

Comprehensive Pastel Brand Guide

Pastel Pencil List

Brand	Product Line	Price	Color Range	Available Open Stock	Lightfastness Range
General's	Pastel Chalk Pencil	\$	36	Yes	–
Bruynzeel	Pastel Pencil	\$\$	48	Yes	–
Koh-I-Noor	Gioconda Soft Pastel Pencil	\$\$	48	No	2* to 5*
Conte	Pastel Pencil	\$\$	50	Yes	1* to 4*
Faber-Castell	PITT Pastel Pencil	\$\$	60	Yes	1* to 3*
Stabilo	CarbOthello Pastel Pencil	\$\$	60	Yes	0 to 5*
Cretacolor	Fine Art Pastel	\$\$	72	Yes	LF2 (Xenontest)
Derwent	Pastel Pencil	\$\$	72	Yes	2 to 8 (Blue Wool Scale)
Caran d'Ache	Pastel Pencil	\$\$\$	81	Yes	2* to 5* (Blue Wool Scale)

Pastel Stick List

Brand	Product Line	Pastel Type	Price	Color Range	Available Open Stock	Lightfastness Range
Art Spectrum	Extra Soft Pastel	Round	\$\$\$	12	Yes	-
Art Spectrum	Colourfix Soft Round Pastel	Round	\$\$\$	20	Yes	-
Art Spectrum	Soft Round Pastel Stick	Round	\$\$\$	154	Yes	2* to 4*
Art Spectrum	Extra Soft Square Pastel	Square	\$\$\$\$	180	Yes	-
Blockx	Pastel	Round	\$\$	204	Yes	-
Blue Earth Pastels	Pastel	Square	\$\$	357	Yes	-
Conte	Soft Pastel	Round	\$\$	50	Yes	1* to 4*
Cretacolor	Carre Hard Pastel	Square	\$\$	72	Yes	LF2 (Xenontest)
Daler-Rowney	Artists' Soft Pastel	Round	\$\$	186	No	1* to 4*
Diane Townsend	Thin Line Pastel	Round	\$\$	64	No	-
Diane Townsend	Terrages Pastel	Rectangle	\$\$\$	192	Yes	-

Permanent Link: <https://potatoartstudios.com/comprehensive-pastel-list/>

Pastel Stick List (cont.)

Brand	Product Line	Pastel Type	Price	Color Range	Available Open Stock	Lightfastness Range
Diane Townsend	Soft Form Pastel	Round	\$\$	408	Yes	-
Faber-Castell	Soft Pastel	Square	\$	70	No	-
General's	MultiPastel Compressed Pastel Chalk	Square	\$	24	Yes	-
Girault	Pastel	Round	\$\$\$	300	Yes	-
Great American Artworks	Soft Pastel	Square	\$\$\$	546	Yes	-
Henri Roche	Pastel	Square	\$\$\$\$	1688	Yes	-
Holbein	Artists' Soft Pastel	Square	\$\$\$	144	Yes	0* to 3*
Jackson's	Handmade Soft Pastel	Round	\$\$	200	Yes	1* to 4*
Mount Vision	Pastel	Round	\$\$	462	Yes	-
Mungyo	Gallery Artists' Soft Pastels	Square	\$	70	No	-
Mungyo	Gallery Semi-Hard Pastels	Square	\$	120	No	-
Mungyo	Gallery Artists' Hand-Made Soft Pastels	Round	\$	200	No	1* to 3*
Mungyo	Gallery Artists' Extra Fine Soft Pastels	Round	\$\$\$	200	No	-
PanPastel	Pastel	Pan	\$\$\$\$	92	Yes	2* to 4*
Prismacolor	NuPastel	Square	\$	96	No	-
Rembrandt	Soft Pastel	Round	\$\$\$	218	Yes	0* to 3* (ASTM D4303)
Richeson	Yarka Pastels	Round	\$\$	60	No	-
Richeson	Medium-Soft Half-Stick	Round	\$	120	No	-
Richeson	Handmade Full Stick	Round	\$\$\$	120	No	-
Richeson	Hand-Rolled Soft Pastels	Round	\$\$	504	Yes	-
Schmincke	Pastell	Round	\$\$\$	400	Yes	0 to 5*
Sennelier	Soft Pastel Pebbles	Pebble	\$\$\$\$	24	Yes	1* to 3*
Sennelier	Grande Soft Pastel	Round	\$\$\$\$	62	Yes	1* to 3*
Sennelier	Extra Soft Pastel	Round	\$\$\$	525	Yes	1* to 3*
Terry Ludwig	Pastel Stick	Square	\$\$\$	750	Yes	8 (Blue Wool Scale)
Unison	Large Soft Pastel	Round	\$\$\$\$	108	Yes	7 to 8
Unison	Soft Pastel	Round	\$\$\$	380	Yes	7 to 8

General Notes:

1. **Product Information:** Official color charts are available to download on the permanent link (<https://potatoartstudios.com/comprehensive-pastel-list/>).
2. **Product Line:** Manufacturers may produce multiple pastel product lines with varying textures (soft, medium, hard), size (regular stick vs. jumbo stick), or quality (artist vs. student). Typically, high quality professional art supplies will be priced 2-3x more than student quality supplies, and will be labeled as “artists” to differentiate the quality.
3. **Pastel Firmness:** Pastel sticks are categorized into 3 main divisions: soft, medium, and hard. The firmness of a pastel is determined by its ingredients and how the pastel is shaped. If a pastel is hand-rolled (formed by hand), it is typically classified as soft.
4. **Open Stock:** If colors are sold individually, the product is sold “open stock.”
5. **Lightfastness:** I encourage all artists to consider factoring in the importance of longevity of their artwork to minimize fading over time. Lightfastness is an extra step some brands perform (either by testing their finished products with controlled UV exposure or selecting ingredients that have known light-resistance properties). If testing methods are disclosed by the manufacturer, I have included it in parentheses.
6. **Availability:** Small manufacturers may have their products sold in a limited number of retailers or directly through their company website. For example, Terry Ludwig based in Colorado, USA has sets available through several U.S. retailers, but only sells open stock colors through their website. European-based manufacturers may have export restrictions on specific sets or products.
 - The following companies are small U.S.-based businesses: Blue Earth, Diane Townsend, Great American, Mount Vision, Terry Ludwig
7. **Half-Sticks:** Pastel sticks are available in half-stick format from select manufacturers. I personally recommend buying an assorted half-stick set or 6-12 open stock colors before committing to larger purchases. Half-sticks are not sold open stock.
 - The following brands offer half-stick assorted sets: Art Spectrum, Great American, Heri Roche, Rembrandt, Richeson, Sennelier, Schmincke, Unison.
8. **Cost:** The price listed in dollar signs (\$ to \$\$\$\$) is based on the retail price (MSRP) per unit of pastel (1 pencil or 1 stick) as of March 2023. If the pastel line is only sold in sets, an average price per unit was calculated based on sets available.

Pastel Pencils	Pastel Sticks
\$ = less than \$2 USD	\$ = less than \$2 USD
\$\$ = \$2 to \$4 USD	\$\$ = \$2 to \$5 USD
\$\$\$ = \$4 to \$6 USD	\$\$\$ = \$5 to \$8 USD
\$\$\$\$ = \$6 USD or more	\$\$\$\$ = \$8 USD or more

Disclaimer: The information is accurate to my knowledge as of March 2023. However, companies are known to expand/downsize color ranges and reformulate colors. If you have information which conflicts with the items covered, please use the Contact Form (<https://potatoartstudios.com/contact/>) to provide information with applicable documentation and I will gladly update this page.

If you've found this document helpful, please share it with your fellow artist friends. :)

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