

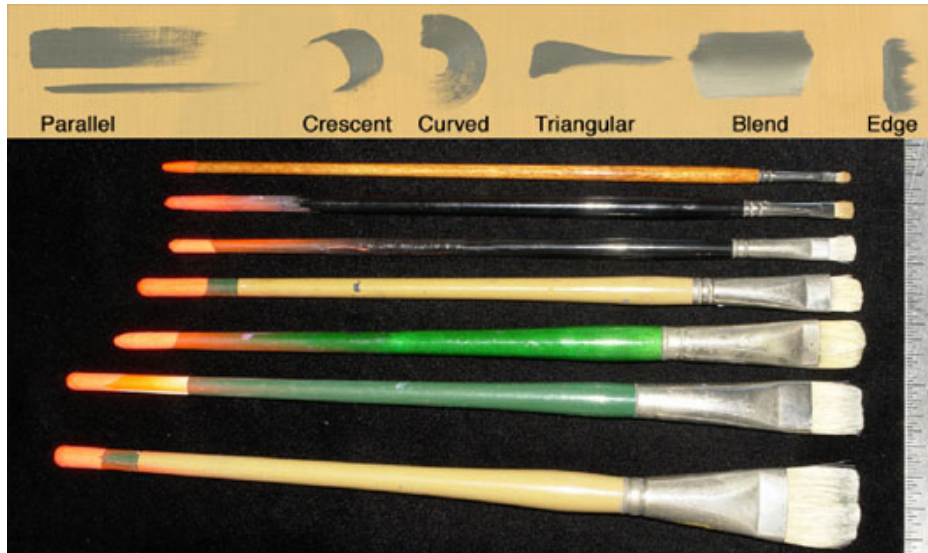
Oil Paint Brushes and Their Strokes



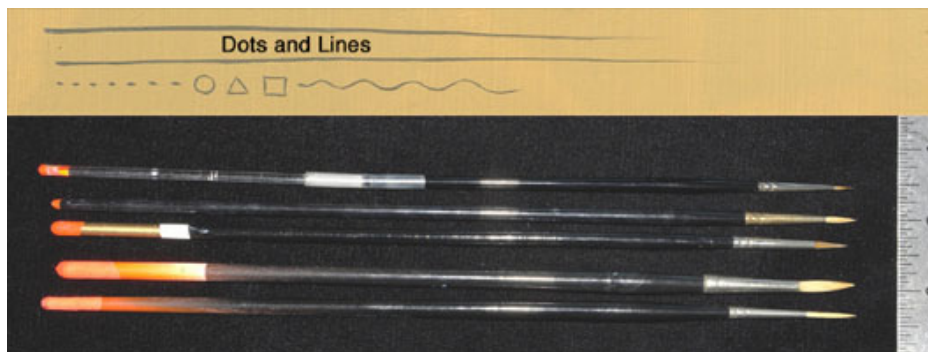
Flats: A Flat brush has hairs arranged in a rectangular shape that is longer than it is wide. From the side it is narrow. The Flat is the most versatile of brushes. You can make a broad stroke, a narrow stroke and, with a little twist, a triangular stroke. This is also your primary blending brush.



Filberts: A Filbert brush looks like a Flat with the corners rounded. The stroke is oval shaped or half circular. They are used when you want a softer edge or for smaller blends than you get with a Flat.



Brights: A Bright (named after a fellow named Bright) is like a Flat except the hairs are shorter and the side view is narrower. A Bright is used when you want your brush strokes to show. They tend to put the paint on thickly and when worked too hard will remove as much paint as they apply. The bright, being short and therefore stiffer than a Flat, can also give you a little more control of your stroke.



Rounds: Although some people successfully use Rounds for their entire painting, they are less versatile than other brush shapes because little variation in the size and shape of the stroke is possible. Rounds are most often sable hair and are used for small details and line work.



Varnish Brushes: These soft sable-like brushes are used for varnish and retouch varnish. Clean the varnish from the brushes with turpentine then wash them in soap and water.