Paper sizes

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Metric paper sizes

ISO A Series

The A series was invented in Germany in the early 1920s, as an attempt to bring a standardisation to paper sizes. The series has since been adopted worldwide by the International Standards Organisation (ISO). All paper sizes are for trimmed, finished product (untrimmed sheets are quoted as the RA series (see below). The base unit of A sizes, A0, is one metre square; each step of the A series is a halving in area.

NB A halving of area is not the same as a halving of proportions. To make the jump from A4 to A3 is an inrease of approx 141% in proportions. The jump from A4 to A2 is a double of proportions.

name	inches	millimetres
A0	33.11 x 46.81	841 x 1189
A1	23.39 x 33.11	594 x 841
A2	16.54 x 23.39	420 x 594
A3	11.69 x 16.54	297 x 420
A4	8.27 x 11.69	210 x 297
A5	5.83 x 8.27	148 x 210
A6	4.13 x 5.83	105 x 148
A7	2.91 x 4.13	74 x 105
A8	2.05 x 2.91	52 x 74
A9	1.46 x 2.05	37 x 52
A10	1.02 x 1.46	26 x 37

ISO RA Series

As the A series relates to trimmed sizes, an equivalent, oversized sheet is needed from which to trim them out.
The RA and SRA series allow for different amounts of trimming (SRA allows for multiple gutters and borders).

name	inches	millimetres
RA0	33.86 x 48.03	860 x 1220
RA1	25.02 x 33.86	610 x 860
RA2	16.93 x 24.02	430 x 610
SRA0	38.58 x 50.39	980 x 1280
SRA1	25.20 x 35.43	640 x 900
SRA2	17.72 x 25.20	450 x 640

ISO B Series

To fill in the large gaps between the A sizes, a second 'B' series has been established. These are often used, by printers, as a less wasteful alternative to the SRA series.

name	inches	millimetres
B0	39.37 x 55.67	1000 x 1414
B1	27.83 x 39.37	707 x 1000
B2	19.68 x 27.83	500 x 707
B3	13.90 x 19.68	353 x 500
B4	9.84 x 13.90	250 x 353
B5	6.93 x 9.84	176 x 250
B6	4.92 x 6.93	125 x 176
B7	3.46 x 4.92	88 x 125
B8	2.44 x 3.46	62 x 88
B9	1.73 x 2.44	44 x 62
B10	1.22 x 1.73	31 x 44

Imperial paper sizes

In the US and in Britain, paper has traditionally been measured in all manner of obscure ways (complete with jargon). Although nearly all stationery and standard publications have moved over to the a series (see below), British companies still retain many of these terms and imperial sizes. Most notably, all poster sites are still quoted as multiple sheet sizes.

To try to make sense the huge range of paper size, the Germans invented the A series of paper sizes, which has been adopted worldwide; see 'ISO A Series'.

Name	inches	millimetres
Foolscap	17 x 13.5	432 x 343
Double Foolscap	27 x 17	686 x 432
Crown	20 x 15	508 x 381
Double Crown (single sheet)	30 x 20	762 x 508
Quad Crown (two-sheet)	40 x 30	1016 x 762
Double Quad (four-sheet)	60 x 40	1524 x 1016
Post	19.25 x 15.5	489 x 394
Double Post	31.5 x 19.5	800 x 495
Double Large Post	33 x 21	838 x 533
Sheet and Half Post	23.5 x 19.5	597 x 495
Demy	22.5 x 17.5	572 x 445
Double Demy	35 x 22.5	889 x 572
Quad Demy	45 x 35	1143 x 889
Music Demy	20 x 15.5	508 x 394
Medium	23 x 18	584 x 457
Royal	25 x 20	635 x 508
Super Royal	27.5 x 20.5	699 x 521
Elephant	28 x 23	711 x 584
Imperial	30 x 22	762 x 559

Envelopes use yet another scale - the C series. See over for detais ....

Envelope sizes

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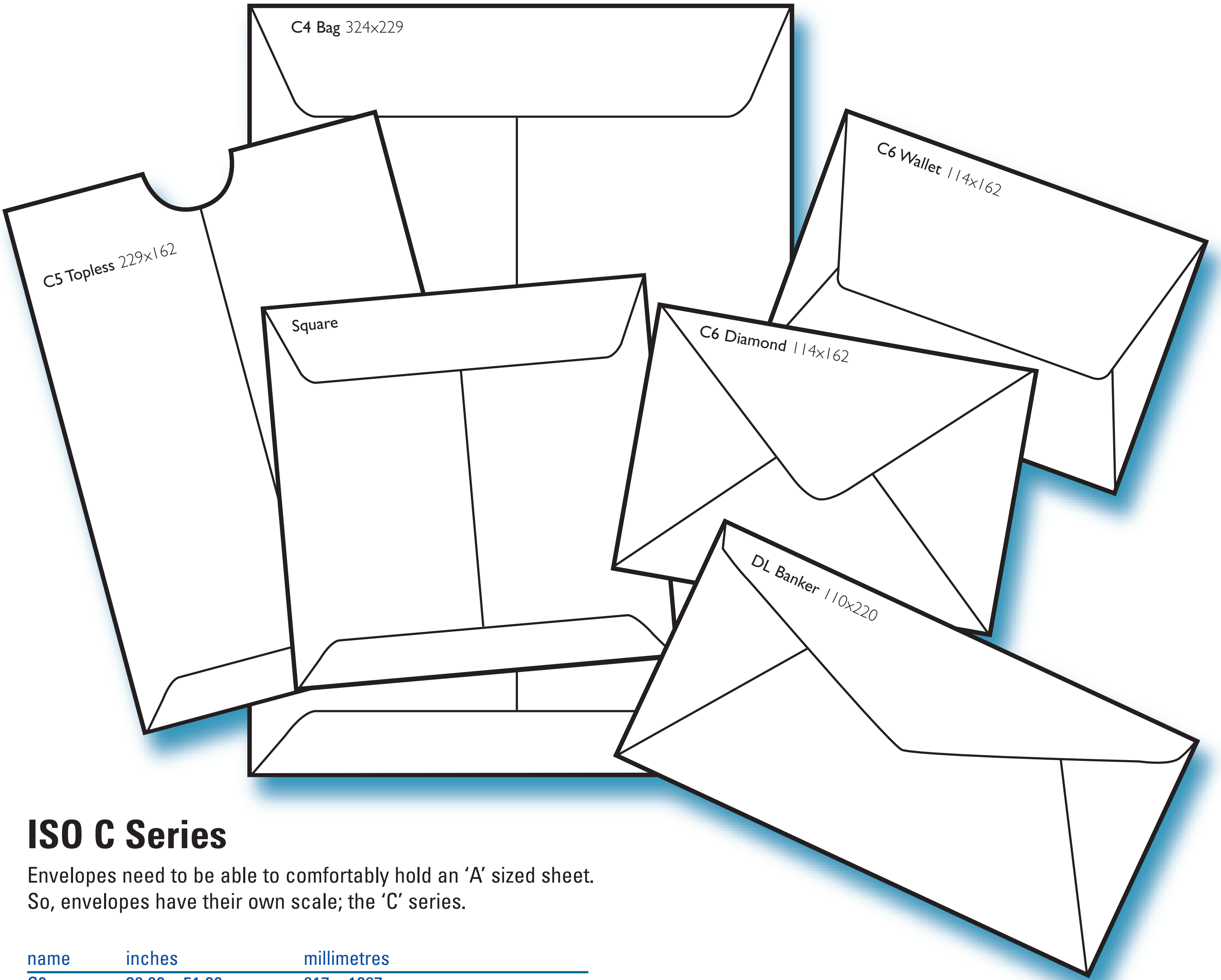

ISO C Series

Envelopes need to be able to comfortably hold an 'A' sized sheet.
So, envelopes have their own scale; the 'C' series.

name	inches	millimetres
C0	36.00 x 51.20	917 x 1297
C1	25.60 x 36.00	648 x 917
C2	18.00 x 25.00	458 x 648
C3	12.80 x 18.00	324 x 458
C4	9.00 x 12.80	229 x 324
C5	6.40 x 9.00	162 x 229
C6	4.92 x 6.93	114 x 162
C7	3.20 x 4.50	81 x 114

Perhaps the most common of all envelopes is designed to take a standard A4 sheet, folded into thirds; this envelope has a name all of its own:

DL	4.33 x 8.66	110 x 220