broadway, Arlington, MA 02474
- Artist & Craftsman Supply Cambridge: 580 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139
- Jerry's Artarama: www.jerrysartarama.com