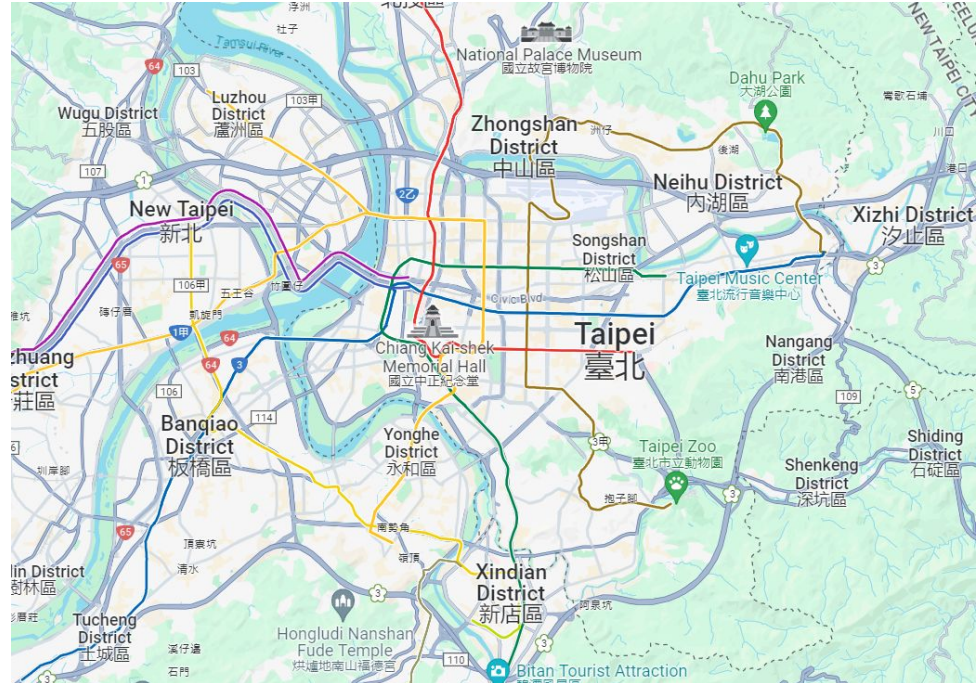


# You Walk Into a Calligraphy Store In Taiwan...

Guide to tackling the overwhelming atmosphere

# Setting the scene...









Hui Feng Tang



119 Section 1, Heping E Rd



Taipei, Taipei City



Google Street View

Apr 2023

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博大藝術畫廊



和麗診所

MedDoc Institute Taipei

和麗診所



Google







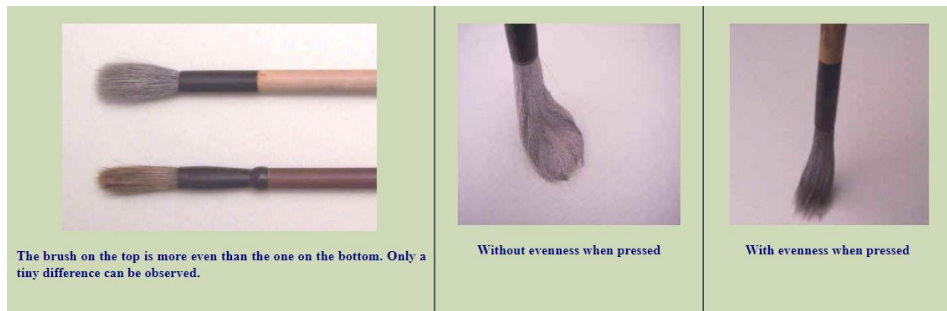
# Brushes (毛笔 - máobǐ)

- A Chinese calligraphy brush can generally be categorized by (1) kinds of hair used, (2) sizes/lengths of hair, (3) proportion of length to diameter of the brush's hair
- Major Categories of Brushes:
  - **Hard Brushes:** usually Weasel Hair Brush, more resilient and stiff
  - **Soft Brushes:** usually Goat Hair Brush, flexible, durable, yet soft and very absorbent
  - **Combination Brushes:** generally combine weasel and goat hair or other hair in various percentages
  - **Brushes made of other types of hair** (rat, rabbit, deer, horse, bear, badger, rooster)



# Four Virtues of Brushes

1. **Pointy (尖 jiān):** the brush tip should be as pointed as an awl. It requires the hair on the brush should always form a defined and symmetrical tip
2. **Evenness (齊 qí):** means that when we spread a brush by holding it down, the hair are even and not scattered
3. **Roundness (圓 yuán):** means the brush tip must be in the center of the circle
4. **Resilience/Strength (健 jiàn):** means the tip of brush hair is flexible or elastic





# Choosing the right brush...

- First ask yourself what your price range is
  - Price isn't a strict indicator on quality, but can be a good guide
- Then think about the calligraphy style you want to write
  - Long-Haired Brushes for Seal Style, Clerical Style, and even Walking and Running Styles
  - Softer brushes for more flowing styles
  - Harder brushes for beginners (easier to control) and kaishu



# Ink (墨水 - mòshuǐ)

- Fundamental ingredients of Chinese Ink is pine charcoal (which is burned to collect carbon in a very controlled process) and glue
  - The finest inks are only about 20% glue, while lesser qualities are about half carbon, half glue.
- Traditional ink sticks vs. bottled ink





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# Paper (纸 - zhǐ)

## 1. Xuan Paper (宣纸 xuānzhǐ)

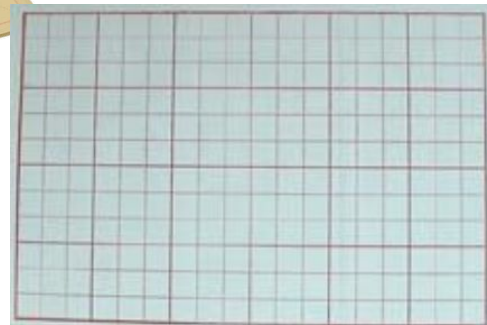
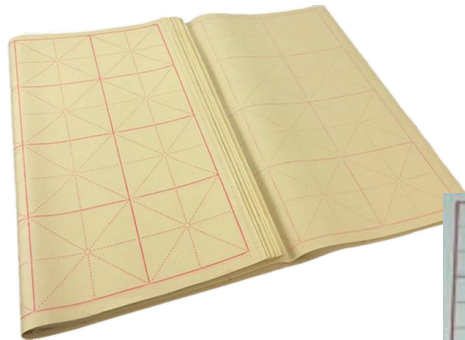
- Soft, fine textured, soaks up ink the best, and folds without breaking; the highest quality of paper
- Made from the bark of a special tree (Blue Sandalwood) in Jing County, China

## 2. Mian Paper (绵纸 mián zhǐ)

- Mian Paper is very popular for practicing, it's cheaper than Xuan Paper; however, its quality is somewhat inferior
- Many brands of paper sold in American art stores for oriental calligraphy and painting are actually Mian paper

## 3. Mao Bian Paper (毛边纸 máobiānzhǐ)

- Cheaper than Mian Paper. Most beginners start practicing calligraphy with Mao Bian Paper with printed grids for positioning of the strokes.

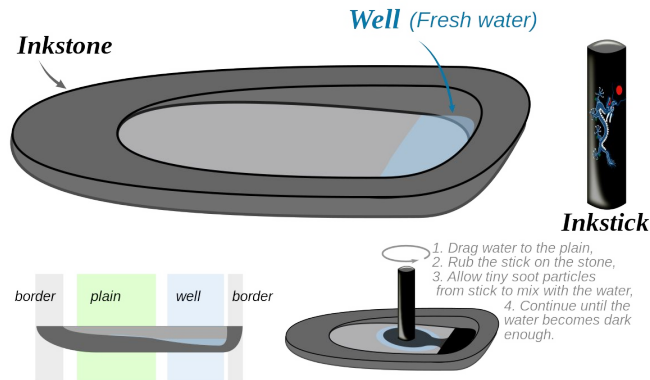




# Inkstone (砚台 - yàntái)

- Mortar used to grind and contain ink
- Made from a variety of materials, including stone, clay, bronze, iron, porcelain, ceramics, lacquer wood, glass, and old bricks
- Comes in a variety of shapes, sizes, and hardness/textures

## Chinese Inkstone and Inkstick



端砚 duānyàn





# Other Materials

- Brush rest (shuǐ wěi)
- Water dish (shuǐ pén)
- Seals (yìnzāng)
- Books



**Thank You!**