

JOE KNOWS BRUSHES...

BRUSH SHAPE 101



Cat's Tongue – These brushes have a unique flat point at the end, which is great for creating a variety of shapes within one brush stroke.

Filbert – The soft edges allow for subtle blending and the creation of great organic flowing shapes.

Fan – Great for smoothing, blending and creating special effects and textures.

Bright – Same as a flat, only shorter bristles.

Flat – Provides lots of color capacity and easy maneuverability. Flats are great for creating bold sweeping shapes, edges or fine lines.

Hake – Pronounced like "hockey". Hake brushes are used much like a wash brush. Their soft bristles are very forgiving and the handles are extra long.

Mop – A mop is a round, full-bodied version of a wash brush.

Oval – The best of both worlds... get great rounded shapes like using a round and bold shapes with one pass like painting with a flat, all in one brush. Oval Wash – just an oval-shaped version of a wash brush.

Round – Terrific for detail work from thick to thin.

Rigger /Liner /Script /Signature – Most useful for delicate lettering, highlighting, outlining and long continuous strokes. Great for signing your "John Hancock" when you're finished.

Wash – Wash brushes are great for applying large areas of color, for wetting a surface or for absorbing excess when necessary.

Angle Shader – Like a flat brush but the end is shaped at an angle. A favorite among decorative painters because of the variety of shapes that can be made with just a flick of the wrist. Great for making sharp clean lines.

Egbert – A super long version of a traditional filbert shape.

Dagger Striper – The same shape as our own Loose Goose. Dagger strippers were used by sign painters and auto detailers for pinstripping because of the amount of control and color that you get when making delicate lines.

Scrubber – Any brush that can be used to scrub out an area of your painting to the white surface underneath.

BRUSH HAIR 101

Nylon – Nylons come in many different shapes and styles and have no real texture, which is why they aren't noted for their color holding capability, but noted for their resiliency.

White Nylon – Raw synthetic filament that has not been treated in any way.

Golden Nylon – Synthetic filament that has been color treated not only to make it look more like natural hair but also to behave like it. The color treatment pits the surface of the filament allowing it to be more absorbent.

Kolinsky Sable – The tail hair of male sables from the Siberian region of Russia is soft, forgiving and carries tons of color. Just paint and paint and paint.

Red Sable – This is a natural hair also derived from sables, but not necessarily the heartiest ones and is not as pronounced in performance.

Black Sable (a.k.a. Fitch) – Another variety of sable along the same quality as Red Sable with very similar characteristics.

Blended Brushes – Blending the color holding capacity of sable with the durability and spring of a golden nylon provides the best of both worlds in a lower priced brush.

BRUSH FLAGGING

Usually split ends are considered a bad thing, but in the paintbrush world, split ends are known as "flags" and actually help your brush hold paint and spread it more evenly. A good brush would have flags on at least half of its bristles.

BRUSH ANATOMY 101

A Brush Head (or tuft) – Easily the most important part of the brush as it carries the paint to the paper or canvas. Generally, the fatter the "belly" (the widest part of the brush head), the more color it will hold.

B Roots – It is important to keep paint from drying in or around the ferrule as this will cause the roots of the brush hair to pry apart, ultimately ruining the tip and the brush.

C Ferrule – The ferrule is the part of the brush that holds the hairs in place and attaches the brush head to the handle. Primarily made of metal, high quality ferrules are typically seamless and non-corrosive.

D Handle – The handle is the longest section of the brush and is where the brush is held when in use. High quality brushes have a balanced wood handle that is either painted or varnished. Plastic handles are also available and often come with an "aquarelle" tip, a beveled end used for scraping.



Chungking Bristle – The premier bristle of choice among most oil and acrylic painters because of its stiffness and durability. It comes from the ridge on the backs of male hogs from a specific region in China. Some manufacturers will boil or heat-treat the bristle to soften it and make it easier to paint with.

Ox – Ox hair is pretty coarse and is great for oil or acrylics because it can handle the punishment. It is often dyed to make it more forgiving and softer.

Squirrel – Squirrel hair is probably the most absorbent you will find, and very soft, bordering on floppy. It is a very brittle hair and needs to be coaxed into readiness. Place in warm water five minutes before you start painting.

Goat – Goat hair is pretty soft and pretty absorbent. It isn't the most durable of hairs and does require some care to have it last for several years.

Mongoose – A favorite among oil and acrylic painters because of its durability along with its forgiving feel. It is much less coarse than regular bristle and makes for a much softer brush.

