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Working materials

You need the following for watercolour painting:

- watercolours
- watercolour paper
- painting board
- paper tape
- round and flat paintbrushes
- container for water
- dishes for mixing paint
- small sponge
- pieces of cotton cloth



Practical Use

Mixing STOCKMAR paints

STOCKMAR Watercolours and STOCKMAR Colour-Circle Paints have a pasty consistency and have to be mixed with water before using. With a paintbrush, put a dab of paint into a small dish and add drops of water with a second paintbrush, then mix together.

Repeat this procedure until you have the desired colour tone and the paint has an ink-like consistency. If you want the paint to be brilliant, use less water; if you want the paint to shimmer slightly, add more water. It's best to paint a sample on a piece of normal paper. Then you will discover that you need more paint for an intensive shade of yellow than you do for a similar shade of blue or red.

While painting, change the water frequently.

Mix an ample amount of paint in the desired colours so you don't have to interrupt the painting process.

If you have paint left over, it's no problem, because STOCKMAR Watercolours are water-soluble even when dry. Containers with screw-on lids are useful for storing mixed paint. Then the paint remains ready to use.





Things To Try Out

How Colours Behave

On wet paper, colours can behave very differently. STOCKMAR red is domineering, for example, and tends to “swallow” other colours.

Try experimenting with this.



Watercolour Paper

Watercolour paper is available in single sheets or in a pad. There are different kinds of surface structures - e.g. rough, grainy, hammered – that have an influence on the painting result. If you use single sheets, you should span these before painting in order to keep the paper from forming waves (see “How to Span Single Sheets”).

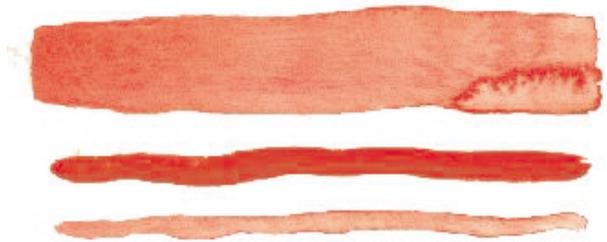
Pads of watercolour paper are somewhat expensive but have the advantage that all their edges are treated with glue; spanning the paper is not necessary in this case. Watercolour paper should have good absorbability and – depending on the technique you’re using – a high degree of stability. STOCKMAR also sells single sheets (150 gr) to use for the wet-in-wet technique, and a watercolour pad of heavier (300 gr), rougher paper.

The Right Paintbrush

There are natural-hair paintbrushes and brushes made of synthetic materials. The watercolour brushes made of natural hair are softer and better to work with; it’s worth paying the higher price. Depending on the technique and motif, you can paint with either a flat or round brush. To start off, you should have a slightly wide flat brush (18 or 22 mm) to paint backgrounds and larger areas, and for fine shapes, a round No. 4 or No. 10 brush is recommended. STOCKMAR sells flat brushes made of cowhair in a number of widths including 18 and 22 mm, and No.4 and No. 10. round brushes.

Taking Care of Paintbrushes

- Wash out brushes carefully after using in clear water
- Never let a brush stand in water with the tip pointed downwards so that the tip of the brush doesn’t lose its shape
- new brushes are sometimes coated with a gum-like coating that has to be washed off before using it the first time.



How to Use Flat and Round Brushes

Other Accessories

Painting Board

A painting board is useful to span the watercolour paper correctly before painting (see “How to Span Single Sheets”). STOCKMAR sells both a lightweight painting board made out of biologically degradable synthetic material (55 x 39,5 cm) and a higher quality one made of laminated wood in the same size.

Synthetic boards sometimes have a thin oily coating; they should be sanded with 240 grade sandpaper so that paper tape can stick to the surface.

Do-it-Yourself Tip:

You can also make your own painting board. Purchase two hardwood boards ca. 40 x 50 cm and glue their rough sides together. Let dry thoroughly.



Paint Dishes, Sponges, Painting Cloths, Water Jars

To wash out paintbrushes you need a large water jar (throw-away or canning jar). For mixing paint small dishes or jars that you can seal are best, e.g. STOCKMAR Glass Containers with screw-on lids; leftover paint can then be used again any time. A sponge is useful when spanning a wet sheet of watercolour paper and for blotting up excess water or paint. Excess paint can be wiped off of brushes with a painting cloth, which can also be used to wipe off spots of paint.



PRACTICAL USE

How to Span Single Sheets of Watercolour Paper

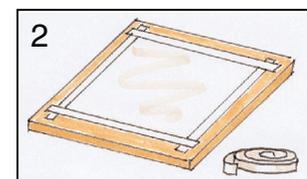
If you use the wet-in-wet technique, you should span the watercolour paper over a painting board so that the paper doesn't get wavy and form undesired "pools" of paint.

If the paper has a smooth and a structured side, the smooth side is the back and the structured side the front.

1- Wet the back side of the paper with a damp sponge and place it wet side down on the painting board. Then dampen the front side with circular strokes. If air bubbles appear, press out carefully towards the side with the sponge, if necessary lifting up the paper slightly (diag.1).

2- Cut strips of paper tape in the required length, dampen them with the sponge and fasten all the edges of the paper to the painting board with them (diagr.2).

3- After painting, let the finished painting dry completely before removing it from the board.



Spanning Finished Paintings

You can also span watercolour paintings after they have dried. In this case you place the painting on the board with the painted side down, dampen the back of the paper and then fasten all edges of the paper to the board with paper tape. Then weight it down with another board or pane of glass. Let dry thoroughly.