

クリエイティビティー
TOKYO FINDS

BENTO PICASSO

Watercolor Paint Box



STARTER GUIDE

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Watercolor Paint Box includes:

- 18 Watercolor Paint Cakes
- 1 Small Round Pointed Brush
- Built-in Mixing Tray: 3 Large Wells (lid) + 2 Small Wells (paint tray)
- Metal Tin Box with Unhinged Lid

Health & Safety Recommendations

Please use the product as intended and with common sense. Paint is not intended for use as face/finger/body paint. Keep away from pets, babies, and toddlers. Individual paint cakes may become loose with force, and can pose as a choking hazard at that size. Children of 8 years of age or under should be supervised by an adult while using the product. Do not point the paint brush in mouth, ears, nose, or eyes. If ingested, please consult medical advice immediately. Avoid contact with eyes, mouth, and prolonged exposure on skin - may cause irritation.

START PAINTING IN 1-2-3



Fig. A: Start by setting up your painting materials



Fig. B: Consider having your paints on the left if you're left-handed



Fig. C: Simply add clean water to a paint cake to pick up color pigment

1. SET UP

Start by setting up your painting materials.

In addition to your Tokyo Finds Bento Picasso Paint Box, you will need:

- watercolor paper (minimum 300 gsm or 140 lb weight is recommended)
- containers for water (ideally, 2 containers - one for rinsing your paint brush and the other for when clean water is needed)
- paper towels

Other optional materials:

- acid-free artist tape or clips
- board

Consider different setups if you're right-handed versus left-handed (i.e. paints on your right if you're right-handed, paints on your left if you're left-handed - see images on the left). Experiment with different setups until you find one that's right for you. (Figure A and B)

Optional: You may find it handy to clip or tape down the edges of your watercolor sheet onto a board or to a table to keep the paper from buckling, especially if you're doing any heavy washes.

2. ADD WATER

Now that you have your workspace setup and ready, start by dipping your paint brush in water to soften the bristles (if the brush is brand new), and to pick up some water to transfer to your watercolor cakes. Gently work the wet paint brush across the surface of the paint cake, adding more water to pick up more pigment (if needed). Now you should have a brush loaded with color pigment, ready to apply to your artwork. (Figure C)

3. PAINT!

What are you waiting for? Go for it! Put that brush to paper and start your masterpiece.



Fig. D: Planning out your colors before you start painting may be helpful



Fig. E: Painting on a wet surface creates bleeds when using watercolors



Fig. F: Use paper towels to soak up any excess water or paint from your brush



Fig. G: Using different levels of water can help you achieve different effects

HANDY TIPS

Tip #1: Prepare your color palette.

A lot of colors appear differently on paper. You might find it useful to use a scrap of watercolor paper to test and decide which colors you'd like to use before you start. This will help you plan out a complimentary set of colors for your artwork. (Figure D)

Tip #2: Remember, wet-on-wet equals bleed!

If you're painting with watercolors for the first time, you'll notice that watercolors bleed. That's part of the fun when painting with watercolors but it can also be hugely frustrating for the novice painter when a bleed happens by accident.

To avoid creating bleeds, just apply your paint to DRY areas. To create a bleed, apply your paint to WET areas. You can create beautiful seamless blends of colors by letting different colors bleed into one another. This can be useful for creating colorful skies, water, and general color gradations. (Figure E)

Tip #3: Use your papertowel.

For better control over your colors, dab your paint brush on the paper towel to soak up any excess water or excess paint before applying. (Figure F)

Tip #4: Save your colors.

Ran out of time? Not finished your piece yet? Don't worry. You can save your custom colors to use next time by letting them dry in the mixing wells. Next time you want to use them again, simply add water to reactivate them. Voila!

PLAY AROUND

Try experimenting with your watercolors by...

...playing with different levels of water.

To create more concentrated, opaque colors, use less water when picking up the pigment. To create lighter, more transparent colors, use more water - transfer a bit of paint to your mixing tray and add a bit of clean water using your brush until you've achieved the color you desire. (Figure G)

Painting with a dry brush versus a wet brush will also produce different effects. Give it a try.

...creating and blending different colors.

Bento Picasso includes 18 ready to use colors but you can create hundreds of custom colors by mixing and blending any of those colors.

... adding layers.

Adding layers of color adds depth and richness to your work. Try layering colors in different orders and playing with the different opacities of each layer to achieve a variety of effects. Remember to let areas dry in between layers if you don't want the layers to blend and bleed together.

CLEAN UP IN A JIFFY!



Fig. H: You can use wet paper towels to wipe clean your mixing tray/lid.



Fig. I: After cleaning the brush, rest it to dry on top of the lid horizontally



Fig. J: Cleaning contaminated paint cakes is simple

MIXING TRAY / LID

1. Wipe the tray clean with wet paper towels. For a deeper cleaning, use soap and lukewarm water to remove paint. Light color stains are normal. (Figure H)
2. Once clean, wipe dry with a towel or paper towels and place it face down on a flat surface.

PAINT BRUSH

1. Under running water, gently dab and swirl the bristles of the brush on the palm of your open hand until the water runs clean.
2. Add a bit of soap and continue to gently swirl, swash, and dab the brush bristles against the palm of your hand to work the soap into the bristles. Rinse and repeat until the suds stay white and the water runs clear.
3. Shake off any excess water, and use paper towels to gently dab off any remaining water.
4. Using your fingers, gently reshape the bristles to a point and rest it on top of the lid to let it dry horizontal. (Figure I)

Never position a wet brush upright to dry (ex. in a cup or a jar) - any remaining water may seep back into the ferrule and damage your brush overtime. Once the brushes are completely dry, you can store them upright with no worries.

PAINT CAKES

This step is not always necessary, only when you want to clean up any contaminated paint cakes. (Figure J)

1. Using a wet paint brush, gently loosen the top layer of the contaminated paint cake.
2. Gently soak up all the dirty water on the paint cake using a clean paper towel or a clean dry brush. Repeat as needed.

COLOR MENU



*Swatches created on cold-pressed acid-free watercolor paper, textured, 300 gsm. Colors may not appear exactly as displayed here.