

Things you might find on the handles of your Brushes

If you look at the handles of your brushes you will normally find:

- The size of the brush is nearest the top of the handle, e.g. large, medium or small;
- Its hair composition, e.g. horse, wolf, etc. or main usage, e.g. orchid bamboo, plum blossom, etc. will follow;
- Below that you will normally find the manufacturer's name.

All of this will be in Chinese of course.

The following are some of the Chinese characters that you might find on your brushes.

Please note that the Chinese are in the process of simplifying their language and these characters may be simplified even further.

Head Sizes

The most common sizes are:

大	Large
中	Medium
小	Small

Brush Usage

蘭竹	Orchid Bamboo
李花	Plum Blossom (1)
梅花	Plum Blossom (2)
白雲	White Cloud (used for silk painting and colour wash)
書	Calligraphy
畫	Painting

Brush Head Composition (Hair types)

狐狸	Fox
北狼	Northern Wolf
黃狼	Yellow Wolf
松鼠	Squirrel
馬 or 马	Horse
山马	Mountain Horse
羊	Goat/Sheep
小马	Pony
兔	Rabbit
雞羽毛	Cockerel or Chicken Feathers
鼠	Mouse
老虎	Tiger
貓	Cat
豬	Pig
七紫三羊	7 Purple 3 Sheep

Composition of these rabbit and sheep hair brushes varies but the numbers always add up to 10