

Materials List for Anne Heywood's SSAC Pastel Weekend Workshops

Updated 6/2015

Soft Pastels: In addition to a **set or collection of soft pastels**, you will need **one stick of #229 black Nupastels** (brand name). I also recommend the following Nupastel sticks: #285 indigo, #346 burgundy, #277 ivory, #276 buff.

In general, the more pastels you have, the better. **A general set of approximately 50 pastels is minimal.** There are many professional brands of pastels on the market and many sets, so choosing what to buy can be confusing. I have listed reliable brands on the next page for your convenience. Contact me prior to purchasing if you have any questions. For the demonstrations I will be using my (Anne Heywood Masterclass) set of 78 Great American Art Works pastels supplemented with additional pastels of various brands. [This workshop does not use oil pastels.](#)

Papers/Boards: I recommend a textured surface (similar to the texture of sandpaper), such as Art Spectrum's Colourfix paper, Pastelmat, UArt sanded pastel paper, Pastelboard, Pastel Artist Panels. (I will be using a textured surface for the demonstrations.) You may also use non-textured papers made specifically for pastels, or watercolor or printmaking paper. In general, you will need **one or two pieces, any size (preferably at least 12" x 16")**, for each weekend.

Drawing board, larger than the size of your paper. The SSAC has drawing boards for classroom use, but you may want to carry your work home on a board.

Eraser, preferably kneadable (similar to taffy).

A charcoal pencil and/or a graphite or mechanical pencil.

(Optional) A **stump/stompe/tortillion** and a **small piece of fine sandpaper or a sandpaper block.**

Non-oily barrier cream (Gloves in a Bottle is one brand, Silicone Glove sold by Avon is another) **OR plastic gloves, VERY TIGHT FITTING**, such as medical examination gloves, to protect your hands while painting.

Artists' tape and/or large clips to affix your paper to the drawing board

Paper towels to keep pastel sticks clean as you paint.

Several **pieces of glassine or tracing paper** the size of your painting surfaces or larger, to protect your paintings on the way home. You may also want a plastic bag or clean garbage bag to protect against rain.

A small **sketchbook**, any size (8" x 10", 7" x 9", etc.) or pieces of scrap paper for sketching.

A clean artist bristle brush (can be "used"), any type (flat, round, etc.) to help correct errors.

Reference materials of your choice for your paintings, such as objects for a still life set-up or photographs of landscapes, or cut-out pictures from books or magazines.

**Easels, chairs, and small tables are provided. Wear work clothes or bring an apron to protect your clothes. Bring or purchase nearby a lunch and beverage. **

Questions? Contact Anne Heywood at 508.378.4239 or anne@anneheywood.com

Soft Pastels

by Anne Heywood

Shopping for pastels is confusing, but hopefully the following information will help you make good choices. **STUDENT GRADE vs. PROFESSIONAL GRADE:** Purchase only professional grade pastels, not student grade. It would be impossible to list all of the brands of student grade pastels here, but one of the ways you can tell if a brand is student grade is by price: student grade pastels are *much* less expensive than professional brands, since they contain a low ratio of pigment to binder (and therefore will not give good color).

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BRANDS OF PASTELS? Just about every brand in the pastel family claims to be "soft". The truth is: some brands are softer or harder than others. Below is my list of professional pastels according to softness, and according to what they can do, in general.

HOW ABOUT OIL PASTELS? They share part of the same name, but are truly another medium. Oil pastels are similar to crayons (waxy). Soft pastels are similar to chalk. [This course/workshop uses soft pastels.](#)

PASTEL BRANDS BY HARDNESS/SOFTNESS

(based on my personal experience)

HARD PASTELS (Good for beginning a painting, drawing thin lines, making thin layers, glazing.) Least expensive.

- Nupastels

MEDIUM SOFT PASTELS (All-purpose. Some of the following brands are harder or softer than others. Good for most tasks, gives generally good colors.) Medium expensive.

- Art Spectrum
- Grumbacher
- Holbein
- Mount Vision
- Rembrandt (certain colors have a hard "skin" on the sticks)
- Rowney
- Sennelier (thick half stick sets)
- Unison
- Winsor-Newton
- Yarka

VERY SOFT PASTELS (Good for studio painting and quick outdoor painting. Contain the most pigment, so renders the most saturated colors. Excellent for final layers and highlights. Sometimes a challenge to control.) The most expensive.

- Blue Earth
- Great American Art Works
- Schmincke
- Sennelier (thin long sticks)
- Terry Ludwig

There are other professional brands of pastels available which I have inadvertently not included in this list, have not tried, or do not recommend (contact me for further info). You do not see pastel pencils on this list, since I rarely use them (although you are welcomed to do so). They would be included under the "Hard Pastel" category.