

Tip #101

Restoring a favorite old paintbox



We're all looking for "the perfect paintbox" – and normally, I think that's my inexpensive folding plastic one that goes everywhere with me.

But the one that I used in the field for more years than I care to count was a small, metal Winsor-Newton sketching kit. I think I bought it at the K.C. Art Institute back when dinosaurs roamed the earth, and it was showing its age even more than I am! It was dented and rusted; the white paint lining the mixing area was coming off in flakes and getting into my watercolors – it was time to rehab it or retire it!

And yes, not only am I sentimental, it WORKED for me, for a lot of years – so I decided rehabbing was in order.

Art 101-1, Winsor-Newton beat-up

It was in pretty sorry shape!



Art 101-2, Winsor-Newton rehab

First, I removed all the dividers and old mucked-up half pans, and used a metal wire brush to remove some of the loose chips and rust.



Art 101-3, Winsor-Newton rehab

My handy Dremel tool with a wire brush got into tight corners and really got after that dent that caused the paint chips! (Sandpaper works, too.)



Art 101-4, Winsor-Newton rehab

When it was as smooth as I could get it, I gave it a couple of coats with a good rust-proofing paint (stinky! Work outdoors or with REALLY good ventilation!) And let it dry thoroughly, for several days.

I like full pans better than the tiny half pans, so I refitted it with plastic pans from Daniel Smith Art Supplies, held in place with rubber cement—that way I can change them out easily!



Art 101-5,
Winsor-Newton
rehab done

It holds plenty of pans and
has a nice mixing area ...
amazing how new it looks
isn't it? (I left the outside
alone, for sentimental
reasons...)



Art 101-6



And best of all, it WORKS, just as well as it ever did, or better! It's my Jeep palette, and whenever I'm out and about, it's right there with me ... a bit heavier than my plastic one, yep, but a faithful old friend, always willing to make art with me.

You can see it at work in my YouTube video,
<http://www.youtube.com/user/KateJosTube#p/u/16/EfAO6OCqrUo>.

Please drop by my artists blog, <http://katequicksilvr.livejournal.com/>, my fine arts gallery blog, located at <http://cathyjohnsonart.blogspot.com/>, where I often offer mini-demos, my CafePress store, located at http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson, where you can find instructional CDs for artists, or drop by for a visit on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/cathy.johnson1!>

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