Painting with the Mixer Brush

The Mixer Brush simulates realistic painting techniques such as mixing colors on the canvas, combining colors on a brush, and varying paint wetness across a stroke.

The Mixer Brush has two paint wells, a reservoir and a pickup. The reservoir stores the final color deposited onto the canvas and has more paint capacity. The pickup well receives paint only from the canvas; its contents are continuously mixed with canvas colors.

Note:
For a video about the Mixer Brush, see http://kelbyone.com/course/pcollins_mixerbrush/

1. Select the Mixer Brush tool. (If necessary, click and hold the standard Brush tool to reveal the Mixer Brush.)

2. To load paint into the reservoir, Alt-click canvas. Or, choose a foreground color.

   Note: When you load paint from the canvas, the brush tip reflects any color variation in the sampled area. If you prefer brush tips of uniform color, select Load Solid Colors Only from the Current Brush Load pop-up menu in the options bar.

3. Choose a brush from the Brush Presets panel.
4. In the options bar, set tool options. For options unique to the Mixer Brush, see the following:

Current Brush Load swatch

From the pop-up panel, click Load Brush to fill the brush with the reservoir color, or Clean Brush to remove paint from the brush. To perform these tasks after each stroke, select the

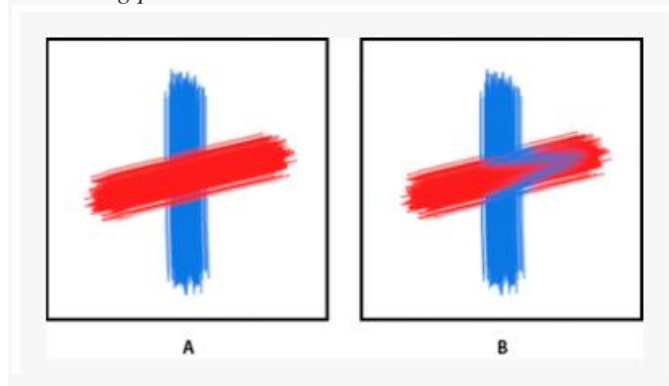automatic Load   or Clean   options.

Preset pop-up menu

Applies popular combinations of Wet, Load, and Mix settings.

Wet

Controls how much paint the brush picks up from the canvas. Higher settings produce longer paint streaks.
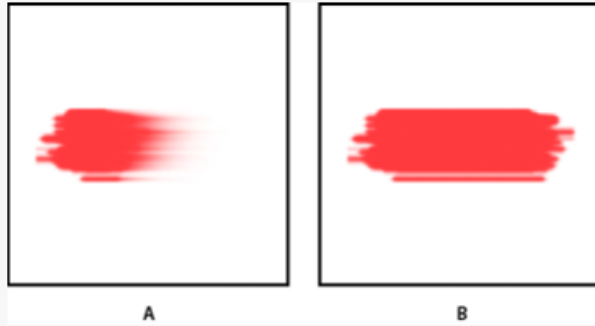
Increasing paint wetness

A. 0% **B.** 100%
Load

Specifies the amount of paint loaded in the reservoir. At low load rates, paint strokes dry out more quickly.

Increasing load rates

A. 1% **B.** 100%

Mix

Controls the ratio of canvas paint to reservoir paint. At 100%, all paint is picked up from the canvas; at 0%, all paint comes from the reservoir. (The Wet setting, however, continues to determine how paints mix on the canvas.)

Sample All Layers

Picks up canvas color from all visible layers.

5. Do one or more of the following:

*   Drag in the image to paint.

*   To draw a straight line, click a starting point in the image. Then hold down Shift, and click an ending point.

*   When using the Brush tool as an airbrush, hold down the mouse button without dragging to build up color.

Further Resources

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df5iF12V1w0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3b3Kti1SkY&t=8s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU7cL7KySSE&t=740s