



# Low Cost Solutions for Art Studios

## Inexpensive Furniture and Art Supplies

In talking with my friend Sandy regarding creating an art studio got me thinking. An artist doesn't need to spend thousands of dollars to outfit an art studio with furniture and supplies. A little creativity can create some very functional pieces. Some of the best artists I know paint a multitude of great art work all from the dining room table.

Sometimes the best art studio set ups comes from reusing items that you already own. Here are some creative ideas for setting up a functional art studio.

### Art Studio Tables

Easels aren't the best painting supports for every artists. So an art studio table provides the artist with the flat surface to mix, prep canvases, transfer, varnish and more.

If there is limited space in the studio, one solution for a flat work surface is to use a card table that folds up. Another option is laying an old flat door on top of two filing cabinets. This not only provides a long work surface, it also provides storage for your supplies - right at your fingertips!

Drafting tables aren't just for drafting anymore. It can be adjusted to different angles and often has built in holders for pens, pencils and rulers. A table can be found on the cheap since so many draftsman now use a computer instead.

### Alternative Art Palettes

A small table can become an excellent free-standing palette for artists that don't like to hold a palette while painting. The artist can have a piece of glass

cut to fit the top of the table to protect it. The glass allows for smooth paint mixing and is easily cleaned. The legs of the table can be shortened to make it the perfect height. The next newsletter will discuss proper glass palette usage.

The door of an old toaster oven is another palette alternative. The glass window is great for paint mixing and the handle gives the artist a firm area to grip while painting. Old toaster ovens can be purchased at thrift stores or flea markets. You can use tiles left over from a remodel project. Old dishes work well also!

### Art Studio Storage

An artist can never have too much storage in a studio for storing brushes, finished paintings, papers, canvases, towels and paints. Here are some ideas for inexpensive, creative art studio storage:

- Old kitchen cabinets found at a building salvage yard or torn out of an old house
- Plastic bins with drawers that can be purchased at most department stores in the home section
- Metal shelving that can be purchased at a hardware store
- Flat storage purchased at a department store's going-out-of-business sale

Using a little imagination, any artist can have a studio that fits their needs, no matter how small their budget.