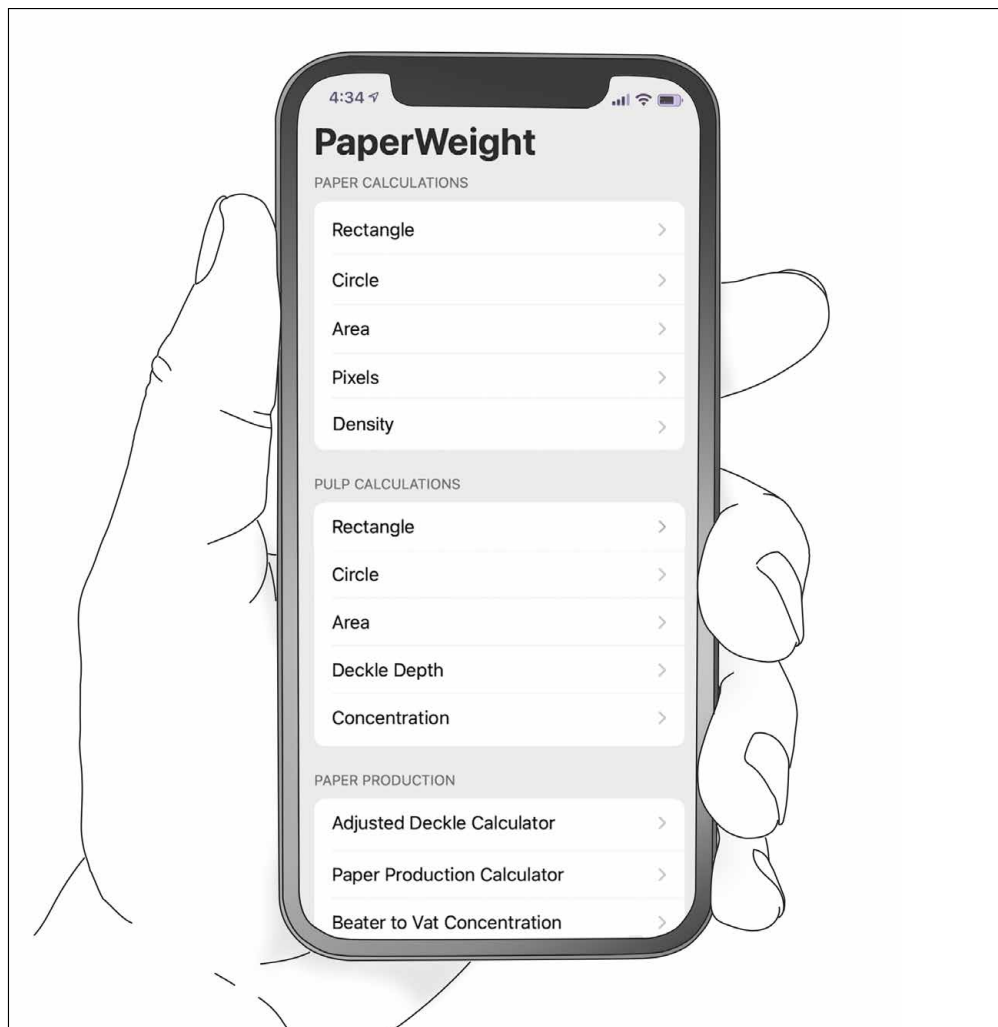


# *Magnolia PaperWeight*

V2.1 - IOS 14

An iPhone and iPad app for  
hand papermakers and paper conservators



Magnolia Paperweight is available for iPad and iPhone at the Apple App Store  
Apple computers using the M1 chip can also use this app



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Version 2.1

## Introduction

Where making paper by hand is concerned, sensation and perception play the lead roles. Given time, these feelings and judgments soon become second nature. We smell the earthy fragrance of retting linen before selecting and ripping the cloth to assess the right moment to cook and wash the decomposing rag. The scent of an alkali cook (linen, hemp, kozo, gampi) lets us know *the game is afoot*.

At the Hollander, we find meaning as the beater sings —we assess the fly-bars' percussion on rags and make subtle adjustments, feeling the pulp slipping between our fingers, determining its freeness. We catch fibers on a knife-edge and to ascertain their length. A visual clue might alter our shake in the last half-second of forming a Western sheet. Our senses find all four corners of the flowing furnish within the mould's deckle, assigning muscle memory responsibility for the fibrous mat's uniformity, catching a wave repeatedly, and throwing off the remainder at the last second in the way of nagashizuki. We throw a felt, and like those below, it lands squarely on the post, the stack of felt and paper that will soon be weeping under the tremendous pressure of the paper press.

From assessing the gentle tug on kozo still steaming hot in alkali liquor to the sheen on a well-formed sheet on the mould, the melodic hiss of the su, when lifted from a washi couch, all become instinctive, and all sensations heightened. It's an intricate ballet, the papermaker's dance – and it's the reason we fall in love with this age-old process.

Our visceral, Dionysian feelings regarding this process do survive when we apply some Apollonian control to the process of charting a path for a specific paper we have in mind.



Retted and shredded linen rag in an alkali cook, (soda ash)



Pulp on a knife edge



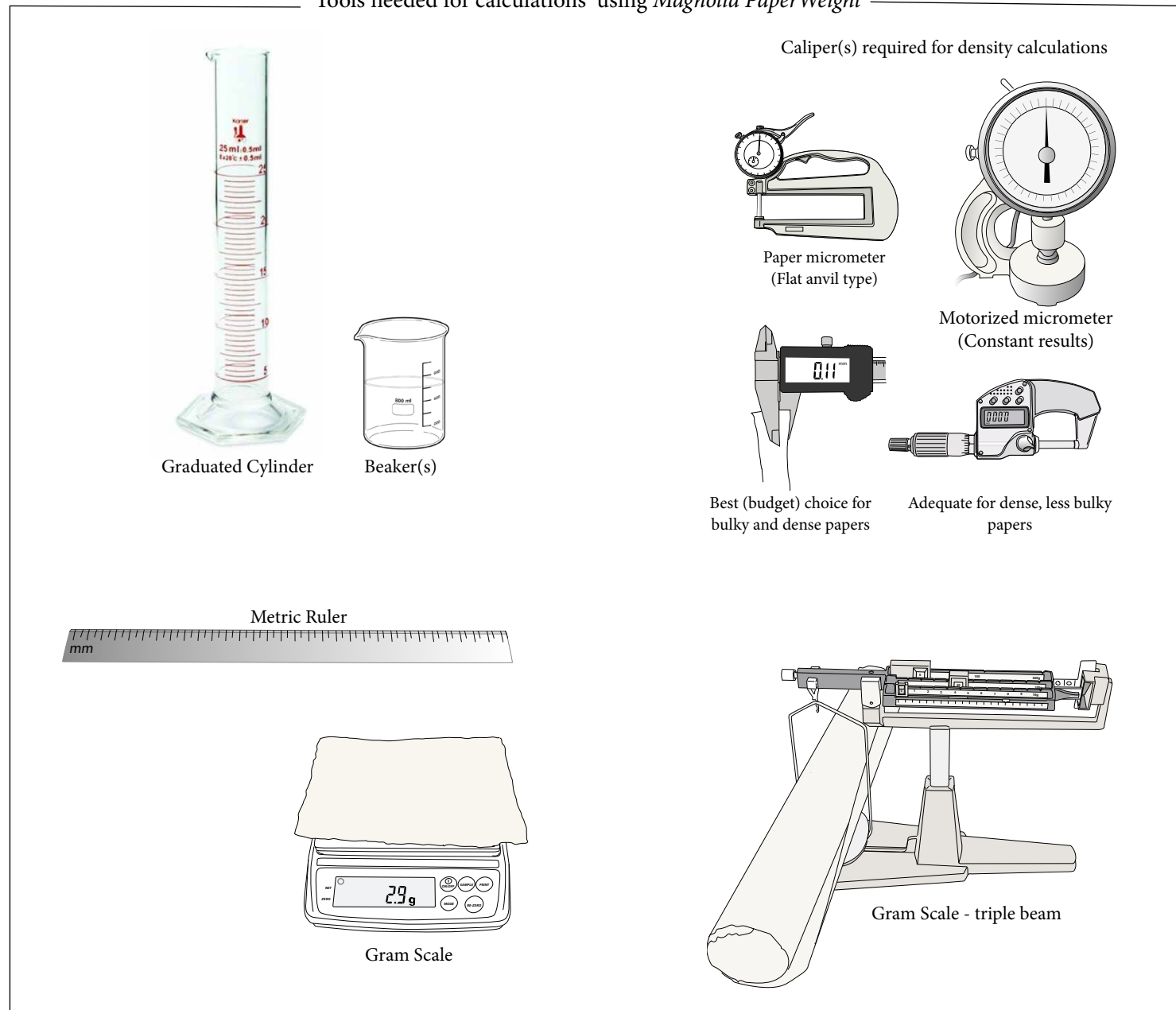
The hiss and snap of the su being lifted as a washi is couched



Lifting the deckle – an even sheet edge to edge, corner to corner

## Magnolia PaperWeight

### Tools needed for calculations using *Magnolia PaperWeight*



It may seem incongruous, reaching for a modern electronic device when making paper by hand, unless you are like me and see all technology as current (considering humans only just arrived on the scene). Handmade paper is, to me, a high point of man's ingenuity. Its invention was timely, significant, ecological, and allows for iterations, making all subsequent technology and stored knowledge possible. In this circumstance, an electronic device, no more or less innovative than papermaking, allows for computations that can dramatically influence a handmade process and its outcome. And this app aims to do just that; add insight into arriving at the elements necessary to create a particular sheet or set of sheets. It doesn't change how the materials behave, nor how thoroughly we revel in the process.

With the *PaperWeight* app, you can find the weight of any paper; combine that piece of information with a few other parameters, and much can be understood and accomplished, whether making a beaker of paper pulp or a beater load.

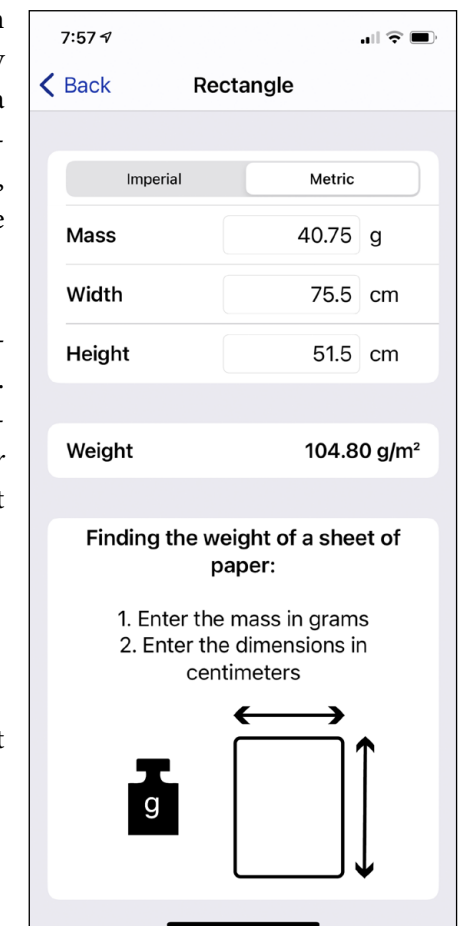
When describing a sheet of paper as lightweight, medium weight, or heavyweight, these general terms specifically refer to the sheet's grammage. With a gram scale and a ruler, grammage can be conveniently and accurately measured and expressed as "grams per square meter," GSM, or  $g/m^2$ ; this measurement represents the weight of one square meter of a given paper.

In this example, we make the calculations using the *PaperWeight* app: A sheet of rag paper weighs in at 40.75g. The sheets' height and width are 75.5cm x 51.5cm. I entered this data into the *Rectangle* menu within the *Paper Calculations* menu group to find the sheet has a weight (grammage) of  $104.80 g/m^2$ .

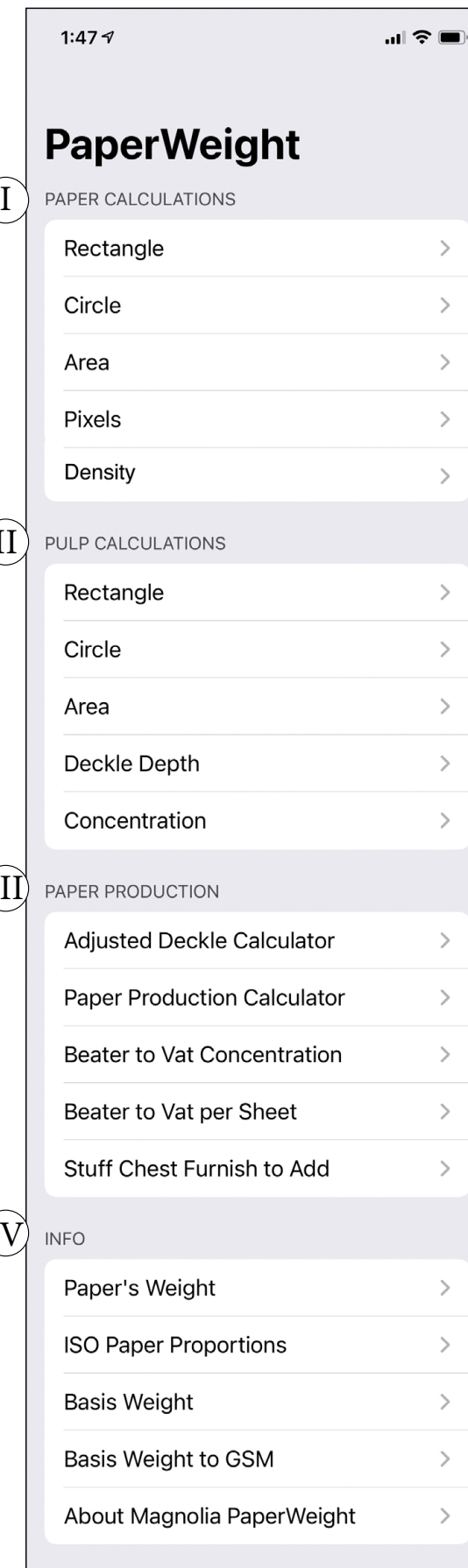
**The Formula:** (used in the *PaperWeight* app)

To find the grammage ( $g/m^2$ ) of a rectangular sheet (long-hand), we can use this formula:

$$(\text{mass (g)} \times 10,000) \div \text{sq cm} = g/m^2$$



**PaperWeight Menus** – divided into four sections:



**I. Paper Calculations:** Calculate a paper's grammage (weight) expressed as grams per square meter ( $\text{g/m}^2$ ) for:

- **Rectangular** paper
- **Circular** paper
- **Area**  $\text{cm}^2$
- **Pixel** count in Photoshop for irregular and torn sheets.
- **Density** expressed in  $\text{g/cm}^3$

**II. Pulp Calculation:** Determine the amount of dry fiber needed to make a sheet of specific weight ( $\text{g/m}^2$ ) and dimensions:

- **Rectangular** sheet
- **Circular** sheet
- **Surface area**
- **Deckle Depth:** Here, you can find the pulp ( $\text{g/L}$ ) concentration required to make a paper of a specified weight ( $\text{g/m}^2$ ) by entering the height of a paper mould's deckle. This data is ideal for a deckle box papermaking.
- **Concentration:** ( $\text{g/L}$ ): Enter the mass of dry fiber in any amount of water to find the concentration in grams per liter.

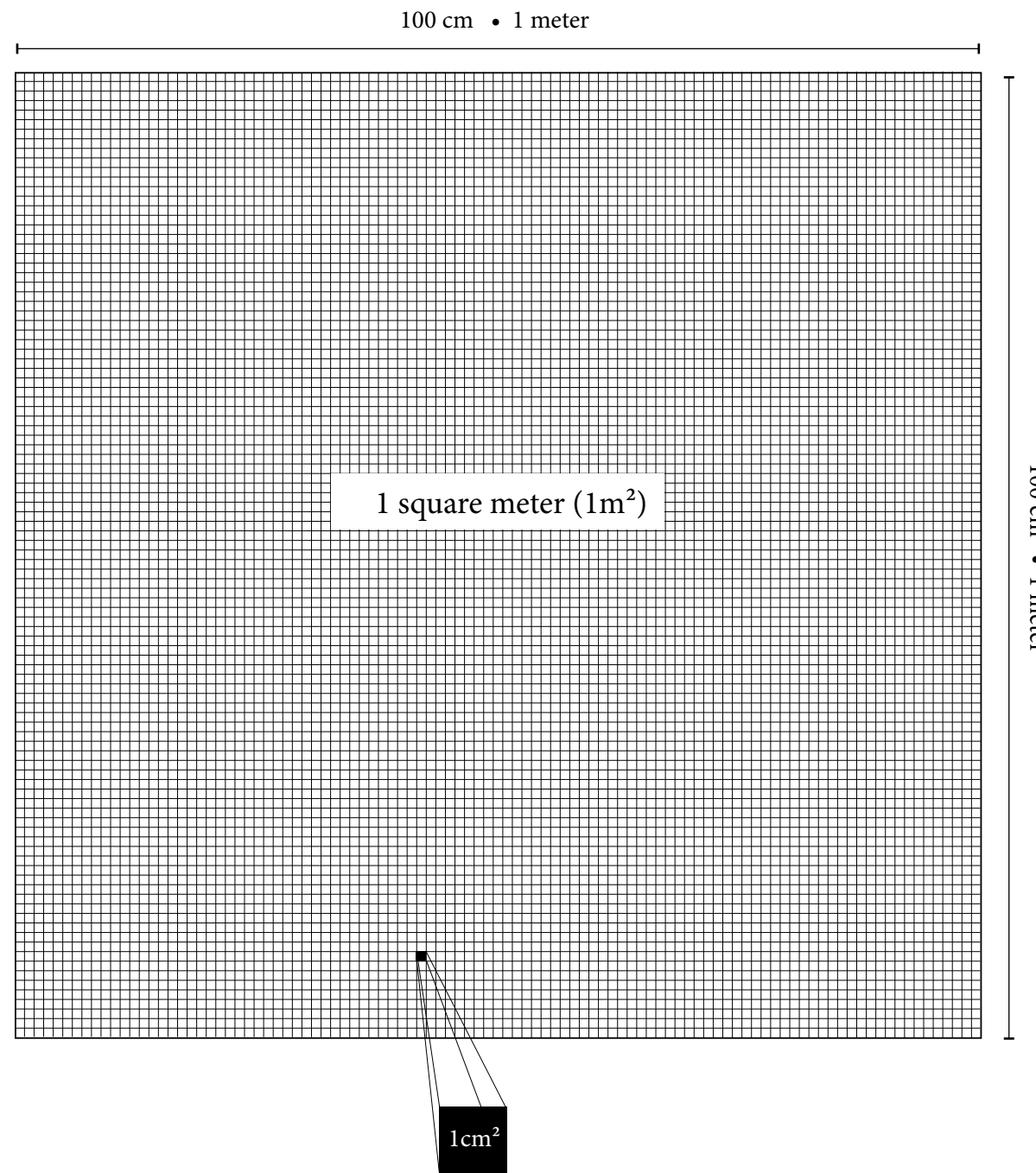
**III. Paper Production:**

- **Adjusted Deckle Calculator:** computes the Volume of furnish used per sheet formed at a vat and provides a conceptual (adjusted) deckle height corresponding to the volume of liquid passing through the mould when a sheet is formed.
- **Paper Production Calculator:** computes various aspects of producing a specified number of sheets of a specific weight and dimensions.
- **Beater to Vat Concentration:** Calculate the optimum amount of additional water ( $\pm$ ) needed to arrive at a concentration perfect for a specific paper grammage.
- **Beater to Vat per Sheet:** This menu item calculates the volume of beaten pulp to be added to the vat after each sheet is formed.

**IV. Info:**

- **Paper's Weight:** Description of paper weight ( $\text{g/m}^2$ )
- **ISO (216)** is an international standard for paper sizes. All ISO paper sizes have the same aspect ratio,  $\sqrt{2}:1$ .
- **Basis Weight** Description
- **Basis Weight to Grams per Square Meter** ( $\text{g/m}^2$ )
- **About Magnolia PaperWeight**

## Grams per Square Meter



1meter

mass = 120g  
Height = 100cm  
Width = 100cm  
weight (density) = **120g/m<sup>2</sup>**

1meter

mass = 11.88g  
H = 33cm  
w = 30cm  
= **120g/m<sup>2</sup>**

33cm

30cm

9:39 Back Rectangle

Imperial Metric

Mass 120 g

Width 100 cm

Height 100 cm

**Weight 120.00 g/m<sup>2</sup>**

Finding the weight of a sheet of

9:34 Back Rectangle

Mass 11.88 g

Width 30 cm

Height 33 cm

**Weight 120.00 g/m<sup>2</sup>**

Finding the weight of a sheet of paper:

1. Enter the mass in grams
2. Enter the dimensions in

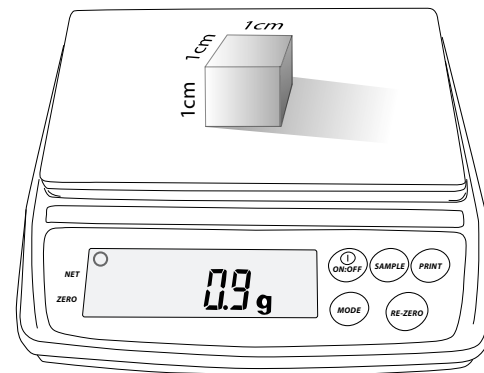
1 2 3  
4 5 6  
7 8 9  
0

The diagram illustrates the process of calculating the weight of a paper fragment. It shows a 1m x 1m sheet with a mass of 120g and a density of 120g/m<sup>2</sup>. A smaller fragment of 30cm x 33cm is shown with a mass of 11.88g, which also has a density of 120g/m<sup>2</sup>. Two calculator screenshots show the calculation of the weight of a sheet of paper based on mass and dimensions, resulting in a weight of 120.00 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

To calculate the weight (grammage) in the metric system, we theoretically enlarge the sheet to one square meter without changing other variables (such as density and moisture content), then determine its weight in those dimensions.

In the example illustration above, notice the weight (mass) of one square meter of paper is 120g, and how any fragment of that paper retains the same weight of 120g/m<sup>2</sup>.

# Paper Density



Grams per centimeter cubed ( $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ , or  $\text{g}/\text{cc}$ )

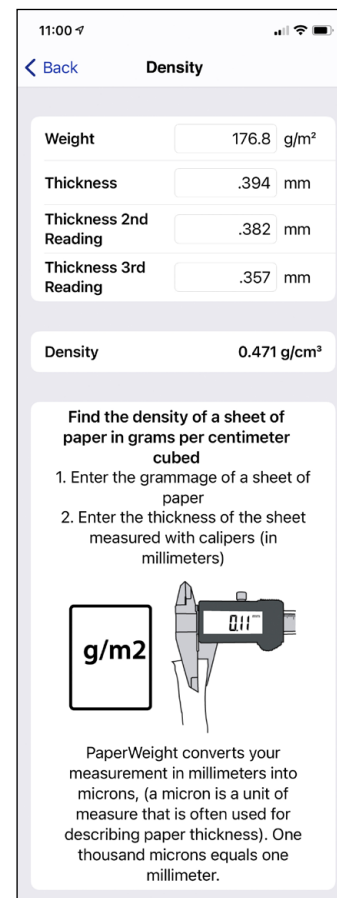
**Paper density** is a paper's mass per unit volume. A paper's density can be calculated by dividing a paper's grammage ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ ) by its caliper (in microns).

Imagine your paper as a cube measuring 1cm x 1cm x 1cm; what would it weigh? That weight, expressed as  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ , is the paper's density.

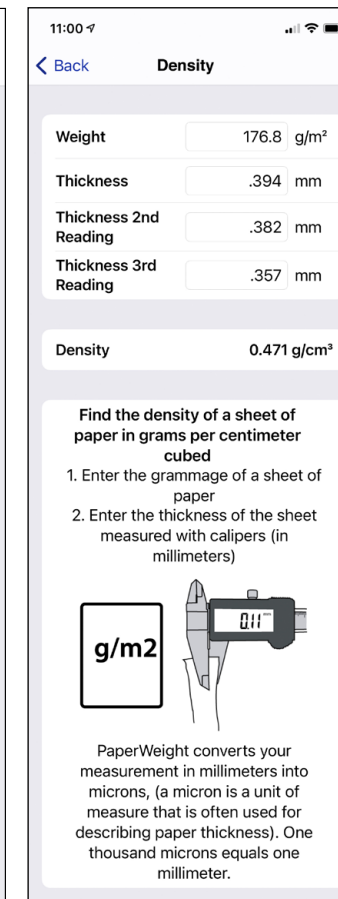
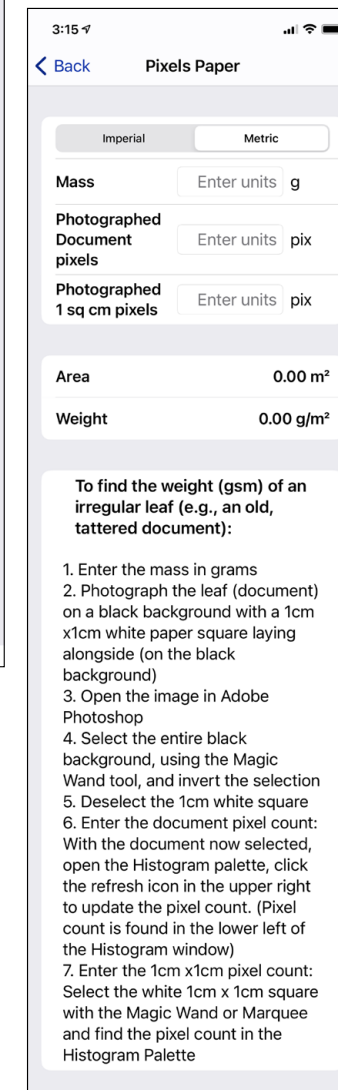
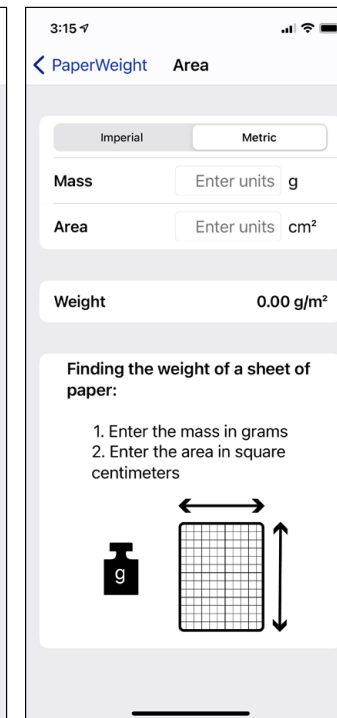
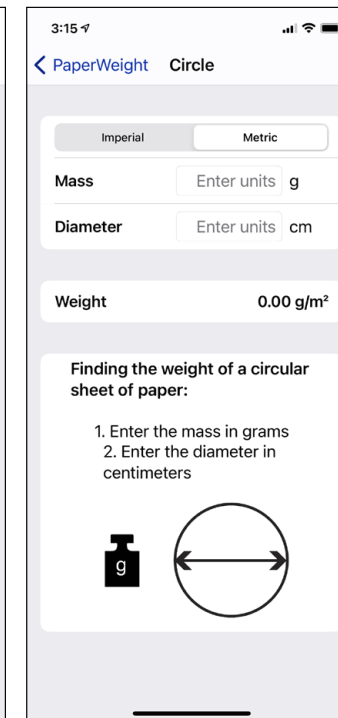
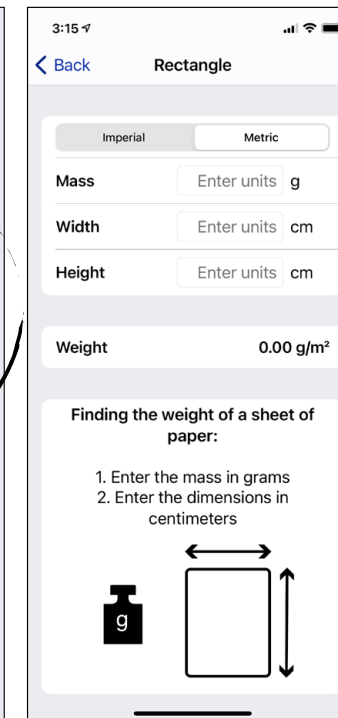
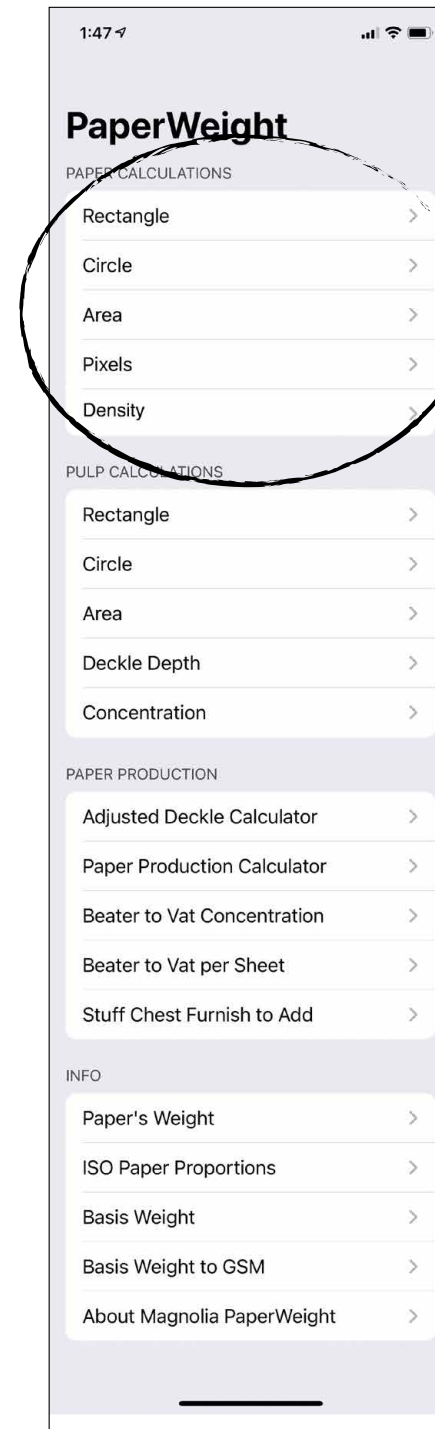
A paper's density is determined by many factors, including duration of processing (beating time). Longer processing creates a paper of more density. Also, density can be increased with a gelatin or starch size and calendaring or decreased by air-drying paper. Additionally, density tends to be higher if the pulp containing hemicellulose (like bast fibers: kozo, mitsumata, gampi, abaca, or flax).

Tissue paper	0.25-0.50
Book Paper	0.72
Bond Paper	0.75
Cover Stock	0.92
Coated & Super Calendared	1.11 - 1.16
Glassine	1.16-1.52

Using hand-operated micrometers will give varied results, density numbers not consistent with industry standards. However, within your own studio, using such a caliper will inform the relationship between processing, sizing, pressing and drying within your own papermaking environment.

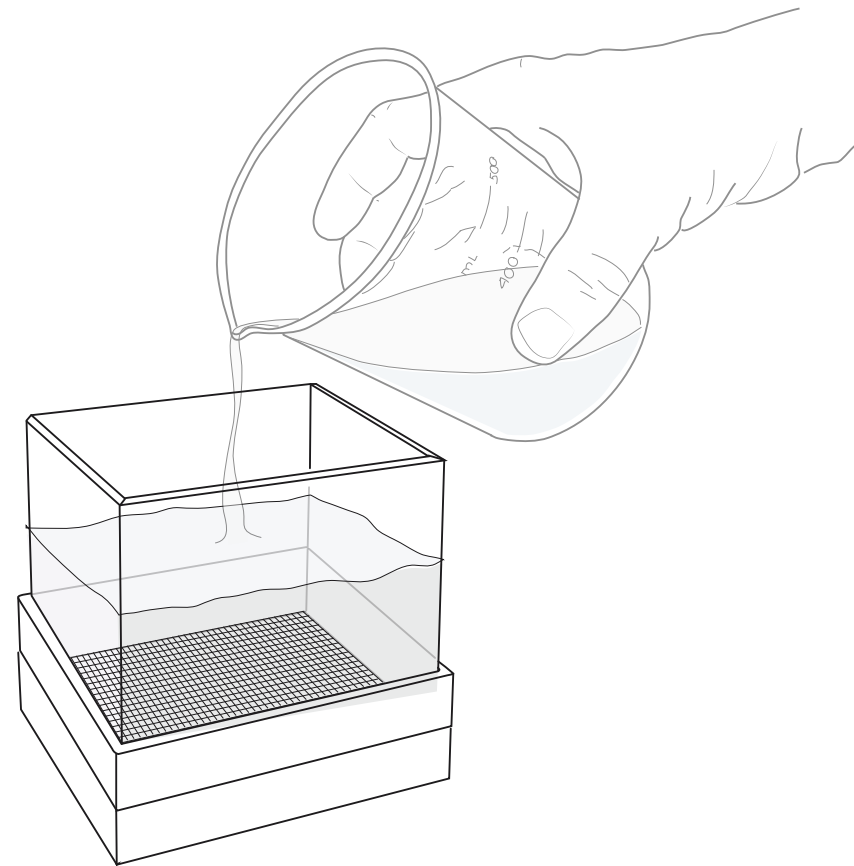


# I. Paper Calculations Menu group



## II. Pulp Calculations Menu group

This group of menus focuses on the weight of dry fiber necessary to make a sheet of a specified height, width (or diameter in the case of circular paper), and weight (aka grammage,  $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ , GSM)



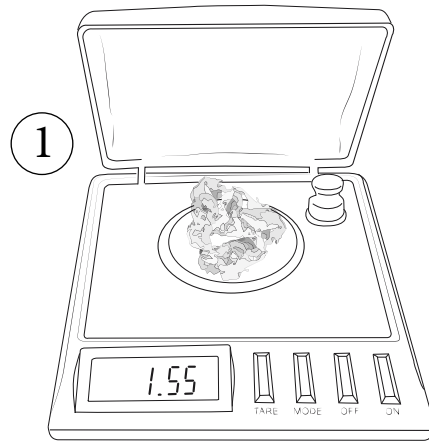
The screenshots show the following menus:

- PaperWeight**: Main menu with sections for Paper Calculations (Rectangle, Circle, Area, Pixels, Density), Pulp Calculations (Rectangle, Circle, Area, Deckle Depth, Concentration), Paper Production (Adjusted Deckle Calculator, Paper Production Calculator, Beater to Vat Concentration, Beater to Vat per Sheet, Stuff Chest Furnish to Add), and Info (Paper's Weight, ISO Paper Proportions, Basis Weight, Basis Weight to GSM, About Magnolia PaperWeight).
- Rectangle Pulp/Fiber**: Inputs for Target Weight ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ ), Height (cm), and Width (cm). Output: Fiber Weight (0.00 g). Instructions: 1. Enter Target GSM, 2. Enter Target sheet dimensions. Includes a diagram of a rectangle and a scale.
- Circle Pulp/Fiber**: Inputs for Target Weight ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ ) and Diameter (cm). Output: Fiber Weight (0.00 g). Instructions: 1. Enter the target GSM, 2. Enter the target diameter. Includes a diagram of a circle and a scale.
- Area Pulp/Fiber**: Inputs for Target Weight ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ ) and Area ( $\text{cm}^2$ ). Output: Fiber Weight (0.00 g). Instructions: 1. Enter the target gsm, 2. Enter the target area in square centimeters. Includes a diagram of a grid and a scale.
- Deckle Pulp/Fiber**: Inputs for Target Weight ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ ) and Deckle Depth (cm). Output: Pulp Concentration (0.00 g/L). Instructions: 1. Enter the target weight in  $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ , 2. Enter the depth of your deckle in centimeters. Includes a diagram of a deckle box.
- Pulp Concentration**: Inputs for Dry Mass (g) and Liquid Volume (ml). Output: Pulp Concentration (0.00 g/L). Instructions: 1. Enter the weight of dry fiber in grams, 2. Enter the volume of liquid in milliliters. Includes a diagram of a scale and a beaker.

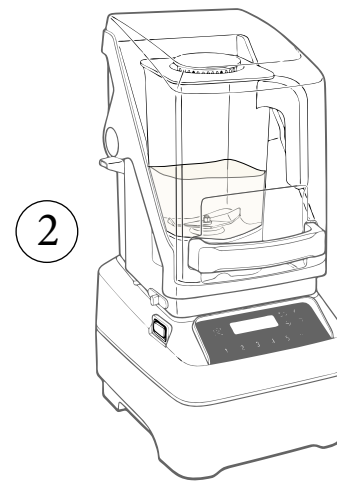
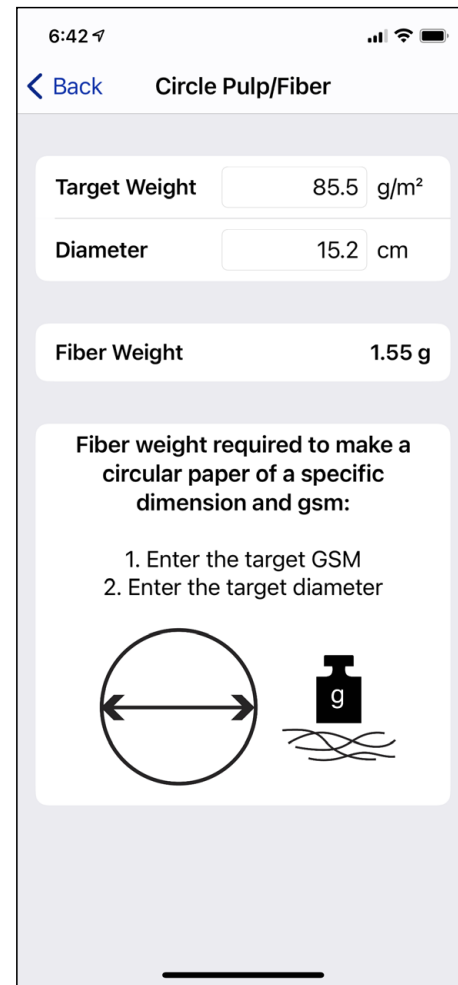
Knowing the dry weight of fiber per sheet, (round, circular or odd shaped), for a specific grammage is perfect for leaf casting, deckle box and pouring a sheet. For paper made at the vat, see the *Paper Production Calculator* menu.



## Using the *Circle Pulp/Fiber* menu Step-by-step

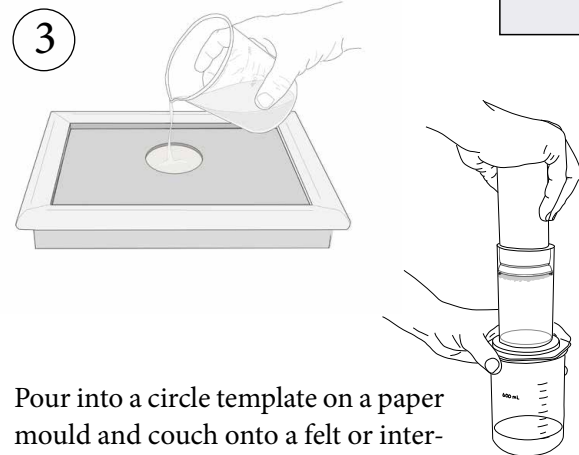


**Select & weigh fiber:** Use the *Paper-Weight* app to calculate the weight of fiber needed for a specific  $g/m^2$  paper.

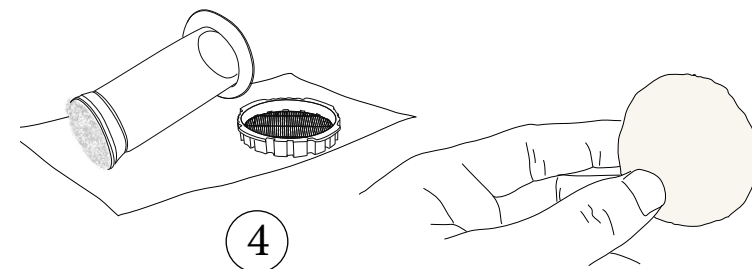


Soak the fibers for an hour (or more) before blending to increase the tear and tensile strength.

After a good soak, blend until fibers are separated and add any furnish additives (pigment, retention aid, formation aid, buffering agents, etc.), at which point, mix very gently.

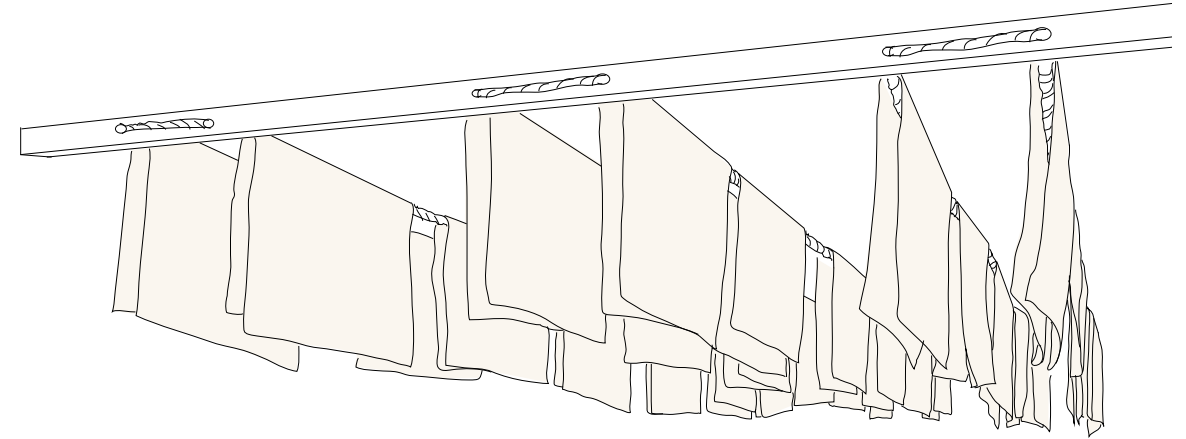


Pour into a circle template on a paper mould and couch onto a felt or interfacing. Alternatively, use a modified Arrow coffee press (with a screen instead of a coffee filter), pour in your furnish, insert (a felt tipped) Plunger into Cylinder, and press slowly.



Blot and/or hot-press dry. The circular sheet will most likely be very close to your target  $g/m^2$ , in this example weighing 1.5g. Slightly more  $g/m^2$  in high humidity and less in a dry climate. It's important to use all the furnish in the pour, using the complete weight of dry fiber required in order to achieve your target  $g/m^2$ .

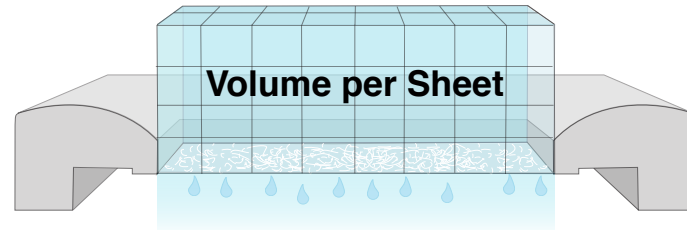
## III. Paper Production



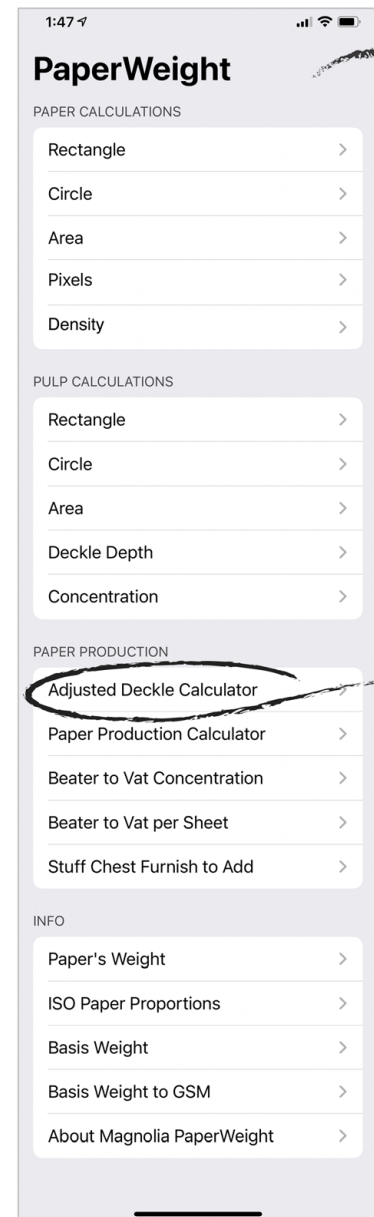
## Adjusted Deckle Depth Calculator

The furnish volume required to form a given sheet can be thought of as a cube that fits nicely in the deckle. That cube's height is the conceptual "adjusted" deckle depth, describing the white water volume that passes through the mould when a sheet is formed at a vat. (It also includes the moisture in the sheet filtered out on the mould's screen surface.) Furnish characteristics, especially freeness and concentration, can dramatically affect the volume that will pass through a mould with each sheet formed. Therefore, it is advisable to recalculate *Volume per Sheet* and *Adjusted Deckle Height* for furnishes of different densities and those with longer or shorter processing time.

Knowing the volume and concentration used when forming a sheet in production is key to achieving a target grammage and understanding the quantities of pulp required to replenish the furnish while creating sheets in a production setting. This volume to sheet relationship is also used in Freeness testers and deckle box hand sheets.



The above illustration displays the furnish volume required to make a sheet and depicts a deckle's conceptual depth. i.e., if this were a closed system (like a deckle box), the height of the deckle would need to be that of the volume.

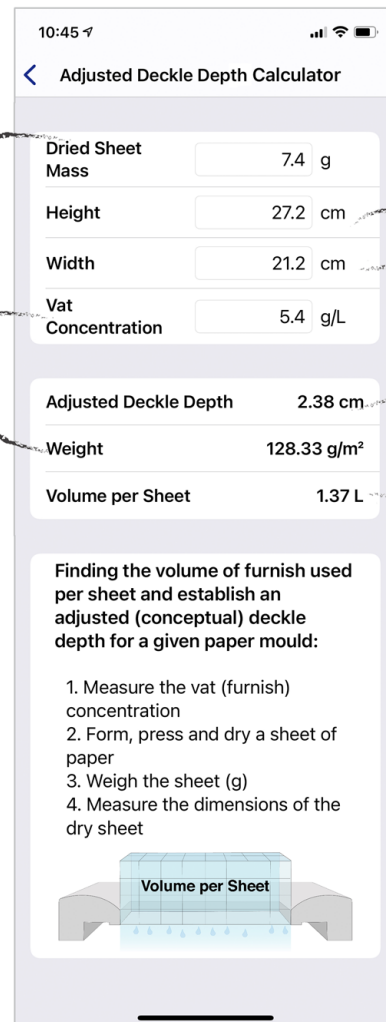


PaperWeight main menu

Enter the mass (weight in grams) of a dry sheet made using a vat with a known concentration.

Remove a liter of furnish from your vat, strain, dry, and weigh the sample to find the vat (furnish) concentration.

This is the weight (grammage) of the sheet described above.



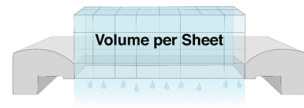
Enter the dimensions of the dried paper - height and width

This is the conceptual depth of your mould's deckle as if it were deep enough to hold the volume of furnish that flows through the mould in a single dip as you form a sheet.

This is the volume of furnish that flows through your mould for every sheet made.

Finding the volume of furnish used per sheet and establish an adjusted (conceptual) deckle depth for a given paper mould:

1. Measure the vat (furnish) concentration
2. Form, press and dry a sheet of paper
3. Weigh the sheet (g)
4. Measure the dimensions of the dry sheet



## The Paper Production Calculator

The *Paper Production Calculator* computes various aspects of producing a specified number of sheets of a specific weight and dimensions, for practitioners of traditional handmade paper making:

**Data entry:** (what you enter)

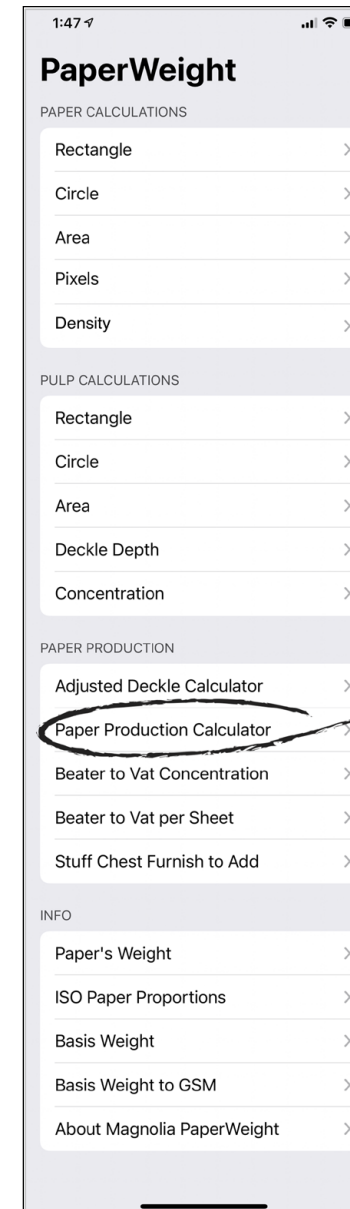
- Target weight (grammage)
- The dimension of your mould including deckle depth

- How many sheets in the production run.
- Your vat and beater volumes.
- The dry weight of fiber in each beater load

**Results:**

1. The weight of dry fiber required for each sheet.
2. The amount of furnish necessary for each sheet.
3. The weight of fiber needed to charge your vat.
4. The concentration in the vat to maintain to form sheets of your specified g/m<sup>2</sup> and dimensions.
5. The weight of dry fiber required to charge your vat.
6. The total weight of dry fiber necessary for this user-defined production run.

7. The pulp concentration in your beater.
8. The water adjustment to make per liter of beaten pulp to make your furnish the correct concentration to achieve a paper of your target weight.
9. The number of sheets in a liter of beaten pulp.
10. If you want to add pulp directly from beater to vat as you make each sheet this identifies the quantity you should add to maintain vat concentration.



PaperWeight main menu

Enter the height of your deckle x 2 ± or use the "Adjusted Deckle Calculator" for a more accurate estimation of deckle flow-through volume per sheet



Enter the number of perfect sheets you plan on making

Enter the amount of furnish required to fill your vat

This lets you know the grams of dry fiber required to make a sheet

The target concentration to maintain in your vat

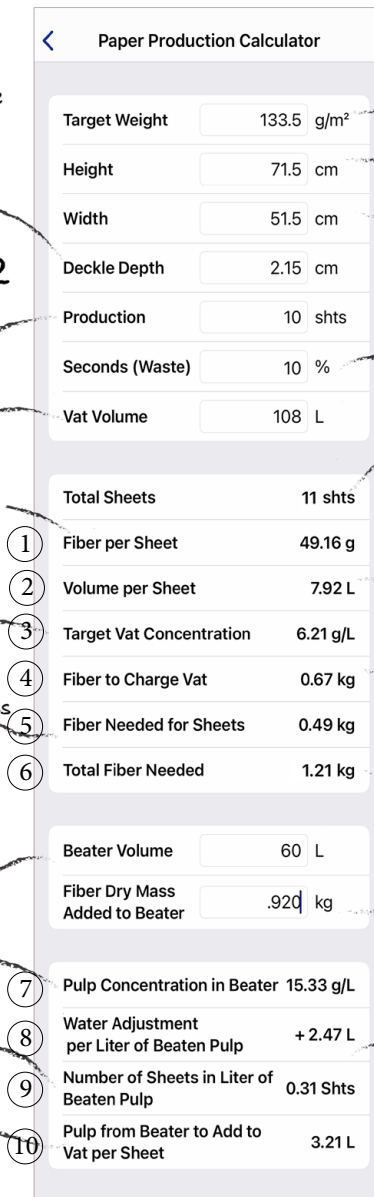
After charging your vat, this is the weight of dry fiber (processed into furnish) that you will need to make your production goal

Enter number of liters it takes to fill your beater

The beater's concentration, expressed in grams per liter

This result lets you know the number of sheets in a liter of beaten pulp

...which leads to the next result; the amount of beaten pulp (ml) you need to add to the vat per sheet formed



Enter the weight in Grams per Square Meter of the paper you intend to make

Enter the height and width of your paper based on the inner dimensions of your paper mould's deckle

Enter the percentage of flawed sheets you typically make.

This is the number of sheets you will need to make in order to meet your production goal

The amount of furnish used every time you form a sheet

This is the dry weight of fiber (processed into furnish) needed to charge your vat

This is the total dry weight of fiber you will need to process in order to both charge your vat and make your production

Enter mass (kg) of fiber you will be processing in your beater

This result lets you know the amount of water to add or subtract per liter of beaten pulp to make the correct furnish for your specified g/m<sup>2</sup>

## The Beater to Vat Concentration Calculator

Charging your vat to begin a new session of paper production: Use this calculator to calculate the dilution of beater pulp to achieve the fiber concentration. There are essential factors to consider when processing fiber in a Hollander beater; one key variable is pulp concentration (fiber to water ratios in the beater). A lower fiber ratio to water allows for more cutting action in the beater, while a higher fiber concentration produces more hydration and fibrillation. Therefore, concentrations vary depending on the desired characteristics of the finished paper.

Typically a beater load of beaten pulp is not considered “furnish” ready for papermaking; typically, water, fillers, and chemicals are most often added to achieve a viable furnish. Using *Beater to Vat Concentration*, you can find the optimum amount of additional water needed to arrive at a concentration perfect for a specific paper grammage. Determining the optimum Target vat concentration can be calculated in the Paper Production Calculator, included in *Magnolia PaperWeight*. This data is also available in the *Paper Production Calculator*, but here, in this menu, as a stand-alone

**PaperWeight**  
PAPER CALCULATIONS

- Rectangle
- Circle
- Area
- Pixels
- Density

PULP CALCULATIONS

- Rectangle
- Circle
- Area
- Deckle Depth
- Concentration

PAPER PRODUCTION

- Adjusted Deckle Calculator
- Paper Production Calculator
- Beater to Vat Concentration**
- Beater to Vat per Sheet
- Stuff Chest Furnish to Add

INFO

- Paper's Weight
- ISO Paper Proportions
- Basis Weight
- Basis Weight to GSM
- About Magnolia PaperWeight

**Beater to Vat Concentration**

Beater Volume: 23 L  
 Fiber Dry Mass: .36 kg  
 Pulp Concentration: 15.65 g/L  
 Target vat concentration: 12.01 g/L  
 Initial Water Adjustment per Liter of Beaten Pulp: +0.30 L

Find the water necessary for the initial charging of vat:

1. Enter Beater Volume
2. Enter Fiber Dry Mass added to the beater
3. Enter the Target Vat Concentration

*Annotations:*  
 - PaperWeight main menu (points to the app title)  
 - Enter number of liters (water) required to fill your beater (points to Beater Volume)  
 - Enter mass (kg) of fiber you will be adding and processing in your beater. (points to Fiber Dry Mass)  
 - This result is the the beater's concentration, expressed in grams per liter (points to Pulp Concentration)  
 - This result lets you know the amount of water to add or subtract per liter of beaten pulp for a perfect furnish for making a specific density paper the first time you fill your vat. (points to Initial Water Adjustment)  
 - Next, enter the target (grams per liter). You can arrive at a concentration for a desired grammage (GSM) by using the Paper Production Calculator in this app. (points to Target vat concentration)

## Beater to Vat per Sheet

(Pulp from beater necessary to replenish vat after a sheet is made)

The elements in the *Beater to Vat per Sheet* menu can also be found as part of *Paper Production Calculator*. The *Beater to Vat per Sheet* calculator helps determine the volume of beaten pulp to be added to the vat after each sheet is formed. Start by inputting your beater's water volume and the dry weight of fiber you will be processing (kg) to discover your beater's pulp concentration (g/L). You will need to enter the mass (g) of a target sheet in the Fiber per sheet field which can be calculated using the menu *Pulp Calculations – Rectangle*.

**PaperWeight**  
PAPER CALCULATIONS

- Rectangle
- Circle
- Area
- Pixels
- Density

PULP CALCULATIONS

- Rectangle
- Circle
- Area
- Deckle Depth
- Concentration

PAPER PRODUCTION

- Adjusted Deckle Calculator
- Paper Production Calculator
- Beater to Vat per Sheet**
- Stuff Chest Furnish to Add

INFO

- Paper's Weight
- ISO Paper Proportions
- Basis Weight
- Basis Weight to GSM
- About Magnolia PaperWeight

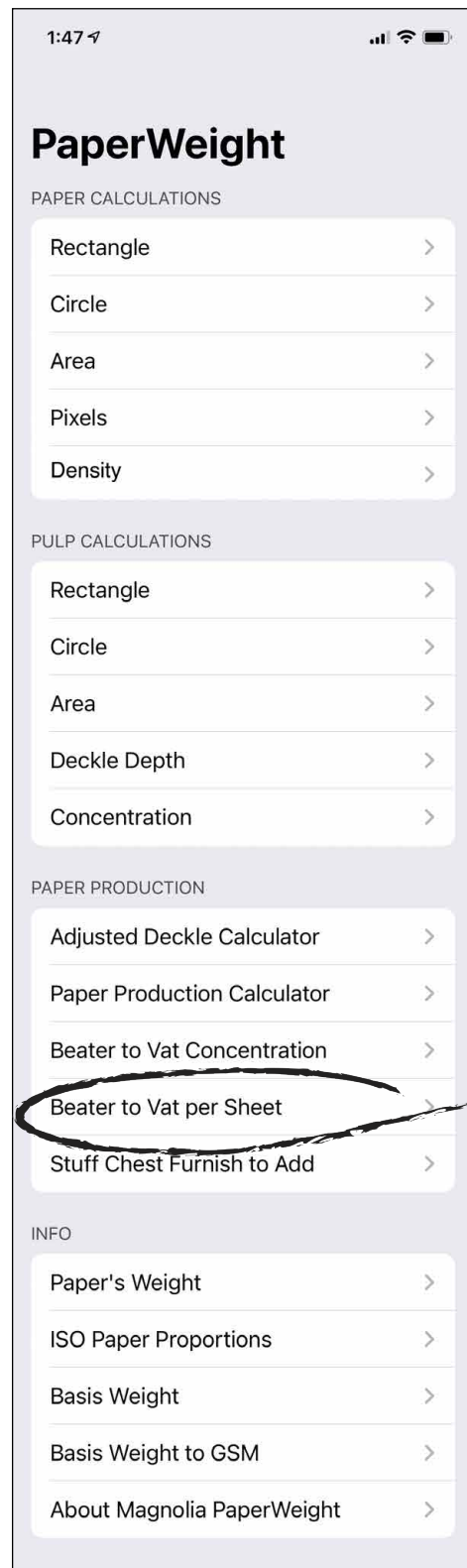
**Beater to Vat per sheet**

Beater Volume: 23 L  
 Fiber Dry Mass: .36 kg  
 Pulp Concentration: 15.65 g/L  
 Fiber per sheet: 33.67 g  
 Number of sheets in liter of beaten pulp: 0.46 sheets  
 Pulp from beater to add to vat per sheet: 2,151.14 ml

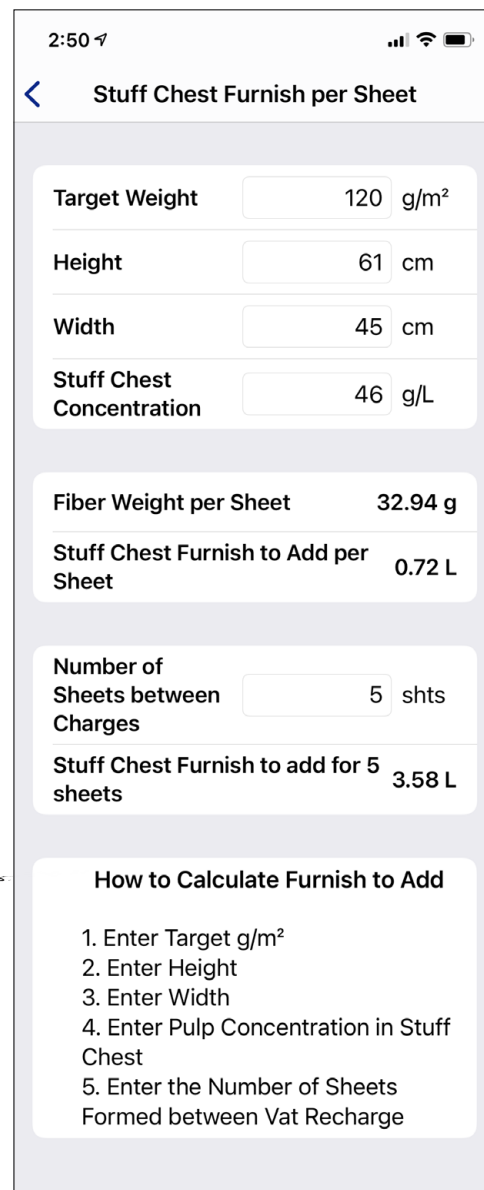
*Annotations:*  
 - PaperWeight main menu (points to the app title)  
 - Enter number of liters it takes to fill your beater (points to Beater Volume)  
 - Enter mass (kg) of fiber you will be adding and processing in your beater (points to Fiber Dry Mass)  
 - This result lets you know the beater's concentration, expressed in grams per liter (points to Pulp Concentration)  
 - This result lets you know the number of sheets in a liter of beaten pulp (points to Number of sheets in liter of beaten pulp)  
 - ...which leads to the following result; the amount of beaten pulp (ml) you need to add to the vat per sheet formed (points to Pulp from beater to add to vat per sheet)  
 - For the result in liters, move the decimal point over three places = 2.15 liter per sheet formed (points to Pulp from beater to add to vat per sheet)  
 - Next, enter the mass of one sheet you will be making; either by weighting an existing sheet from a previous run or by calculating the mass using the Pulp Calculations menu group – Rectangle menu in this app (points to Fiber per sheet)



## Stuff Chest to Vat per Sheet



PaperWeight  
main menu



Enter the weight in Grams per Square Meter of the paper you intend to make

Enter the height and width of your paper based on the inner dimensions of your paper mould's deckle

Enter the concentration of the furnish in your stuff chest

Enter the Number of sheets you would like to make between vat re-charges.

The app provides you with the quantity of furnish to add to the vat from your stuff.

I generally don't charge my vat by dumping pulp directly from the beater into the vat. I like to blend batches of processed pulp in a *Stuff Chest*, thereby combining multiple beater loads to achieve a homogenized furnish and more consistent finished paper results.

Blending batches of slowly beaten pulp (a stock with increased bonding potential) with fibers pounded hard and fast create a sheet with more diverse characteristics; the dimensional stability, shorter fibers, and better look-through provided by the hard beating "free" pulp and the rattle and tensile strength of the slowly processed fibers.

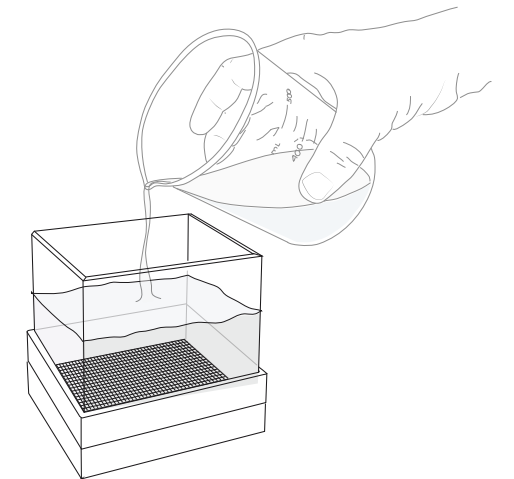
With my furnish blended in the stuff chest, the vat charged, and a specific weight paper in mind, how much furnish do I add per sheet to make the paper of my desired weight?

Because I don't have a "hog" (an automatic stirring device in my vat), I prefer not to replenish my vat between each sheet formed – it slows me down. I like to pull four or five sheets between vat replenishing.

With the *Furnish-per-Sheet menu*, you can calculate the replenishment volume for any number of pulled sheets.

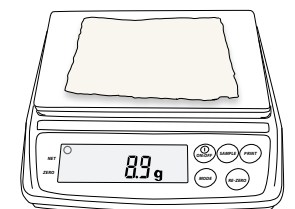
First, find the furnish concentration in your stuff chest. Then, in the app, enter the target grammage, the sheet's height and width, the grams per liter in the stuff chest, and the number of pulls between charges. The app lets you know the volume of stuff-chest-furnish to add per specified number of sheets pulled.

## Determine Stuff Chest Concentration

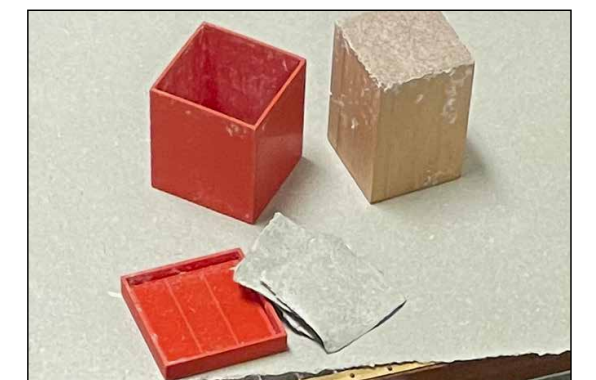


Form a small sheet from 500ml of stuff-chest-furnish.

Once made and dry, weigh the sheet (grams) and multiply by two to find the **grams per liter** of the furnish in your stuff chest.

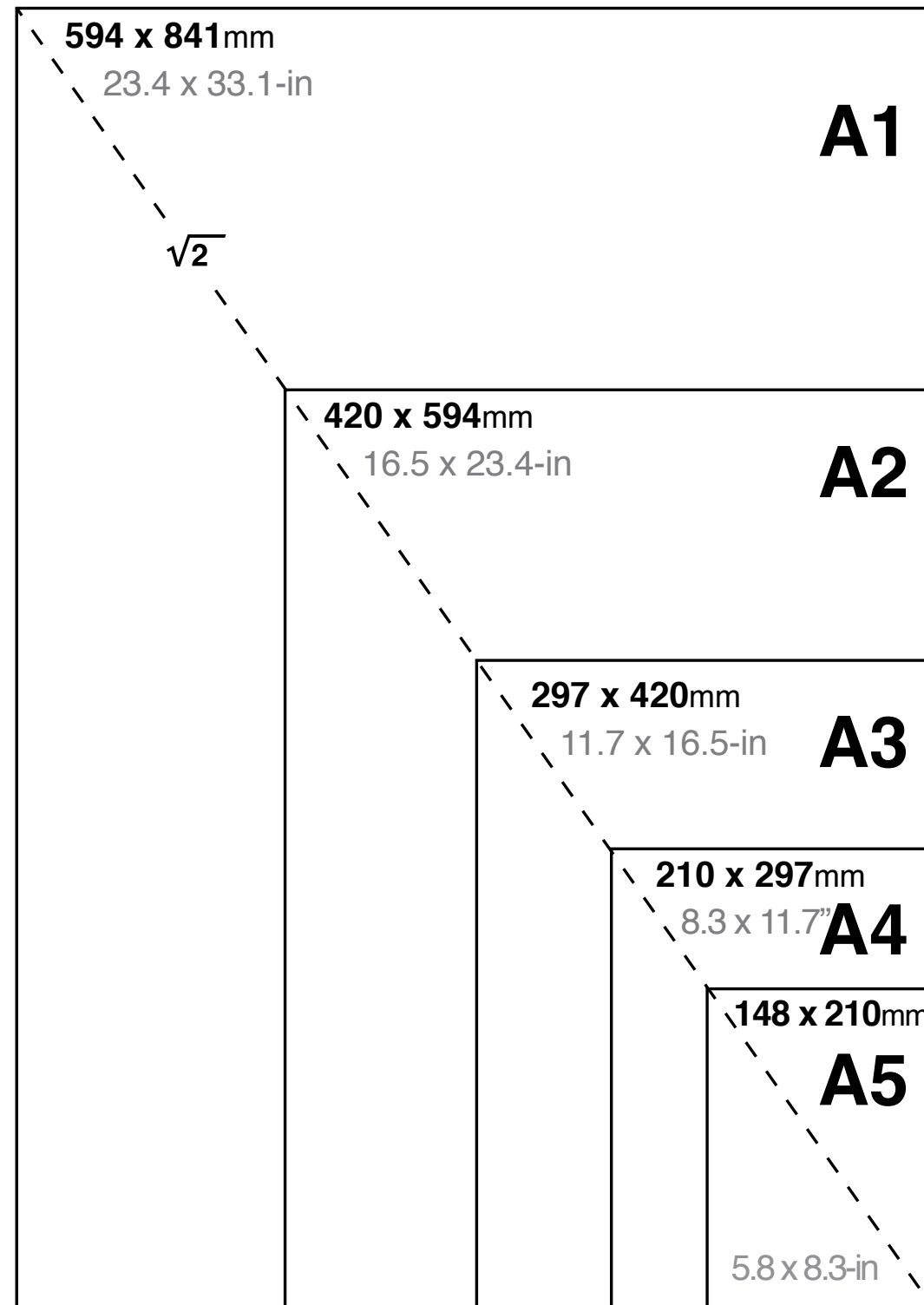


Weighing a sheet made from 500ml of stuff chest furnish. Multiply  $\times 2$  to find a concentration of 17.8 g/L

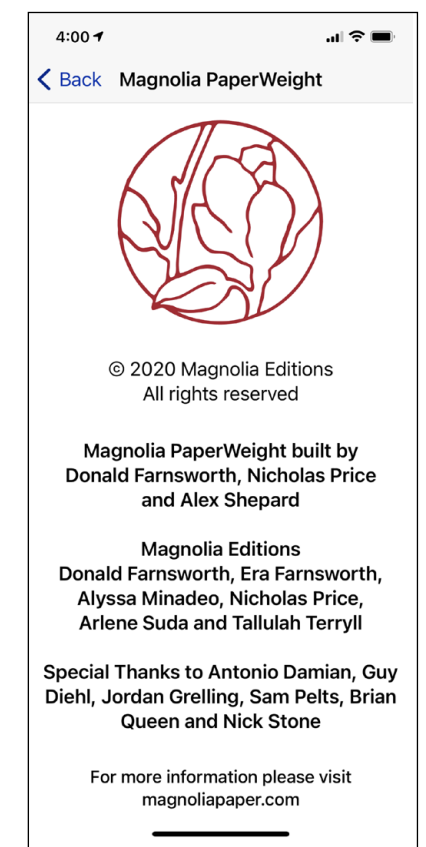
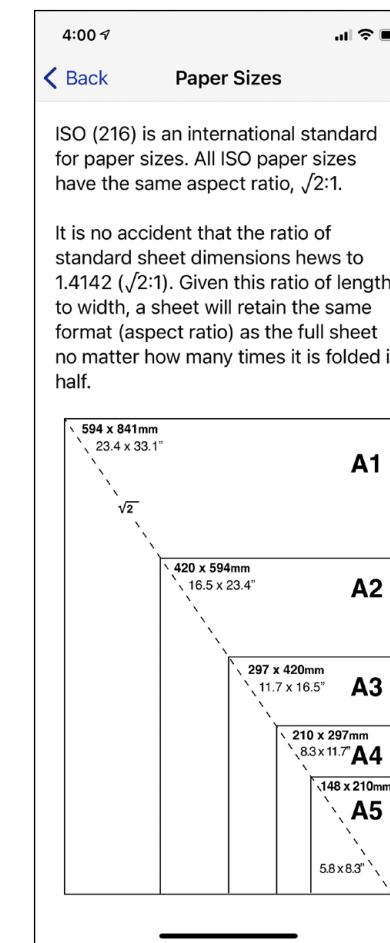
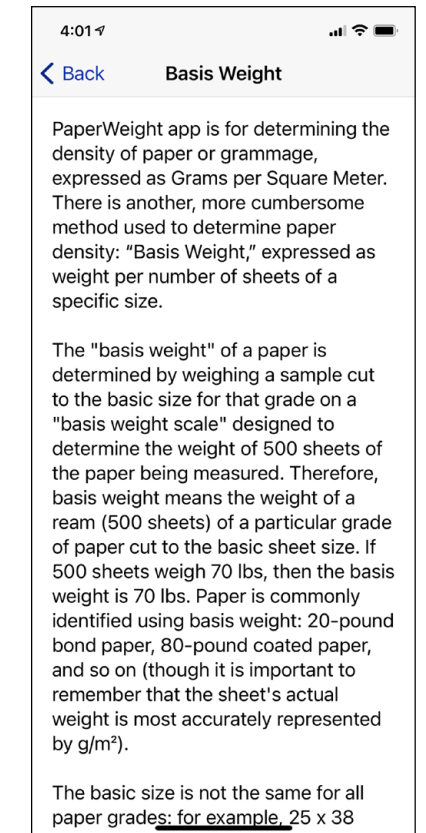
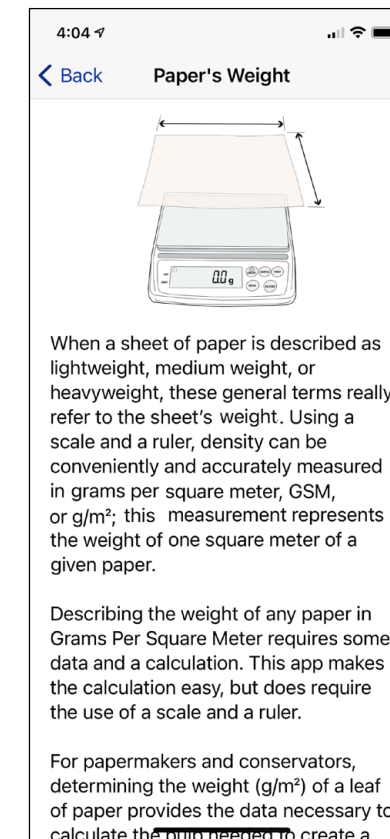
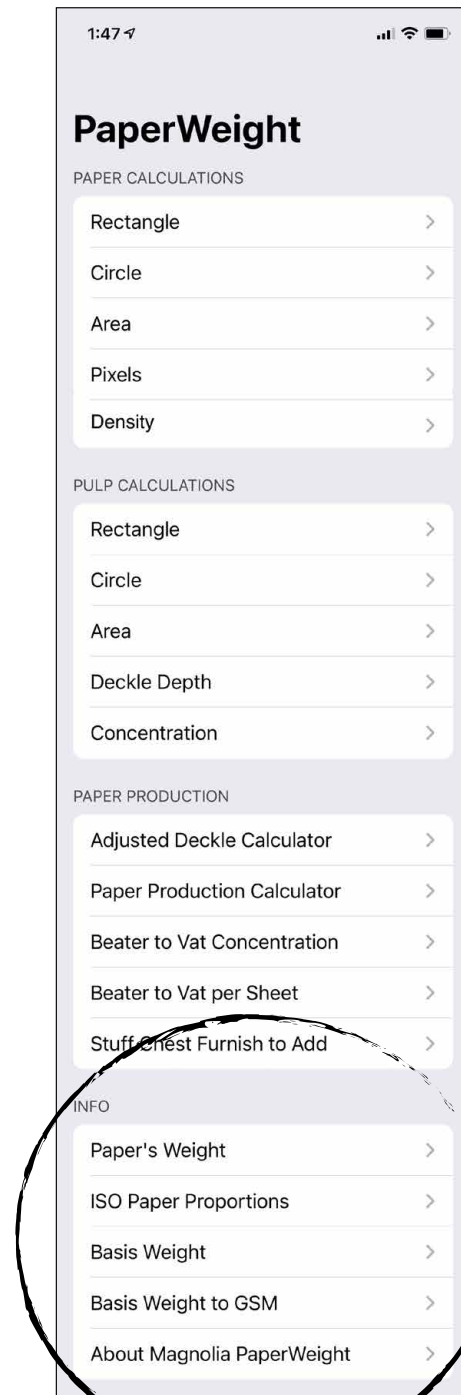


Test sheet made to determine stuff chest concentration

## IV. Info Menus



ISO Paper sizes



## A test production run of 40 sheets

If you pour a quantity furnish containing a know amount of dry fiber into a mould and deckle, the fiber trapped on the screen forms a sheet of know weight and dimension (and therefore grammage). Whereas, if you form a sheet at a vat of known concentration you can only know the grammage, the amount of dry fiber you are removing, if you have previously determined the volume passing through and trapped by your mould and deckle.

Thanks to Nicholas Price and Alex Sheppard, our ace programmers, I have a beta version of the *PaperWeight* App with the newly added *Adjusted Deckle Calculation* and *Paper Production Calculator*. These tools (calculators) can help us find these volumes. Let's put these two menu items to the test and make a production run of paper. Is it beneficial and easy to use? Is it accurate?

I am confident the app will help with consistency and simplify the analytical approach to a production paper run. Still, nothing worthwhile is easy. Now we must make test sheets, measure volumes, concentrations, and check the grammage. There are many variables to contend with when the goal is the making of consistent sheets.

Key variables that influence g/m<sup>2</sup> repeatability:

- Freeness
- Beater and vat (furnish) concentrations
- Vat furnish temperature
- Paper mould's screen porosity
- Deckle depth
- The vatman's skill

5:58

### Adjusted Deckle Calculation

Dried sheet mass	7.06 g
Height	28 cm
Width	21 cm
Vat Concentration	5.00 g/L

Adjusted Deckle Depth	2.4 cm
Weight	120 g/m <sup>2</sup>
Fiber per Sheet	7.06 g
Volume per Sheet	1.41 L

1. Measure the vat (furnish) concentration
2. Form, press and dry a sheet of paper
3. Weigh the sheet (g)
4. Measure the dimensions of the dry sheet

Volume per sheet

For this first test of the beta software, I will use the app to guide me while making 40 sheets of 8½ x 11 inch, 16th-century style rag paper, with a target weight of 120 g/m<sup>2</sup>. That is to say, laid sheets couched on coarse handmade felts, air dried, made from Spanish flax half stuff, and animal-sized.

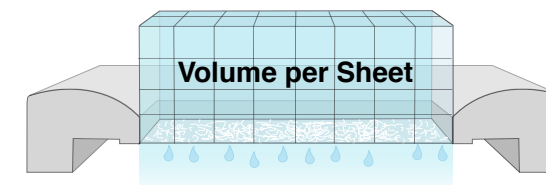
To key-in the data it is necessary for me to measure my deckle, find the Valley Iron Works beater volume and the volume at which I normally fill my small tub vat – easy enough.

- Deckle: 8.5 x 11.25 x 0.4 inches (28 x 21 x 1.2cm)
- Valley Iron Works Beater: 5 gal (18.9 liters)
- Small vat volume: 6.6 gals (360 L)

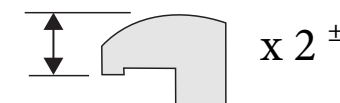
I entered the numbers above into the *Paper Production Calculator*. The app's answers describe the task ahead. I must process 0.44kg (1 lb) of dry fiber, of which 0.12kg (¼ lbs) will be used to charge the vat.

There is a relationship between the *deckle depth* and the volume of water that passes through the mould when sheet forming at a vat. Since the water flows through the mould as we dip, the volume is a moving target. In my verification tests on the following pages, I am finding that dipping and pulling up through the furnish use about 2x the deckle's volume.

On this day, I happened to have another vat with a 5g/L concentration (220CSF linen and hemp), so I formed a sheet using the same small mould we will be using in this test. Perfect results: the dry sheet's weight and vat concentration only agreed if I doubled the deckle's physical depth.



Using the *Adjusted Deckle Depth Calculator* in the app, I entered the *vat concentration* (5g/L), and sheet dimensions to make a 7g sheet (120 g/m<sup>2</sup>) in one normal dip. The result was approximately 2 x the deckle height. And now I know the furnish volume per sheet.



5:58

### Paper Production Calculator

Target Weight	120 g/m <sup>2</sup>
Height	28 cm
Width	21 cm
Adjusted Deckle Depth	2.4 cm
Production	40 shts
Seconds (Waste)	10 %
Vat Volume	25 L

Total Sheets	44 shts
Fiber per Sheet	7.06 g
Volume per Sheet	1.41 L
Target Vat Concentration	5.00 g/L
Fiber to Charge Vat	0.12 kg
Fiber Needed for Sheets	0.31 kg
Total Fiber Needed	0.44 kg

Beater Volume	18.9 L
Fiber Dry Mass Added to Beater	.44 kg

Pulp Concentration in Beater	23.28 g/L
Water Adjustment per Liter of Beaten Pulp	+ 4.66 L
Number of Sheets in Liter of Beaten Pulp	3.30 Shts
Pulp from Beater to Add to Vat per Sheet	0.30 L

Actual

116 g/sm<sup>2</sup>

6.5 g

4.5 g/L

22 g/L

0.30L

= 6.5 g  
Target 7.06g

## Verifying furnish concentration and furnish-per-sheet-formed volume

### Following the *Water Adjustment* recommendation:

For every liter of pulp I transferred from the beater to the vat I added 4.66 liters of water, in this way, filling my vat to the 25 liter mark (the *Vat Volume*).

At this point, before forming any sheets and because I am verifying the app, I take a concentration measurement of the vat.

Next, I would like to know the volume of pulp I am removing for every sheet formed; So, I couch into a tray and weight the result - 192g. (7g of which is fiber) So, looks like I am leaving about 1.2L of water in the vat with each sheet I form (minus the water the drips on the floor outside the vat). Since I will be adding 0.30L of pulp per sheet formed that works out pretty well to the specifications in the app.

<i>Volume per sheet</i>	= 1.41 Liters
<i>Couched volume</i>	- 0.19
<i>Drained outside vat</i>	- 0.11
<hr/>	
<i>Water remaining in vat</i>	= 1.11
<i>Pulp added per sheet</i>	+ 0.30
<hr/>	
	= 1.41 Liters

This works out very nicely, assuming I drain 110ml of water outside the vat as I make a sheet, and replenish with .30L of pulp from beater, (as per the instructions from the app) the vat concentration remains the same.

Time to make 44 sheets, adding 0.30L (300ml) of beaten pulp per sheet.



From left to right top to bottom: Beating, Testing Freeness, taking sample from vat, Pouring sample into Arrow Press, Paper Puck at tip of Arrow Press after pressing, The paper puck, Drying puck on inverted iron, weighing puck.

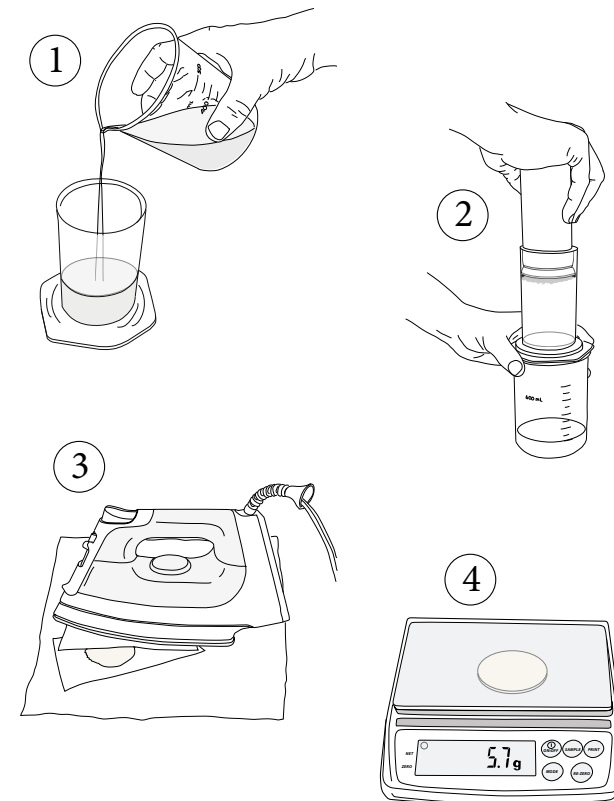
When making a sheet of a desired  $g/m^2$ , it is good to verify the concentration of furnish in the vat. After following the output provided by *PaperWeight / Paper Production Calculator* we can double check the predictions.

### Find the grams of dry fiber per liter in your vat:

- Stir the vat well.
  - Remove 1 liter of furnish, strain and blot.
  - Dry, the strained and blotted furnish (Oven, hotplate, iron or air-dry.)
  - Allow dried furnish to acclimatize then weigh.
- The result is the mass of dry fiber in one liter of furnish residing in your vat (g/L).

Removing a smaller amount is more convenient and less wasteful.

1. Scoop out 250ml of furnish.
2. Pour into an Arrow (coffee) Press (with substituted screen for a filter).
3. Allow the furnish drain, then insert plunger (with felt tip) and press firmly.
4. Dry and weigh the puck. Multiply the Arrow Press results by 4 to find the grams per liter (g/L).



Because Western-style papermaking dips a paper mould once per sheet, scooping out furnish onto the mould surface, it is not difficult to find the quantity of furnish used per sheet. Knowing the volume of furnish-per-sheet-formed can prove to be valuable data:

### Volume of furnish-per-sheet-formed

- From a vat of furnish with a known concentration (i.e., the above test), stir well and form a sheet using your standard style and technique.
- Couch and dry the sheet.
- Weigh the paper sheet. Note the result.

To find the volume per sheet:

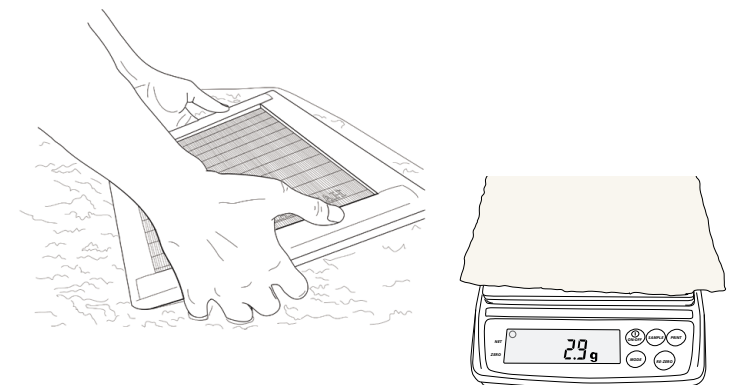
Divide the mass of the dry paper by the grams per liter from the above test.

- Compare the results to the predictions in *PaperWeight / Paper Production Calculator*.

Another data point of interest is the volume of water used and water left behind in the vat after forming a sheet.

### Volume of water used when forming per sheet formed

- Place a felt and plastic sheet (or a plastic tray) on a scale and press the tare button to zero out the scale.
- Form a sheet from a vat of known concentration. Couch the sheet on the felt and plastic (or into the plastic tray).
- Carefully place the plastic, felt (or tray), and wet paper onto the scale to find the weight of fiber and water volume used per sheet.
- Dry the paper and weigh it. Reference your vat concentration and the difference between your liquid weight and dry weight in the tray, and figuring the water left in the vat is simple math.



**Projected parameters**  
Working premise

Target Weight	120 g/m <sup>2</sup>
Height	70 cm
Width	50 cm
Deckle Depth	1 cm
Production	10 shts
Seconds (waste)	0 %
Vat Volume	100 L

Total Sheets	10 shts
Fiber per sheet	42.00 g
Volume per sheet	3.50 L
Target Vat concentration	12.00 g/L
Fiber to charge vat	1.20 kg
Fiber needed for sheets	0.42 kg
Total Fiber Needed	1.62 kg

Beater Volume	60 L
Fiber Dry Mass added to Beater	.920 kg

Pulp Concentration in Beater	15.33 g/L
Water Adjustment per liter of beaten pulp	+1.28 L
Number of sheets in liter of beaten pulp	0.37 sheets
Pulp from beater to add to vat per sheet	2,739.13 ml

**Actual empirical result**  
Note adjusted deckle depth

Target Weight	133.5 g/m <sup>2</sup>
Height	71.5 cm
Width	51.5 cm
Deckle Depth	2.15 cm
Production	10 shts
Seconds (waste)	0 %
Vat Volume	100 L

Total Sheets	10 shts
Fiber per sheet	49.16 g
Volume per sheet	7.92 L
Target Vat concentration	6.21 g/L
Fiber to charge vat	0.62 kg
Fiber needed for sheets	0.49 kg
Total Fiber Needed	1.11 kg

Beater Volume	60 L
Fiber Dry Mass added to Beater	.920 kg

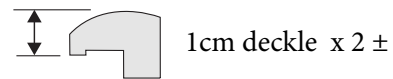
  

Pulp Concentration in Beater	15.33 g/L
Water Adjustment per liter of beaten pulp	+2.47 L
Number of sheets in liter of beaten pulp	0.31 sheets
Pulp from beater to add to vat per sheet	3,206.09 ml

**Using empirical data:**

Rather than taking my input numbers for granted (my working premise data entered), I followed the guidelines on the previous page and measured the volumes, dimensions and mass of the various elements of production papermaking. I started a new *Paper Production Calculator* and entered these very real numbers. Since *Target Vat concentration* is not user entered, I adjusted the *Deckle Depth* until my *vat concentration* and grammage numbers agreed with reality.

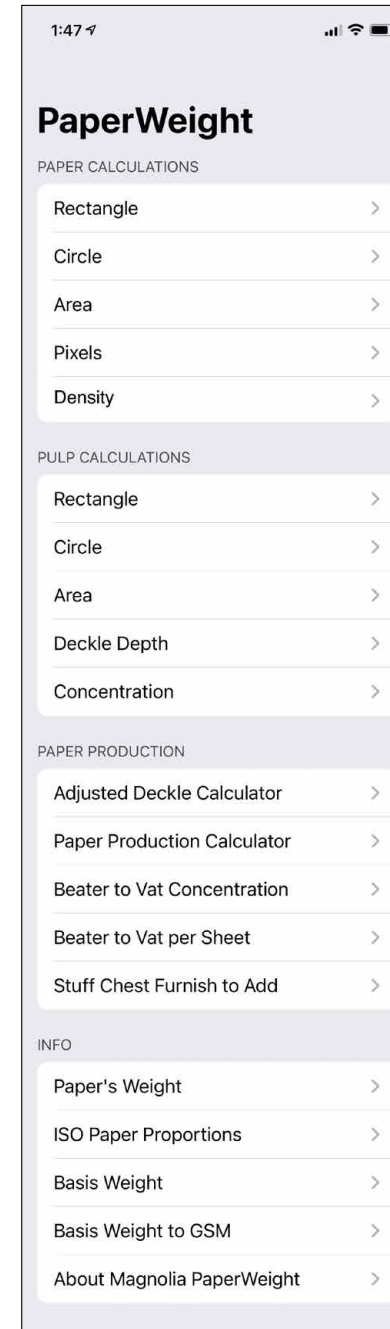
Actual Grammage = 133.5 g/m<sup>2</sup>  
 Actual deckle dimensions: 73 x 52 x 1.1cm = 4.18L  
 Felt constrained dried paper: 71.5cm x 51.5cm  
 Air dried paper dimensions: 70cm x 50cm  
 Actual dried paper mass 49.2 grams  
 Deckle depth adjusted = 2.15



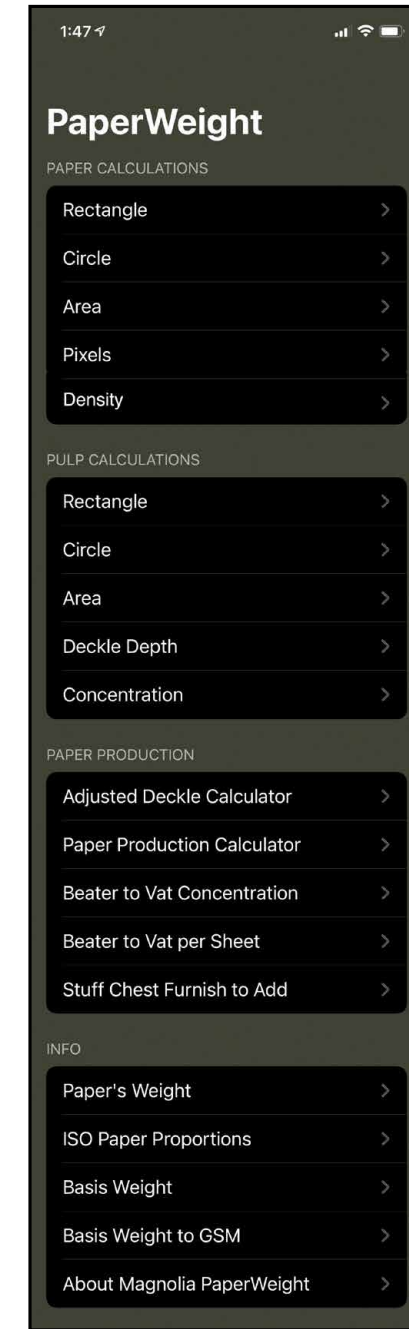
Vat concentration measurement = 6.2g/L  
 Freeness of furnish measurement = 220CSF  
 Couched paper volume measurement = 1 liter  
 Approximate water draining back into vat: 6-7 liters

What this real-life example describes:  
 The volume of water draining from the furnish flowing through the mould covering (laid screen) during sheet formation is double that of the deckle volume. Deckle volume being: length x width x (height x 2)

This production was done using a furnish with a freeness of 220CSF.



Light Mode

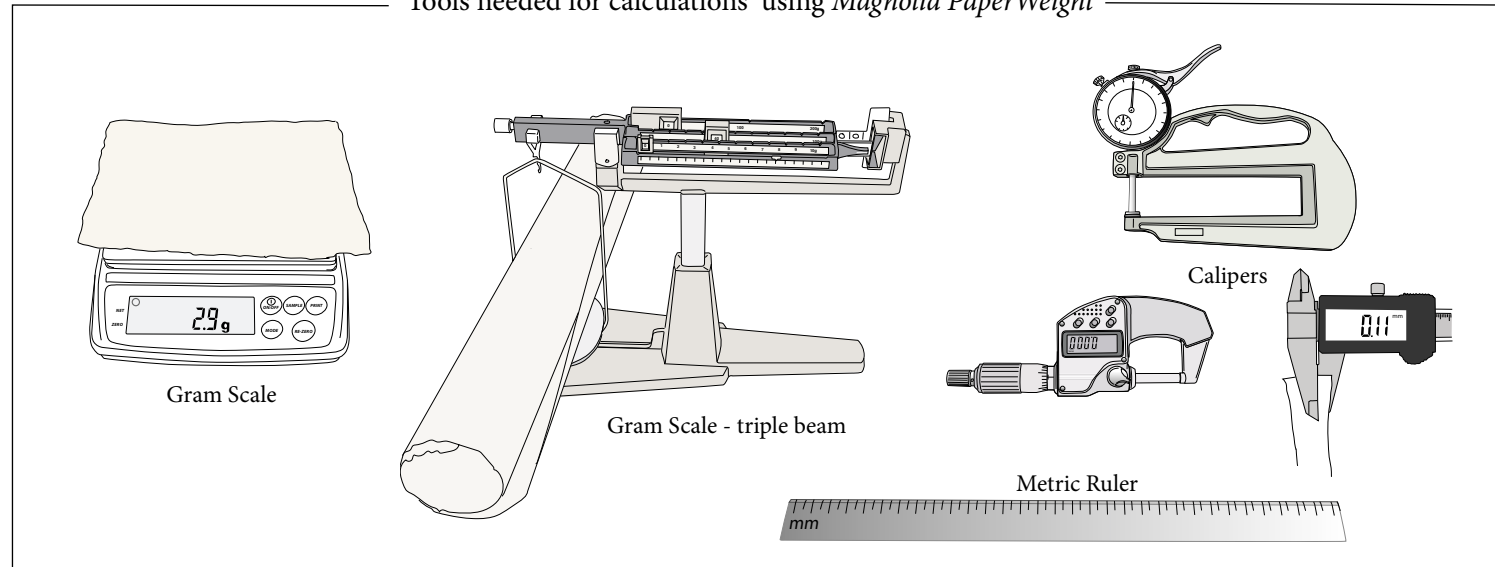


Dark Mode

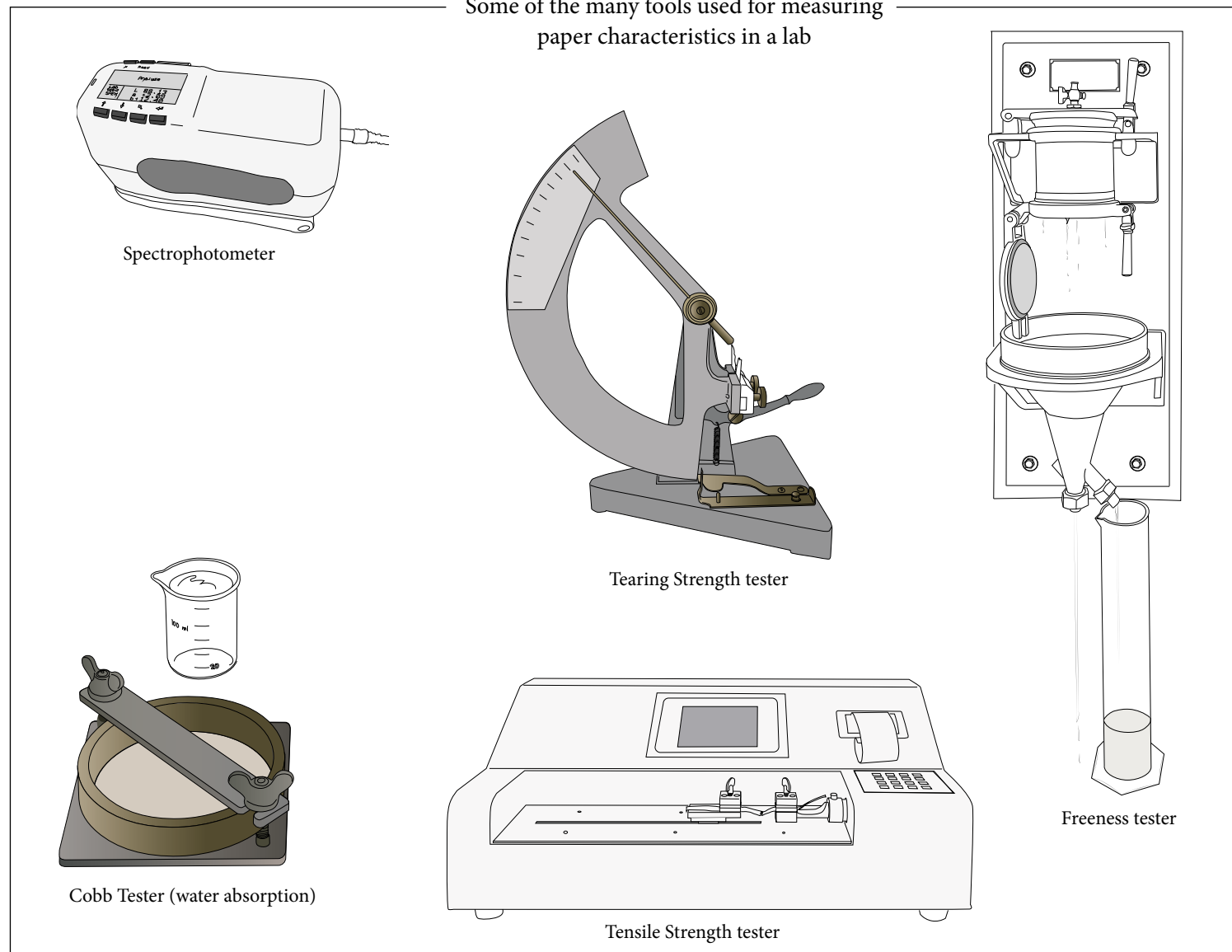


## Tools for Testing and Documenting Paper

Tools needed for calculations using *Magnolia PaperWeight*



Some of the many tools used for measuring paper characteristics in a lab



## Documenting a Sheet of Handmade Paper (example)

Collecting data on any given sheet of paper has its benefits. Minimum documentation requires only a ruler, scale, and calipers. More testing equipment allows for more collected data. In this example Freeness, Cobb, Tensile, Tear and Burst require specialized equipment.

<b>Paper Name:</b> 120g/m <sup>2</sup> Renaissance texture drawing		<b>Date:</b> 2/12/2021	
<b>Description:</b> Heavy weight gelatin sized drawing paper with felt hair marks			
<b>Content:</b> 50% flax, 30% hemp, 20% abaca		<b>Buffer:</b> MgCO <sub>3</sub> & CaCO <sub>3</sub>	
<b>Dimensions:</b> 18 x 24-in 45.7 x 61cm		<b>Drying:</b> Air dried (6 sheet spurs)	
<b>Sizing Tub:</b> 3% hide glue tub size	<b>Sizing beater:</b> none	<b>Color:</b> L88, a -1, b +13	
<b>Mass:</b> 41g	<b>Grammage:</b> 121.96 g/m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Caliper:</b> 0.35mm	<b>Density:</b> 0.42g/cm <sup>2</sup>
<b>Cobb:</b> 40g/m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Tensile (Peak):</b> 15.98kg	<b>Tear:</b> 0.205 (mN/g/m <sup>2</sup> )	<b>Burst</b>
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Paper mould:</b> Laid, Britt Quilan		<b>Watermark:</b>	
<b>Beater:</b> Nobel & Wood	<b>Ratio:</b> 20 g/Lt	<b>Time:</b> 30min	<b>Freeness:</b> 310CSF
<b>Beater operator:</b>	<b>Vatman:</b>	<b>Finisher:</b>	

## Acknowledgments

*The Magnolia PaperWeight* app for iPhone, iPad and Apple computers using the M1 chip, is available for free from the Apple App Store, thanks to the programming efforts of **Nicholas Price and Alex Shepard**

### **Magnolia Editions Staff:**

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