



Supplies for the Acrylic Layers Workshop Mini-Series

Introduction:

I am so pleased you will be joining me for this Acrylic Layers Workshop! Below is information related to the workshop supplies you will need. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions! Please be reassured, no matter your experience level with painting or acrylics, this workshop will be a lot of fun and will spark your creativity!

This supplies list is organized into three sections: Workspace & Miscellaneous, Basic (Minimum Needed), and Optional (The Fun Stuff!)

The Workspace & Miscellaneous portion addresses setting up your space to make your workshop experience as effective (and easy clean up!) as possible.

To get the gist of this process you do not need a ton of supplies. In addition, the flexibility you have in adapting even a minimal set of supplies to your mixed media applications is endless. I have captured a basic set for this workshop in the "BASIC" list which covers what I will be demonstrating with.

I have also prepared an "OPTIONAL" list for you... What has been hugely fun in these workshops in-person has been allowing participants to try supplies they might not have in their own supply selection. So, if you are feeling adventurous, see if you have any of the optional supplies in your stash. If you do not, I would recommend picking at least one or two to purchase and play with during the workshop from the support and art media categories. You will be exposed to several you can refer to through the demo at your convenience when you decide to invest more!

I have embedded links in this version of the supply list for many of the items to the DickBlick.com site for your convenience.

Workspace & Miscellaneous

- Plastic to protect your worktable (recommend taping it to keep from slipping!)
- Plastic, drop cloth, or cardboard to set up a "drying" area for your freshly gelled pieces (another table, under a table... be sure no one 2 or 4 legged can disturb them!)
- Fan - helpful in drying especially if you want to work on them prior to next session
- 2 water containers (I like to have one to clean and another to dampen brushes for paint application)
- Paper towels
- Apron - gel can get everywhere! I use mine to clean my palette knife on...LOL!

Basic Supplies (Minimum Needed)

NOTE #1: I recommend you keep the supports smaller sized for the workshop 5x7, 6x6, 8x10, 12x12 range (the larger it is the longer it takes to cover in gel, and it uses up more gel!)

NOTE #2: Using the best quality supplies you can afford and using acid free supports is always optimal, but you can use what you have on hand to get started.



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- **Supports** – I will be using a variety of support, at a minimum you will need watercolor paper:
 - **Watercolor paper** – I prefer 300 lb weight since it bears up well to the layers of gel. (I've used 140 lb but it is harder to work with) You can buy a full 22" x 30" sheet and tear into smaller pieces, use pre-cut in a size you like, or purchase a pad to pull from)
 - Full Sheet 300 lb Watercolor
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/fluid-100-watercolor-paper-22-x-30-sheet-300-lb-cold-press/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/arches-watercolor-paper-22-x-30-bright-white-cold-press-300-lb-single-sheet/>
 - Pack of Pre-cut Sheets
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/fabriano-artistico-watercolor-papers-11-x-14-extra-white-cold-press-4-sheets/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/fabriano-artistico-watercolor-papers-16-x-20-extra-white-cold-press-2-sheets/>
- **Acrylic Gel**
 - Depending on the brand, this Acrylic Gel is called different things and comes in a variety of “transparencies.” We want to use GLOSS so it will dry fully transparent. Don't confuse this with thinner mediums (Gloss medium, Matte medium) which won't hold a peak... look for GELS that are used with acrylics to create impasto, relief, or sculptural effects.
 - Dick Blick Acrylic Gloss Medium (I know, the name says “gloss medium”... this is a gel!) – For learning this process I recommend this Gloss Acrylic Gel medium, the quart (32 oz) size is plenty for workshop and is most affordable.
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-artists-acrylic-mediums/>
- **Acrylic paint** (I use both heavy body and fluids)
 - **If you already use acrylics**, you should be all set, use what you have.
 - A variety of colors and opacities (transparent, translucent, opaque) will serve you well
 - Do see the last page of this supply list for a list of colors I use as you may want to add a few to your palette. Having a few “accent” colors (brights, metallics) in addition to your normal colors can be particularly fun with the Acrylic Layers technique.
 - If you have not tried **fluid acrylics** this might be a fun time to try them out!
 - Fluid Acrylic Sampler: <https://www.dickblick.com/items/golden-fluid-acrylics-watermedia-set-1-oz-bottles/>
 - **If you are new to acrylics**, I would recommend starting with a set of colors in smaller tubes to get a decent sampling of colors and let you get the feel, you can get started with a set like those offered here:
 - Student grade:
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-studio-acrylics-set-of-12-free-tube-assorted-colors-21-ml-tubes/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/liquitex-basics-acrylic-set-set-of-12-75-oz-tubes/>



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- Professional grade:
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-artists-acrylic-set-assorted-set-of-12-color-2-oz-tubes/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/golden-heavy-body-artist-acrylics/>
- **White Gesso** - small container is fine (Liquitex offers smaller bottles with pour caps which is very convenient)
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/liquitex-acrylic-gesso-white-8-oz-bottle/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-artists-acrylic-gesso/>
- **Clear gesso** (will give tooth to draw on) (Liquitex offers smaller bottles with pour caps which is very convenient)
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/liquitex-acrylic-medium-clear-gesso-8-oz-jar/>
- **Palette knife** - mid-range size, nothing fancy, for spreading the gel
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-painting-knife-34-x-2-916-traditional-style-10-/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-painting-knives-starter-set-of-3-knives/>
- **Pack of cheap brushes** (no kidding, certain parts of the process = brush abuse and I don't want you ruining your good brushes!) Variety of Flats and Rounds:
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/langnickel-big-kids-choice-lil-grippers-brush-set-rounds-and-flats-set-of-4/>
- **Synthetic / Synthetic blend brushes** for actual painting use with acrylics and watercolors
 - 2 flats - 1" and 1/2"
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/princeton-snap-golden-taklon-brush-stroke-short-handle-size-12/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/princeton-snap-golden-taklon-brush-stroke-short-handle-size-1/>
 - 2 med rounds - sizes 6 - 12
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/princeton-snap-golden-taklon-brush-round-short-handle-size-6/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/princeton-snap-golden-taklon-brush-round-short-handle-size-10/>
 - 1 Small/thin rigger - for details, lines
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/princeton-snap-golden-taklon-brush-liner-short-handle-size-2/>
- **Plastic Card or Silicone Shaper** - Wallpaper smoothers or old credit cards or hotel room keys work fine
- **Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol** - 90% if you can find it (works faster), whatever you can find off of the grocery/drug store shelves!
- **Flexible Sanding Blocks** (sponge covered with abrasive)
 - Need fine and medium grit - this one has both in one block:
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/art-alternatives-sanding-block/>
 - Sand paper will work but the sponge type with abrasive on 4 sides is easy to hold and use for the uneven surfaces we will create!



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- **“Failed” or “Stuck” Piece of Art**
 - water media or dry media (non-oil based) piece of art you were going to throw away!
- **Vine charcoal**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/winsor-newton-vine-charcoal-medium-pack-of-3/>
- **Something to “emboss” the Gel with**
 - Piece of bubble wrap
 - Cheap dollar store filigree earring
 - Cookie Cutter
 - “Non-subtle” stamp (med-large design to easily see imprint)
- **Collage Materials** (FREE)
 - You can print my “printable” designs In bonus section
 - Print photos with cool colors and or patterns
 - Magazines, newspapers, catalogues on hand
 - Old papers, book pages, etc.
 - See more in optional section
- **Spray Bottle** - for water to keep paints moist and create special effects
- **Palette** (I use clear plastic plates!)
 - You can use whatever form of palette you are most comfortable with (e.g., Pad, tray, plastic or Styrofoam plates, etc.)
 - Palette Pad - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-studio-disposable-palette-pads/>
- **HB Pencil & Kneaded Eraser**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-studio-drawing-pencil-hb/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-kneaded-eraser-medium/>



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Optional (the Fun Stuff!)

- **Supports** – inflexible surfaces work best for this technique, stretched canvas “gives” and can be challenging to work with.
 - **Gessoed Panels** – are nice to work with using this technique. This link is to the 1/8" thick ones which do need to be framed. You can get a variety of sizes.
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/richeson-premium-gessoed-hardboard-panels/>
 - **Gessoed Raised/Cradled Panels** – 3/4" – 1 1/2" cradles. Can paint the edges and hang as is or frame in floater frames.
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-studio-artists-panels/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/ampersand-value-series-artist-panels/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/ampersand-gessobord/>
 - **Birch Panels**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/baltic-birch-panels/>
 - **Acrylic Sheets**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/acrylic-clear-sheets/>
 - **Canvas Covered Panels**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/masterpiece-carmel-hardcore-pro-canvas-panels/>
- **Art Media**
 - **Acrylic Gel Mediums** – these brands are more expensive than the Dick Blick Acrylic Gel and they do offer thicker options (Heavy, Extra Heavy) as well as different transparencies (Gloss, Semi-Gloss, and Matte) Note: for this process I do not recommend using the matte as you cannot see through it. The Semi-gloss yields an encaustic wax effect.
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/liquitex-gel-mediums/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/golden-regular-acrylic-gel-mediums/>
 - **Water soluble crayons**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/caran-dache-neocolor-ii-artists-crayons/>
 - **Water soluble colored pencils**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/caran-dache-supracolor-soft-aquarelle-pencils/>
 - **Acrylic markers**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/uni-posca-paint-markers/>
 - **India Ink**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/speedball-super-black-waterproof-india-ink/>
 - **Acrylic Ink**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/liquitex-professional-acrylic-ink/>
 - **Graphite**



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- <https://www.dickblick.com/items/generals-kimberly-graphite-sticks-assorted--set-of-4/>
- **Acid free pens/markers**
- **Collage papers** (rice papers, origami sheets...)
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/search/?q=collage%20papers>
- **Black gesso**
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/liquidex-acrylic-gessos/>
- **“Embed-ables”** - small beads, glitter
- **Soft or Hard Chalk Pastels** (not oil)
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-pastels/>
- **Tools**
 - **Stamps** – store bought, or hand made (one of your bonuses shows how to make your own!)
 - **Stencils** – store bought, or hand made
 - **Masks** – this is the cut-out shape when making a stencil also called silhouette stencils
 - **Transfer paper** (Graphite, blue, or white) – used when tracing something onto the surface
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/saral-wax-free-transfer-paper/>
 - **Rubber Brayer** – useful when collaging papers on an underpainting
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/search/?q=rubber%20brayer>
 - **Sponge roller** – useful for veiling larger areas and with stencils & masks
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/wonderfoam-foam-rollers-paint-tray/>
 - <https://www.dickblick.com/products/linzer-mini-paint-rollers/>

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me!



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Here is the list of Acrylic colors I keep on hand as an example if you need one; I will not be using all of these during the workshop and do not expect you to have them all, but I am often asked what I use. I have a variety of brands, mostly Golden and Liquitex artist/professional grade.

If you have the core colors (a warm and cool of each of the primaries) key neutrals (my favorites are Yellow Ochre, Burnt Umber, and Titanium Buff) and a few secondary and accent colors that make you smile, you are in good shape for this workshop!

Having a few “icing the cake” colors is especially fun to use as “sparkle” colors to peak through the layers we will be creating so I do recommend having a few bright and at least one metallic on hand.

- Warms & Cools of primaries (Red, Yellow, Blue)
 - Warm Red - Cadmium Red Medium hue, Naphthol Red light
 - Cool Red - Quinacridone Crimson, Alizarin Crimson
 - Warm Yellow - Indian Yellow, Cadmium Yellow Medium hue
 - Cool Yellow - Lemon Yellow, Hansa Yellow
 - Warm Blue - Ultramarine Blue, Cobalt Blue, Cerulean Blue
 - Cool Blue - Pthalo Blue (green shade)
- Neutrals & Earth tones
 - Naples Yellow, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Yellow Ochre
 - Titanium Buff, Bone Black, Paynes Grey, Parchment, Titanium White
- Secondary & Accent colors
 - Cadmium Orange, Diaxazine Purple, Sap Green, Pthalo Green (blue shade)
 - Prussian Blue, Quinacridone Magenta, Quinacridone Burnt Orange, Quinacridone/Nickel (Azo) Gold, Green Gold, Hookers Green, Olive Green
 - Light Blue Permanent, Light Blue Violet, Cobalt Teal, Turquoise
 - Metallics - Iridescent Gold, Bronze, Silver