

Brush Shape Differences

Angular



Media watercolor, acrylic, decorative

Fiber

bristle
sable
synthetic

Description and Usage

Flat ferrule, short-length fibers, set with longer hairs at one end. Useful for precise strokes, and for lines and curves, with thick or heavy color.

Bright



Media oil, acrylic, decorative

Fiber

bristle
sable
synthetic

Description and Usage

Flat ferrule, short-length hairs, usually set in a long handle. Width and length of brush head is about equal. Useful for short, controlled strokes, and with thick or heavy color.

Dagger/Striper



Media watercolor, acrylic, decorative

Fiber

squirrel
synthetic

Description and Usage

Flat ferrule, long angled bristle with a sharp point. Useful for creating long, precise, linear strokes with single or multiple colors.

Fan



Media oil, acrylic, decorative

Fiber

badger
bristle
sable
synthetic

Description and Usage

Flat ferrule, spread hairs. Absorbent natural fiber is more suitable for soft blending because the fibers hold together when wet, and synthetic works well for textural effects. Useful for smoothing and blending, special effects, and textures.

Filbert



Media oil, acrylic, decorative

Fiber

bristle
sable
synthetic

Description and Usage

Thick, flat ferrule and oval-shaped medium to long hairs. Long handles. Natural fiber is more suitable for blending because the fibers hold together when wet. With its soft rounded edges, the filbert is suitable for blending and figurative work.

Flat



Media all

Fiber

bristle
sable
synthetic

Description and Usage

Flat ferrule, square-ended, with medium to long fibers. Large color-carrying capacity and easy maneuverability. Useful for bold, sweeping strokes, or on edge for fine lines. Use heavier filling for heavier paint.

Hake



Media watercolor, ceramic glazes, varnish

Fiber

goat
sheep

Description and Usage

A hake brush is a wash brush on a long flat handle. Useful for laying in large areas of water or color, wetting the surface, and absorbing excess media.

Highliner/Outliner



Media ink, sign paint

Fiber

ox
sable
squirrel
synthetic

Description and Usage

Round ferrule, square-ended brush, with extra-long hairs and a short handle. Large color-carrying capacity. Useful for delicate lettering, outlining, and long continuous strokes.

Mop



Media fluid acrylics, inks, watercolor

Fiber

goat
squirrel
synthetic

Description and Usage

A mop is a round, full version of the wash brush, made of soft, absorbent natural hair or synthetic fiber. Useful for laying in large areas of water or color, for wetting the surface, and for absorbing excess media.

Mottler and Spalter



Media watercolor, acrylic, oil, gesso, varnish

Fiber

bristle
squirrel
pony
badger
synthetic

Description and Usage

Mottlers and Spalters are large, flat brushes with long or short handles and long or short bristles. Available in both natural fiber and synthetic varieties. Useful for faux finishing techniques, murals, washes, varnishing, and priming. These brushes hold a large amount of paint and cover large surfaces.

One Stroke



Media oil, ink, decorative, sign paint

Fiber

sable
squirrel
ox
synthetic

Description and Usage

Flat ferrule, square-ended medium to long hairs. Short handles. Large color-carrying capacity. Useful for painting block letters in a single stroke.

Oval Wash/Cat's Tongue



Media watercolor

Fiber

squirrel
ox
bristle
synthetic

Description and Usage

Wash brushes come in a variety of shapes. The oval wash has rounded hairs, flat ferrules, and produces a soft edge. Useful for laying in large areas of water or color, wetting the surface, and absorbing excess media.

Quill



Media watercolor, ink, sign paint

Fiber

sable
squirrel
synthetic

Description and Usage

Combines the advantages of an elongated point with a large mid-section for extra color capacity, perfect for large watercolor washes. The head and handle are hand-tied with brass wires onto a natural wood handle.

Round



Media all

Fiber

all hair
synthetic

Description and Usage

Round ferrule, round or pointed tip. Useful for details, washes, fills, and thin to thick lines. A pointed round is used for fine detail. A detailer is a pointed round with very short fibers.

Script/Liner



Media watercolor, decorative, ink, sign paint

Fiber

sable
ox
synthetic

Description and Usage

Script brushes are narrow, pointed brushes with very long fibers while liners are typically shorter and narrower. Both have short handles with round ferrules and boast a large color-carrying capacity, useful for delicate lettering, highlighting, outlining, and long, continuous strokes.

Flat Wash



Media watercolor

Fiber

squirrel
sable
synthetic

Description and Usage

Wash brushes come in a variety of shapes, including square and flat. The square wash brush produces strokes of varying shapes and widths, while the flat brush provides excellent coverage with more control. Both are useful for laying in large areas of water or color, wetting the surface, and absorbing excess media.