Vintage Page Designs
A NEW ENGLAND BOOK ARTS STUDIO

10 Favorite Papers

for creating handmade books

by Ali Manning

Here are the papers that I use everyday in my studio:

- Mohawk Superfine 70lb Text Weight Paper - I tear down the large sheets of this paper to make signatures for written journals. If I want to use a fountain pen or marker on the pages, I use the heavier weight 100lb text paper.

- Dick Blick 80lb Drawing Paper - the 9"x12" pads are easy to fold into signatures for quick, everyday journals and sketchbooks.

- Hollanders' Lined Signatures - these pre-made signatures are a great addition to your collection because they're ready to make into a book - no tearing, cutting, pressing or printing. You can also buy them with blank or graph paper.

- Canson XL Mixed Media Pads - this toothy 98lb paper is great for an everyday art or travel journal, and is easy to find in local stores.

- Stonehenge Cotton Paper - I reach for this soft but strong 90lb printmaking paper when I want to make a special art journal. It's a delight to work with!

- Mohawk Superfine 100lb Cover Weight Paper - this heavyweight paper is perfect for photo albums or scrapbooks.

- Masa Paper - I use this Japanese paper when marbling and printing with a gelatin plate. It's thick enough to use as book pages but thin enough to wrap around book board to create covers. A must have!

- Davey Board - this is essential for creating hard cover books. I use 0.098 for most of my books but occasionally I'll use the lighter weight 0.08 for smaller books.

- Italian Book Cloth - this my go-to choice of book cloth for everyday projects, For special books I like working with Japanese book cloth.

- Handmade Paper - I'm lucky to have a big stash of handmade paper created by now retired Vermont paper maker Richard Langdell. I release a limited batch each month for my Paper Club.

I hope you've found these links helpful. Remember that investing in sample books from different manufacturers and distributers is another helpful way to reduce overwhelm.

If you have any questions about the above, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at ali@vintagepagedesigns.com

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