

Paint Making Tools & Set-up

*Getting ready to make your own
paints!*



The Complete Guide to Watercolour Paint Making

Paint Making Set-up Options



Getting ready to make your own paints!

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR OWN PAINTS

So you're thinking of beginning the incredible journey of making your own paints... well, I couldn't be more excited for you! As with any new craft, you'll need to start by setting yourself up with the equipment required to achieve the best possible results.

THE TOOLS

For Paint Grinding:



MULLER



SLAB

OR



MORTAR & PESTLE

The muller and slab are the two main tools essential to the paint making process. The slab is the surface that you grind upon, and the muller is the tool you use to grind upon your slab. The top surface of the slab and the bottom surface of the muller will both need to be *etched*.

The humble mortar and pestle is a great alternative to the muller and slab and can perform almost exactly the same task.



**Palette knife |
Paint scraper**



Beakers | Jars



**Micro spatula,
Stirring rod & Spoons**



**Storage jars &
containers**



**Scales | Measuring
device**

Used for: Picking up, collecting, and consolidating wet paint

Used for: Measuring out, holding and dispensing liquids

Used for: stirring, measuring out and picking up pigments and other ingredients

Used for: Separating out ingredients, storing pigments, finished paints, and other ingredients

Used for: Weighing ingredients. The key feature being that it can measure ingredients in 1g increments (Ideally .5g increments)

Paint making Set-up Options



Getting ready to make your own paints!

We wanted to make sure that this course is accessible to just about everyone -- so we've included several options that will help you decide which set-up is right for you.

OPTION 1: Optimal set-up

For Paint Grinding:

- Muller
- Marble Slab and/or Glass Panel

All other tools:

- Beakers (2-3x 250-300ml + 2-3x 50-100ml)
- Digital precision scales (.1-.5g accuracy)
- Palette knife
- Micro spatula
- Stainless steel miniature measuring spoons
- Stainless steel stirring rod
- Glass storage jars (for storing paint)

- 💡 *\$\$\$ = More expensive but more professional | Yields high quality results*
- 💡 *Ideal for those who are very serious about paint making or hoping to start a business*
- 💡 *Best option for those with more space to spare*

OPTION 2: Budget Set-up

For Paint Grinding:

- Small porcelain or glass etched Mortar and Pestle (6-10cm diameter)

All other tools:

- Sensitive kitchen scales (.5-1g accuracy)
- Old glass jars (2-3x 250-300ml + 2-3x 50-100ml)
- Bamboo skewers or chopsticks
- Plastic spoons
- Plastic paint scrapers or cooking spatulas
- Plastic takeaway containers (for storing paint)

- 💡 *\$ = The cheapest option | Yields adequate results*
- 💡 *Ideal for anyone interested in trying out a new hobby*
- 💡 *Best option for those who might not have a lot of space available*

OPTION 3: Combination

For Paint Grinding:

- Muller
- Marble Slab and/or Glass Panel

All other tools:

- Digital precision scales
- Old glass jars (2-3x 250-300ml + 2-3x 50-100ml)
- Old palette knife
- Mini spoons
- Stainless steel stirring rod
- Plastic takeaway containers + cosmetic glass jars (for storing paint)

- 💡 *\$\$ = Somewhere in between*
- 💡 *Best set-up for those who are committed to taking on a new craft*
- 💡 *Best option for those who have space to spare*

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WHERE CAN I FIND EVERYTHING?

SLAB

→ Glass

Pre-etched: Many specialty art stores now sell glass slabs specifically for paint making.

DIY etching: We provide an entire lesson on DIY etching within our course. All you need is a safety glass panel (min. 35x40cm) with bevelled edges, silicon carbide and we show you the rest.

→ Marble

Marble chopping boards can be found in various culinary supply stores or you can find marble plates from kitchen bench supply outlets where they often keep offcuts they make available for sale.

MULLER

Mullers can be found at many local and specialty art stores -- both online and off. Mullers come in a range of sizes and we would recommend starting with a smaller size to keep things simple and less expensive.

MORTAR AND PESTLE

The most important qualities that you need in a mortar and pestle when it comes to paint grinding are:

- White or clear coloured
- Rough or textured surface (ie. etched)
- A suitable size for the amount of paint you want to make

PALETTE KNIFE | PAINTING KNIFE

Palette knives, paint scrapers and metal spatulas are relatively cheap to buy and very easy to find. You should be able to pick one of these up from an art supply or hardware store.

SCALES | MEASURING DEVICE

Digital precision scales are easy enough to find online and can often be found in chemical and lab supply stores. The most important feature is that the scales are capable of measuring out .5-1g increments.

BEAKERS | BOWLS, GLASS JARS, & CONTAINERS

Beakers and small bowls can readily be found in science and lab supply stores, quality glass containers can be bought from cosmetic suppliers, while containers and glass jars you can probably find in the kitchen!

MEASURING SPOONS, STIRRING ROD, MICRO SPOON/SPATULA

All of these utensils can be found online or from science lab suppliers.