

Painting Luminous Waves

WITH SOFT PASTELS

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Materials List

This might look like a long list but that's because I give you options and some descriptions. It's very likely that you already have what we need for this workshop, if you are not just starting out with pastels.

Most of the links below are to www.dickblick.com so you can see the details, but you can search other online stores and compare the prices.

Papers:

Non-Sanded Papers

Some **non-sanded mid tone (gray or other neutral colors) paper** - for a quick value study, or you can use your regular sketchbook for that.

Pastel Paper (sanded):

We will be using the Wet Underpainting technique on sanded paper (white or neutral color).

UART sanded paper, 400 or 320 grit, neutral color (not black!)

You can get 12"x18" sheets and then cut a sheet in two 9"x12" if smaller sizes are needed.

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/uart-sanded-pastel-paper-12-x-18-400-grit-single-sheet/>

Good alternative to UART is LuxArchival Professional Sanded Art Papers.

You can also use Art Spectrum Colourfix sanded paper (white) though it has somewhat rougher texture. Both of these brands can be used with the wet underpainting.

The paper you choose should be **white or neutral color**.

*Not all brands of sanded paper can be used with liquid - water or alcohol might dissolve the adhesive that bonds the grit to paper. It's best to run a quick wash test on a swatch of paper if you've never used it with the Wet Underpainting before, particularly with the Isopropyl alcohol.

Pastels:

Hard Pastels

I recommend to have a range of basic colors in hard pastels. They are great to use with underpainting and for the first layer or two. Hard pastels are also great for adding crisper details, linear marks or cross hatching technique. I recommend at least 12 color set or getting them as single sticks. For the seascape, make sure you have some greens, teal, olive and turquoise colors, as well as some blues, purples, pinks, etc.

*It's possible to skip Hard pastels, but you'll need to work with very light pressure when blocking the colors in. **Rembrandt** pastels can be used for that as well, they are not as soft.

Some of my favorite brands in Hard pastels, where you can still get single sticks (**NuPastels** is another great option but they are now seem to be only available as sets):

Cretacolor:

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/cretacolor-pastel-carre-hard-pastels/>

Or

Richeson:

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/richeson-semi-hard-square-pastels/>

Soft Pastels

I always recommend to have a good basic set that has a few values in all major color families (from lightest to darkest colors), warmer and cooler versions of them (like red-purple and blue-purple, etc) and some grays and neutrals. It's also

important to have those nice saturated colors because we cannot mix them. For the seascape, it's important to have a range of greens, blues, turquoise, etc. And of course, a nice range of purples. For the sea foam, you'll need a range of light colors - from light mid tones to almost white colors for the highlights.

Underpainting technique:

Synthetic brush, 3/4" or 1" Don't use an expensive brush, the sanded surface will quickly ruin it.

Isopropyl Alcohol - I use 70%, but other % numbers can be used, the higher the number the faster it dries. You can also use water, if you cannot use the Isopropyl Alcohol for any reason.

A couple of small jars or cups (to hold small amounts of liquid)

Other Materials:

Soft Charcoal, White NuPastel or white charcoal, pencils - for value studies

Bristle Brush - to remove pastel, to correct mistakes, etc. (don't use the same brush as you use for the underpainting!)

Foam Core Boards, 16"x20" is good for small to medium size projects.

Glassine Paper - to protect the work from smudging.
<https://www.dickblick.com/products/glassine-interleaving-paper/>

Artists' Masking Tape
<https://www.dickblick.com/products/artist-tape/>

Gloves - if you use them.

Paper towels