

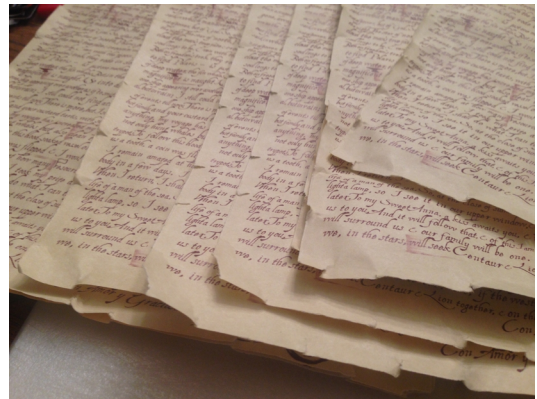


Weathering Paper Tutorial

Here are some ways I make new paper look ancient, worn and well-used. This can add a lot to a player's experience of my games. There's something very magical about old paper!

Weathering Paper

1. Print the page, preferably in color. I found that printing on matte paper (i.e. construction paper) works best because it lacks the gloss of regular printer paper. However, even printer paper can be roughed up to look very good.
2. Cut off the sides/top/bottom edges of white.
3. Make tiny, shallow tears along each side of the paper, about 15-20 per side. Of course, if you want the paper to look even more roughed up, make some of the tears deeper, especially on the seams of anywhere you intend to fold it.
4. Crunch up the edges & tears with your hands as if kneading bread, then crunch from the reverse side. Don't be afraid to give the paper a good squeeze.
5. To weather the entire paper, we'll be crunching a lot. Make sure to smooth out the page with your hands every now and then to make sure the text/image is still legible. To crunch, roll the paper into a tube and crunch it up. Then unroll it, flip it over, and re-roll it into a tube again. Crunch that up. Unroll it again, re-roll it sideways and crunch it up. Fold in thirds, crunch, reverse fold along same lines and crunch again.
6. The idea behind all this crunching is to break down the fibers in the paper and make it softer and more fabric/Kleenex-like. The more you do this the softer and more realistic the weathered paper becomes.



Presentation

How you present your weathered documents can add a lot to your recipient's experience. One idea is to gently roll your document(s) into a tube & tie it closed with string or ribbon. Or you could fold it and seal it in an envelope which you first age by crunching/staining with tea if you like (see my tutorial, *Staining Paper*). There's no limit to your imagination. You can do it!

Happy making!