

# Inkjet Papers

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# Overview

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- Base Materials
- Surfaces
- Color/Brightness
- Ink Types
- Longevity
- Sizes
- Samples

# Base Materials

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- Alpha Cellulose
  - Made from wood
  - Want acid-free for longevity
- Cotton Rag
  - “Fine art” papers
  - Normally acid-free
  - Most are matte surface
- Weights
  - Want at least 250 g/m<sup>2</sup>, especially for framing of large prints

# Surfaces

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- Glossy
  - Capable of darkest blacks (D-max)
- Luster/Satin
  - Wide variety of luster ink-jet surfaces
  - Common goal: look of silver-gelatin F paper “glossy-dried matte”
  - Good for black & white and color
- Matte
  - Variety of smooth and textured matte surfaces
  - Not the best D-max, but can look very good framed under glass
  - Good for color, nature, landscapes, portraits
- Metallic

# Color/Brightness

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- Paper and cotton are naturally warm-toned
- Whitest whites determined by “brightness”
- Natural papers can have brightness in 90 - 95% range
- Optical brighteners (OBA's) can give >100% brightness, but may degrade over time
- OBA's don't do much in artificial light – no UV

# Ink Types

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- Dye-based
  - Organic dyes – not archival
- Pigment
  - Can be very stable, archival
- Inkjet printers use one or the other type, not both

# Longevity

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- Longevity – how long prints will last with no noticeable fading or color shifts
- Long longevity (many decades) = “archival”
- Depends on
  - Ink type – pigment best
  - Paper material – acid free
  - Storage/viewing conditions – Avoid:
    - Ozone exposure
    - UV light exposure
- Ideal conditions:
  - Frame under glass/plexiglass
  - Dark storage or UV-blocking glass
  - Never expose to direct sunlight

# Inkjet Paper Sizes

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- Mostly not available in traditional photo paper sizes (8"x10", 11"x14", 16"x20")
- Mostly not available in standard European sizes (A1, A2, A3, etc.)
- Typical available sheet sizes:  
4"x6", 5"x7", 8½"x11", 13"x19", 17"x22"
- Also, some 13", 17", 24" wide rolls
- Can cut your own sheets from rolls, i.e. 17"x25", panorama sizes



# Samples

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- Paper obtained from manufacturers' sample packs
- Same color image and b & w image printed on different matte and luster fine art papers
- NOTE: Brightness and color depend on viewing light quality. Prints will look somewhat different in artificial light vs. daylight!