

Fun Techniques for Painting Seascapes and Realistic Rocks

Colors – any blue will work for sky and water, but don't use Phthalo blue to mix rock and beach colors as it will turn green. Use Cobalt or Ultramarine for mixing grays.

Tip – You can mask out the sailboat with masking fluid, if desired, before painting the sky and water.

Step 1 – Draw or trace your outline. Mask the top of the water with masking tape in a straight and level line.

Step 2 – Paint the sky with a big brush – can be wet on wet or wet on dry. Paint the sky very light at the bottom and darker blue at the top, leaving space for a few clouds. (You can dab clouds out with paper towels, if needed.)

Distant Land - While still wet – mix blue + brown for distant land color (you can add a little red, if desired). Paint some very faint and far away distant land masses with a small brush.

Dry and remove tape carefully.

Step 3 – Water - Wet the water area. Paint the water with a medium and dark blue and lots of horizontal strokes.

Step 4 – Paint the beach. Mix a brownish gray with blue and brown and paint the beach. You can dip into your blues while you're painting for more variation.

Techniques for texture:

- Spatter with masking before you start painting the beach.
- Spatter with clear water while the beach wash is wet.
- Sprinkle with table salt.
- When dry, spatter with darker color or white.

Step 5 – Rocks – Paint the rocks with light gray, working very dry. Paint the shadow areas with darker gray. Spatter your rocks with darker gray or white.

Step 6 – White Seafoam and Sailboat –

- If you masked out your sailboat, remove the masking now.
- Paint the white edge of the seafoam and pull it out into the water a bit for swirls.
- Paint the Sailboat white with a stripe of color in the middle. Add white foam coming from the back and a white reflection in the water.

Step 7 – Seagulls – paint 3 to 5 seagulls in different sizes and positions with gray and light gray. When dry, add a dot of white to the body of the larger gulls.