

THE FRUGAL ARTIST

I have not posted one of these in a while. As this one requires some verbiage to explain, I am typing instead of writing/drawing.

I came across this from a British Plein Air artist on YouTube™ who posts videos under the title of “Thoughts on Painting”, (Didn’t catch his name). The concept is so simple, yet the application of this thing and its versatility are amazing!



It is just a strip of wood with a peg at one end. I made mine $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " and the length is variable. Peg is a 2" piece of dowel. I suggest that you make a few that are six inches or so longer than the long side of the various painting supports you use. They could also be made from aluminum strip with a 2" bolt at one end.

Now the good part! By hooking the peg against the side of your painting at the eye level line, and holding the other end in your non-brush hand and bracing that against the other side, you can pivot it to draw any perspective line you need. By placing it at any point around your canvas edge, you can draw any straight line you need with a very steady support. By tipping the strip forward or back as required, you can rest the ferrule of your brush on it and draw a perfectly straight line for

building edges, sidewalks, ships masts, telephone poles or anything else that requires a straight, level or vertical line.

I have been using one of these for a couple of weeks now and I absolutely wonder why I did not think of it before. By pulling the peg firmly against your support and bracing it there with the non-brush hand, you have a firm and stable support for your brush. In my opinion, it beats a maul stick hands down.

Cheap and easy! Give it a try and I think you will like it. Many thanks to the guy from UK; whom I am assuming came up with this idea.

Keith

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