



The Right Brush for Acrylics

Dr Shaazia Hawai

Introduction

Just like a wizard channels magic through his wand, an artist channels his creativity through the strokes of his brush.

Selecting the right brush is a pivotal step in translating your vision onto the canvas.

This comprehensive guide helps you choose the PERFECT brush.

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brush**

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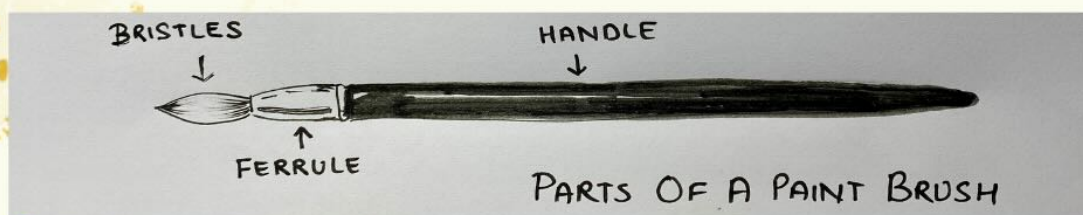
**My personal
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Brush Care

Dr Shaazia Hawai

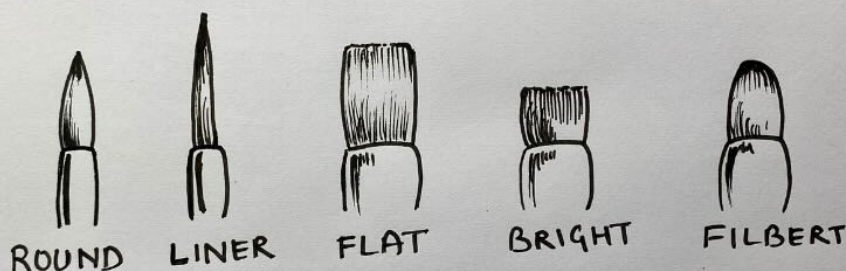
Know your Paint Brush



A paint brush comprises of three primary components: bristles, ferrule, and handle.

The bristles vary in shape, size, and material, depending on the intended use. The ferrule's purpose is to hold the bristles in place, preventing them from falling out. Lastly, the handle is made of wood or plastic and can be either long or short, depending on the user's preference.

Brush Shape



Round brush

for outlines, thick/thin lines, adding details

Liner brush

A thin round brush with long bristles for outlines, branches

Flat brush

Square edge, great for washes. Thin lines can be painted with the chisel edge

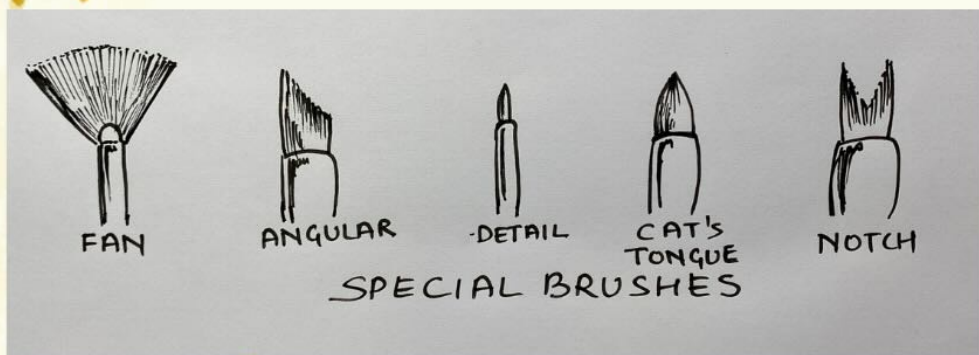
Bright brush

Same as flat brush but shorter bristles, great for impasto

Filbert brush

Soft rounded edge, best for washes, flower petals

Special Brushes



Fan brush

Great to create clouds, trees & grass

Angular brush

Great to create curved strokes, fill
corners

Detail brush

Short thin, round brush, great for
highlights and details

Cat's tongue

Great for washes and flowers

Notch brush

Create tree trunk, fur, grass, feathers
and hair

Which brush to BUY ?

Shape

As a beginner it is best to invest in the basic 3 brushes; a flat, a round & a liner brush.

These can help you create versatile brush strokes

Size

Buying one brush of medium size of a round & flat brush is enough for a beginner

Synthetic/Natural

Natural bristle brushes are expensive and not so compatible with

ACRYLICS, whereas the new age synthetic brushes are better suited as they imitate the natural bristles and are easier to clean. For blending / glazing use a brush with soft bristles.

For visible brushwork use a stiffer brush

Which brush to BUY ?

Long handle/ Short handle

A short handle is usually the size of a pencil and can feel quite natural & comfortable to hold. It is the preferred choice for artists who like to work up close.

The long handle may seem awkward initially but is great for artists who work with an easel and prefer to stand away from their work to render a more loose style



Acrylic Brushes Brands

- **Princeton Catalyst series
(imitate the hog brush)**
- **Princeton Aspen series (retain
their shape well)**
- **Princeton Velvet series (great
for blending styles)**
- **Winsor & Newton Monarch
series**

Affordable range

- **Liquitex Basic series**
- **Winsor & Newton Galleria series**
- **Camel Artists White Bristle**
- **Camel Artists Synthetic series**
- **Art Essentials Oyster white**
- **Brustro Greengold series**
- **Brustro white bristle series**

My Personal preference

My personal favourite are the Princeton Catalyst series (great for visible brush marks)

Princeton Aspen series (as they retain their chisel shape well)

I prefer the long handle as it helps me create loose expressive brushwork

At present I'm using

- Round brush size 4
- Flat brush size 2 & size 8
- Liner brush for fine lines



How to clean your Paint Brush

- **Wipe off the excess paint on a rag/ towel**
- **Swirl the brush in water to remove the leftover paint**
- **Shake off excess water and move the brush to and fro over Artist's soap or any mild soap**
- **Shape the bristles to their original shape and let it rest horizontally for 10-15 minutes**
- **Wash off the soap & reshape the bristles**
- **Leave the brush to dry horizontally on a lint free rag**

Do's & Don'ts in Brush Care

Use a palette knife to mix colours



Don't let paint dry on the brush

Don't rest the brush in water

