

Tip #6

I'm a big fan of fan brushes!

These great brushes work for all kinds of uses -- hair, fur, falling rain, grasses, wood textures, you name it! They're also terrific for blending oils or acrylics smoothly.

Art #6-1, right, and Table for Five, below

I almost never use fan brushes as they come from the store. Instead, I give them a pixie cut with a small scissors or nail clippers, so you get some uneven lengths as shown at right. I can use the whole brush, the edge, or one side or the other for any number of great linear effects.

The softer-haired fans work best for blending smoothly, as you see on the horse, below. In this case, the small, soft fan brush was left as it was purchased, with no "barbering." (This is a detail from an acrylic painting, "Table for Five," in my upcoming North Light book, *Painting and Drawing Animals* due out in 2005.)



Table for Five"



Art #6-2

You can use them with watercolor, acrylics, oils, alkyds -- they're a very versatile brush. In this detail from the same painting as the horse, above, you can see rough grasses in an acrylic painting -- mostly applied with the side of the brush and the edge.

Art #6-3

Suggest wood texture as well, as in this old watering trough -- I think this is from my very first North Light book, *Painting Nature's Details in Watercolor!* (http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0891341854/qid=1097003801/sr=8-1/ref=sr_8_xs_ap_i1_xgl14/103-74305892043869?v=glance&s=books&n=507846)



Art #6-4

It's a snap to make fur textures or woven fabrics with a fan brush, as you can see in this painting of my darling Scoutie -- this will be in the new book, too!

Look for more ideas on using a fan brush in my *Creating Textures in Watercolor* (<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0891344179/002-7020527-6491246?v=glance>), from *North Light*.