



PAPER SIZES

Matthew Boulton College

PAPER SIZES

Nobody really knows how traditional paper sizes came into being:

Foolscap	13 ¹ / ₄ x 16 ¹ / ₂
Demy	17 ¹ / ₂ x 22 ¹ / ₂
Imperial	22 x 30
Crown	15 x 20
Medium	18 x 23
Large Post	16 ¹ / ₂ x 21
Royal	20 x 25

Perhaps the most likely explanation is that when all paper were handmade, the size of the basic sheet related to the size of the mould which the 'vat man' could handle with ease !

It can be seen that English paper sizes do not lend themselves easily to further simplification.

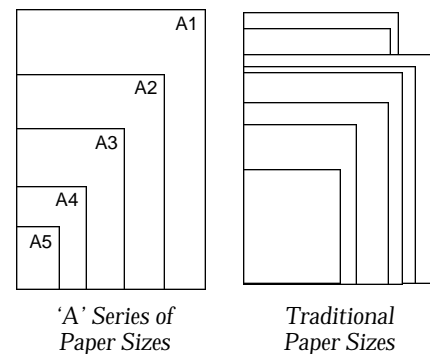
Europe

In Europe the situation is different - during the French Revolution the government standardised a range of paper sizes based on the metric system.

A great deal of work on this system was carried out in Germany during the latter part of the 19th century. After the 1914-18 war a need for economising led to a demand for standardising in Germany which led to a standard being issued in 1922.

This standard soon spread to 28 countries. It is illegal in Switzerland to cut paper which does not conform to ISO sizes without special licence.

In 1970 Britain adopted the ISO paper sizes.



ISO PAPER SIZES

ISO - International Standards Organisation

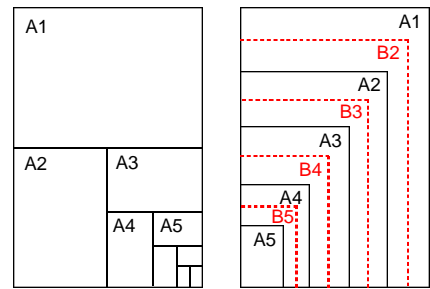
The aim of the ISO series of paper sizes is to reduce the number of paper sizes in common use, and to produce paper with dimensions which are in the ration of 1: 2.

All sizes are rectangular in shape, with the same proportion between the long and short sides.

'A' sizes are for general printing

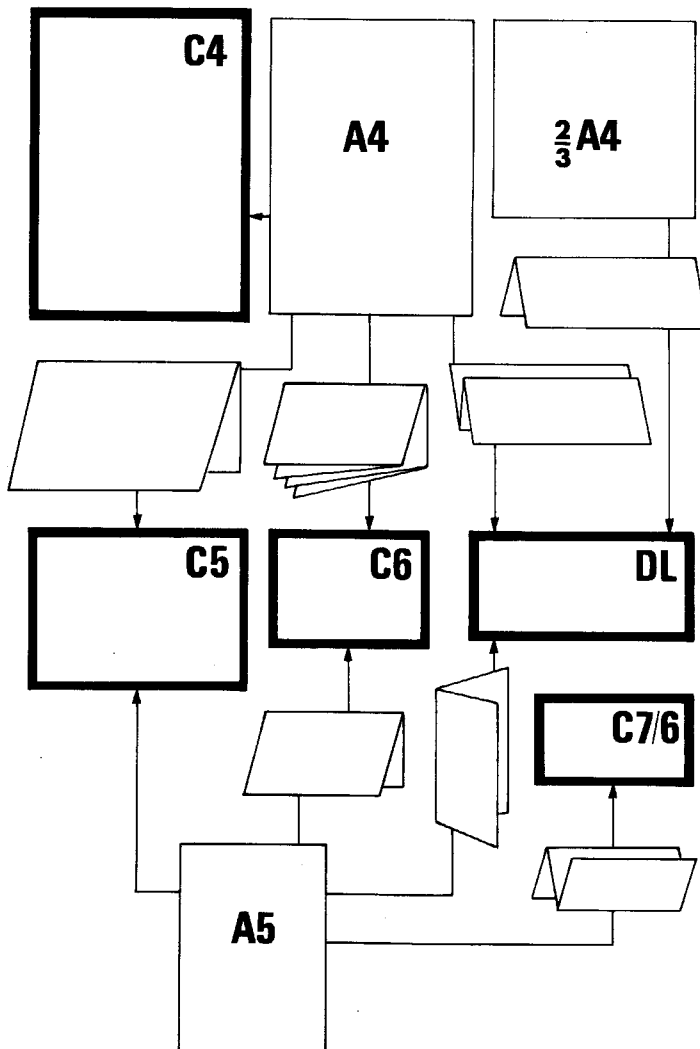
'B' sizes are for posters and wallcharts. They are intended to provide intermediate sizes to the 'A' sizes

'C' sizes are for envelopes



The long dimension is halved to obtain the next size, eg A1 to A2

'A' and 'B' Sizes



Envelope Sizes For 'A' Size Stationery

Calculating Sizes of Sheets

A0 = 841 x 1189 (1 square metre)

The basic size is designated A0 and the figure which follows the 'A' indicates the number of folds or cuts:

A1 = A0 cut once,

A2 = A0 cut twice,

Always half the longest edge

When larger sheets are required the A0 size is doubled, and preceded by a figure:

2A0 or 4A0

Always double the smaller side of the sheet

All 'A' paper sizes are trimmed.

Paper Which Requires Trimming

3mm allowance for trims

RA sizes gives allowance for normal trims:

RA0 = 860 x 1220

SRA0 sizes gives allowance for bleed work or extra trims:

SRA0 = 900 x 1280

ISO And British/Metric Paper Sizes

In view of the proven suitability of Imperial paper sizes (measured in inches) for books and certain other products, the following paper sizes have been converted to millimetres:

Crown: 384 x 528

Large Crown: 408 x 528

Demy: 444 x 564

Royal: 480 x 636

QUESTIONS ON PAPER SIZES

- (1) What are the 2 main aims of the ISO series of paper sizes?
- (2) Name the area of printing that the 'A' size of paper is used?
- (3) Explain the principle used in creating a smaller paper size in proportion ?
- (4) State the main use of the RA range of paper sizes ?
- (5) State the main use of the SRA range of paper sizes ?
- (6) Work out how many sheets of A4 can be obtained from A1 ?
- (7) Calculate the following paper sizes, where necessary the numbers are rounded down to the nearest millimetre:

4A0
2A0
A0 841mm x 1189mm
A1
A2
A3
A4
A5
A6
A7
A8
A9
A10
- (8) State the main uses of the 'C' series of sizes ?
- (9) What size of envelope would you need for a flat sheet of A5 ?