

Recommended sable brushes for workshops with Dr David Cranswick

Understanding how materials shape ideas and why the right tool in your hand changes everything

All of the brushes below have a good point for detail, have a generous belly for paint retention and paint flow, have a nicely graded transition from point to belly and are excellent for controlled modelling.

- Cornelissen Series 1 Kolinsky Sable Watercolour Brush, round. Number 1 - 4. ([Link](#))
Made from the highest quality Siberian Kolinsky sable. Golden ferrule with short black polished hexagonal handle. Round watercolour brush
- Da Vinci Maestro Series 35 round. ([Link](#))
Hair selected from male winter tails, with very fine, highly elastic hair. Long, strongly tapered point, giving an exceptionally fine needle point. Excellent spring and paint-holding capacity. Designed particularly for fine watercolour work, miniature painting, retouching and detailed work. The long taper makes it a rather expressive brush: you can make a very fine point but also lay down a broader stroke with the belly of the brush.
- Windsor and Newton professional watercolour sable, pointed round. Pure Kolinsky. 1 - 5. ([Link](#))
- Windsor and Newton professional watercolour sable, round. Number 1 - 6. ([Link](#))
- Da Vinci maestro: Tobolsky Kolinsky red sable, Series 10. Sizes 1 - 6. ([Link](#))
- Da Vinci Maestro: Tobolsky Kolinsky red sable. English shape, series 11. ONLY for Size 6. ([Link](#))

This brush is especially good for applying paint to broad areas such as the middle tone verdaccio. It has very good paint-holding capacity, keeps its shape, has very good flexibility and gives beautifully soft edges.

- Windsor and Newton: Kolinsky sable, round, series 7. Number 1 - 4. ([Link](#))

For very fine detailed work students should use:

- Pro Arte: Connoisseur 100, numbers 1 and 2. ([Link](#))

The numbering of these brushes is different to other makes, these are very fine brushes, suitable only for more detailed work and have a long tapering point, they hold the paint well. These are relatively cheap brushes and have a very good spring and are very durable.

From David:

"I do not advise other makes, they don't necessarily hold the paint as well, they often have poor water/paint retention, they do not give a smooth flow, often they lose their point after a short while and cannot be relied upon for the fine techniques taught in my classes. Inappropriate brushes waste students' time and money and delay the progress of their work."