

Perspective Sketching Master Class | Madeline Island August 2024

with Stephanie Bower USA

Supplies

General Sketching Supplies

- **Sketchbook:** a 5" x 8" watercolor sketchbook in landscape (horizontal—binding on short side) format. Brands: [Hahnemühle 100% cotton Watercolour Book](#), [Moleskine](#), or [Pentalic](#). If you get the Pentalic, make sure it has a stitched binding, not glued (falls apart.) If you are new to sketching, please be sure to bring this size sketchbook!
- **Mechanical pencil:** .5mm size 2B lead (replace the HB lead it comes with!)
- **Kneaded Eraser**
- **Pen:** I will sketch in pencil, but if you normally work in pen, bring it
- **Straight Edge:** [8" clear plastic architect's triangle](#) (30/60 degrees is easiest to use) or small plastic ruler.
- **Binder Clips:** 3-4 binder clips to hold down your paper and attach it to your lap board (these are important!!!)
- **Small portable stool:** I recommend you look on Amazon to see what you can find. Small and light are important, so check sizes carefully (don't go below about 13" in height) and look for something made of aluminum, not steel. You can try the [REI Co-op Trail Stool](#) (good height, made of aluminum, hopefully it fits in a carry-on suitcase) or the [Walkstool](#) (available in different heights, good for taller people, can be ordered on Amazon.) *Bringing a stool is essential.*
- **Portable work surface:** I used to carry a full-size tripod and easel, but I've switched to a simple homemade lap board made of corrugated plastic--it works great. This plastic is available in sheets at craft stores. I cut one that fits in my backpack, approx. 12"h x 15"w (you can also make it wider to better accommodate your sketchbook). I use binder clips to attach my paint and sketchbook to it, then rest it in my lap when I paint. I also cut a 1 3/4" dia. round hole on the upper left-hand corner and insert an empty 1 3/4" dia. pill bottle to hold my water. You can even cut small holes for your brushes. See photo on next page.
- **Plastic Mesh Zipper Bags:** 2 small [plastic zippered bags](#) for holding your supplies, one for wet and one for dry supplies. I also carry my wet watercolor palette in a very small, zippered bag.
- **Bag:** Backpack or bag for carrying your supplies when sketching outdoors.
- **Reference material:** You'll get a lot more out of this workshop if you do a little homework before we start. Check out my books and online classes. If you bring copies of the books, I'd be honored to sign them!

Watercolor Supplies

You will need to have a portable watercolor set that includes:

- **Palette:** Watercolor palette for mixing paints, something light and portable. My recommendations are:
 - a) [Winsor & Newton "Sketcher's Pocket Box"](#), what I use. (Save the plastic half pans, refill with high grade artists tube paints.)
 - b) [Metal folding palette](#), loaded with your own empty half pans and paint, taped in place with double-stick tape
- **Paints:** Watercolor paints, half pans (pre-made cubes of paint) or tubes (squirt fresh paint onto palette, small tubes will be plenty.)
Brands: Winsor & Newton Artists/Professional (not Cotman, poor student grade paints) or Daniel Smith (DS)
Colors: Blues: French Ultramarine (W&N only), Cobalt Blue, Manganese Blue, Cobalt Teal Blue
Reds: Permanent Alizarin Crimson, Burnt Sienna (W&N only)
Yellows: New Gamboge (DS), Yellow Ochre
Pyrrole Orange (DS), Permanent Sap Green, Quinacridone Burnt Orange (DS)
+ whatever your favorite color is to make 12 colors!
- **Brushes:**

SHAPE: The goal in a watercolor brush to use the largest one you can afford that comes to a good, sharp point. Larger brushes hold more water/pigment, and you can still paint small details if it has a good point. I don't paint with anything smaller than a size 10. The classic shape is a "round", but I also use flat or angled brushes for painting architecture.

BRISTLES: You can use expensive Kolinsky Sable brushes or inexpensive synthetics. I use both. Sable holds more water/pigment and has a great spring, more so than synthetic bristles. Never use your good sable brushes to mix or dig into paint or paper, always use synthetic bristles.

 - 1) **Any synthetic watercolor brush, "round", size 8 or 10, regular handle or travel brush.**
A travel brush is ideal as it has a cap that protects the bristles. [Escoda Perla size 12](#) is my favorite all-around brush, and I now use it together with the Escoda Versatil size 12 travel brush.
 - 3) **Natural Kolinsky Sable watercolor brush, "round", size 8 or 10.** If you can, splurge and get the [Escoda Reserva Travel Brush, size 8 or 10](#). Size 8 is good for our small sketchbooks.
- **Paper towels**, a few sheets. I like Bounty brand.
- Small **scraps of watercolor paper** for testing colors.

-- **Water** bottle with water.

Here is the corrugated plastic lap board in action. Sketchbook and watercolor palette are attached with clips. You can also see the hole cut in the board to accommodate the medicine bottle that holds water. Scrap paper is tucked in. It works great and is small, light, and portable.



Palette

Here is the arrangement of colors in my palette. I buy the Winsor & Newton Sketchers Pocket Box, open up the little cubes of paint, remove the paint cubes and set them aside, keeping the small white trays that hold the paint. Then I squirt paint from tubes into the small half pan plastic trays, then set them into my folding palette.

How you arrange your paints is up to you, but I place them into the palette in this order, with blues on the left, reds in the center, and yellows on the right.

Top Row:

French Ultramarine (WN) – Cobalt blue – Manganese blue – Burnt Sienna (WN) – Perm. Alizarin Crimson – Yellow Ochre

Bottom Row:

Perm. Sap Green – your favorite color -- Cobalt Teal Blue– Quin. Burnt Orange (DS) – Pyrrole Orange (DS) – New Gamboge (DS)

Please get the brands specified, WN is Winsor & Newton and DS is Daniel Smith.

Contact me at stbower@comcast.net with any questions!

Cheers!