

SCENIC PAINTING TOOLS

The anatomy of a brush:

The bristles:

Traditionally made from animal hair such as hog bristle or manufactured from synthetic fibre such as nylon

- **Natural** bristles allow the paint to flow onto scenery with a more watercolour-like quality. Each bristle is flagged (split at the end), which further helps the brush distribute the paint smoothly.
- **Synthetic** fibres tend to administer the paint in harder, scratchy strokes, and don't necessarily hold the paint as well. However, these brushes can be excellent in value and painting ability if you select carefully.

The ferrule:

The metal band that holds the bristles together and attaches them to the handle. The top end of the bundle of bristles is glued into the ferrule, which is tacked or crimped into the lower end of the handle.

The ferrule comes in a variety of widths, and is either flat oval or rounded.

The handle:

Commonly made from a treated or untreated wood or plastic. The handle should fit comfortably into the painter's hand and has a hole in the end so the brush can be hung up to dry.



Types of brushes:

SCENIC FITCHES:

- Small brush with a long, slender, wooden handle
- **Flat** and **round** with a stainless steel or aluminium ferrule
- Used for most of the artwork requirements in scenic painting, as opposed to the basic laying-in of flat colour.
- **Angled** fitches for edges and corners
- Available in a variety of sizes up to 30mm



POINTED SASH:

- Round wooden handle with a copper/ aluminium round or oval ferrule
- Bristles are trimmed at an angle all round, unlike a scenic fitch
- Used for figurative artwork and painting lines, either straight or curved
- Available in a variety of sizes up to 36mm diameter



FOLIAGE BRUSHES:

- Longer bristles which hold more paint
- Brushes can also have a different shape ferrule from which the bristles taper out, producing a wider line.
- Used for numerous texture techniques, foliage/ landscape painting and for achieving larger lines/ brush strokes
- Available in 1 to 3 inches' wide



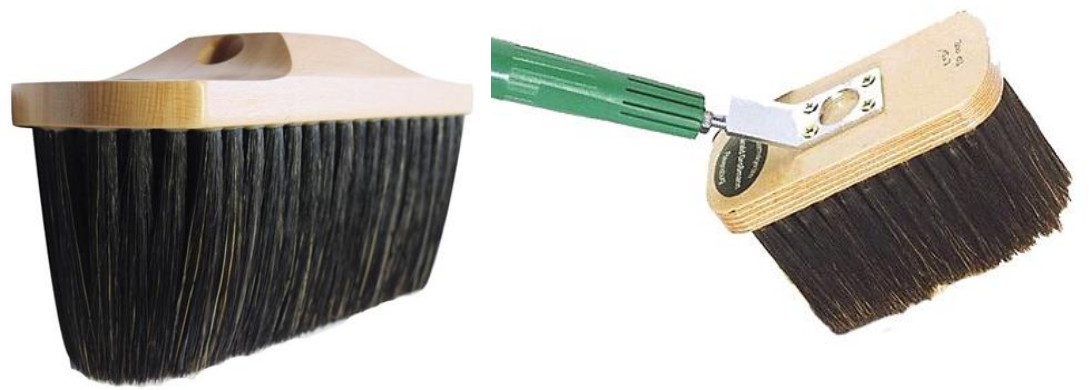
LAY-IN & PRIMING BRUSHES:

- Lay-in brushes and priming brushes are all types of flat-ferrule brushes
- The term lay-in refers to filling in rudimentary areas of colour on scenery
- These brushes are used for a variety of other tasks and techniques, such as base coating, wet blending, dry brushing, spattering & glazing.
- The size of these brushes is described by the width of the ferrule; for example, a two-and-a-half-inch lay-in brush would have a ferrule that is two-and-a-half inches wide.
- Priming brushes have ferrules that are 6 or 7 inches wide and 1 to 3 inches thick which makes them ideal for covering large surface areas quickly!



LONG-HANDLED BRUSHES:

- Excellent lightweight aluminium or wooded handles with detachable brush heads
- Brush heads are available in many different types. These vary from very large primer or sky cloth brushes, to smaller, slanted landscape/ foliage brushes.



STIPLERS:

- Larger, square-shaped stippling brushes are available through theatrical & decorating supply catalogues (shown below). The bristles in these brushes are very short and set in a wide ferrule. They are trimmed to the same length so all of them can hit the surface at the same time.
- Stippling brushes are not intended for brushing paint but rather for dabbing paint on a surface or texturing it once it has been applied, a painting technique called stippling.
- The action of these brushes can be used to soften colour by evenly distributing the wet paint. They are also suitable for stippling paint through a large stencil.
- Available in a variety of sizes up to 6 by 4 inches wide. Either with no or complete handle



STENCIL BRUSHES:

- Small, round ferruled brush with a short handle
- Designed to apply the paint by a dabbing action
- Used for stippling through stencils
- Available in a variety of sizes up to 36mm



SIGN-WRITER'S BRUSHES:

- Bristles made from long, slender and tapered animal hair
- Designed to hold a lot of paint, as well as distributing it with clean and accurate lines.
- Used for sign lettering and calligraphy



Grainer:

- ## Pencil draggers:

-

- Speciality brush with several bristle bundles in a row
- Used for wood graining effects and crosshatching



WOODGRAINING BRUSHES:

Floggers:

- Very long bristles with varnished wooden handle

Indispensable to the woodgraining process to provide the background grain for mahogany, walnut, rosewood, cedar etc....

- Available in 3 to 6" inches wide



Softeners:

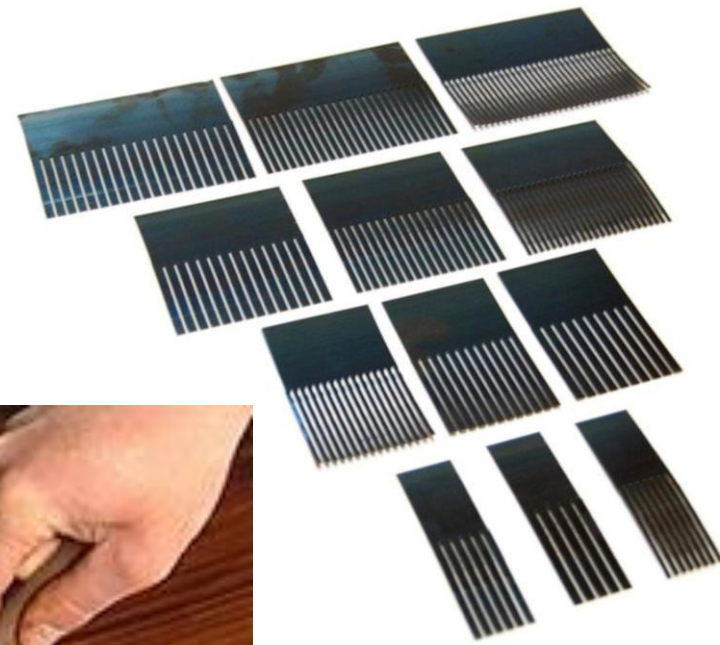
- Bristles made from a very soft, animal hair such as badger or hog
- Used for softening any paint effects and an invaluable tool for wood graining!
- Available in 2 to 4 inches wide



GRAINING TOOLS:

Combs:

- Made from rubber, metal and wood
- Combs have fine steel or rubber teeth for graining effect in various widths

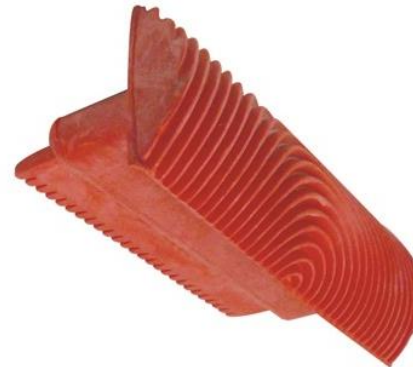


Heart Grainers:

- Heart grainer is used for graining pine and oak effects



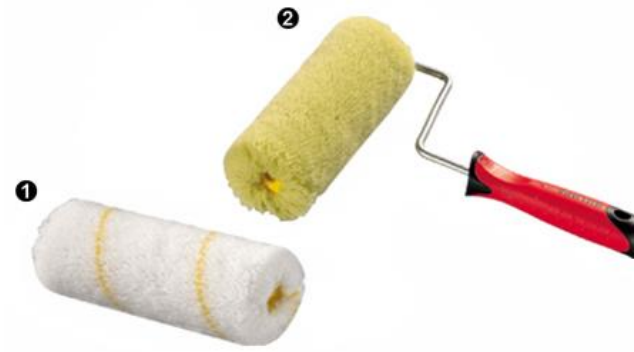
Rubber rocker heart grainer is dragged and rocked to create the knots and grain in wood



Other tools for painting:

ROLLERS:

- **Cloth** rollers for emulsion paints
- **Foam** rollers for varnish and gloss
- Used for quick coverage of paint, even distribution
- Can create several 'textured' effects when **foam** is cut/ picked into any shape or when using specialist textured roller sleeves
- Various sleeve sizes and handle lengths



SPONGES:

- **Natural** and **Synthetic** varieties
- **Natural** sponges create a rich, uneven texture
- **Synthetic** sponges are used for finer more even textures

They can also be cut up or used in block form to print repetitive shapes like bricks and tiles.

Larger sheets (upholstery foam) can similarly be carved into a pattern and stamped onto scenery



Spray-painting tools:

Hand-held misters:

- Mister bottle manufactured for moistening house plants
- Used to feather out or soften paint lines, blending & marbling effects
- Can be used with very thin paint for fine splattering over small areas

Pump sprayer:

- Manufactured for spraying outdoor plants
- They are light, self contained and portable
- The sprayer consists of 4 parts the tank, hose and nozzle, and the pump

The tank is filled with thin paint, leaving enough room for air on top.

The pump is attached and the air in the tank is pressurized by pumping the handle up and down. When it gets difficult to push there is enough pressure and the paint can then be sprayed out. The nozzle can be altered to create a stream, spatter or mist of paint

- **Can also be used for fire-proofing**



Spray-painting tools:

Spray gun:

- Like the pump sprayer it uses pressurized air but a compressor is used instead
- A compressor creates a lot more pressure and a steadier supply
- The guns nozzles can be altered to increase the effect of the spray and the coverage. The pressure from the compressor can also be altered to force the paint out quicker and stronger
- Used for a spray finish and knocking back paint effects
- Effective technique with large stencils
- Quick drying, even coverage and large distribution if required
- Affordable price bracket!



Gravity-feed guns:

- Use compressed air sent through the hose to push out the paint
- Controlled flow making them ideal for detailed scenic artwork
- Variety of sizes and qualities
- Higher price bracket!
- Trusted brands include: SATA, Iwata and DeVilbiss

