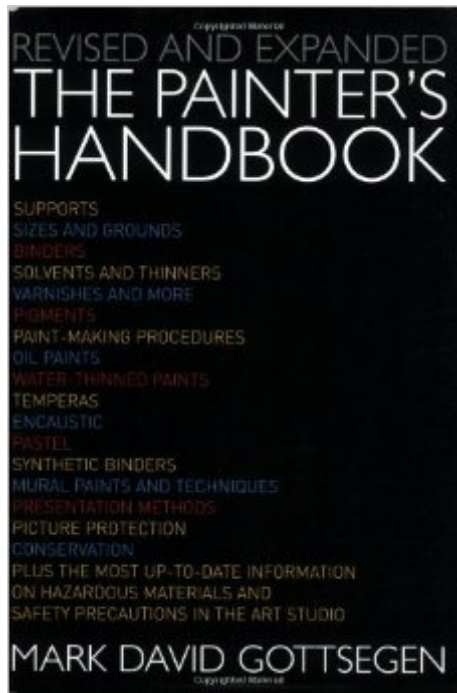


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# Painter's Handbook: Revised And Expanded



## Synopsis

Much more than just another guide to artists' materials, *The Painter's Handbook* is an amazingly useful resource, with information on everything from the canvas up: the canvas itself, plus paper, sizes and grounds, pigments and binders, solvents and thinners, varnishes and preservatives. Dozens of step-by-step recipes for make-it-yourself paints, pastels, varnishes, gessoes, sizes, supports, and equipment take this indispensable guide way beyond the competition. Authoritatively written by Mark David Gottsegen, chair of the federal government's ASTM committee on artists' materials, the revised *Painter's Handbook* considers the enormous changes in the art-materials world since the first edition was published in 1993. New materials, new health issues, new information on outmoded and even harmful supplies and practices mean that every painter needs a copy of *The Painter's Handbook*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While not as large and sometimes not as detailed as Ralph Mayer's excellent book on all artist's materials, the Gottsegen often offers a more recent explanation of materials and techniques for painters specifically. One of its most useful elements is a series of step-by-step instructions for various processes, including stretching canvas, making mediums, etc. When researching information on painting topics, this book serves as an excellent source which I would not want to be without.

As a painter, this book has been a reliable and useful reference for just about everything to do with oil painting along with recipes for a large variety of paints and means of methods of framing,

matting, crating, varnishing, and other practical matters. This said, painters not primarily interested in oil, might be able to find a book better suited to them elsewhere, but, for oil painters, this book is an asset. A final note, the person who claimed this book to be too dry and without illustrations should be disregarded, this is not a picture book for the entertainment of children but a comprehensive handbook for serious painters.

I recommend this book enthusiastically to my students as a concise, clear, easy-to-use and thorough reference on painting materials, especially oil painting (though it does cover other painting media). There hasn't been a technical question about materials that it hasn't answered for me, and the information provided has also led me to experiment with new materials. It is not a "how-to" book on painting and there are no pictures or anecdotes, but it is oriented towards serious students and professionals. For me, "The Joy of Cooking" of painting -- wouldn't be without it.

The Painter's Handbook is without doubt to artists' painting materials. Gottsegen's knowledge and expertise in the field allow for an in-depth understanding of the tools of the fine artist, and his book dispels so many of the myths surrounding art materials that have been perpetuated in other resources. -Mark Golden, CEO, Golden Artist Colors, Inc.

This book is the practical one to buy, giving in-depth information about varnishes, mat cutting, crate creating, preservation, permanent inks, etc. It also alerts the artist to possible health issues. This answers all the questions my art teachers couldn't answer from a scientific basis ("well, I heard that this varnish. . .") This book goes beyond conjecture, explaining choices about art products from a scientific basis.

This would be a good book for someone looking for basic information. It's not a book on techniques or special mediums, but instead a book that answers a lot of technical questions. A step up from Mayer's book. The Oil painting section is very brief in the area of painting techniques, but has several charts for reference on binders, pigments and drying times.

This book was recommended to me by an instructor. It is indeed very detailed about all materials for painting. This is not a "how to paint", but comparison of media, supports, finishes, safety, even "how to make your own" of the aforementioned. Would be well to have this on your shelf for reference. Well organized and written.

This is a very serious book with a somewhat arrogant and condescending stance towards "sunday painters". The information and the tables is very thorough and researched. Some is of interest only to the conservator or chemist, but very handy for a better understanding of what colours are made of and making it easier to navigate colour maps. The book covers all major and minor (and some obscure) types of paint/media. It seems very encyclopedic, but is however very outdated when it comes to manufacturers (based on a 2006 ed., I think) and brands of paint. For this a catalogue like jacksonsart's is much better. Its usefulness is limited, but very thorough where it hits. I try to ignore the writers elitistic points of view which seep through.

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