

Pastel Painting Materials List For Anne Heywood's Pet Portrait Workshop

Soft Pastels: In addition to a **set or collection of soft pastels** (see below), 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 colors you have, the better. **A set of at least 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, and Nupastels. This workshop does not use oil pastels.

In particular, bring pastels in colors that are found in your subject/pet, in addition to other colors.

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, or Wallis paper. (I will be using a textured surface for the demonstration.) You may also use non-textured papers made specifically for pastels, or watercolor or printmaking paper (I do not recommend Strathmore paper since it has a slippery surface). In general, you will need **one piece of paper or board no smaller than 11 x 14**. Good color choices: medium blues, tans, yellow ochres, or greys; you may also use white or other colors not listed here.

Drawing board, larger than the size of your paper.

Erasers, preferably kneadable (similar to taffy).

A 2B charcoal pencil and/or a mechanical pencil.

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

Plastic gloves, VERY TIGHT FITTING, such as medical examination gloves, or **barrier cream** (Gloves in a Bottle, Avon's Silicone Cream) to protect your hands while painting. I will be using the barrier cream.

Tape and/or large clips to affix your paper to the drawing board

Paper towels to keep pastel sticks clean.

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

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

A clean artist bristle **brush** (clean, but does not have to be new), any type (flat, round, etc.)

GOOD REFERENCE PHOTOS no smaller than 4" x 6" and no larger than 8.5" x 11". The more clear, sharp, and true color photos of your pet that you have, the better. *It is easier to work from a larger photo!*

One clear see-through 8.5" x 11" **plastic page protector, a ruler, and a ballpoint pen OR a 1" grid on a clear piece of plastic.**

Wear work clothes or bring an apron to protect your clothes. Bagged lunches and drinks may be put in the refrigerator; there are also several eateries nearby where you can purchase a lunch.

Easels, chairs, and small tables are provided.

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 soft pastel family claims to be "soft". The truth is: some 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 welcome to do so). In general, they would be included under the "Hard Pastel" category.