

Supplies for your Mandala Studio

Most of these supplies are available at your local craft store or online.

Compass :	Must be able to hold different pencils – look for one that has a screw to hold the pencil firmly – do not buy one with it's own lead. Needs very sharp point – <i>not those made for children</i> . Recommended Brand: Staedtler
Rulers:	Yardstick or long metal ruler (24" at least) for finding center of canvas. Bigger canvasses need bigger rulers. Look for a metal ruler with a thin cork backing so you can use it for pin-lining as well. Clear rulers (brand: C-Thru) with inch markings are handy for borders, checking lines, etc. Rolling rulers (brands: Acurit or Alvin) Acts like a large compass to make extra-large circles.
Protractor:	Basic, student-grade one is fine.
Painter's Tape:	Usually blue – very light adhesive masking tape that can be used over paint, to mask edges and hold templates in place for tracing.
Watercolor pencils:	Use instead of regular lead pencils, because they will wash off the canvas and/or painted surface easily. Leads are soft – go easy and keep a sharpener handy. Get one each of light, medium and dark color. Brands: Prismacolor, Derwent, etc.)
Tracing Paper:	Good to have two sizes available – 8 ½ x 11 and 11 x 17.
Transfer Paper:	Like carbon paper – comes in rolls of graphite grey, white, blue, red and yellow. White and one dark color is enough to start. (Brand: Saral)
Stylus:	Used to transfer image instead of a pencil. Won't damage your template as much, but if the template is very detailed, you might want to use a colored pencil to see where you have already traced.
Stencils:	Use ready-made, or make your own.
Pushpin:	Put through center of template, then through the center of the painting. Allows you to adjust template and keeps it in place. Anchors your rolling ruler.

Palettes:	Buy at art store or use lids from plastic yogurt or cottage cheese containers. Also useful – small condiment cups from Smart and Final – with lids to keep the paint moist. Wax paper works too.
Brushes:	Assortment of short-handled brushes used for acrylic or watercolor paints – a few sizes of angles and flats, some small round ones for detail. Also good – Scrubber brushes use to remove watercolor paint – use to remove OR add paint. (Brand: Creative Mark.)
Acrylic Paint:	Liquitex Soft Body in 2 oz plastic jars or Liquitex Basics in tubes (starter sets available). Any acrylic paint OK, even craft paint. Amsterdam, Winsor-Newton are also good.
Mediums:	Liquitex matte medium to keep paint wetter and to thin it for glazing. Also works as adhesive for applying paper. Lots of mediums from Liquitex and Golden that add texture or lengthen drying time. Check their websites for usage and experiment to see what you like.
Gesso:	Most canvasses are pre-primed with gesso. Use regular white gesso to cover over paint. Also comes in black, clear, and metallics. Use clear gesso to paint over transfer lines – will keep them from smearing into paint.
Canvas:	Pre-primed, pre-stretched canvasses in many sizes available at art/craft stores and also online. For variety, search for flat and convex rounds. Gallery wrap versus stapled edges so you have a choice to frame or not.
Dimensional Paint:	Used to highlight and add texture. Brands: Tulip and Plaid
Crystals:	Used to add highlights. Come in assorted colors. Good sizes are 12, 16 and 20. Brand: Swarovski One online source: Creative Crystal
Rags, paper towels	
Water container to rinse brushes	
Small spray bottle for water - mist paint to keep it moist	
Brush soap- cleans and keeps bristles straight	
Handy, not essential:	Color wheel Books with designs, stencils
Online sources:	Dick Blick ASW Express Jerry's Artarama

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