

# My Materials and Tools for Plein Air Painting



## REI Trail 40 Backpack

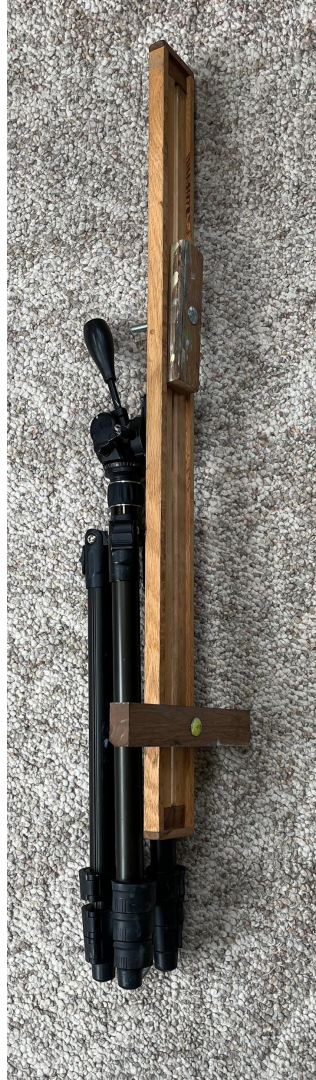
[https://www.rei.com/product/168485/rei-co-op-trail-40-pack-mens?sku=1684850002&store=60&CAWELAID=120217890009568837&CAGPSPN=pla&CAAGID=113279951513&CATCI=aud-1396942686435:pla-366418484527&cm\\_mmc=PLA\\_Google%7C2170000001700551\\_1684850002%7C92700058208451648%7CBA%7C7170000074422505&qclid=Cj0KCQjw5unBhCMARIsACZyzS1yczaVPMKdqeRirPIDu-iH86jc0mMUFruTItaJ0dGfwlLHTRg3w34aAkDCEALw\\_wcB&qclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.rei.com/product/168485/rei-co-op-trail-40-pack-mens?sku=1684850002&store=60&CAWELAID=120217890009568837&CAGPSPN=pla&CAAGID=113279951513&CATCI=aud-1396942686435:pla-366418484527&cm_mmc=PLA_Google%7C2170000001700551_1684850002%7C92700058208451648%7CBA%7C7170000074422505&qclid=Cj0KCQjw5unBhCMARIsACZyzS1yczaVPMKdqeRirPIDu-iH86jc0mMUFruTItaJ0dGfwlLHTRg3w34aAkDCEALw_wcB&qclsrc=aw.ds)



**Used Dolica Camera Tripod:**

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07MY6L4VF/ref=ppx\\_yo\\_dt\\_b\\_asin\\_title\\_o09\\_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07MY6L4VF/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o09_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)

**Handmade Wooden Mast**





Handmade Wooden Palette Box Based on a YouTube video from  
@ChamberlainPaintings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiOE-nyRAgc>

**Main Palette in order:** Titanium White, Cadmium Yellow Light, Cadmium Yellow Medium, Yellow Ochre, Burnt Sienna, Cadmium Red Light, Alizarin Permanent, Raw Umber, Ultramarine Blue, Phthalo Blue



**Some extra colors I use occasionally in order:** Cadmium Green, Cadmium Orange, Burnt Umber, Phthalo Green, Portland Warm Gray, Portland Cool Gray, Payne's Gray, Ivory Black



During trips and frequent plein air weeks I keep my paint in a plastic box. I bring this to events so I don't run out of paint. I don't hike with this but will bring it with on short walks to locations.





**Most of the brushes I use throughout the year in order (varying shape + size):**

Bristle

Synthetic

Kolinsky Natural Sable Hair

Bristle + House Painting





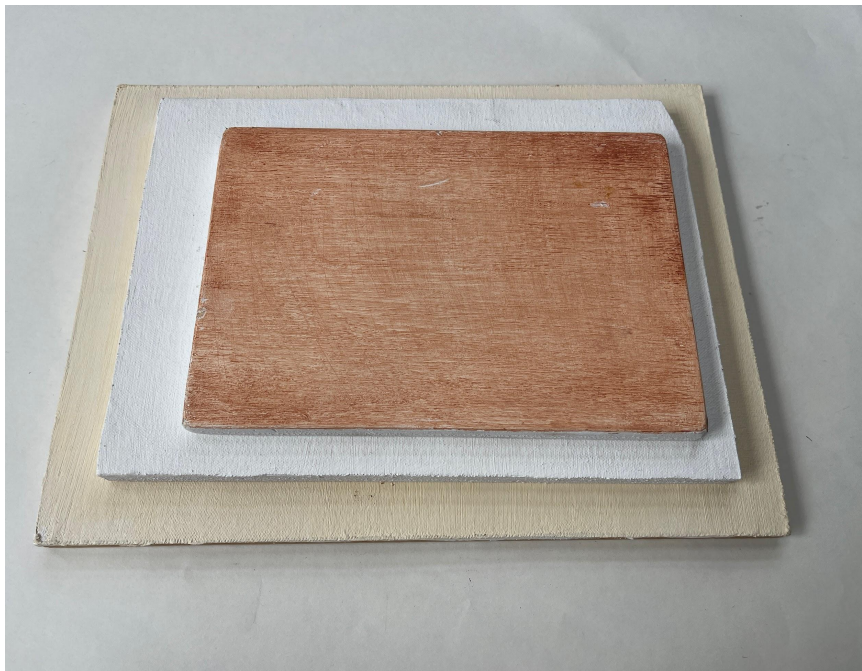
**These are some of my most used brushes for plein air painting + a typical amount I'll use during an event.**

**I keep my brushes in a PVC tube to keep them from getting ruined/keeps my backpack clean. I added stickers on one end so I always know which end is up. Don't let your brushes sit hairs down!**





**Here are the palette knives I use most often. Typically the one I singled out is the one I use for plein air painting. If I have a larger canvas I'll bring the longer/bigger palette knives. If I have a small palette setup I'll use the tiny one.**



I prefer to paint on canvas panels. These are small canvas panels I made using a medium weight canvas that I glued to sande or birch plywood using acid free archival bookbinding glue from Lineco. Mounting canvas is difficult and permanent. I prefer to wrap the canvas around cradled birch panels now. That way I can reuse the panel if needed or the painting can be restretched if it gets damaged.

The largest panel pictured has an oil primer, the middle one just has gesso, and the top has an acrylic tone over gesso.



**Here are my priming materials in order:**

Golden GAC 100 (polymer medium for sizing my organic substrates = paper, wood, canvas)

Utrecht Professional Gesso = 2-3 coats after GAC 100. Sand smooth.

Williamsburg Titanium Oil Ground = 1 coat on top of the gesso. Let dry for 1-2 weeks prior to painting. I don't sand this layer.



I only use solvents when painting outdoors. I do not recommend using it indoors unless you have proper ventilation.

I prefer to use Gamsol by Gamblin for my mineral spirits outdoors.

Indoors I sometimes use a Lavendar Spike Oil made by Chelsea Classical Studios pictured in the small bottle on the left.

My gamsol is stored in the lock seal jar pictured.

Here are most of the oil paint mediums I've tried outdoors in order: Neo Megilp (Gamblin), Walnut Oil (M. Graham), Linseed Oil (Gamblin), Impasto Putty (Rublev), Velazquez Medium (similar to Impasto and also by Rublev but not pictured), and my favorite and most used Oleo gel (Rublev).





## Sketching Supplies:

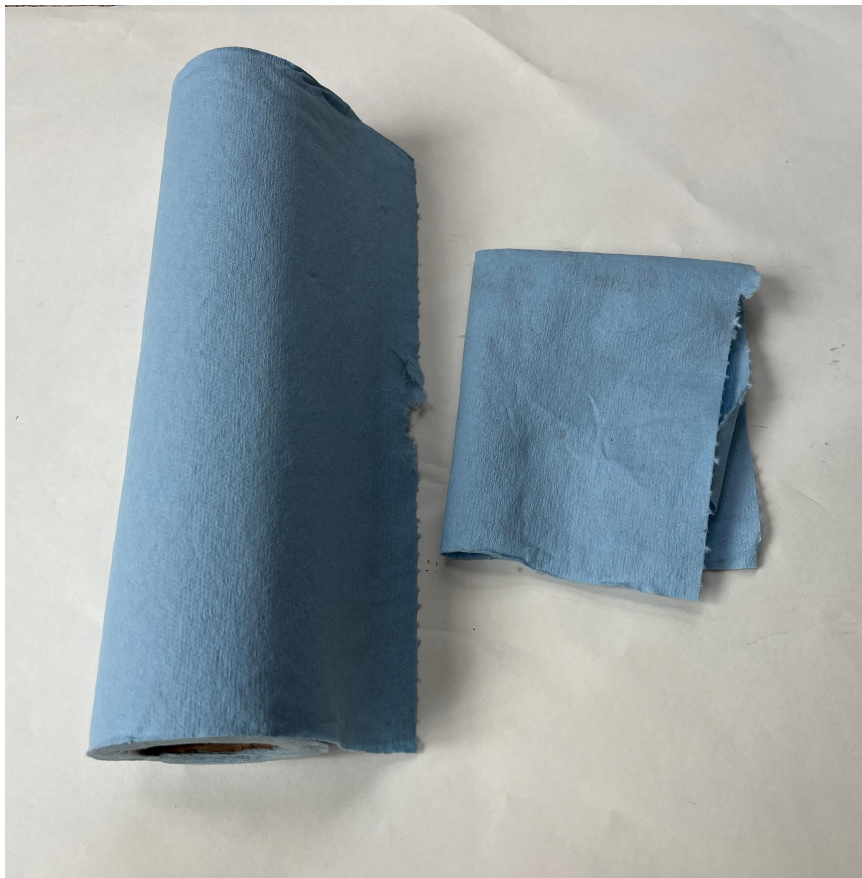
I prefer to sketch in Moleskin sketchbooks. For plein air I use their 5" x 8.25" books. I draw either with graphite pencils or pens.

Also pictured here is my pencil case, pencil sharpener, and handmade paper viewfinders made to various ratio sizes which fit perfectly in the back of the sketchbook. I have another stack of them that I keep in a ziplock bag with foam board.



I try to have a decent number of varying hardness pencils with me at all times. I find that I sketch with the F, HB, 2B, and 6B pencils most often. They have a wide value range and allow me to get ideas down on paper quickly.





**Blue shop towels are the best in my opinion. They absorb oil really well and last a long time. Sometimes I'll clip them on the edge of my taboret or a table to dry and then continue using them when painting.**

**They also don't fall apart and shed pulp if you want to use them to wipe out or into your painting.**

I started using gloves when I began painting with carcinogenic and toxic pigments/mediums. Now its a habit to wear them even if I'm not using those materials. Always read the safety precautions on your paints and other materials. Most of what we use has long term health effects/risks when not handled or used properly.

I keep a box of these Nitrile gloves from Amazon in my studio and grab a bunch to keep in my plain air backpack.



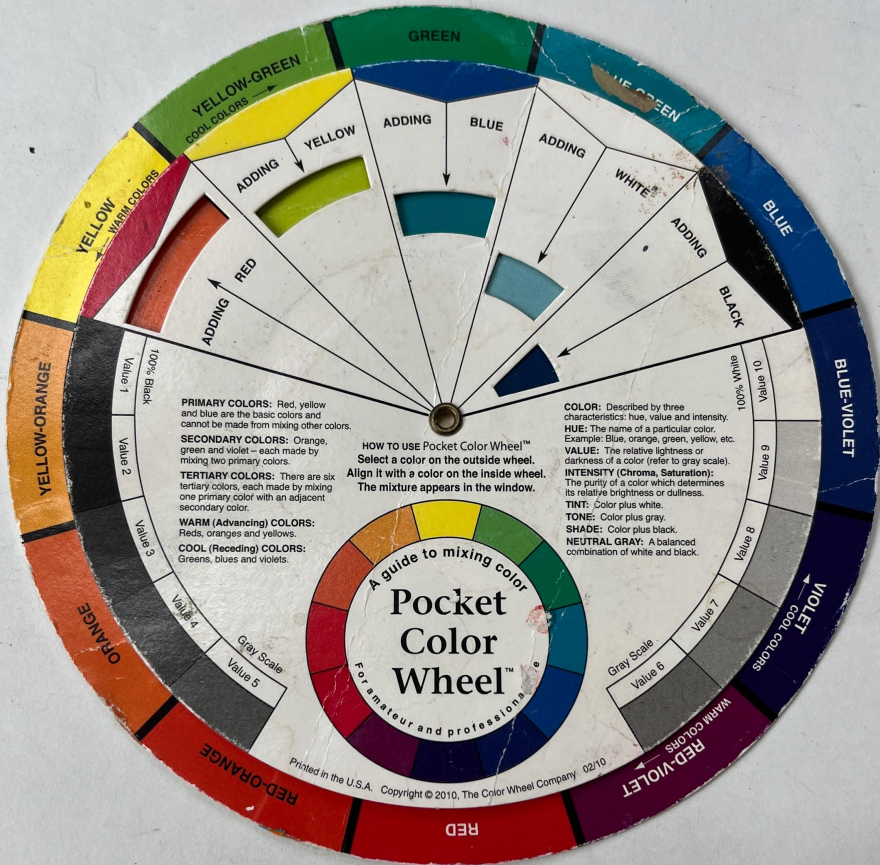


**Clamps are extremely useful and handy to keep around. I use mine to hold up my umbrella to my easel, clamp my sketchbook to my rig, and to temporarily fix things if need be!**



**An umbrella is really necessary when you're painting in direct sunlight. It protects you but also allows you to better gauge your painting without harsh direct light. Mine was found in a garbage can for free outside of an event that didn't allow umbrellas. The more neutral the color of the umbrella is the better.**

Small pocket color wheels are great to keep around. Every now and again I'll use it to pick out a limited palette or to rethink the color scheme of a painting.





**Painters tape is useful for a lot of things! No explanation needed.**



**Grayscale markers for sketching. I've used these only a few times, mostly because the alcohol ink ones I have bled through paper easily and mess up other drawings. If you have single sheets of paper or don't care about bleed through I recommend them. Otherwise look for an alcohol free version of these. They're great for quick tonal drawings.**





**I don't use squeegees in my plein air work often but they're nice to have on hand in case I need to push the paint in ways that my brushes and palette knives can't.**

One of my proudest tools is my color chart book that I hand mixed using my own palette of colors. I based it off of charts that Richard Schmid and T. Allen Lawson teach. I made mine on Arches Oil Paper that once dried fit into a plastic portfolio book. I keep this in my backpack to help with color identification and limited palette choices.

