

## Particulars matter

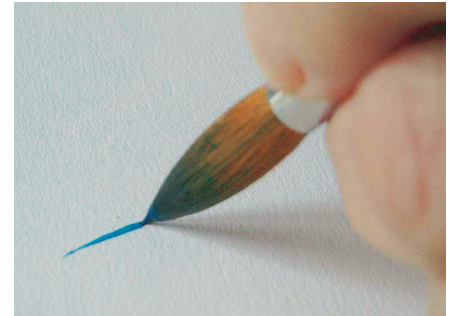
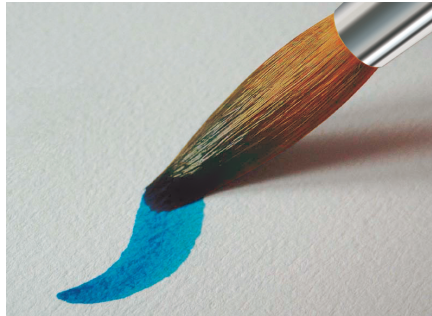
More and more watercolour and gouache artists are tempted by offers of brushes which seem a bargain, as they are advertised as “pure Kolinsky Red Sable” or have similar promising sounding labels.

The following information will enable you to be more critical of such offers.

Seemingly cheap brushes might save you money, but on close inspection they won't hold their promise.

What is it that the watermedia painter expects from a Kolinsky sable brush?

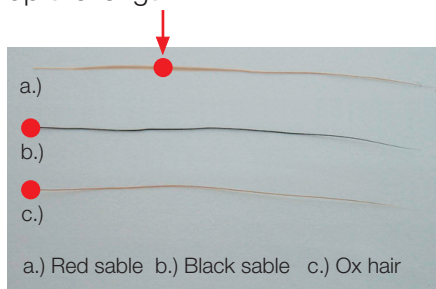
Longevity and a large capacity to hold colour. Elasticity, springiness as well as a finely tailored tip with snap.



Longevity is achieved by only using the male tail hair of the Kolinsky red sable (*Mustela sibirica*), the longest, most resilient hair grown in the extreme cold of Siberian and Manchurian winters.

The enormous ability to absorb colour, which is a must for fluid watercolour painting, will naturally stay our secret. But the following is food for thought: The ancient Egyptians were able to provide ample irrigation from the Nile to their fields through canals, reservoirs and capillary channels and we are grateful to our namesake patron Leonardo da Vinci for the description of the so-called capillary action. He explained, how liquid rises up and across within a narrow hollow. This knowledge underlies the manufacture of our products. Through enforced pressure the drop-free, continuous supply of colour is furthered.

The elasticity and the springiness of the brush depends on another speciality that should be taken into account. Most hair tapers evenly from the root to the tip. Sable hair, however, shows a root-like thickening only after a good third up the length.



If the hair is set too short into the ferrule, the base of elasticity will be outside the ferrule.

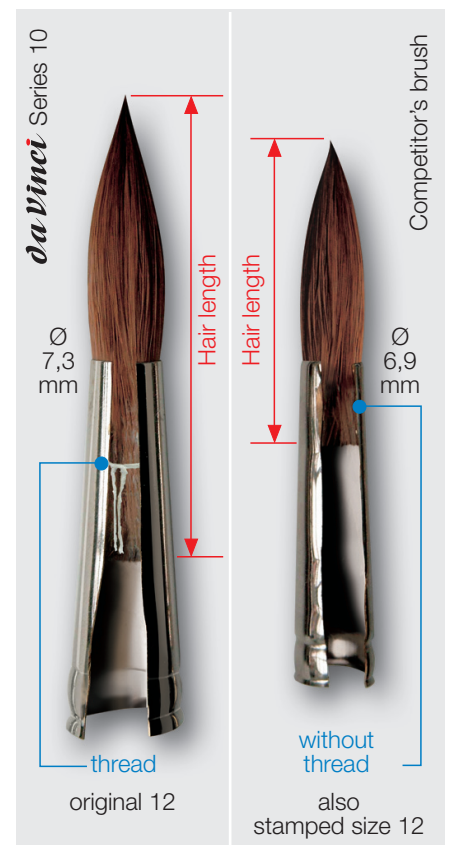
The manufacturer will save significantly alone in hair cost using this method but such a brush is often also not adequately bound and wears out quickly. Thus any savings to the artist are lost quickly.

### Our principle of manufacturing is as follows:

The basis for the strength of the hair is its depth within the ferrule, so that the customer can enjoy the brush for a long period if cared for properly.

*da Vinci* complies with international standards on brush type sizes, which assure the customer of a reliably sized brush. There are always some deviations from these standards on the market. Therefore never buy a brush size “blind”. Always compare the diameter at the hair end of the ferrule.

Always look for *da Vinci* MAESTRO KOLINSKY for the very best quality and our Harbin Kolinsky sable for an excellent value. We will continue our quest to create the finest sable brushes produced today.



Hermann Meyer

Hans-Friedrich Defet