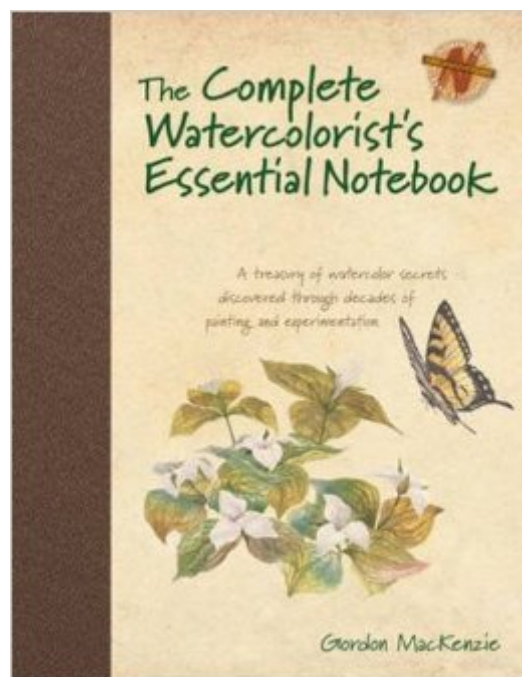


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# The Complete Watercolorist's Essential Notebook: A Treasury Of Watercolor Secrets Discovered Through Decades Of Painting And Experimentation



## Synopsis

This special 10th-anniversary collection combines two of the best-loved North Light watercolor guides available: *The Watercolorist's Essential Notebook* and *The Watercolorist's Essential Notebook: Landscapes*. Clarifying and simplifying the various aspects of painting with watercolor, Gordon MacKenzie's *The Complete Watercolorist's Essential Notebook* will encourage and challenge you with new possibilities. Rather than a list of rules, this is a collection of principles, concepts and general information designed to expand your creative process. Mackenzie shares with you tips, techniques, ideas and lessons for a sure path to creative fulfillment and better watercolor paintings.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (177 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This is a really nice book. Super colorful, beautifully designed, easy to understand, multiple visual examples on nearly every page. Great for visual learners but also includes plenty of written commentary. It includes really important stuff like quality comparison of different brand paints - by color! All the way to experimental techniques that the author has tried with success. I've helped teach drawing and watercoloring to architecture students and I will definitely refer to this next time I teach. I wrote this review to make note that this book ALSO INCLUDES: *The Watercolorist's Essential Notebook - Landscapes* by the same author. Half-way through the book you will come across the latter, exactly the same book that is sold separately. It does not say this anywhere on the cover. It only says it in the product description on the .com product page and on the back cover. So you get TWO BOOKS in ONE. Sweet. Enjoy. Ta.

I have spent days on end and lots of cash looking for the perfect watercolors book. Trust me, this is it! I don't often write reviews but I am absolutely blown away by this book and feel the need to share my thoughts and hopefully help someone find what I did. The book is exceptionally well written by a great art master and teacher. With his easy to understand way with words he covers everything anyone ever needs to know about the how to of this amazing art form. He even tells how to make your own watercolor tools and provides an exceptionally complete list of the pros and cons of most all the major paints and supplies available to work with. It really takes the guesswork out of your shopping list and helps you to not waste money on crappy paints and supplies. He provides numerous workable hints that you just don't get anywhere else. The book is organized in a way for easy referencing too and is full of visual examples of too many techniques to list here. If you're looking for the best watercolor book look no more. This is truly it!

Wow. The minute I scanned through the book, I knew it was good. It is printed on a nice heavy paper (it starts with good paper, doesn't it), and the presentation is gorgeous. All the examples are beautiful and inspiring. I produced the first watercolor I am proud to show by reproducing loosely one of the examples (Summer Choristers page 23). It starts with paint, brushes, other tools, and walks you through the basics. And it goes deeper and deeper, all the way to specific techniques about landscape subjects. Every topic covered, the author is spot on, and the illustrations are plenty and large. Even if you are not a watercolorist, you will get some value out of the composition, light and shadows, colors and other general artistic considerations. Wishing I had found it sooner, and ordering another copy for my mother now.

This book did not initially meet the high expectations I had for it. You need to search the index to find the technique you want to learn; Examples of the author's beautiful paintings come with some suggestions about how to paint them.; this is not easy to do. However, smaller elements of painting are more fully explained and illustrated; one example of this is the excellent instruction with illustrations on how to fade out a color (often called softening a hard edge) on pages 46-47, a technique another reviewer wanted, but didn't find. I think there will be enough good painting elements instruction to get me started painting water, reflections, clouds, etc.. The book is worth the price, It is inspirational and instructional in the various elements of painting techniques. But, I do think it is better suited for painters who already have some experience and talent; that is not me; I plan to practice using a less advanced book before really delving further into this book much more. Update a month later: I am liking this book more and more. I think I initially tried to reproduce

some of the examples without building my skills up to them. Now I am going through the book from start to finish practicing the new techniques being taught. It is more fun because I am having better success that way. It really is a wonderful book and I believe useful for all levels of watercolor painters.

First I learned about Gordon MacKenzie through his short videos in YouTube. He is a Master! So, I tried to find out more about his watercolor lessons. This book, that is an anniversary edition that combines two previous books he has written before, it is more than I expected to get from a "learning how to" book. It is extremely well organized and clearly explained. It is filled with humor and overall his incredible amount of knowledge about color, art, the novice artist feelings, nature, life! Add to that his experience of years of painting the most beautiful landscapes.

This book explains dozens of techniques that are perfect for the beginning-to-intermediate watercolorist. It is nicely organized with sufficient photos and clear instructions and guidance. It may be a little advanced for a total beginner but if you know you are going to like and continue to work in watercolor I'd highly recommend it. If you want to know how to make a stormy sky with clouds and misty water you can find the sections on skies or if you have forgotten exactly how to do lost and found edges, you'll be able to turn to that technique too. It would, however, benefit from an expanded index since such entries as "fog," "skies" and the like are lacking. A very useful technique book. The only reason it didn't receive five stars is because of the skimpy index and because in the sidebars the font is a script-type font meant to mimic handwriting. I find script fonts harder to read than a simple serif font.

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