

Bonnie Krims

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color possesses me.

I don't have to pursue it that is the meaning of this happy hour—color and I are one.

BRUSH YOUR BRUSH To help get your brush clean clear up to the ferrule (the metal band), and to straighten out bristles when you're done mixing, use a brush comb, left. Hang to dry, then wrap in butcher paper to store.

TAKE A PUNCH Painting is a messy business, but you can cut down on some of the drips with this simple trick. Using an awl or a straight-blade screwdriver, punch a series of holes all around the bottom of the paint can's rim. The holes will help paint drain back down into the can and keep it from pooling in the rim when you pour into a roller tray or small container.

THE POLYESTER Deal good with these paints. A short-handled brush is useful when working in tight spots.

THE BRUSH WITH SOFT NATURED BRISTLES That delivers just the amount of pressure you need to get into the nooks and crannies.

THE BRUSH WITH STIFF BRISTLES This brush is the best for oil-based paints, stains, and caulks.

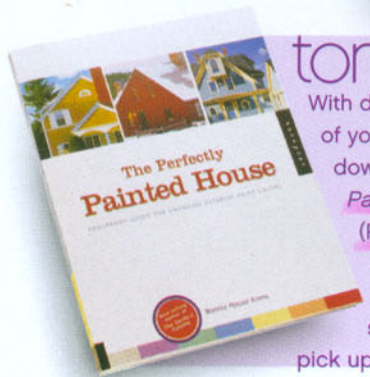
THE BRUSH WITH STIFF BRISTLES This brush is the best for oil-based paints, stains, and caulks.

Some of us love it, some of us hate it. But whatever your feelings about the process of painting, you can save yourself a lot of aggravation and time by using a good brush—good in this case meaning expensive (from \$15 to as much as \$30). Though that may seem spendy for something as plain as a brush, you do get what you pay for. What's more, buying a high-quality brush will keep you well-equipped for years to come. (You often rely on just a few brushes that they're using for years.)

The key to getting a good coat is using the right brush for the job. The basic rule: Natural bristles are best for oil-based paints as well as stain, varnish, shellac, lacquer, and polyurethane-manufactured brushes are best for water-based (but will work for oil-based products, too).



NATURAL BLACK CHINA
With stiffer and stronger bristles than a white China brush, the black China is the painter's old reliable for oil-based paints.



come on tone

With details on everything from estimating the size of your house to hiring a painter to dealing with downspouts, doors, and roofs, *The Perfectly Painted House*, by Bonnie Rosser Krims (Rockport Publishers, 2002; \$24.99), covers the spectrum of colors for a range of architectural styles. The book examines specific color schemes and even brands. Read it before you pick up a brush. Go to rockpub.com for information.



DYED NYLON
The original synthetic brush comes in varying degrees of stiffness and can be used with all types of paint.

**beautiful
and on
budget**

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