

Printing BridgeMats onto Legal Cover or Card Stock

Pete Matthews – November 15, 2009

The table mats created by BridgeMats work best when printed on legal size paper, and then cut down to 12 inches long. In my neck of the woods, the heaviest legal-size (8.5x14) stock carried by stationary stores is 20lb, which is the standard weight for copier and printer paper. The resulting table mats won't last well.

Printing on some non-standard size of paper is extraordinarily difficult, so here are the main options:

Use Letter Stock

Letter stock, also known as A-size (8.5x11), is available in a wide variety of weights, colors, and finishes. If this is your choice, read no further. However, the resulting table mats are not long enough for the table numbers to be visible when bridge boards are stacked on top of them.

Use Ledger Stock

Ledger stock, also known as B-size (11x17), is generally available in heavier weights. For example, Staples carries a cover stock weight (60 or 65lb) in bright white ledger. With this you can:

- Cut the paper down to legal size:
 - Cut it down yourself – you will need a paper cutter that can handle 14 inches or more. My rotary cutter only takes 12 inches, and a bigger one would cost about \$60.
 - You can pay to have it cut. However, when I did this, the person doing the cutting was not very skilled, and the results were not uniformly square or consistent between chunks of the ream.
- Use the paper immediately in your printer, if it will take paper that large. Once printed, a 12-inch cutter could suffice: cut them to 12 inches long first, and then the sides cut off.

Obtain Legal Cover or Card Stock

Check the specifications for your printer. Mine is limited to 60lb in the main tray, and 80lb in the manual feeder. So, I cannot use heavy card stock, 100lb or more. But my printer will use stock that is three or four times the weight of standard paper. 60 lb is fine. Whatever you choose, you are going to have to order it somewhere. There are not many places:

<http://www.paperworks.com/> – Exact Bristol Cover White 8-1/2x14 67lb 250/pkg. I have received this, and am about to start using it. Manufactured by Wausau. Prompt service, well packaged. They also have Exact Index Cover White 8-1/2x14 90lb 250/pkg.

<http://www.desktopsupplies.com/> – Cardstock 8 ½ x 14, three weights, one of two colors each.

<http://marcopaper.com/> – 8½"x 14" STANDARD CARDSTOCK (down the page).