

Drawing boards and more useful sketching equipment



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Dear sketching friends,

in this issue I want to share with you some details about how to make sketching boards as well as useful equipment for sketching on site.

Large formatted sketchbooks turn out to be heavy as well as awkward to hold while sketching. Landscape designers often need large formatted paper for on site analysis. To use a drawing board in this case would be useful as well.

Best are drawing boards with shoulder straps. Those should be available in art stores but you can easily make an individual board yourself.

If you like to sketch while sitting, you just place the board on your lap. There should be enough space to place your sketching equipment. It is very useful when you work with watercolor. I like to make custom drawing boards myself so I have one for different tasks.

I made two demovideos, one in german and one in english language:

[DIY Zeichenbrett](#)

[DIY Drawing Board \(Engl.\)](#)

Have fun experimenting!

Daniel Nies, Januar 2017

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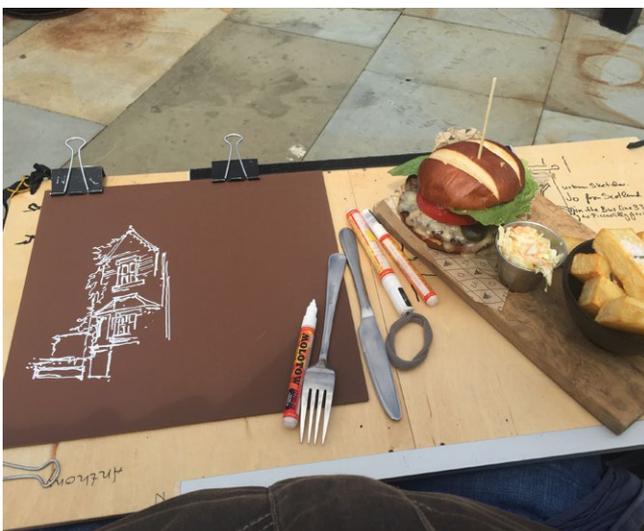
my group about sketchbooks:
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With an adjustable shoulderstrap it is easy to fit the drawing board to your size.



Here you see the various uses of a drawing board. Keep in mind, people will definitely look at you when you use one!



Build your own custom drawing board

Drawing boards which are dividable to fit in a handbag are very practical.

This example was made out of two laminated wood boards. In germany we call it multiplex boards. With a thickness of 6mm, each board measures 23x30cm. Two aluminium profiles hold the two boards together, so the total with is 46cm.



Two aluminium profiles from the hardware store are tightly pinched onto the two boards so they hold together. Eventually you have to work the edge of the board with sandpaper for better fitting. I use a profile with the inside dimension of 6mm.



Placing Vercro hook-and-loop fastener on the visible aluminium profile and the drawing board enables my to mount all sort of useful things on my board. Here you see a watercolor tray and a skratchpad. It is best to use Velcro with sticky tape on the backside.



To fit the shoulder straps I drill small holes at the corners of the board through which I push a nylon loop. A knot below should do the job to tighten it. Then you need to find a way to connect the shoulder strap to the loop. A clamp, carabiner, or second loop will work out fine. You may find more products or ideas in an outdoorstore or guitar supply.



This divided drawing boards fits in my sketching bag. It takes a minute to reassemble the drawing board.



If there is no reason to make the board smaller to fit it in a bag or backpack it can be cut in one size. This example below was made so fit a A3 sketchbook with Landscape format.

The shoulderstrap is from an old hand bag.





Velcro and Clamps

Using Velcro with sticky tape on the backside I place many tools on my board: sketchbook, watercolor tray, small waterbottle, the lid of the waterbottle, skratcpad, brushes, pen.

Some things I also like to mount with clamps such as sketchbooks, skratcpad, tissue to dry and clean the brush.



To Carry artmaterials

It can be quite a task to find the right handbag to carry art materials along your way. It all depends on what and how much stuff you want to take with you.

Once again »less is more« probably remains a smart decision. So when you choose a tiny pocket sketchbook and a hand full of pens it will all fit in your pocket and you don't have to worry about carrying extra weight.

But if you want go on a longer journey or prefer to experiment with materials, you need something to carry your materials such as a handbag, backpack or trolley. Keep in mind that carrying wheight on one shoulder is not good for your back! So here we go with some options which are gentle on your back.

Convertible Handbags

When travelling to a new city I usually plan to visit some museums there. Usually sketching ist allowed, but they don't let you in with a backpack even if it is a tiny one. To put my stuff in the locker is not satisfying since I need my materials. So I had the Idea to enhance my handbag by simply adding two shoulderstraps! So now the handbag works as a backpack and it is so much easier to carry your materials on the shoulder! When they complain in the museum about the backpack, I just switch the bag over my shoulder, this takes 2 seconds.

With this bag I carry my divided drawing board, sketchbook, pens and colors, brushes, a watercolor kit, Umbrella and something to drink. It is a decent compromise for those who want to carry a little more Equippmnt along. It is also combinable with my foldable chair which I wear below the backpack like a belt.

This example made by: aunts&uncles, material real leather.



Convertible Backpacks

This backpack holds a fairly large volume for plenty of art materials. Even my A3 Sketchbook fits! On the sidepockets I place my foldable chair and something to drink. Pulling up the telescope handle converts this backpack to a trolley since it has some little wheels on the bottom. Keep in mind that some wheels might be a bit noisy depending on what ground you move. Maybe they will improve that... So if you are fed up with carrying the backpack on the shoulder you can comfortably use it as a trolley and people will envy you! This one is from Samsonite and can be used as handluggage on a plane. This one is my choice for any urban sketchers symposium.



Outside pocketts for quick access to pens.



Two shoulderstraps convert this bag to a backpack.

Trolleys

When I sketch in my hometown, sometimes I use my large trolley with all of my materials. The chair folds and even fits on the trolley. And after sketching I can still go out for shopping:)



Have a seat and draw...

Using a park bench or a nice place in a cafe surely make you sit comfortably. But what if the table is occupied or you would like to sit somewhere else?

If you don't mind carrying a foldable chair along you will have free choice to sit wherever you want and choose your motif. Keep in mind that many chairs are uncomfortable when sitting for a while. Comfortable chairs often weigh too much or have an awkward shape.

It is best to try out your new chair for a while before you go on a journey.

My favorite chair is surprisingly comfortable: It only weighs 1,43 kg and is foldable to a small size of 50 x 11,5 x 14 cm. I attach a strap to carry it over my shoulder or better as a belt. Helinox offers different models.



Drawing in the rain

Of course it is more comfortable to find a protected shelter with a good view! Sometimes this is not possible though.

So I enhanced my trolley by connecting a sunshade to its handle using cable ties. The sunshade can be shut.

In Manchester, a very rainy city I had to improvise and hold an umbrella.



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Das Zeichenbrett und andere Hilfsmittel

Seiten mit Aquarellfarbe einfärben

Elfchen und Haiku

Skizzenbuchseiten mit Kaffee einfärben

Skizzenbuchseiten farbig anlegen

Isometrie

Bildtransfer im Gartenplan

Linoldruck im Gartenplan

Möbel im Grundriss

Funktionsplan

Das Skizzenbuch Teil 2

Das Skizzenbuch Teil 1

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La Gomera

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Baumsymbole im Grundriss

Personen für die Perspektive

Freigestellte Bäume

Pflanzen in Südtirol

Visit my Youtube channel:

The following clips are on my channel, most clips are in german, some are in english.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4Fgl-BA47XHjR6UkiRqjd4A>

[Großformatige Papierbögen grundieren](#)

[Skizzenbuch mit Aquarellfarbe grundieren](#)

[Skizzenbuch mit Kaffee](#)

[Sketchbook Seiten sprayen](#)

[DIY Zeichenbrett](#)

[DIY Drawing Board \(Engl.\)](#)

[Sketchbook Manchester \(Engl.\)](#)

[Sketchbook Venice\(Engl.\)](#)

[Skizzenbuch Venedig](#)

[Sketching under Water](#)

[Einen Garten in der Isometrie zeichnen Teil 1](#)

[Einen Garten in der Isometrie zeichnen Teil 2](#)

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Daniel Nies studied Landscape Design an der Colorado State University, USA. He worked in landscape architectural firms. in 1995 he founded his firm Zeichenwerk where he offers graphic workshops for garden designers.

www.zeichenwerk.de

He ist the author of the book „Zeichnen in der Gartengestaltung“, Ulmer-Verlag. The book is available in german and russian language.

Daniel an Urban Sketcher and a correspondent for Augsburg of the blog



Daniel`s sketches on Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/danielnies/albums>

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