



Illustration with Watercolor and Ink - Materials

- **Paper:** Hot press 140lb watercolor paper, at least 8 x 10".
 - [Strathmore](#) - budget option
 - [Arches](#) - great quality, more expensive
- **Watercolor paints**
 - Budget option: [Koi, set of 2](#)
 - Mid-range option: [Winsor & Newton set of 12](#)
 - Top quality option: [Daniel Smith watercolors](#) - I recommend Indanthrone Blue, Hansa Yellow Medium, New Gamboge, Quinacridone Rose, Phthalo Turquoise, Pyrrol Scarlet, Neutral Tint, Cobalt Blue, Phthalo Green (blue shade), and Imperial Purple to start.
- **Acrylic black ink.** Not to be confused with water-soluble inks, which will smudge when combined with paint. There are many brands of acrylic ink (not all created equal). I recommend [Dr. Ph. Martins](#). You can try other colors beyond black, too.
- **Pen cleaner** - essential for cleaning your pen nibs throughout the drawing process. I recommend [Koh-I-Noor Rapido-Eze Pen Cleaning Concentrate](#).
- **Pen set with removable nibs**
 - [The Speedball sketching set is a great starter kit](#)
 - You can also buy a nib holder like the [Tachikawa Comic Pen Nib Holder](#), and your own nibs. I'd recommend the [Speedball #100 to start](#), and be sure to get a few more to experiment and have backups if one bends, breaks, etc.
- **Pencils for sketching** - feel free to make do with whatever pencils you have on hand. I use mechanical pencils. Lighter, harder kinds of graphite are best. [Here's a guide](#) to different kinds of graphite.
 - [Staedtler pencil sketching set](#)
- **Staedtler eraser**
- **Paint palette** - this can be as simple as a platter from the thrift store. So long as it's nice and big (at least a foot long) it will work. Ceramic is best.
- **Brushes** - note that brushes should have a nice flex and tip to them, and as they age, they'll fray and need to be replaced. Short-handle brushes will work best for the smaller-sized pieces we're creating. I use the [Princeton Select Series](#).
 - A synthetic round #1 brush (for smaller details)
 - A synthetic round #4 brush (a versatile go-to option)
 - A synthetic flat ¾" brush (for filling in large spaces)
 - A synthetic round brush in size 6,7, or 8

- For a good all-inclusive budget brush kit, I recommend the [Princeton Golden Taklon](#) starter kit
- **Two jars to hold water**
- **Paper towel**
- **Scratch paper** less expensive, but still 140 lbs +, for experimenting
- **Other materials** to experiment with - totally up to you and not strictly required!
 - White gouache, for creating opaque details
 - Watercolor pencils