

# Materials List

## Easel

A Julian or French easel, or a pochade box and a tripod would be the best. Or you can get by with a cheaper portable easel if you have some sort of table to put your paint on.

## Paint

Gamblin is supposedly the least toxic brand. There other brands of similar quality and price, and also higher quality, more expensive paints and cheaper low quality brands available. Buy artist's quality, not student paint if possible. Student paints are mostly filler, very little pigment, and you will need to use so much of it that you'll probably be losing money in the end.

## Basic Colors (all you really need)

ultramarine blue  
thalo blue  
cadmium red light  
alizeran crimson  
cadmium yellow medium  
burnt sienna  
yellow ochre  
titanium white

## Other Colors

\*cadmium orange (I use lots of this but of course you can mix your own orange)  
\*sap green (I love this transparent green but you can mix your own green)  
\*chrome oxide green or green earth or olive green or anything similar (I don't bother with this anymore, it's too easy to add a little red or orange to another green and get the same thing)  
\*dioxazine purple (you will use very little of this and can easily mix ultramarine blue and alizeran crimson to get purple)  
\*thalo green (you will use very little of this beautiful color. You can mix thalo blue with yellow to get a bright pure green similar to this)  
\*carbon black. You won't be arrested if you use black, but I haven't used it for years. I mix ultramarine blue with burnt sienna, or other combinations, to make a more interesting black.  
\*Paynes grey. A transparent blue-black. A shortcut to mixing your own black.  
\*quinacradone magenta. A beautiful pure pink, Nice to have but I haven't seen a need for it in the desert landscape.

There are hundreds of colors available. Having lots of colors will make your job harder, not easier.

## Thinner

turpenoid or Gamsol, and a couple of small containers. (Gamsol is supposedly less toxic)

## Oil Painting Medium

liquin or neo megilp or linseed oil. Linseed oil dries the slowest and is least toxic. Liquin dries fastest and is most toxic. I use linseed oil.

## Brushes

I prefer synthetic brushes over natural bristle. My favorites right now are Catalyst by Princeton # 6 and

8, and Zen by Royal and Langnickel, #6, and Winsor Newton University Round, #2 and #1. They are all affordable synthetic brushes available from dickblick.com. There are lots of other choices, just make sure the bristles are stiff, not soft.

### **Canvas**

You will want to work small, 9X12 to 11 X 14 is a good size. Most plein air painters use canvas board, which is cheap and light. If you use back-stapled stretched canvas, you can paint around the edges and won't have to bother with a frame.

### **Palette**

the French easel or pochade box usually comes with a wooden one (good for oils but maybe not good for acrylics). A disposable paper palette is fine. The Masterson palette had a tight-fitting lid so you can save your paint, and you can put a disposable paper palette pad or a piece of glass inside it if you want. 12X16 is a good size. Don't bring a really small palette, you won't have room to mix enough paint.

### **Other Things**

palette knife

paper towels or rags

trash bag

insect repellent

sun hat

latex gloves or Vaseline to protect your hands

camera (or phone)

sketchbook

\*Field umbrella. Lots of painters use this device that clamps onto your easel. Bring bungee cords to keep it from flopping over or blowing away. It will only shade your painting, but not you. I paint in the shade as much as possible. I frequently paint at the back of my car, under the hatch, with a piece of cloth velcroed onto the rear window for shade.

\*canvas carriers. There are a variety of products for carrying wet canvases and wet canvas boards. I've never used any of them.

\*wheeled cart: I love my old-lady shopping cart I got at a thrift store!

\*some kind of folding chair, if you paint sitting.

***\*You can get by without these items.***