

Marking Materials and Related:

Canvas

Canvas is a heavy woven fabric made of flax or cotton. Its surface is typically prepared for painting by priming with a ground. Linen -- made of flax -- is the standard canvas, very strong, sold by the roll and by smaller pieces. A less expensive alternative to linen is heavy cotton duck, though it is less acceptable (some find it unacceptable), cotton being less durable, because it's more prone to absorb dampness, and it's less receptive to grounds. For use in painting, a piece of canvas is stretched tightly by stapling or tacking it to a stretcher frame.

A painting done on canvas and then cemented to a solid support (e.g. wall or panel) is called marouflage.

Canvas board is an inexpensive, commercially prepared cotton canvas which has been primed and glued to cardboard, suitable for students and amateurs who enjoy its portability.

Paint

Pigment dispersed into liquid. The liquid is called a vehicle. Binders make it adhere both to itself and to the surface to which is applied. Types of paint include watercolor, acrylic, tempera, oil, enamel, lacquer, encaustic, fresco, and secco.

Pallet

A large flat board or box-like construction on which materials may be stored to protect them from damp, and which make them easier to move with a fork-lift. Not to be confused with palette.

Palette

A slab of wood, metal, marble, ceramic, plastic, glass, or paper, which an artist can hold while painting and on which the artist mixes paint. Also the range of color used by an artist.

Pen

A drawing or writing device comprised of a nib from which ink is drawn to make marks. There are a great variety of nib sizes, shapes and materials. The most common materials used include metal, plastics, quill, reed and bamboo.

Pencil

An implement for drawing or writing (lettering), consisting of a thin rod of graphite, colored wax, chalk, charcoal, or another such substance which can be sharpened to a fine point, either encased in wood or held in a mechanical holder.

Today's lead pencil is actually a graphite pencil, because lead is poisonous. Before this type of pencil was manufactured in the nineteenth century, the term pencil referred to small, pointed brushes, and penciling referred to a painter's draftsmanship.

High quality graphite drawing pencils are available from numerous manufacturers in nineteen or more degrees of hardness. Most commonly, from softest to hardness, these are: 8B, 7B, 6B, 5B, 4B, 3B, 2B, B, HB, F, H, 2H, 3H, 4H, 5H, 6H, 7H, 8H, 9H.

Maulstick / Mahlstick (aka bridge)

A long wooden stick used by painters as a tool to support and steady the hand that holds the brush. It conserves the arm's strength, and protects the painting's surface.