

PASTEL ACADEMY ONLINE

Pen & Ink Materials

We are all familiar with pens when writing. They are many and varied in type and performance and the same can be said of pens for artwork. The following is a guide to help you make your choice:

1) Technical pen. *** There are a variety of nib sizes; my preference is for a fine one. Because nib sizes are not standard across the ranges it is of very little use to quote size numbers. A selection or a packet (4-5) of technical pens (developed for technical drawing with stylo-tip nibs) may include a range of nib sizes and could be a good place to start – to enable you to sample and decide which are more suitable for you. You don't need to pay for artists quality pens, at least not until you decide where your preferences lie.

Black as a basic. There are other colours available eg dark sepia is also popular.

Other options: when in need try a biro – they can be a good stand-by.

2) Traditional pen & ink: *** Many artists prefer the traditional pen holder and nib dipped in a pot of ink. They do give a different and less 'mechanical' effect than a technical pen – in the right hands sketches completed in this old medium can be stunning, albeit not without blotches which seem to add to the magic. A broken, fractured line can be more endearing and is considered more 'artistic' than a technically even one. For this traditional method you will also need:

Bottle of ink – black as a basic – maybe dark sepia for a different effect.

Dip pen – and a selection of attachable nibs, of different thickness for thick and thinner lines

3) Some prefer an Art Pen *** – usually with ink cartridges and again different nibs to suit your preference.

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Resources for Pen & Ink

(For Compositional studies: a selection of landscape photos – preferably your own - approx 20 – 30 images of mixed subjects. (these will be used in an editing compositional exercise)).