



Sea Portal Starter Kit

Troubleshooting & Studio Notes

If Your Sea Looks Flat

Why: Your darks and lights are too similar in value.

Try This:

- Make your darkest sea colour properly dark.
- Deepen shadows before adding highlights.
- Let the light sit on top of depth — not the other way around.

Depth first. Sparkle last.

Save Your Lightest Warm White Until The End

It's tempting to add the brightest highlights early.

Wait.

That final warm white is what brings the painting alive.
Add it last — and sparingly.

It's worth the patience.

Softening Harsh Edges in the Water

If the darkest sea tone feels too abrupt:

- Use a green-blue mix to gently soften the transition
- Blend a little at a time
- Avoid over-blending

Resist the urge to “blend everything.”

Let some strokes stay visible.

If The Paint Isn't Behaving

Sometimes it feels like the paint just won't move properly.

Usually:

Your brush is clogged.

Fix:

- Wipe thoroughly
- Clean properly
- Reload with fresh paint

Don't fight dirty tools.

Use Your Eyes

This sounds obvious — but slow down.

Only paint when you truly see something to add.

Don't move your brush just to feel productive.

When It Looks Strange

Every painting reaches a stage where it feels wrong.

This is normal.

This is the moment many people stop.

Stick with it.

It will look strange... until suddenly it doesn't.

That shift is part of the process.

Creating Depth

- Make waves smaller as they move into the distance
- Use subtle perspective lines in clouds
- Soften contrast further back

Depth is created through scale and softness.