

### **CBP Starter Kit**

**If you are starting Chinese Brush painting you will need various materials.**

**If you are going on a course or joining a group it is probably best to leave purchasing until you meet your tutor, and some tutors/groups have relevant items for sale. Be guided by them.**

**In general, you will need:**

- Bottled ink, Chinese or Japanese
- Small dish or saucer for undiluted ink
  - The traditional method of making ink is to grind an inkstick using an inkstone. It is important to have good quality stick and stone: cheap ones do not produce good ink easily. Bottled ink is a convenient alternative.
- Basic Chinese painting colours (not Western watercolours). The tube colours produced by Marie or Sakura are convenient. The basic colours needed are: indigo, gamboge, burnt sienna, scarlet, carmine, rouge.
- 3 brushes: a small brush, a medium brush and a larger brush. These can be brown hair or mixed hair and you can add to these as you progress. For example:
  - An “Orchid and Bamboo” brush, “wolf” hair (Large, medium or small)



- A “plum blossom” or fine line brush, “wolf hair” finer tip than Orchid and Bamboo



- A large white cloud or mixed hair brush eg



- Don't buy boxed sets as they are often poor quality. Sets of individual brushes from reputable sellers may be OK.
- A piece of felt or wool blanket (ideally white or cream) larger than your painting paper for resting your paper on. This is so that the delicate paper does not stick to the table when damp. Other fabrics could be used to start with eg a cotton tea-towel.
- Raw or unsized xuan paper (often called rice paper) for freestyle painting
- Paperweights eg 3 or 4 pebbles or coins

- 2 water pots for clean and dirty water eg glass jars, plastic pots
- A palette (preferably white) or 3 or 4 white saucers/plates. Charity shops are a useful source.
- A roll of kitchen paper

**Additional items might include:**

- a brush stand/brush hanger. Anything with hooks, or a thin rod to hold the loops so your brushes dry hanging down.
- a brush rest
- a brush pot to hold your spare brushes
- A bamboo mat/roll to transport brushes
- A water dropper
- a hake brush for applying washes
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Improvised Chopstick Brush Hanger