

Suggested items for Encaustic painting

Before you start, I recommend reading more about safety practices in the books, especially Lisa Rankin's book- see below.

Ventilation-

Must have good cross ventilation, work by window if possible w/fan blowing out/or exhaust fan in window. (Depending on your setup, you may want an additional fan blowing fresh air into your studio.)

Fire extinguisher

Sink, Water, large bowl of water nearby

Clear Caulking (for adhering metal or heavier items)

Glue sticks

PVA (Poly Vinyl Acetate) to adhere paper to wood; (could use YES glue)-weigh it down, let dry overnight.

Birch, pine, Ampersand basswood or Encausticbord. Dick Blick has their brand also.

(another brand--Art Alternatives Wood Panel Super Value Gallery-comes in different sizes/packs: 8x8 Pack of 5)

Mat board for smaller artworks

Sandpaper

Wax paper or plastic sheeting to protect your artwork

Masking tape/or blue tape

Rubbing alcohol, dilute with water in separate sealed container- Could be 1/3 to 1/2 alcohol and the rest water. Keep away from heat!

Paper towels, Cotton rounds

Clothes pins

FOR WORKING WITH ENCAUSTIC PAINT

I use the electric griddle (Presto) and Macys dept. store has these on sale many times throughout the year for \$20 or less. You can also try thrift stores.

Presto 07030 Cool Touch Griddle (or something similar)

R&F Surface Thermometer (use this because you can't rely on temperature setting on griddle) (keep 175 to 200 degrees. Check temp. on different areas of griddle.)

Crock pot little dipper (this temp is set at 165-180 degrees which is good if you need to keep a pot of encaustic medium going- also, does not draw a lot of power

Small pots/pans for heating encaustic medium- also thrift stores
steel cans or small tuna fish/or cat food cans

Encaustic medium (R & F- pellets)

Swan Candles is very reasonable. If you're just starting and do not want a large investment, this may be a good source.

Encaustic gesso (R & F) or Evans Encaustic Holy Grail (comes in different colors) IF you want to prime your board first (not necessary) EVANS may be going out of business.

Beeswax or Paraffin (to clean brushes)- can use Slick Wax or Soy Wax, but soy wax can be slimy
Heat gun (R & F-lighter weight than regular heat gun, but more expensive.)

I purchased Wagner heat gun recently as my 35 yr old heat gun finally gave out. I'm happy with my new Wagner Spraytech 0503008 HT1000 Heat Gun.

Be careful not to blow a circuit- I have to turn off my electric griddle when using the heat gun.

The embossing guns which we used at the workshop does not draw as much power.

Encaustic paint- Can start with basic colors, add later. Maybe treat yourself w/colors that appeal to you too. Can buy online- Amazon, Dickblick or local Plaza Art (Bethesda and Rockville locations carry encaustic paint and oil sticks; Artists & Craftsman Brookland, DC store)

R & F, Evans Encaustic, Encaustics

Pigment sticks or Oil Sticks (R & F my preference, easy to move around, smooth; Winsor & Newton ok too.)

Encaustic Blending Medium (stick)

Beeswax (recommended to coat your first layer to save \$, if working 14" x 14" or larger.)

Natural bristle brushes (could use old brushes). May want a variety- hake brushes, and w/o the steel; 1-2", some small too.

Princeton Bamboo brushes- size 2 and 3 - Natural hair with point (calligraphy brushes)

Scissors

Xacto knife

Metal ruler

burnishing tool or plastic ruler

Old jewelry, items for making impressions, stencils, produce bags for mesh/stencils

disposable gloves and/or barrier cream (sometimes the gloves rip, so its good to also use the barrier cream under your finger nails). This is recommended for working w/oil pigment sticks.

flat edge razor

Pottery tools/or dental tools for carving

Etching/Drypoint Needles and Scribes (Twisted Etching Needle) (may be called incising tool)
sold at dickblick.com or plaza art

Books

The Art of Encaustic Painting. Joanne Mattera

Encaustic Art. The complete guide to creating fine art with wax. Lissa Rankin

The Encaustic Studio. A wax workshop in mixed-media art. Daniella Woolf. (comes with a dvd)

Encaustic Workshop, Artistic Techniques for Working with Wax, Patricia Baldwin Seggebruch