

Where to buy calligraphy materials

I order the materials for myself and my students in Japan. I can do this because of my longstanding relationships. In addition, it should be noted that it makes no sense to ship the materials by airmail, especially when it comes to paper. Shipping by sea takes 2 to 3 months. So far I have not found a Japanese supplier who has a full range of materials and delivers directly to the West.

That is why I list two sources in Europe whose material I have tested.

At the beginning a brush, inkstone, ink stick and paper are minimally necessary. Then you need a pad that is impermeable to the ink and does not curl when it is wet. Thick felt is ideal for this. Felt placemats are often a good choice. Things like pieces of metal, pieces of wood or stones are suitable as weights. If you are beyond the beginnings, you need more ink than you want to rub. Then liquid ink is suitable.

Comptoir des ecritures, Paris

[http://www.comptoirdesecritures.com/acatalog/Calligraphie chinoise et japonaise.html](http://www.comptoirdesecritures.com/acatalog/Calligraphie_chinoise_et_japonaise.html)

A mail order company specializing in calligraphy materials (not just East Asian). I have received good information and have the impression that they understand the materials well.

Materials recommended for basic equipment:

- **Brush:** Pinceau à manche fin PM, Article CA01020, 14 EUR, goat hair brush, loses some hair at the beginning, but is comfortable and elastic.
- **Ink stick :** Encre d'huile, Article CA02004, 7.50 EUR
- **Fluid ink :** Genso, encre liquide japonaise 200 ml, Artikel CA02425, 9.75 EUR
- **Ink stone :** Pierre rectangulaire S, Artikel CA03010, 12 EUR
- **100 sheets of white paper:** Fuyang découpé, Article, CA06161 15 EUR, pleasant in terms of resistance, tends to flow (prone to ink blots)
- **Or 100 sheets of yellowish paper:** Yuanshu découpé, Article CA06166, 12.50 EUR, pleasant from the resistance and flows less (less prone to ink blots)
- **Felt pad:** Feutrine CA06650, 12 EUR, not mandatory, but practical

Japanwelt, Berlin

<https://www.japanwelt.de/>

A mail-order house with a wide range of Japanese materials. One does not seem to have any calligraphic expertise.

Materials recommended for basic equipment

- **Brush:** Yoshin, Article JW11921, 18.91 EUR: hair goat and badger, good quality, maybe a bit soft for beginners, good size
- **100 sheets of paper:** Hanshi, Article JW11407, 18.91 EUR, good resistance, flows ideally, good dry effects, beautiful white
- **Ink stick:** Tintenstein Kokoh JW15094 22.69 EUR
- **Liquid ink:** Tusche – schwarz, Article JW15141, 12 EUR. I have no experience with this ink. My favorite, Sumi tiefschwarz, item JW20779, 23 EUR was not available at the time of my order.
- **Ink stone:** Unfortunately there is no ink stone in the range