

How to Paint Whiskers



Type: Real-Time

Time: 10-Minutes

Medium: Acrylic

Level: Beginner

Canvas Prep:

1. Make sure you've completed the background, fur, and snout before adding whiskers.
2. Allow drying time before applying whiskers.

Section #1: Create a straight line using a Flat Brush.

1. If you don't own a Micro Detail Brush, a Flat Brush will do just fine when painting whiskers.
2. **Keep brush thin** throughout the entire painting process
3. **Wash out** your brush regularly.
4. **Keep a thin amount** of paint on your brush at all times.
5. **Push down on your paint pallet**, on the flat side of your brush. This will **align the bristles** to create a flat edge.
6. **Creating the Whisker:** Start by placing the straight edge of your flat brush on the animal. Apply a small amount of pressure to create the root of the whisker. Slowly drag your brush up and outward (Or out and downward if your doing whiskers on the snout) as you relieve the pressure off your brush. This helps to create a very thin tip of the whisker. The root should be the **thickest** part, while the tip of the whisker should be the **thinnest**.

Section Notes: When painting whiskers on the snout, **move your brush out and downward, or the direction shown in your reference photo.**



Section #2: Create a straight line with your Micro Detail Brush.

1. Whiskers are usually white, black/grey, or brown in color.
2. Cats will often have **very thick, wiry white** whiskers.
3. Whiskers getting less light will be **darker**, but will still need Titanium White in the color you mix for those whiskers.
4. **Artist Tip**: Complete the background before adding whiskers.
5. If it helps, turn your canvas around to prevent your hand from smearing your paint as you apply whiskers to the opposite side of the face.
6. **Artist Tip**: If you accidentally make the whisker the same width throughout, just add more paint to the root of the whisker to help balance it out. Then repaint or paint over part of the tip of the whisker to create a thinner point.

Section Notes: Painting whiskers requires a very steady hand and a good brush. Practice on a separate canvas or paper AND take care of your brushes!

Need Help?

If you would like feedback, advice, and/or would like to share your work with me, go right ahead! My email is linked below.

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Materials List: Materials will vary depending on color and breed of dog.

- A. Acrylic Paint
- B. Paint Brushes
 - a. Micro round detail brush
 - b. Flat brush
- C. Canvas or paper
- D. Water
 - a. Plastic cup or glass jar of water
- E. Paint Pallet
 - a. Glass paint palette
 - b. Metal bowl
 - c. Paper plate
- F. Other Materials
 - a. Paper towel or old cloth