

# Create Painting Tools

Use different materials to make your own painting tools!

A **paintbrush** is a brush used to apply paint or ink. Paintbrushes are usually made by clamping bristles to a handle with a connecting piece called a **ferrule**. Natural **bristles** are made from hairs from animals such as hogs or badgers. Synthetic bristles are often made from nylon or polyester.



Paintbrushes are useful tools, but artists also use other tools to apply paint or ink. They often use palette knives, sponges, combs, fingers, and more! You can even make your own tools to paint with.

**Materials Needed:** Clothespins, pipe cleaners, straws, materials for bristles (cotton balls, felt, yarn, Q-tips, feathers, sponges, raffia, other found objects).

## Instructions:

**Method 1:** Use the clothespins as handles. Choose a material to use as bristles (cotton ball, feather, yarn, etc.) and clamp it in the clothespin.

**Method 2:** Attach the bristles material to one end of a straw by wrapping a pipe cleaner around it. The straw is the handle and the pipe cleaner is the ferrule.

**Experiment:** Try different materials for the bristles and handles! What materials work best?



# Make Art With Your New Tools

**Use your homemade tools to create a painting!**

**Materials Needed:** Homemade paintbrushes, tempera paint, paint tray (or aluminum foil), white paper. *Optional:* Found objects (forks, combs, balloons, bottle caps, etc.)

## Instructions:

**Step 1:** Cover your workspace and clothing to avoid getting paint on them.

**Step 2:** Scoop paint onto a painting tray or a sheet of aluminum foil.

**Step 3:** Select one of your homemade tools. Dip it into the paint and make marks on your paper. Repeat with the other tools. Be creative!

**Optional: Step 4:** Try using other objects as painting tools. Forks, combs, balloons, empty thread spools, spatulas, and bottle caps work well. Remember to ask for permission before using an object!



## Tips

- Make a realistic picture or create an abstract design!
- Try different techniques, such as stamping or dragging your tools on the paper. Do particular techniques work better with different tools?
- If you use more than one color, use a different tool for each color. Washing some of your handmade tools could be challenging.