

# Tony Couch Workshops

## Supplies

*OFTEN students ask “which supplies should I bring to the workshop?” The best answer is “Whatever you’ve been using”, since what I use may not be suitable to everyone, and nothing I teach depends upon a particular tool. On the other hand, those who have never painted in watercolor need some guide, so I’ll tell you what I use:*

**PAPER:** Arches 140# cold press. I paint on full sheets and half sheets; you may prefer a smaller size mounted in a block.

**BOARD:** If you’re using a block of paper, you don’t need a board. If you paint on loose sheets, you do. I cut the board about ½” larger than the paper on all 4 sides, then use 4 ordinary paper clamps (office supply store) to hold the paper to the board. For a full sheet, the board is about 23” x 31”; for a half sheet it is 16” x 23”. I use waterproof material such as Lucite, Masonite, Gatorboard; or ¼” plywood coated BOTH sides with any varnish or paint.

**EASEL:** Handy, but you don’t need one. Use a card table outdoors or sit on the ground with your gear around you. Inside, use any table. I travel with a Grumbacher “386” French Easel, placed in a hard shell 2 suit suitcase with my clothes packed around it. Airline destruct proof!

**PAINT:** I use tube paint. Except for ultramarine, I see no need for you to get the expensive Winsor-Newton or Grumbacher fat (15mm) tubes; you’ll do as well with Grumbacher “Academy” or Winsor-Newton “Cotman” 7.5mm tubes. Ultramarine is a bit more transparent in the more expensive version. I use this list:

Lemon or hansa or Aureolin yellow  
New gamboges or cad yellow med  
Raw Sienna or yellow ochre  
Burnt sienna  
Grumbacher red or cad red med

Alizarin Crimson or Carmine or Quinacridone Red  
Ivory Black  
Ultramarine or French Ultramarine blue  
Thalo or Winsor or Prussian blue  
Thalo or Winsor or Prussian green

**PALETTE:** Any with large wells and a cover will do; I use a Robt. E. Wood palette.

**BRUSHES:** Red sable is fine, but expensive. You’ll do as well with nylon – sometimes called filament, “white sable” or synthetic hair. I use PURE nylon; no blends. There are rounds and flats. I use a #8 and a #12 round and a “rigger” or script liner, size 3 or 4. In the flats I use a ¼”, a ½”, a ¾”, a 1”, and a 2”.

**ETC.:** I use a couple of pint-sized cans for water. A cellulose artificial sponge (hardware store), a #2 office pencil, a plastic eraser, Kleenex, an old towel, and a small knife and/or a single edge razor blade for scraping paint on or off, and for stamping.

Be sure to bring photos, sketches or whatever reference material you use so you’ll have something from which to work if you paint indoors.

Mail order houses are dandy for art supplies; they have “800” numbers and will generally send a free catalogue if you call and ask. They have everything, cost less even with shipping, and you pay no sales tax (unless you live in the same state as the mail order house). Here are phone numbers and locations for a few of them:

Artists Connection (NY) 1-800-851-9333  
Art Express (SC) 1-800-535-5908  
Art Supply Warehouse (NY NC) 1-800-995-6778  
Cheap Joe’s Art Stuff (NC) 1-800-227-2788  
Daniel Smith (WA) 1-800-426-6740  
Dick Blick Art (IL, IA, PA, CT, GA, NV, MI) 1-800-447-8192  
Meninger Art Supply (CO) 1-800-950-2787