

Handcrafted Watercolor Paints Supply List

Below are the materials demonstrated in Christine Elder's handcrafted watercolor [workshop](#).

(Do not feel like you must buy all of these. I suggest watching the workshop first and then purchasing if it seems like an activity that you'd enjoy)

INGREDIENTS FOR MAKING WATERCOLOR BINDER

- Pigment powder (colorant). See list of sources below
- [Gum Arabic Powder](#) or [Gum Arabic Liquid](#) (binder). I'll be demonstrating with the raw powder.
- Distilled water (dissolver)
- Honey; [Acacia honey](#) is the best (humectant)
- [Glycerin](#) (plasticizer)
- Clove essential oil (preservative)
- [Oxgall](#) (dispersant)

(An easier option is to use ready-to-use watercolor binder, such as by [Schmincke](#), which replaces all of the above ingredients except the pigment powders. However, I prefer making my own watercolor binder so that I know exactly what's in it!)

OTHER PAINT MAKING SUPPLIES

- [Glass paint muller](#) or a sturdy flat-bottomed drinking glass
- Frosted, tempered glass or a square of granite or marble (for mulling paint on)
- Gloves and mask (to protect from pigment dust)
- Lidded container for the watercolor binder
- Measuring cups and spoons, whisk, palette knife (or a rubber spatula)
- Watercolor paper, brushes, and other painting supplies, pen for notes

MATERIALS FOR STORING PAINTS

- Lidded container (I like [Altoids](#) breath mint tins)
- Empty watercolor pans (this set on [Amazon](#) comes with the tape mentioned below!)
- [Magnetic tape](#) (to hold containers in the metal Altoid)

Some online sources of powdered pigments:

[Earth Pigments](#), [Sennelier](#), [Gamblin](#), [Schmincke](#), or [Natural Earth Paint](#) (my local Oregon supplier! Get a 10% discount on Natural Earth Pigments products using the code NEPFamily (case sensitive).

Note: if you don't want to invest in a lot of pigments, you can just get a feel for the process by using inexpensive [willow vine charcoal](#) and pulverizing it with 600+ grit fine-grained sandpaper.

To learn more about collecting your own pigments, I suggest checking out the courses by [Roseann Hanson](#).

BONUS CONTENT: A 45-minute presentation; [History of Pigments](#), which will deepen your understanding of pigments.