

BRUSHES

3 great reasons to choose **DANIEL SMITH**

Professional Quality

We supply our own specifications and carefully monitor the quality of each batch of brushes produced. Before we add the DANIEL SMITH name to a brush line, we work with artists to find out what they're looking for in a specific type of brush. Then we have samples made by the world's best brushmakers and test them against similar brushes that are available. Having brushes made to our own specifications allows us to offer brushes like the Dan Smith Autograph lines, which are the finest brushes on the market.

Predictable Results

Within a series of brushes, you'll find that each performs as well as the others. When it finally becomes necessary to replace an old favorite, you can count on the replacement to have the same feel and action as the original.

Reliability

With proper care, you can rely on any of our brushes to provide great service over the long haul. Hairs or bristles are tightly set, ferrules are carefully crimped, and handles are designed for balance and durability.

As you look through our brush section, you'll see that many brushes carry the **DANIEL SMITH** brand. Custom designed to our specifications and made exclusively for us, they offer distinctive features and top quality at excellent prices!

Whatever the medium, we have the brush you need to make your mark. We offer a comprehensive range of types, sizes, shapes and price points. Natural hair brushes range from thick Kolinsky sables to stiff hog bristle brushes that stand up to oils and solvents and generally take a beating. Synthetics run the gamut from silky softness to resilient springiness, are great for work in any medium, and are easy to clean and maintain.



Brush Hairs & Bristles

Hog Bristle

The best quality bristles come from a strip running across the backs of wild hogs in Chongqing Province, China. Bristle hairs are stiff and coarse with natural curve and a V-shaped split end called a “flagged tip.” Brushes formed with the flags turning into (or interlocked with) the ferrule offer the most spring, shape retention and control. Bristle brushes are best suited for heavier paints such as oils, acrylics and encaustics.

Kolinsky Sable

This hair makes the finest watercolor brushes as well as excellent brushes for thinned oils and detail work. The most valuable and expensive soft brush hair comes from the tails of *mustela sibirica*, a marten found in the cold river valleys of Siberia. Brushmakers obtain the tails from furriers. Martens from the coldest valleys produce the best hairs for brushes. Strength, thickness, spring and fine point are the qualities associated with Kolinsky sable.

Ox Hair

Stiffer and springier than sable but softer than hog bristle, quality ox hair comes from the ears of high-altitude South American and European oxen. Strong in body, with good spring and tapered points, ox hair is suitable for oil and water-media, whether used alone or blended with other hairs. Because of its elasticity and color carrying ability, it makes an excellent brush for heavier colors.

Russian Black Sable

Smooth yet springy, softer than hog bristle but stiffer than Kolinsky Sable, Black Sable combines the advantages of controlled, bristle-like strokes with a smooth application that won't mark paint layers. It's great for blending and smoothing ridges left by bristle brushes.

Sheep & Goat Hairs

These are used alone or blended for softer sumi brushes such as hake brushes. The best hairs are yellowish in color and are boiled for straightening. They are very absorbent and point well but lack spring.

Squirrel Hair

This soft hair is very absorbent and points well when wet, but has little spring. Kazan, the best squirrel hair, has good elasticity—ideal for washes, lettering and smooth painted finishes.

Synthetic Hair

Nylon or polyester filaments of various thicknesses mimic the action of different types of natural hair. Some are soft and springy like natural sable while others offer the stiffness and pushing ability of ox hair or hog bristle. Synthetic hair is often mixed with natural hair to add durability or spring. Many artists prefer synthetic hair brushes, which tend to be durable and easy to clean.

In White Taklon, soft, tapered synthetic fiber bristles are used in mixtures of different thicknesses. Strong and springy, they're tough enough to handle acrylics yet soft enough for watercolor washes.

Horse Hair

Used for sumi brushes, this coarse, stiff hair produces crisp lines and exacting calligraphy strokes.

Brush Shapes

ANGULAR— Angled hairs or bristles are great for precise strokes, lines and curves, especially when using thick or heavy colors.

BRIGHT— Resembling a flat with shorter hairs, it is used for short controlled strokes and impasto.

FAN BLENDER— Rarely dipped directly into paint, it's used to gently blend surface color in all media.

FILBERT— Capable of yielding thick to thin strokes without hard edges, it is shaped like a flat or bright with rounded corners. The Cat Tongue is a more pointed variation.

FLAT— With its square end for broad, sweeping strokes, a flat offers great freedom and control for painterly effects and backgrounds.

HAKE— Pronounced ha-kay, this Asian brush is used for backgrounds or broad washes in sumi or watercolor paintings. Wide and flat, it is usually made of sheep or goat hair.

LINER— Shaped to produce continuous lines without reloading, it offers great control for architectural renderings and lettering.

MOP— Full-bodied to hold a lot of fluid, it forms a controllable tip when wet and can cover large areas of color efficiently.

RIGGER— Its elongated shape is designed for painting minute details.

ROUND— This versatile shape is capable of yielding thick to thin strokes and great detail. Sable rounds point more than bristle rounds when wet.

SCRIPT— Its elongated shape offers optimal control for lettering or geometric line work.

DETAIL— Short, precisely pointed bristles provide control for close, detailed work.

SCRIPT— Long bristles hold enough paint to make long continuous lines.