

Paintertainment

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WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO STORE AND CARRY YOUR SUPPLIES?

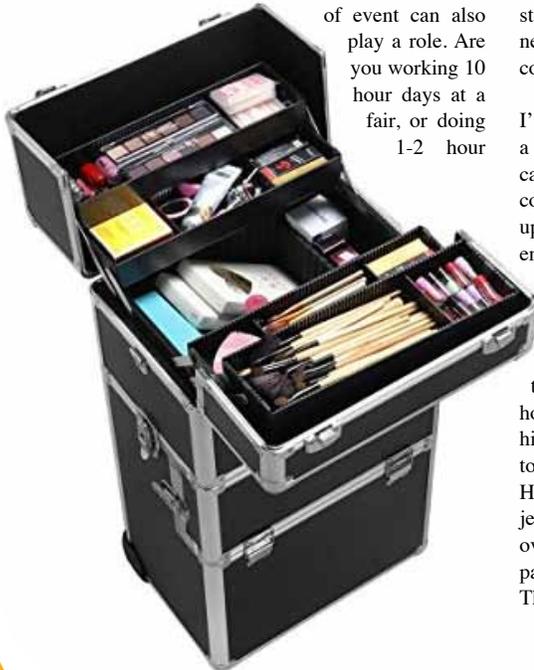
by Gretchen Fleener

It's a question I get a lot, just recently even, which is what inspired the topic for this month's newsletter: *"What is the best way to transport my supplies?"*

This is a tough question to ask me in particular for a couple reasons. One, everyone is different when it comes to how they like to work and how they travel with their kit, so what works for me may not for you. And two, I am addicted to paint kits!

But let's focus on number one for the moment. There are as many different kits out there as there are artists in this industry, and no two kits are alike. What we transport our stuff in can depend not only on what products we carry, but our budget, how we like to work, where we work, and how we get there.

If you live in the city and travel to gigs by the subway, you'll need something that travels well and easily. Whether you like to paint sitting down or standing up is another factor if you're working out of a kit that sits on a table or stands alone on the ground. The type of event can also play a role. Are you working 10 hour days at a fair, or doing 1-2 hour



birthday parties here and there? You'll want a neat, compact kit when working in someone's living room, while an outdoor festival may require more stability, speed or security. Spindly legs don't mix well with soft soil, so indoors vs outdoors is even a factor!

And to my second point, which may make me a good or bad source of information on this topic, is that I'm totally addicted to transforming, reconfiguring, and replacing my kit. With a background in product design I am constantly driven to experiment with new ways of compiling, transporting and setting up my supplies. You can find video tours of many of my more recent kits on our YouTube channel!

When I started out I used a canvas fishing tackle bag, and my paints were re-potted into screw-together stacking jars. I had two brushes, a towel, a couple jars of glitter and a rinse water jar. Those were the days! Now that I'm a full fledged "tackle tart" when it comes to face paint supplies, one bag doesn't cut it.

Okay, it doesn't help that I have a face paint supply store in my basement, but there are SO many cool, new products out there...why not try them out to continually wow your clients, right?!

I've gone as large as a FatMax rolling toolbox and a huge guitar case, back to a small repurposed flute case and now somewhere in between with a rolling cosmetics case. I've loved them all, changed them up just to see what could make it better, and have an embarrassingly large stash of empty containers in my storage room from Goodwill on standby for the next time I feel the urge to "move" again!

The biggest change I've made over the years though is how I've re-potted my paints. I did love how compact my screw-together jars were and still highly recommend them if you'd like to be able to just toss a stack of paints into any kind of bag!! However, I do currently love having my paints in jewelry trays for several reasons. I can lay a cover over them and close the case, and have my paints packed up in 3 seconds. (and vice-versa for setup!) This comes in handy when you're done, you have to

get to the next gig, and parents are begging for just one more. "So sorry, but my paints are ALL packed up!" :-)

It's also nice to not have to worry about a zillion lids or a whole process to pack up paint, and being square, I feel like I'm really maximizing every speck of space in my rectangular box!

Now I use a rolling cosmetics case that I found at a garage sale for \$10! I do have a link to it on Amazon, in the "links" section of the website. It's smaller than a FatMax or guitar case, but big enough that the bottom holds my paint kit, stool, brush tub, water bottle, and even my "next in line" mat. The top comes off like a separate case to hold all my little stuff (glitters, pixie paint, brushes, sponges, stencils, powders, gems, etc), which is nice because I can either set it on the table and open it up to work from, or keep it attached to the lower case when I have limited table space while still elevating it to my level to work from while standing. A front panel flips down on the bottom case too, so even if I leave the top case connected I can get into the bottom case to hide my purse, jacket, etc. Being able to take the top part off is also nice for lifting and fitting it into smaller vehicles.

So, there you have it...that's what I use and currently love...and will likely completely change some time in the next month or year, haha!

My advice to those struggling with what to carry their stuff in is this: don't stress about it, and don't spend a ton of money on any kit until you've been doing this for years and really know what you want! Chances are, even if you spend a fortune on that fancy case, you may find you hate working from it and would rather have spent that money on supplies. Join the Facebook groups for face painting kits, attend jams and look at other artists' kits. Experiment, experiment, experiment!! And don't feel bad if you walk the aisles of Goodwill and see everything through the lens of a painter wanting to organize their supplies. Customizing, re-designing and perfecting our kits is part of the fun of being an artist! Let your creativity show in your own kit, and make it your own! 🌟

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Wet Paint Magazine
The summer issue of Wet Paint is now live and in the shop! Order yours today and soak up SO many pages of inspiration!

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