

FANTASY & SCI-FI DIGITAL ART

ImagineFX

TOP Ten

TRADITIONAL ART TOOLS

Wizards of the Coast artist **Dave Kendall** invites you into his studio to check out his art equipment...

1 REFERENCE MATERIAL

I'm a serious book addict. I love the inspiration they provide. The internet is indispensable, but the ability to leaf through information without access to a power point gives a fair bit of freedom.

2 DRAWING TABLE

This could be anything, but it pays to try to pick up a draughtsman's table. Check local office auctions. You may find one very cheap. It's far more comfortable to work at an angle and the addition of a parallel slide is invaluable. I use mine for almost every process – as you can see by the state of it.

3 DRAWING MATERIALS

In most cases wooden and propelling pencils do the job. I tend to buy quality brushes. Winsor & Newton and Rowney provide synthetic and sable brushes for use with all paint. I like petit gris isabey brushes for watercolour – they're capable of broad and fine points.

4 SOMETHING TO DRAW IN

I love sketchbooks as much as paints. I'm easily swayed by new makes. My favourites are the hardbound variety, because they stack well and create a permanent record of your imaginative development. I find that I use a variety of shapes and sizes.



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To see Dave's work visit www.rustybaby.com

5 STORING ALL THE WORK YOU DO

Look after your paintings and what they're painted on by making sure you have something sturdy to keep them in. Try to pick up a planning chest from an auction again. These do tend to be in demand, though.

6 ESSENTIAL PERIPHERALS

Music and refreshments. My poison of choice is coffee and lots of it. I can't vouch for it boosting creativity but it certainly helps through the long evenings. Music and radio fuel my audio day.

7 PALETTES

As well as the versions bought in art shops you can use things like tiles and old plates. For acrylics I tend to use a stay-wet palette, which as well as keeping the paint workable saves money because you're not continually putting out fresh paint.

8 SOMETHING TO DRAW ON

When painting I find the best is sometimes cheapest. MDF gives a great surface if you coat it with acrylic gesso. It's cheap and you should be able to get it cut to size in hardware stores. I like using Bristol board for my drawings, and using the computer I transfer it on to watercolour paper.

9 PAINTS

I have a preference for Winsor & Newton Finity acrylics and Liquitex. I find these have a richness of application and high pigment content. This choice is borne out by using different paints over the years. You'll develop preferences for certain brands. But buying a great quality football doesn't have you running round in expensive cars with supermodels on your arm. If you're experimenting then buy the cheaper quality stuff. It won't hurt your bank balance if you mess up.

10 EASEL

Get a sturdy make that's also portable. My space is at a premium so I chucked wheels on the bottom so it's easily moved. You don't have to break the bank to have an easel that accommodates large paintings and will last a lifetime. ●