

# Traveling with Pastels

Or

## If Only I Had the Perfect Set-up!



Unfortunately, there is no perfect set-up. Even if there were one, it would not make you a better painter. The good news is finding the right set-up for you is an ongoing project full of small and large improvements. As you improve your set-up it will take you less time and less hassle to paint outdoors or to take your pastels with you on a trip. The more you streamline your set-up the more likely you are to paint outdoors -- and that is what will make you a better painter. Paint outdoors as often as you can!

Here is a presentation I made to the Pastel Society of Southern California in Nov. 2019. I only had 30 minutes, so this is not comprehensive, but I hope you will find a useful idea or two in this presentation. To see the slides in this PowerPoint presentation, click on the link below.

– Patricia Kellner © 2019

## Zucca Rolling Bag with Inserts



- Carry on qualified
- Packing bags for Organization
- Can sit on it (up to 300 lbs)
- Can attach umbrella to handle
- 15.1 x 12.9 x 19.4

## Zuca All-Terrain Disc Golf Cart



- Can carry very heavy loads
- Good for mountain trails

## Rolling Bag



- Economical -- \$18 at Walmart or Home Depot, or as Dolly Trolley at Target
- Good wheels
- Why is everything always at the bottom?
- Bag wears out at the bottom

## Keter Masterloader Plastic Portable Tool Box



- \$55 from Amazon
- You can see everything
- Sturdy wheels



# Easel Choices

- **Dedicated Easels – supports box and panel**
  - French Easel
  - Russian Easel
  - Soltek Easel
  - Others
- **Tripod Based Easels**
  - With pochade box
  - With easel shelf and panel support
  - Pastel box mounted on tripod (not recommended)

## A Few Dedicated Easels



Russian Easel



French – whole and half  
and many others



Soltek

# Tripod Choices

## 4- Section and short enough to fit in a backpack

- Frequently these tripods are too short for a tall person
- Even though they're compact, they can weigh more than the larger tripods vs.

## 3- Section tripods

- Sturdier construction, longer leg segments, works better in wind and for taller persons
- You get what you pay for – a good tripod is a good investment

LederEasel.com

**LEDEREASEL**

CONTA

A WORD ABOUT





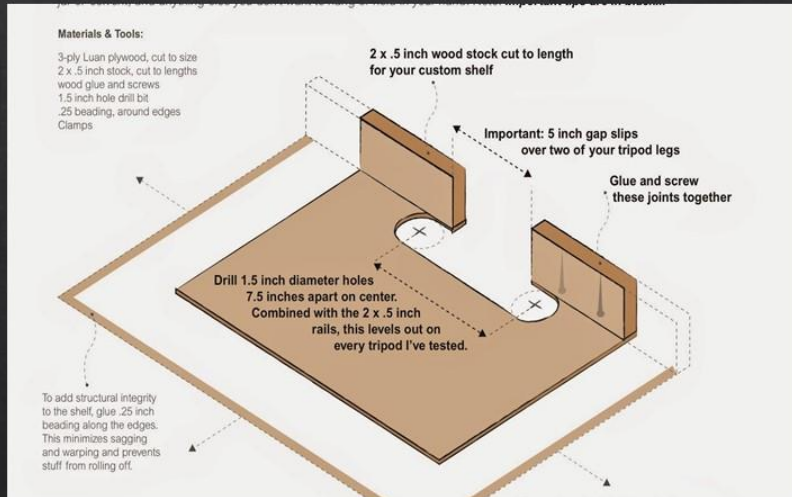
# Max the Easel Butler



- Available from [www.TheArtistsRoadStore.com](http://www.TheArtistsRoadStore.com) for \$38.95a plus shipping
- Very lightweight and compact
- Designed by Canadian artist Dianna Ponting
- Easelbutler.com



## DIY Tripod Shelf by Tomas Jefferson Kitts



<http://www.thomaskitts.com/2014/09/building-plein-air-shelf.html>

## Packing Those Pesky Pastels

- Cardboard boxes or heavy, protective wood boxes?
- Go minimal with Girault Pastels (box flap hack)
- Think value and temperature, not color matching
- Mounted pastel boards or taped pastel paper
- Pre-select pastels for your location
- Keep a separate box for your selected "working" pastels
- Keep them clean with a feather or electronics duster



## Coroplast – Lightweight and Versatile

- Easy to cut to size with utility knife
- Great lightweight supports (tape your pastel paper to the coroplast)
- Make a portfolio out of coroplast for paper selection and to store finished pastels
- Use your coroplast portfolio to support your pastel box on the Easel Bultler tripod shelf

## Good Local Source for Coroplast sheets

### **Superior Plastic Fabrication, Inc.**

2124 West Rosecrans Ave  
Gardena, CA 90249

ph: (310) 515-5111  
will cut coroplast to size

Also available at home improvement stores as sign blanks, or ask at any sign store



# Tools and Tricks

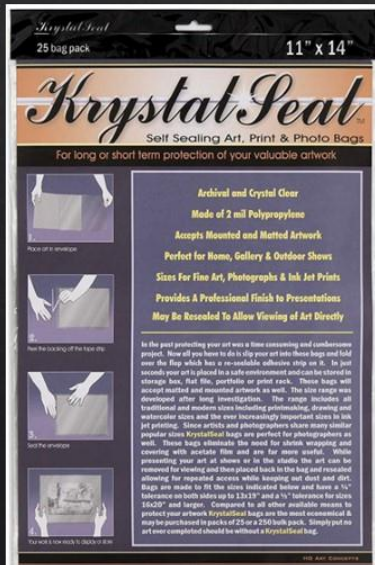
Pipe insulation for blending and removing pastel

- Feather or fiber duster for a quick clean of pastel boxes (store duster in an old sock)
- Color shapers
- Duck tape (a type of masking tape) removes cleanly
- Krystal Seal Clear Bags to store finished pastels
- Plastic rubber bands that don't oxidize

## Dusters: Synthetic or Feather



# Helpful Tools



## Non-Rubber Bands That Don't Disintegrate





# Composition Tools

- Sketchbook
- Optional grey markers for Notans or Thumbnails
  - Tombow markers (Cool grey #95, 55, 15)
  - or Copic Markers – 3 shades)
- View finder
- Value scale
- Angle ruler for architecture
- Ruler of Thirds for transferring thumbnail to painting canvas or paper

This 6 in 1 one view finder has all the commonly used canvas and support sizes.



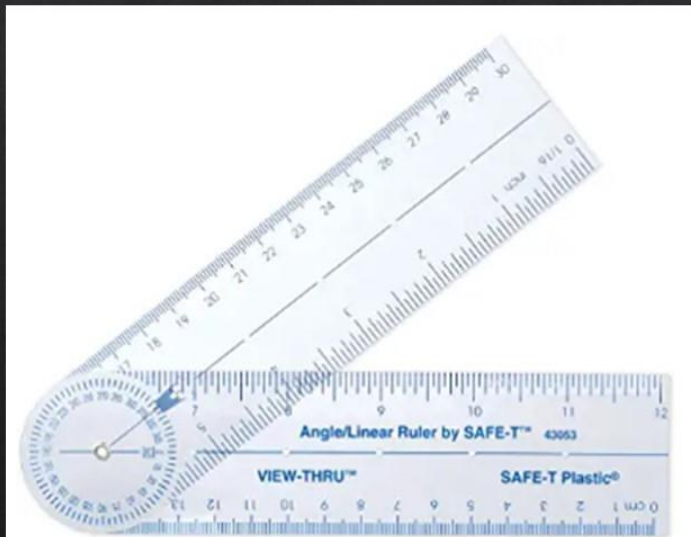
## Ruler of Thirds

- Helps to fit your composition to your canvas
- Can be used as a value finder



## Angle Finder for Drawing Architecture

- Helps with perspective





# Plein Air Essentials

- Hat and water
- Bug spray
- Umbrella – Best Brella
- Gloves -- Great Art Gloves
- Apron, neutral or color clothing
- Comfortable shoes
- Vinyl tablecloth for ground cover



## Short to long side RATIO:

Ratio:

$$3:4 = 75\%$$

$$= 6 \times 8$$

$$= 9 \times 12$$

Ratio:

$$4:5 = 80\%$$

$$= 8 \times 10$$

$$= 16 \times 20$$

Ratio: 1:2

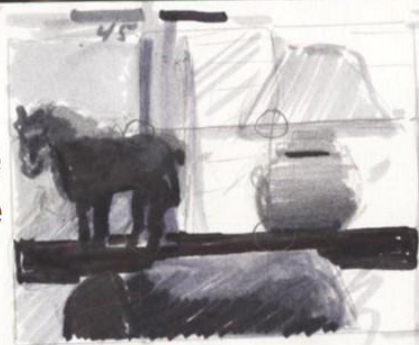
$$= 5 \times 10$$

$$= 6 \times 12$$

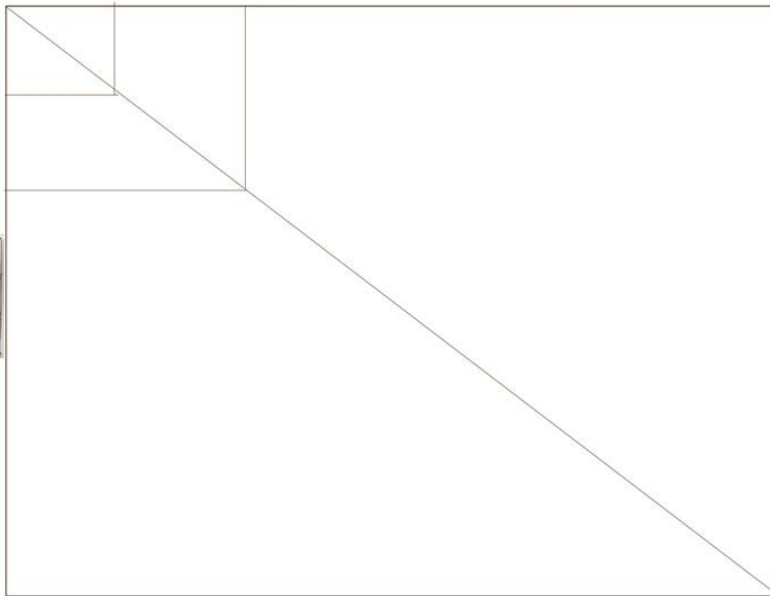
$$= 8 \times 16$$

Sketchbook

Trace around template  
to create Notan outline



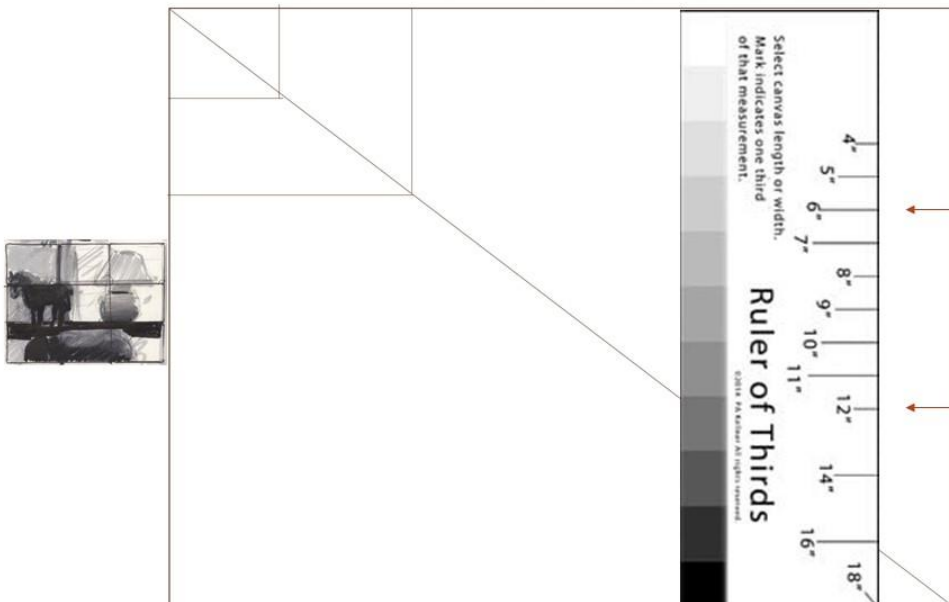
Any rectangle drawn along the diagonal will  
have the same aspect (ratio) as this 6 x 8 original



Use the ruler of thirds to divide this 6 x 8 into thirds.  
Next, use grid to copy notan.



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