



A Free Watercolour Mini Course

How to Mix Greens, Darks and even Blacks in Watercolour

Welcome and thank you for downloading this free mini course.
If muddy colours or dull darks have frustrated you, you're not alone. I faced the same Problems teaching myself, and over 40 years as a professional artist and teacher, I've developed practical approaches that really help.
This workbook doesn't give recipes to memorise. It shares principles you can use again and again, with any palette.
I hope it saves you years of trial and error.

Happy painting, Paul Apps.
Professional Wildlife and Landscape Artist since 1986

You will learn how to mix natural-looking greens without relying on tube greens, create rich blacks that feel alive in a painting, and keep your darks transparent and fresh.

Understand the why behind each mix, so you can apply the same principles with your own palette.

By the end, you'll feel more confident in your colour mixing, and better equipped to avoid muddy results.



Lesson 1 – How to Mix Greens in Watercolours



One of the trickiest parts of watercolour is creating greens that look natural. Tube greens can be useful but often they shout too loudly. By mixing your own from yellows and blues, adjusting and adding touches of other colours, you'll create endless natural greens. As you watch, don't worry about copying a recipe.

Think about why each colour changes the mix. Once you get that, you'll be able to mix greens with confidence.

Which yellow gives the freshest green?

How does the blue shift temperature?

When might a touch of red help?

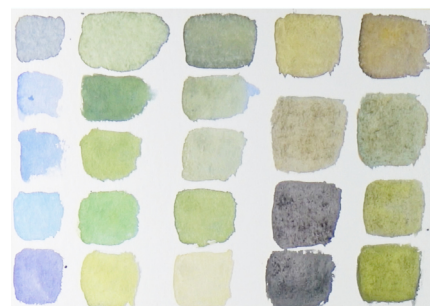
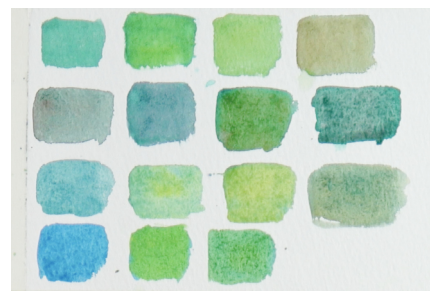
What colours are considered to contain Red?

What colours are considered to contain Yellow?

What colours are considered to contain Blue?

Which combinations suit your style?

Add some notes...

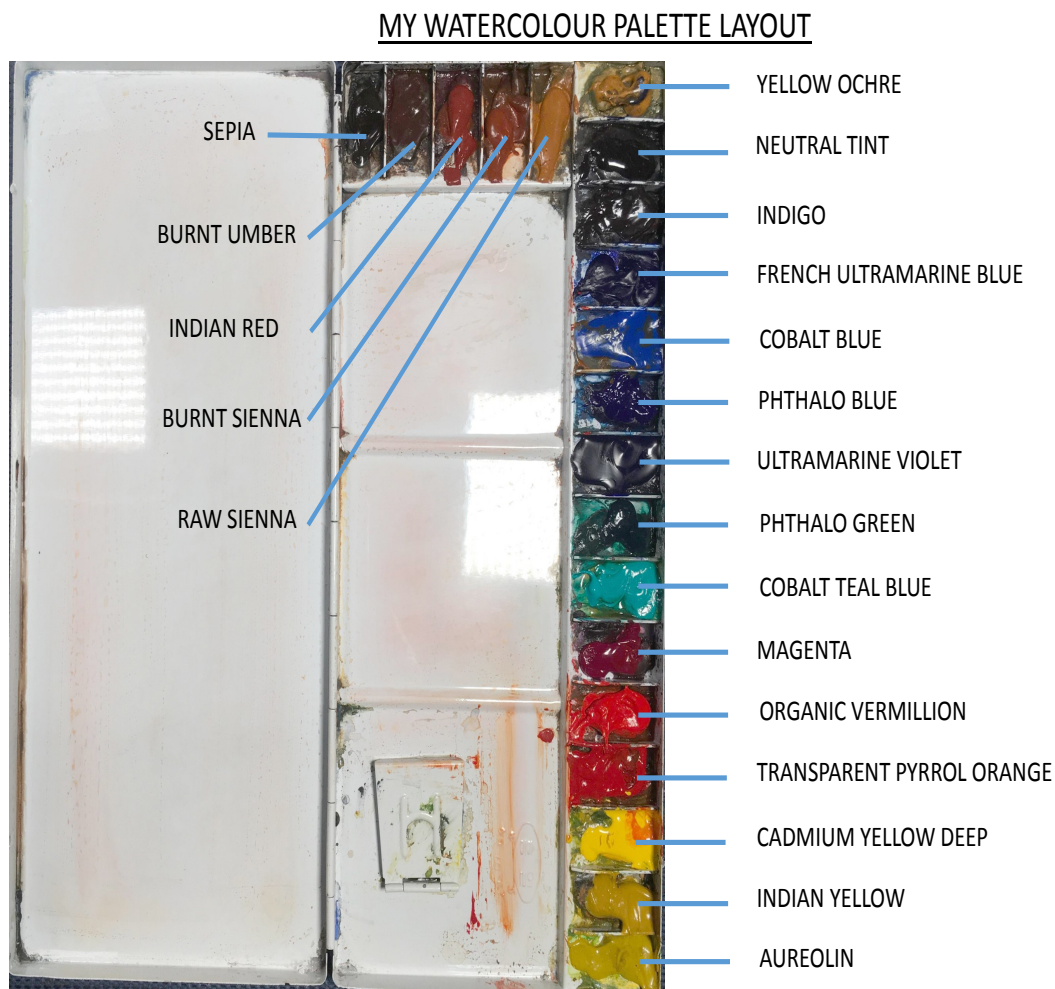


Palette Layout for Lessons 1 and 3

This is the Palette Diagram for Lesson 1 and 3

Over the years my colours and palettes have shifted, but my core colours remain familiar.

I test new ones, see how they work with my set, then decide whether to keep them. Please don't rush to buy more. Work with what you have and try the approaches I share in each lesson.



ALL THESE PAINTS ARE DANIEL SMITH WATERCOLOURS AND ARE READILY AVAILABLE FROM JACKSON'S ART

Lesson 2 – How to Mix Rich Darks & Blacks in Watercolours



Should I use black from the tube?

Tube blacks have their place, but mixes often feel more natural because they're made from the same palette as the rest of your work.

In watercolour, transparency is a strength. By combining colours carefully, you get deep darks that still have life.

In the video, notice how swapping one pigment shifts the mood. Adding colours you might not have thought of, creating new dark values and opening up the potential within your paintings.

Creating darks or blacks are not confined to the subject matter, but also within shadows as well. They all add up to create contrast within our work.

Contrast is key to creating life in any painting. Quite simply, it is light itself.

which mixes feel richest?

or warmer or cooler?

Where to add warm Shadows?

Where to add Cool Shadows?

Add notes...

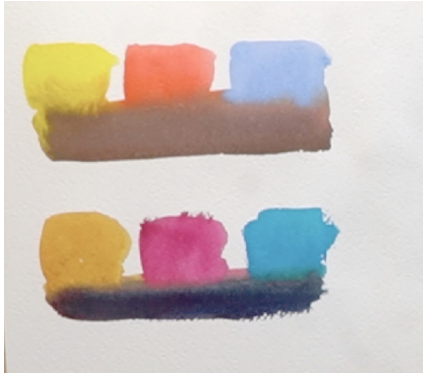
Palette Layout for Lesson 2

NEW PALETTE LAYOUT



Lesson 3 – Quick Tips

Another Look at Darks in Watercolour



This short bonus reinforces an important principle. Strong darks don't need to be dull or heavy.

By keeping transparency, you preserve light. This lesson revisits earlier ideas from a slightly different angle. Repetition helps principles stick.

How does transparency change the result?

Which mixes still feel vibrant?

Which would you use yourself?

Add notes...

Continue Your Wildlife & Landscape Painting Journey

Thank you for spending this time painting with me.

I hope these lessons have given you practical ideas, fresh inspiration, and confidence to keep moving forward with your wildlife and landscape art.

What's Next?

- Free painting tutorials on YouTube.
- Premium in-depth painting courses (Coming very soon)
- Join the Paul Apps Wildlife Painting School community
- Originals, prints, and news at www.paulappswildlifeart.com.

Remember, steady practice matters more than perfection.

Wherever you are on your artistic journey, I wish you every success, and many happy hours of painting.

Paul Apps

Professional wildlife artist since 1986.

Use the code to go to my learning options

