

Denise LaRue Mahlke ~ Suggested Pastel Supply List: Fundamentals of Landscape Painting in Pastels

If you are just getting started painting outdoors or want to focus on learning how to edit the landscape, then all is required is a good sketchbook, (whatever size you are comfortable with - I usually use a 8 x 10, 6 x 9, or smaller sketchbook), and a variety of pencils, charcoal, conte' or ink pens. Also a portable chair is nice to have. For working in pastels outdoors, the following list is what I suggest:

PASTELS: An assortment of any soft pastels you are currently using. If you are new to pastel, a starter set of medium soft landscape colors is a good basic set to build from.

The following will get you started:

Hard: Nu-Pastels 96 color set

Medium: At least a 90 to 120 piece set of Rembrandt pastels (I like the half-stick sets better) Many other brands available, but be careful not to purchase "student grade" pastels you might see at Hobby Lobby or Michaels.*

Soft: A small set (or selection) of Sennelier, Schmincke, or Unison pastels. Sennelier makes an excellent 40 or 80 Half-stick set.

*Please refer to www.dakotapastels.com for a list of pastels from hard to very soft.

PAINTING SURFACE/SUPPORT:

My usual surfaces are sanded papers such as Uart sanded paper in 400- 500 grit, or a handmade board using Golden Fine Pumice Gel. I suggest sanded surfaces as opposed to papers like Canson Mi-Teintes, which have limitations for some of the techniques we will be using.

BACKBOARD on which to mount your pastel paper. Masonite, plywood, etc. (1/8" to 1/4" thickness and 12" x 16" or larger.)

EASEL: A portable field easel such as a Jullian or Easy L.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Bulldog or ledger clips

Drafting tape (3/4" - 1")

*Small amount of Gamsol odorless mineral spirits

Rubbing alcohol (50 - 70%) 1 bottle

2 Jars or small cups

1/2" to 1" inexpensive bristle brush and /or several sizes of old, worn out painting brushes

Viva paper towels

Sketch pad(s)

Soft Pencils such as an 8B or Ebony pencil

Willow and/or vine charcoal

Ink pen and/or markers

Kneaded eraser

Baby wipes

Hat, sunscreen, water, bug spray

***Optional**