



Paper characteristics

Fact Sheet 6

CALIPER

A paper's thickness, or caliper, is measured by placing it between two adjustable plates at a certain pressure.

Several data points are averaged to account for sheet compressibility and irregularities.

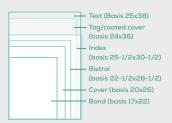
Kallima Coated Cover is **sold to caliper.** It is available in calipers ranging from 8 to 16 point.



BASIS WEIGHT

Basis weight is the weight of a ream of paper, in pounds, cut to the basic size for a specific grade of paper.

It can also be expressed in pounds per 1,000 square feet (lbs/MSF) or grams per square meter (gsm).



STIFFNESS

Stiffness is a measure of the paper's ability to withstand bending.

It is proportional to caliper and basis weight.



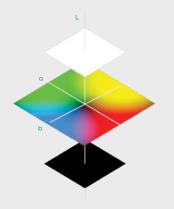












ROUGHNESS

A sheet's texture can also be described in terms of surface roughness.

Commonly used measurements gauge the degree of air leakage between the paper surface and an even measuring head.

GLOSS

Gloss is the degree to which a surface exhibits a mirror-like reflection of light.

Gloss is easier to notice on calendered, coated or varnished papers, as these finishes have better reflective properties.

BRIGHTNESS

Brightness is a measurement of reflectance of a specific wavelength of blue light.

WHITENESS

Like brightness, whiteness is a measurement of light reflectance, but instead of measuring blue light, it measures the light reflected by the paper across the visible spectrum.

The whiteness formula yields the best correlation between instrument measurements and the visual assessment of whiteness.

Papers with **optical brightening agents (OBAs)** have higher brightness and whiteness values, as the sheets appear whiter.

SHADE

Color variations are described as shade.

The L*a*b* color space represents all perceivable colors mathematically, in 3 dimensions.

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