

# Drawing the Landscape Materials and Reading List

## Graphite

- pencils 2B, 4B, 6B and 2H (Staedtler brand recommended)

## Erasers and Sharpening Supplies

- kneaded eraser
- Tombo Mono eraser (optional but highly recommended)
- sandpaper saddle or sandpaper (for sharpening)
- utility knife with snap off blades (Olfa recommended)

## Charcoal

- vine charcoal – soft, medium and hard
- charcoal pencils – soft, medium and hard
- General's white charcoal pencil

## Pen and Ink Supplies

- dip pen holders (Speedball Standard pen holder)
- nibs – Hunt 512 recommended
- Sennelier or other shellac-based ink – black and/or sepia
- small water bottle
- Higgins pen cleaner

## Mixed Media

- you can use any of the above materials
- pastel, gouache, watercolor (optional)
- paper suitable for mixed media (Bristol is a good choice)

## Paper

Paper, like canvas, makes a tremendous amount of difference in the ability of the student to get the desired results. Students are often reluctant to use “good paper” for “practice.” Unfortunately, just like using cheap canvas, cheap paper (or the wrong paper for the medium or task at hand) will make it impossible for the student to do anything but struggle with their materials. So, use good paper and the right paper for the medium you are working in.

Below are some of the papers and sketchbooks I use. **You don't need to get all of these, but you will need at least one good drawing paper, a toned paper and watercolor paper for dip pen and ink studies.**

- Canson Cream is a good all-purpose drawing paper
- Fabriano Artistico or Stonehenge are excellent drawing papers for graphite
- Strathmore Toned Tan in pads is a good toned paper; I like it for charcoal
- Strathmore 500 charcoal paper is a good traditional laid paper. It comes in a variety of colors – it's best to get a light to medium value in a warm grey or relatively neutral/warm tone
- Stillman & Birn is also an excellent choice for a wirebound or hardbound sketchbook
- Watercolor paper – I would use at least 140 lbs; cold press has some texture, hot press is very smooth; either is fine.; I like to carry a Moleskin watercolor notebook in the field, but single sheets cut to size are just fine too.
- Strathmore Bristol-a smooth heavyweight paper that is good for graphite, pen and ink, mixed media

## Color/Value Isolator

This is a valuable tool for both isolating a color to determine its value and understanding its relationship to other colors. **It is essential for this class.**

**You may already have a value scale that you purchased from an art store or online retailer. Unfortunately, these will NOT be accurate to the Munsell scale. So please purchase one of the options below:**

1. You can buy a Munsell Neutral Value Scale (37 values - Glossy). They are pricey but well worth the price. I highly recommend them for serious students. Here is a link.

<https://www.pantone.com/munsell-neutral-value-scale-glossy-finish>

Amazon has them too at a better price:

[https://www.amazon.com/Munsell-Neutral-Value-Scale-Glossy/dp/B007WT9DLE/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=X-Rite-Munsell-Neutral-Value-Scale&qid=1616183238&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Munsell-Neutral-Value-Scale-Glossy/dp/B007WT9DLE/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=X-Rite-Munsell-Neutral-Value-Scale&qid=1616183238&sr=8-1)

2. Recently I discovered a MUCH less expensive but accurate alternative to the expensive Munsell scale. You can order them here:

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/Munsell-Accurate-Value-Gray-Scale-for-Artists-Designers-Quilters-etc-/223003792036>

(Note: the picture at this link is unfortunately inaccurate and makes the scale look sort of yellow; it isn't). This is definitely the most cost effective and accurate scale around at the moment.

## **Field Kit**

It is important to have a light, easy to carry kit for field work. I have a canvas bag which can hold pretty much all the supplies listed above. I have a much smaller one I use most of the time that holds one medium.



With that I carry either a small drawing board or a sketchbook or pad with a hard enough surface to work on. A hat, sunscreen and a bottle of water are essential. I use an umbrella occasionally too. I resisted using one for many years because I like to travel light (and still do) but I have found in recent years that using one increases the amount of time I am comfortable working outdoors. I also carry a small folding stool which is very light weight.

### Reading

- *Carlson's Guide to Landscape Painting* (required)
- John Ruskin – *The Elements of Drawing*
- Norling – *Perspective Made Easy* (required)
- Harold Speed – *The Practice and Science of Drawing*
- Deborah Paris–*Painting the Woods: Nature, Memory and Metaphor*

All are available from Amazon.