Paper Weights + Types

GSM (METRIC)

Grams per square metre (grammage, GSM, or g/m²) is a consistent metric system: it's the weight, in grams, of a 1 metre square sheet of the paper. **Standard in most countries outside of North America.**

Pounds (NON-METRIC BASIS WEIGHT SYSTEM)

Basis Weight (pounds, lbs, or #) is the weight of one ream of 500 sheets at a standardized large-format size (the "basic size") The weight numbers in pounds don't match across different categories because each basic size is different. For example: "80# cover" is much heavier than "80# text" **Standard in the USA, Canada, most of North America, and in countries that use the American system of paper sizes.**

Each horizontal row in the chart is roughly equal weight.

Bold #: weight commonly available
SMALL#: weight rarely or never available (included for comparison)

Any Paper Type

1 metre square

Newsprint

- Lightweight + inexpensive
- Not archival: gray colour will fade and turn more yellow over time

BASIC SIZE
24×36

Bond

ALSO KNOWN AS:
- Copy
- Multipurpose
- Printer paper

BASIC SIZE
17×22

Text

- Standard for inside pages of books and publications
- "Text", "Book", + "Offset" all use the same # weights

BASIC SIZE
25×38

Bristol

- Technically a different category than cover
- Sometimes made of multiple layers

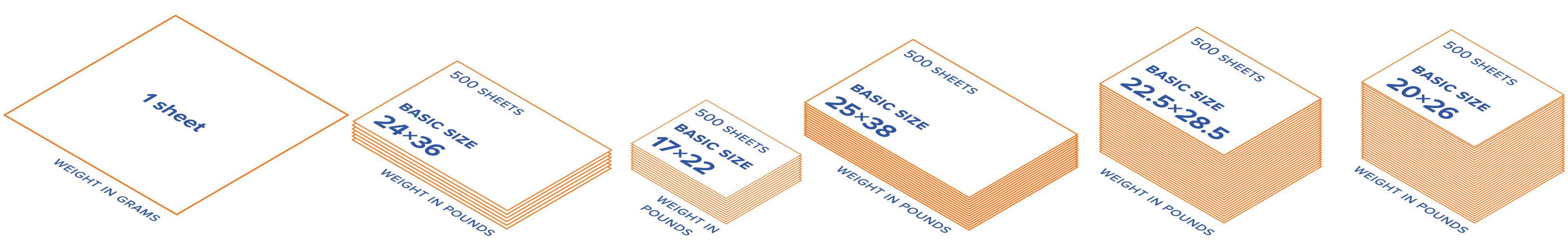
BASIC SIZE
22.5×28.5

Cover

- Standard for book covers and cards

ALSO KNOWN AS:
- Card, cardstock

BASIC SIZE
20×26



	GSM	Newsprint	Bond	Text	Bristol	Cover
	49 gsm =	**30# NEWS**	13# BOND	33# TEXT		
USUAL RANGE FOR RISOGRAPH	75 gsm =	46# NEWS	**20# BOND**	**50# TEXT**		
	90 gsm =		**24# BOND**	**60# TEXT**		
	104 gsm =		**28# BOND**	**70# TEXT**		
	118 gsm =		32# BOND	**80# TEXT**	54# BRISTOL	45# COVER
	135 gsm =		36# BOND	90# TEXT	60# BRISTOL	50# COVER
	148 gsm =		40# BOND	**100# TEXT**	**67# BRISTOL**	55# COVER
	163 gsm =			110# TEXT	74# BRISTOL	60# COVER
	176 gsm =			120# TEXT	**80# BRISTOL**	**65# COVER**
	203 gsm =				91# BRISTOL	74# COVER
	216 gsm =				**100# BRISTOL**	**80# COVER**
	243 gsm =				111# BRISTOL	90# COVER
	271 gsm =				124# BRISTOL	**100# COVER**
	326 gsm =				148# BRISTOL	**120# COVER**

Paper Glossary

POINTS (pt) are a unit for measuring thickness, not weight (and not related to the point sizes used for fonts.) Each pt is 1/1000 of an inch. Paper thickness is also sometimes listed using the word "caliper", or with a decimal number.

1.0pt = 1/1000in = 0.001

GRAIN is the direction of paper fibers in the sheet, parallel to long or short edge. Folding and scoring will be easier and look nicer going in the same direction as the grain.

COATED paper is treated with a layer of coating when manufactured, for function and/or appearance. Gloss and matte are two common types of coated paper. **c1s**: coated 1 side / **c2s**: coated 2 sides

UNCOATED paper lets the ink absorb directly into the paper fibers of the surface. *Risograph paper must always be uncoated.*

FINISH is the paper's surface texture and feel. Finishes can include: smooth, vellum, felt, satin, or linen.

VELLUM is a word used for either a soft velvet-like finish on regular paper, or special types of paper that are translucent (partly see-through.)

INDEX and **TAG** are two more basis categories beyond "Cover"

CONSTRUCTION PAPER is lighter, rougher, and easier to tear than cover or bristol. It's always uncoated, and usually used for cutouts & crafts, not printing. Construction paper is not a compatible material for most types of printer, but it actually prints well with Risograph.

PAPERBOARD is a general word for thick, rigid paper materials, often used for packaging or structure. Types include chipboard, containerboard, matboard, and binder's board. The material used for boxes, with the wavy layer inside, is called "corrugated" cardboard or fiberboard.

SHEETS and **ROLLS** are two different formats in which paper is sold and used. At school, the Risograph and the laser printers use sheets, and the inkjet and large-format printers use rolls.

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