## Icon Adventures Online: Finding Francis

## The A List: Specialist Equipment & Materials



#### **UK STOCKISTS**

- Most items, including small 15ml pots of pigment, can be ordered online from Cornelissen's (https://www.cornelissen.com/).
- Gold Leaf Supplies (<a href="https://www.goldleafsupplies.co.uk/">https://www.goldleafsupplies.co.uk/</a>) may have half-books of gold leaf.
- Atlantis Arts and other supplies may have alternative supplies of pigments etc.

#### **ICON BOARDS & PIGMENT SETS**

- Helen may have some professional gessoed linden boards (from £40) and cased sets of 12 pigments (£50) in stock please ask.
- Smaller quantities of the Caput Mortuum and the less available Verdaccio pigments may also be available direct from Helen.
- One of the best suppliers for icon boards (and everything else) is Dal Molin in Italy. They have an international mail order service (but close for August and Christmas).
   <a href="https://www.dalmolinicone.it/en/products/rectangular-icon-boards-in-linden-wood/a\_ENG\_5\_I.php">https://www.dalmolinicone.it/en/products/rectangular-icon-boards-in-linden-wood/a\_ENG\_5\_I.php</a>
- There are also (untried) suppliers on Etsy. If you are new to icon painting and <u>not</u> gilding, the clay boards from 'Ampersand' are a cheap and suitable support for light egg tempera work.

### **GILDING**

- The icon we are working from has a gilded background, halo and gospel book, however <u>you do not have to gild your icon</u> and can paint these elements instead.
- The recommended gilding method will be 'oil-size' gilding for the project icon.
- If new to icon painting, it is best to acquire the essential painting skills in tempera, before gilding.

| Qty             | Item   | Spec   | Notes  |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| 1-3             | Paper (for preparatory studies)              | A3 or larger sheets of grey or light brown sugar paper - or cartridge paper  A3 or 30 x 30 cm thick water colour paper                     | Large sheet for the sketching exercise in Video 3  Rough rag 'Khadi' paper is ideal for the preparatory tempera study in Video 4   |
| I-3 pcs<br>each | Charcoal, white chalk, putty /general eraser | Willow charcoal<br>Conte chalk   | Thinner, sketching type of charcoal  |
| I               | Icon Board                                   | Flat board, approx 32 x 20 cm with traditional gesso preparation*  (board shape; either a pointed 'gable-top, arched shape or rectangular) | N.b., the video features a 'gable' shaped (pointed) board, 31.5 x 20.5 cm, made from linden wood  Alternatives: 18mm marine ply boards, rectangular or shaped, with traditional gesso.  'Clay' boards from 'Ampersand' (not for gilding)  * If making your own boards, do not use modern 'gesso' products which contain acrylic. |
|                 |  | GILDING MATERIALS<br>(OPTIONAL)  |  |

| I small<br>tube/pot | Acrylic Paint  | 'Soft Body' / 'Fluid' acrylic<br>Colour: Red Oxide<br>(Preferred brands: Liquitex /<br>Golden)   | This type of acrylic paint gives a particularly smooth finish - if applied in slightly diluted, even layers.  Good for gilding over.   |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 8-10<br>sheets      | Gold Leaf  | Type: ' <b>Transfer'</b> 22ct Any shade you like.  | ' <b>T</b> ransfer' leaf (not 'loose' leaf) is required for this project. Take care when ordering!   |
| I TBS<br>approx     | Gold Size (aka 'Mixtion')  (Solvent: Turps substitute) | Oil based – not water-based/acrylic size  12-Hour or 3 hr Small bottle size: 75ml  | Test any old/existing stock you may have for its drying time. If a 12 hr size takes longer than 20 hours to dry, you will need to replace it.  N.B., oil gold size must be used in a well-ventilated area as this product has very strong fumes. It does not dry well in cold damp environments. |
| 4+                  | Sable Brushes  | Sizes: Fine: 0 or 1 Small: 3 or 4 Med: 5 or 6 Large: 7 or 8  | Type: 'round', short handled brushes (as for watercolour painting) Sable holds tempera superbly and is best for blending. Synthetic-sable mix are a cheaper alternative. No need to buy expensive Kolinsky sable. Check all brushes have a good 'pointy' tip.                                    |
| 1                   | 'Rigger' or 'Liner'<br>Brush                           | Synthetic-Sable<br>Size: I or 2  | Very useful longer-haired brushes for line work / delineation.   |
| I                   | 'Poster Brush'   | Synthetic-Sable 'Flat bright', . Size: 8/10 or 1/4 or 3/8  | Soft 'flat' brush with a straight edge and crimped ferrule - good for achieving smooth finish of size or varnish etc over large areas.   |
| 1                   | <b>Mixing Brush</b> Nylon or Hogg                      | Stiff bristle, short-handled<br>Size: 8 - 10   | Avoid using sable brushes for mixing tempera. Stencil brushes are ideal.   |
| I or 2              | Palette  | Multi-well type<br>Ceramic or plastic  |  |
| I of each           | Pigments   | Yellow Ochre Raw Sienna (not essential) Red Ochre Burnt Sienna Vermilion (artificial) Cadmium Red (not essential) Titanium or Zinc White Black Raw Umber | Dry powder form. Only very small amounts will be required, 10 -15ml pots typically.  *A Verdaccio alternative can be mixed from yellow ochre, black and burnt siena.   |

|   |                          | Ultramarine Blue Mars Violet  * Verdaccio Green (mossy green)  * * Caput Mortuum (violet-cocoa)                       | * * Caput Mortuum is less easy to duplicate, best to experiment with raw umber and violet  |
|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| I | Casein paint*            | Currently it's best to shop around for small artists tubes of casein in a mid-red shade.  White casein is useful too. | *Only necessary if you are gilding the halo & background  For painting halo outline and inscriptions on gold.  |
| I | Cook's measure           | Small /medium   | For measuring egg yolk and water   |
| I | Stylus/ Scribing tool    | Carbide / diamond tipped  | Sold for metal working or etching.   |
| I | Low Tack Masking<br>Tape | Approx' 2.5 width or wider  | Recommended Brand: 'Tesa' - pink tape variety. Expensive but worth it.   |
|   |                          | OPTIONAL ITEMS  |  |
| 1 | Dividers                 | Steel, adjustable type Small or Medium 10 cm  | Needed for incising the halo. Sold for meatal working or etching. An alternative would be to use a very hard pencil in a compass.                                      |
| I | Ruling pen               | Small size  | Pen-like tool used in a compass with liquid casein paint to apply fine line around a halo – takes a lot of practice. A steady hand and fine brush is often preferable. |
| I | Painter's Bridge         | Wood or rigid plastic   | Very useful to support working hand away from surface of work. A piece of felt or a cotton glove can be used instead.  |
|   | Transfer paper           | Brands: Tracedown or Saral  | For transferring the design to the panel. Dry red ochre pigment smeared on the back of the pattern is a good alternative.  |

# The B List: General Kit

| Small pair scissors             |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 30cm rigid plastic/wooden rule  |                                 |
| 2B / H and 6H pencils or harder | For sketching, and transferring |

| Pencil Compass                 | The simple 'school' sort, with stiff hinge  |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 2 jars / water-pots            |   |
| I tablespoon / large spoon     |   |
| l roll kitchen paper towel     |   |
| Cotton buds                    |   |
| Cotton wool bolls              |   |
| Plastic Pipette                |   |
| Hens Eggs                      | Fresh - size doesn't matter! (Goose eggs are not suitable.)   |
| White wine vinegar             |   |
| Kitchen Sink / Washing-up bowl | To soak used palettes. Please wipe out palettes before washing up to save putting pigments into the water course. |