

Materials list

Offsite plein air (Tim Murphy)

Easel

Some form of outdoor easel is essential. There are many options, such as:

- Pochade box (pros: compact, lightweight; cons: restricted to smaller panels)
- French easel (pros: accommodates most panel sizes; cons: heavy, bulky)
- Sketch easel (pros: accommodates most panel sizes, compact, lightweight, cheap; cons: does not include palette, cannot lean forward)
- Custom – avoid compromises and make your own (I made something like these: <https://www.daybreakeasel.com/>; <https://www.instagram.com/journeymanpaintings/>)
- Use your favourite search engine for inspiration

Oil Paint

- **Artist-quality** paints recommended (the tube should say *artist* or *professional oil colour*): brands such as Langridge, Winsor & Newton (avoid Winton varieties), Michael Harding, Art Spectrum, Old Holland, Gamblin, Williamsburg

My basic outdoor palette includes:

- Titanium White
- Ultramarine Blue or French Ultramarine Blue
- Cobalt Blue (or another cool blue such as Cerulean or Phthalo)
- Burnt Sienna
- Alizarin Crimson
- Naples Yellow **Deep** (Winsor & Newton, *not* Naples Yellow) or Yellow Ochre
- Cadmium Yellow or Cadmium Lemon (I prefer a “less orange” variety)

Other (almost) indispensable colours are:

- Ivory Black
- Raw Umber
- Light Red (Winsor & Newton or Art Spectrum)
- Cadmium Red
- Cadmium Orange
- Indian Yellow

If nothing else, bring white and one of each primary colour (or better still, cool and warm versions of each).

Brushes

The cut, fibre and brand of brushes are a matter of personal taste, but I prefer the following:

- Hog hair
- Filbert cut (a versatile cut with most of the qualities of both round and flat brushes)
- *Neef* brand (blue handle – more expensive, but longer lasting than the red)

As it is necessary to work efficiently outdoors, larger brushes are **strongly** recommended (Ray Hewitt's advice is "whichever brush you've got, get a bigger one"). I use the following (numbered brush sizes differ depending on manufacturer):

- 1 x *Neef* brand size 12 (approx. 3 cm width at ferrule)
- 2 x *Neef* brand size 10
- 2 x *Neef* brand size 8
- 2 x *Neef* brand size 6 (approx. 1 cm width at ferrule)

Other materials and equipment

- Solvent
- Medium (I use premixed 50% stand oil and 50% mineral turps or fast evaporating odourless solvent, though any medium will suffice – wax mediums can be handy outdoors because they don't spill)
- Canvas or boards (I use canvas on MDF panels, usually 8" x 10", 10" x 12" or 12" x 16")
- Rags (a bag of cotton painters' rags can be purchased relatively inexpensively from hardware shops)
- Double dipper (for medium and/or solvent)
- Palette knife for cleaning palette (or for mixing or applying paint if you're that way inclined – I won't judge you)
- Wet panel carrier (think about how to transport wet paintings)