

Introduction to Pastels, Resources

About Pastels:

For an excellent definition and description of the types of soft pastels (hard, medium, soft), visit the link below:

<https://www.dakotapastels.com/products/soft-pastels-all>

Pastel Papers and Surfaces:

Click on the link below for information about pastel papers and surfaces. Be sure to check out the chart that summarizes the brands and available colors by brand

<https://www.dakotapastels.com/products/Pastel-Surfaces>

Where to Buy Pastels:

Here are some suggestions for where to shop for artist quality pastels and paper/surfaces. "Dakota Pastels" and the Rochester "Fine Arts Store" specialize in pastels and have a broad variety of pastels and papers. Other art stores may have a more limited selection. Again, do NOT buy hobby brands.

Do your research. Check out the Dakota and the Fine Arts Store web pages to learn more about pastels and pastel papers. Then shop around. Look for sales, and be sure to factor in shipping costs when comparing prices.

- Dakota Pastels <https://www.dakotapastels.com/>
- Fine Arts Store (Rochester) <https://www.fineartstore.com/>
- Dick Blick <https://www.dickblick.com/>
- Jerry's Artarama <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/>
- Cheap Joe's <https://www.cheapjoes.com/>
- Artist & Craftsman Supply <https://artistcraftsman.com/>

Brands of Pastels:

Normally, you want a variety of hard, medium, and soft pastels. Also, you want a good balance of dark, medium and light values.

(Be sure to visit the [Dakota Pastels Page cited above](#) to learn more.):

Hard	Medium	Soft		
Nupastel Cretacolor	Rembrandt Art Spectrum Holbein	Mount Vision Girault Unison Sennelier	Diane Townsend Soft Diane Townsend Terrages Art Spectrum Extra Soft Richeson Hand-rolled	Blue Earth Great American Schminke