

Workshop Comfort

The following supplies can be very helpful as a “check list” when packing for a workshop. Sometimes the instructor will assume that you’ll have certain supplies with you (not mentioned in the supply list). Both basic and optional supplies, along with some “comfort items”, can make your limited space more productive & comfortable.

Basics - Depending on the Workshop

Pencils - hard and soft
Small Pencil Sharpener
Eraser - Pentel Click, Hypereraser, Kneaded, Magic Rub
Fine Pointed Markers - Pigma Micron .005 - .08, Sharpie Fine
Dividers to quickly size/rule paper
Layout and Tracing Paper
Drafting, Watercolor or Painter’s Tape
Scotch Removable Tape or Wonder Tape (dbl-sided tape)
Metal Ruler (cork-backed steel) and/or Metal T-Square
Pen Holders
Assortment of Nibs
Black Watersoluble (non-waterproof) Ink (unless specific brand and color are requested)
Small Flat Bristle Brushes for mixing/loading ink or gouache onto nib
Pipette or medicine dropper for dispensing water
Small container with distilled water for mixing media
Water Container
Palette(s) for mixing gouache
Writing Board, if wishing to work on a slant
Glue Stick or small container of PVA
Scissors, X-acto Knife w/new #11 blades
Self-healing Cutting Surface
Bone Folder w/good tip for scoring and embossing tool
Separate Paper Carrier/Folder to transport paper
Thin cotton glove to protect writing surface from hand oils
Scrap or Waste Paper for testing media
Paper Towels, Rags, Handi-wipes, Baby Wipes
Small Plastic Grocery Bags to tape to table edge for a “portable waste basket” while working
Notebook for taking notes

Optional & Helpful - Depending on the Workshop

Colored Pencils, Watercolors, Gouache, Gel Pens (when not included in the supply list)
Peerless Watercolor sheets or Watercolor Pencils take up little space
Waterbrush
Rubber Cement Pick-up
Portable Light - Ott or other w/extension cord, unless the light has batteries
Portable Light Box
Camera - always ask instructor for permission to take photos of their work
Chair Cushion or pillow to elevate your position at the table
Sweater or Long Sleeved Shirt if you are cold-natured
Apron
Hand & Tool Cleaner - Masters Soap, Hand Sanitizer
Waxed Paper - cut out squares and put in Ziplock bag
Can/Jar Opener - Magic Grip for stubborn lids or containers; wide rubberbands can aid in opening tube paint
Binders Clips / Paper Clips
Toothpicks / Popsickle Sticks - in small containers
Hole Punch or Japenese Drill Punch
Small Sewing Kit with embroidery/binders thread & binding needles
Embossing Tool
Pillow for sitting on hard benches
Don’t forget those ‘cheater glasses’!

TIP: As you attend workshops and decide what kinds of tools you require, you will also gain knowledge about the ideal supply carrier to fit your needs, from a toolbox to a roomy art carrier. Pack supplies in small containers for easy handling, dividing large amounts when possible to take only a small portion to workshops. (Your “personal space” at a workshop is much tighter than your workspace at home or studio). Small containers can be refilled right after a workshop, repacked into carrier, and your basic supplies will be ready for the next workshop. Keep an inventory of these supplies and add to or delete as you personalize them for your own needs.

FINAL TIP: Most workshop locations have parking just outside or very near the door. A Toolkit and First Aid Kit in your vehicle’s trunk can hold additional supplies needed every now and then, but not in your basic supplies. For instance, an extension cord and adapter from a Toolkit might be needed if you are using anything electrical, or a pair of tweezers, Q-Tips, plastic gloves, or a razor blade from a First Aid Kit could come in handy.

Original article by member Jo Guffey in the Jan-Feb 2008 HANDSCRIT. Additional items have been added as new ideas emerge from our resourceful members - Cindy Haller Rev 9/18