

Support Your Work

Canson's new art boards offer sturdy alternatives to their popular papers.

Hot New Surface I was able to achieve rich, textural effects with the Arches Hot Press board in *Coast* (watercolor, 20x16).



Canson has launched a series of new art boards, offering sturdier spins on popular watercolor papers. Arches cold-pressed, hot-pressed and rough (natural white, hand-made French watercolor papers) and Montval (a cold-pressed French watercolor paper) are now available in board form. They're mounted on white, acid-free,

lignin-free, 1.2 mm archival conservation boards.

After experimenting with the boards, I found that in general, they perform much like their paper equivalents, except that they don't buckle. They will bow, however, but that can be prevented by taping them down before painting on them. All of the boards have sturdy surfaces that handle masking fluid and

masking tape without tearing. The boards also withstand scrubbing and lifting remarkably well—better than their paper counterparts.

These boards can provide a welcome alternative if you're looking to save time mounting your watercolor paper or experiment with a new surface. They're also great for works that call for a significant amount of lifting and scrubbing.

Arches Hot Press

This board has more texture than its paper equivalent, and is more absorbent as well. The paint responds essentially the same to the board as it does to Arches hot-pressed paper, but the board withstands scrubbing and lifting far better than its sister paper. In my painting *Coast* (opposite), you can see in the water how the surface allowed for easy lifting of the paint.



Arches Cold Press

This was my favorite of the boards to work on. It was slightly less absorbent than its paper equivalent, but it allowed for very smooth washes and gradations. The surface texture is a little smoother than Arches cold-pressed paper, but handled the paint almost identically—without the buckling. In *Beach* (above; watercolor, 16x20), you can see the sky's smooth gradations.



Product Information:

Arches Cold Press, Arches Hot Press and Arches Rough boards are available in three sizes: 16x20 (\$5.95 MSRP); 20x30 (\$9.95 MSRP); and 32x40 (\$18.95 MSRP).

Montval Watercolor Cold Press boards are

available in three sizes as well: 16x20 (\$3.50 MSRP); 20x30 (\$5.95 MSRP); and 32x40 (\$10.95 MSRP). Available at your fine art retailer. www.canson-us.com

Montval

I wasn't previously familiar with this paper, but I found the board responded much like the Arches Hot Press board. Its surface is fairly smooth and not as absorbent as Arches Cold Press board. Getting a smooth wash on it was a bit tricky, but layering helped to erase unwanted marks. Paint floats right on top of the surface of this board and can be re-wet and moved around, as seen in the foreground details in *Arch* (above; watercolor, 20x16).



Arches Rough

The texture of this board wasn't as rough as Arches rough paper; it felt more like cold-pressed. It accepted paint easily, perhaps more so than Arches rough paper. The board shows a little bit more texture in the wash, as seen in the tree line in *China* (above; watercolor, 16x20). ▣

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