

Materials/equipment list for Jem Bowden watercolour courses

Materials must be provided by each participant. This is a recommendation and is intended to be as helpful as possible. It reflects what Jem will *likely* be using, but should be balanced with participants using whatever colours, brushes, paper type, seat/easel etc, they favour and are accustomed to.

Students need to be self-sufficient. Please carefully consider what things you personally might need to be comfortable outdoors potentially for much of a day, including with variable weather and underfoot terrain.

Outdoor painting is weather-permitting, but we will be going out unless it is either raining or too windy. Therefore come equipped and ready for less than perfect weather! Please read all the following carefully.

Watercolour paper:

Either a 'block' or taped, pre-stretched or otherwise held paper on board.

A pad can be okay as a learning material, as long as it is 300g/140lb weight minimum, and up to about A4 or quarter-imperial size max, otherwise the issue of windblown or curling pages means it is usually better to tear out sheets and tape them down.

Bring plenty of paper, potentially to complete up to 3 paintings per day, plus some spare sheets for exercises and mishaps, *and some scrap* for testing on. Size, surface type, brand, etc, should ultimately be your choice. For information, Jem (currently) mostly uses half-imperial size Not/Cold-pressed Bockingford, 200lb weight, which he affixes to a light (corrugated plastic) board.

A board, suitable for taking out (unless you use blocks) and **tape**, or alternative method of affixing paper.

Brushes: Your usual ones, *but hopefully including:*

At least one large Wash type brush, and a medium/large Round with a decent point. (If possible, just bring all your brushes.)

Paints: *Jem strongly recommends tube paints rather than pans, for ease of mixing and particularly to obtain strong darks.*

'Student quality' can be fine. Use whichever colours and brand you prefer or are used to.

For information in case you wish to use similar (though Jem stresses this is NOT necessary), Jem's palette currently includes (mostly W&N Professional range): French Ultramarine, Winsor Blue (Red Shade), Burnt Umber, Raw Umber, Light Red, Indian Red, Winsor Lemon (or other cool 'bright' yellow), Cobalt Turquoise and possibly one or two others. A more restricted palette would be absolutely fine, and potentially a very good idea.

Digital camera/smartphone camera/tablet:

Very helpful when selecting a subject and composing, and for collecting visual information for later reference. Alternatively, a card Viewfinder can work as a substitute, but is less easy to use in some ways.

Pencil and rubber, both soft. (Jem uses an 8B and soft putty eraser)

Mixing palette - ideally with several generous mixing areas. Small palettes are generally more of a hindrance than a help (unless you work VERY small) even when working outdoors.

Water pot, *plus* water container for transporting water, such as a plastic litre bottle. (+ wire to hang pot from easel, if needed)

Sketch book if you use one, or some loose drawing paper. We may or may not need this much, depending on how you work.

Kitchen/toilet roll: for mopping up runs/pools/mishaps and cleaning your palette.

Absorbent rag/cloth/sponge: for quickly drying off brushes when painting (alternatively use the above for this too). *This is important!*

Easel, if you use one. **Lightweight chair/stool** if you wish to paint seated. For info, Jem stands at an easel when painting and demonstrating.

Peaked cap or brimmed hat. Essential for looking towards, and protecting from sun (and the odd raindrop).

Pen & ink - optional: Jem occasionally works with 'ink & wash', for which he currently favours a 'brush pen' for the ink aspect. This is entirely optional, but mentioned here because Jem sometimes demonstrates this method during a course.

A bag of some sort to contain all of this - and anything else you might consider useful (Insect repellent, sun lotion, antihistamine tablets, etc.) Jem fits everything including easel into a hiker's backpack, with a cheap plastic portfolio for his board & paper.

Please feel free to contact Jem in advance if you have any questions at all relating to materials:

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