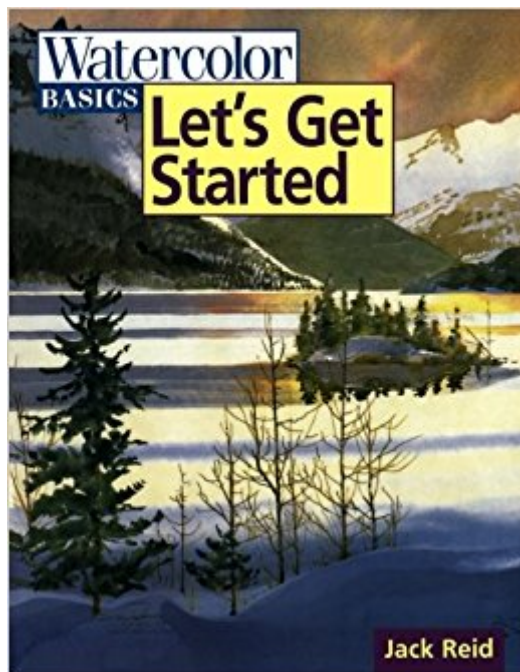


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# Watercolor Basics - Let's Get Started



## Synopsis

"After 25 years of teaching thousands of novice watercolorists the simple methods contained in this book, I firmly believe that anyone willing to follow the directions and do the work cannot fail to achieve a successful picture. If I can do it, so can you." - Jack Reid

In this beginner-friendly guide, Jack Reid will show you the hows of watercolor painting. He covers it all in clear, easy-to-understand terms - beginning with what tools and materials you should buy to get off to a good, affordable start. You'll find simple, step-by-step exercises to help you: Control your brush with ease Master the four basic watercolor techniques - the flat wash, the graded wash, the wet-in-wet and the dry-brush Take the "Five Steps to a Painting" - step-by-step demonstration guide you from one color to five, to make your paintings "sing" with color Use photography and photocopying to create paintings inspired by life Then put everything you've learned into action by following along with seven painting projects. Before you know it, you'll be creating your own beautiful watercolor paintings!

## Book Information

Series: Watercolor Basics

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## Customer Reviews

One might reasonably ask, "Why another basic watercolor book in an already packed market?"

Simply put, most books fall far short?the beginner's book is perhaps the most difficult to write. Reid has taught more than 10,000 students during his distinguished career and has a unique understanding of how to transmit his knowledge. He neither assumes too much nor condescends.

This is among a few such books?Mary Whyte's *Watercolor for the Serious Beginner*

(Watson-Guption, 1997) is another?that can be highly recommended.Copyright 1998 Reed Business

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This is a great watercolor book for beginners with no experience in painting. I came into watercolor painting as a complete newbie. I used this book in conjunction with some tutorials on youtube and am now creating pretty decent paintings I didn't think I could ever do! I love the author's tone, and choices for beginning paintings to practice with. He picks pretty simple outdoor examples that progressively get more difficult. If you don't want to practice painting boring flowers for hours and would rather jump into the outdoors, this is the book for you! Word of advice so far, keep practicing painting the same painting over and over until you feel comfortable with the techniques. It's neat to see the progression as you get better and better.

I decided at the first of the year that I wanted to pursue my long-time desire to learn to water color. Since that time I've purchased dozens of books for beginners and this is by far the best one yet. Most of them tell you instead of show you and this one is more user friendly. I would have loved to have met this author so he could have instructed me one on one. No book can teach you everything but this is the one I've learned the most from. He starts very simply and then progresses adding a little more to each lesson. I definitely would recommend it to anyone just starting out.

Great book. Very interesting and "do-able" exercises. I have learned much from this (starting from being a non-painter), and this book has helped me gain confidence as i artfully destroy otherwise good paper. Seriously, it is a great beginner book and one i refer to often.

When I decided to take up watercolors I ended up purchasing a library of books - almost twenty - but the best one of them all for a beginner is this book by Jack Reid. He not only takes you through all the technical details of watercolors - materials, washes, techniques but, before confusing the beginner with mixing and using colors, he first ensures that you have a solid understanding of values. The most brilliant colors in the world will not help a picture where the values are wrong or non-existent. Jack Reid starts the student with monochrome landscapes through most of the book until you really understand and can produce an excellent piece of art using only color in all of its tones and values. Then you reproduce the same picture using one, then two, and working up to five colors. By the time he takes you through a full painting - a step that most watercolor books jumped into at the start - you have a much better mastery of your medium, of planning your landscapes, of being able to work wet into dry or wet into wet. By the time I completed his work I was able to go

back to some of the earlier books and now successfully complete their exercises. I could concentrate on the best use of color because I clearly understood how to apply the tones and shades and values of those colors to enhance the picture. This is an outstanding book for beginners and one I highly recommend. *Watercolor Basics: Let's Get Started (Watercolor Basics)*

As a beginner, I am finding the information in the book very useful. I am learning how to plan my drawings for best effect and have been reviewing the lessons. I have not felt ready yet to begin the actual lessons. I am still doing very small one or two item lessons at this point but look forward to starting on this book soon. I do recommend this book.

This book has been helpful for me to get practicing. So far I haven't pumped out any masterpieces, but this book is good for taking you slow through practicing brush strokes and getting comfortable with the paint and brushes. Its helpful also in suggesting the type of paper and brushes to use as well as the type of paint. I like that because I don't want to be set up for failure with brushes that are cheap and paint that looks bad on paper. The feeling from this book is to explore, and just have fun. I like that a lot since I am merely an overwhelmed beginner.

Have been using it with my 12yr old student. its good for the basics, but it does require some degree of sketching skills.

I took a community based (8 week) watercolor painting course first and it helped to have an actual instructor teach some basics and explain exactly what products to buy, but this book is a great introduction to get one started even without a separate course. It covers the materials you need and then begins with simple exercises leading into more complex ones. It provides the skills needed to begin creating on your own, rather than having to learn "trial and error". Upon completion of the book, I was ready to produce my own paintings without becoming frustrated or discouraged because I had the guidance and foundational knowledge I needed. Thank you Jack Reid!

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