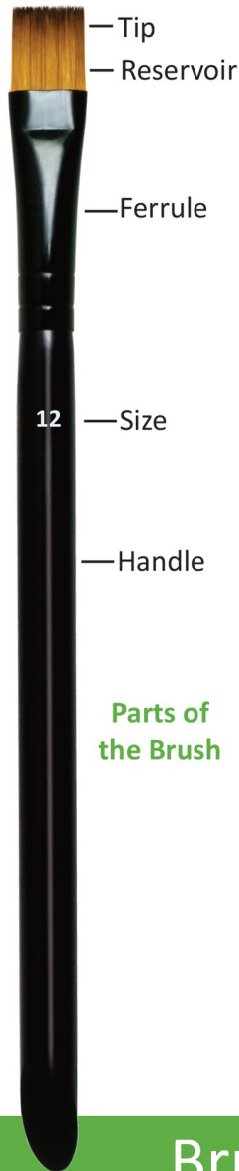


Brush Information



Parts of the Brush

Select the Proper Brush

Understanding the parts of the brush, hair types and handle variations will simplify the selection process. Proper brush care and storage will keep them performing like new.

Handles: They can be constructed with wood or plastic/acrylic and come in various lengths. Plastic and acrylic handles won't crack or peel if left in water.

Long/Easel - Best use with acrylic and oil painting on an easel. Allows the artist to step back for better perspective.

Standard - Most common and used for painting close to artwork.

Short - Ideal for miniature painting and young children.

Ferrule: Can be constructed with Brass (best), aluminum (good), and plastic (economy).

Reservoir: Constructed with hair (natural or synthetic) and holds color. See chart below.

Tip: Releases the color and comes in a variety of shapes.

Size: This number may reflect an actual size such as 1/4", 1/2", 1", etc. while others are assigned numbers like 12, representing 12mm. A half inch flat is roughly the equivalent of a 12mm flat. An exception to this sizing would be fan brushes, because of their unique shape.

Type	Hair	Best Use	Also Used With
	Soft Natural Squirrel, Sable, Sabeline, Camel, Goat, Pony	Watercolor, Ink, Ceramic Finishes	Gouache, Craft Acrylics, Tempera
	Bristle Natural or Synthetic Boar, Hog	Oil, Acrylic, Adhesives, Alkyds	Tempera
	Synthetic Gold Taklon	Acrylic, Gouache	Watercolor, Tempera, Ink
	Synthetic White Nylon (Firmer than Gold Taklon)	Acrylic	Oil, Fabric Paint

Brush Shapes

Round: Strokes, general coverage



Liner/Pointed Round: Lines, detail, lettering



Bright: Strokes, general coverage, chisel lines, floats



Flat: Longer than brights, & not as firm



Angular: Strokes, tight area coverage



Filbert: Rounded strokes, blending



Fan: Washes, stippling, glazing



Mop: Washes, blending, glazing



Brush Care & Storage

- Give brushes a "drink" to condition the hair prior to use. Use the appropriate media (water or solvent) and work it into the bristles so paint is less likely to dry in the center and build up over time.
- Wood handle brushes should always be dried flat or hanging down to prevent water from soaking into handle.
- Acrylic brushes should be dried flat, but can be stored upright if most of the water has dried from the hairs.
- When storing natural hair brushes for the summer or long periods, dip the brushes in liquid hand soap, wipe the excess, reshape the head, and allow the brush to dry. This will seal the hairs, eliminate mites from getting to the brush and ensure the brush head keeps its shape.
- Try not to soak handles. Water levels should only be to the crimping on the ferrule. Wetting wood handles can cause cracking and loosening of the ferrules. Dry handles after every cleaning.
- Clean brushes immediately after painting. Do not let any paint sit or dry in the hairs.
- Be gentle when using cake paints. Coarse scrubbing can permanently damage the hairs.
- For natural hair brushes, occasionally use brush conditioner to help keep hairs from drying out and breaking.

Cleaning Brushes

Water-based media: Rinse the brush several times in clean water. Use a good brush cleaner or shampoo to lather up the brush and swirl it around in the palm of your hand, then rinse; continue until all of the rinse water is colorless and all of the cleaner is removed.

Other media: Rinse the brush in solvent until all of the color is removed. Wipe the brush back and forth on paper towel or rags and work the solvent throughout the brush to remove all color.