



What's in the kit?

A tour of the things
I commonly use* in
Nature journaling

*As of Oct 2020.
Things flex over time.

What's in the kit?

During the Wild Wonder conference in 2020, I was part of a panel on what we carry. (Turns out I carry quite a bit, but many items are small. ;)

So here's the inventory. Specific product names are listed, but not links (there are often many good places to find these items, all just a google search away!)

And remember...

“The best kit is the one you have with you.”

~ John Muir Laws



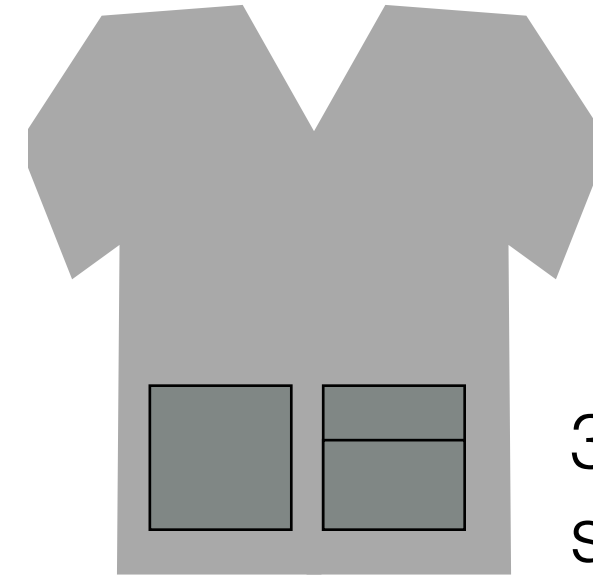
I love to nature journal!

Attire



Hat: important!
Anything with a brim
and a chinstrap.

I like Tilly hats but they
are pricey.



3 pockets:
single and double

Smock: scrubs make great nature journal
wear. The shirts have fantastic pockets.
Scrubs are lightweight, washable, durable,
fairly priced and come in a range of sizes.

My fave smock is a Koi Lite, dobby style.

Sketchbooks

- **Small** sketchbook:
Leuchtturm Hardcover
Medium A5 Sketchbook
[Black]
- **Large** sketchbook:
Art Alternatives 8.5x11
hardbound, 110 sheets, 75lb



The water brush + sock magic



Water brush
Pentel Arts Aquash Round, Large
(18mm), Fine Point Water Brush



White or grey sock, used on
opposite arm to clean the
waterbrush between paint colors.

↖ **game-changer
for field work**

Watercolor kit

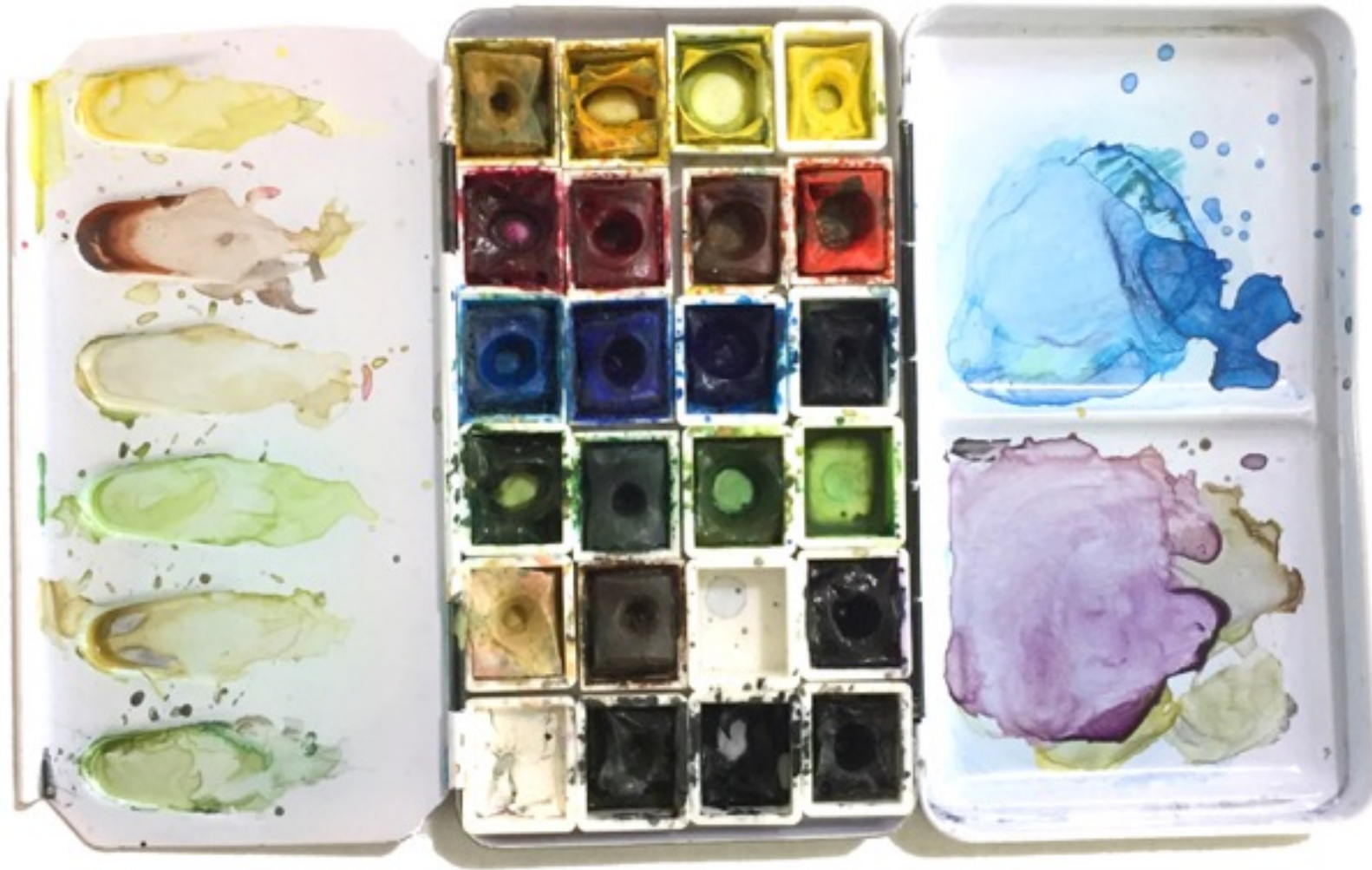
Assembled with palette case + half pans filled from tube watercolor paints.



- **Palette case:** metal case from Case for Making. A loop on the back aids holding.
- Half-pans available at art stores or on Amazon (usually come in bulk amounts.)
- **Watercolors:** A mix of brands but mostly Daniel Smith.

Watercolor kit notes

Color layout per John Muir Laws system



Two pans of a bright yellow so I can mix from one and keep one clean (tbh I'm still working on this skill.)

In the green row: one half pan is empty because I often mix a lot of a specific green and this gives more space than the fold-out mixing area.

1 empty half pan also in brown row (row 5.)

Row 6: white gouache, shadow violet, mars black, ivory black

Pencil case

Kokuyo NeoCritz Transformer Pencil Case



Pens I use the most

- Fine pen: Uni-ball Vision Micro (black)
- Medium pen: Pilot Futayaku Double-Sided Brush Pen - Black / Gray Ink
- Medium pen: Tombow 82038-Fudenosuke Brush Pen
- Medium pen: ZEBRA MILDLINER Highlighter pen markers, Mild Gray



In the pencil case



Pen-ventory

Sharpie pen

Regular sharpies

Pilot Futayaku Double-Sided
Brush Pen - Black / Gray Ink

Zebra Zensations Super Fine
Tip Brush Pen, Black

Uni-ball Vision Micro (black)

In the pencil case



Pen-ventory

ZEBRA MILDLINER
Highlighter pen marker
Mild Gray

Micron Pigma archival ink
pens:
.03
.01
.005 (tiny!)

In the pencil case



Pencils & erasers

Photoblue pencil

Tombow Mono Zero Eraser,
Round 2.3mm

All-graphite pencil

Graphite wash pencil

Zebra M-301 Mechanical Pencil

(not shown: Eraser, Staedtler Mars Erasers, White)

In the pencil case



Pencils & erasers

Colored pencil: Yellow
(highlight!)

White pencil

Blending stump

Colored pencil: Grey
(shade things!)

White China marker (for resist)

In the pencil case



Tools & measures

Plastic scale: metric + US customary

Small folding scissors
(try Daiso)

Correction / highlight fluid
Presto Pentel PRESTO! JUMBO Correction Pen, White

Engineer scale (metal)

In the Primary Kit



Case: Plastic zip case

From top left:

- Value-finder on lanyard
- Watercolor sock
- Glue stick
- Binder clips
- Large rubber band t
(to hold sketchbook pages open in wind)
- Tool kit
- Watercolor palette

In the Tool Kit

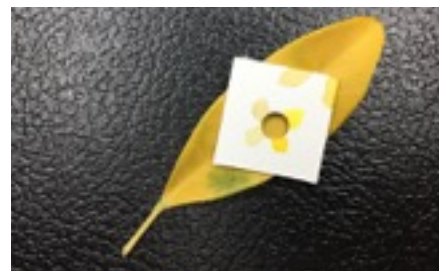
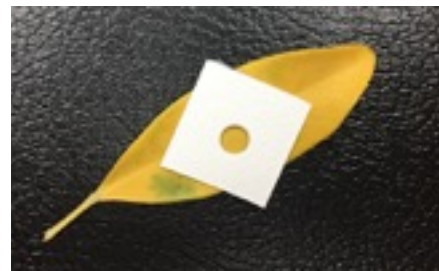


Container: Metal mint tin

- Small binder clips
- Plastic syringe (to fill water brush)
- Toothbrush head (for splatter)
- Makeup brush (for cleaning)
- Mini folding brush (for emotional comfort)
- Cotton swabs (for cleaning, poking & stroking)
- Toothpicks (for nudging & poking)
- Plastic eraser
- In lid: color matching tabs

In the Tool Kit

Special awesome thing: **Color matching tabs**



Use these tabs to color-match your watercolor paints to the color of an object.

1) Lay the tab over the object so the color appears through the hole.

2) Paint a small blob at the edge of the hole to directly compare it to the goal color.

3) Not yet a match? Try again on another part of the edge.

4) Keep going until you're happy with the color match.

If you need more samples, use the sides of the tab, too.

This tip is from science educator and visual artist **Christine Elder**.

➡ <https://christineelder.com/>

📷 @thateldergirl

Of related interest

I made a tiny palette I use quite a bit as well.

An experiment in portability, and it's working great.

Only 4 paints yet still a wide range of possibilities.

You can see all the details in the blog post on my site:

<https://intelleto.com/2019/07/03/making-a-tiny-travel-watercolor-kit/>

4 Colors + eyeshadow compact: A Step-by-Step Guide to Making a Tiny Travel Watercolor Kit

🕒 On 3 Jul, 2019 👤 By [Kate](#)



Happy journaling!

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