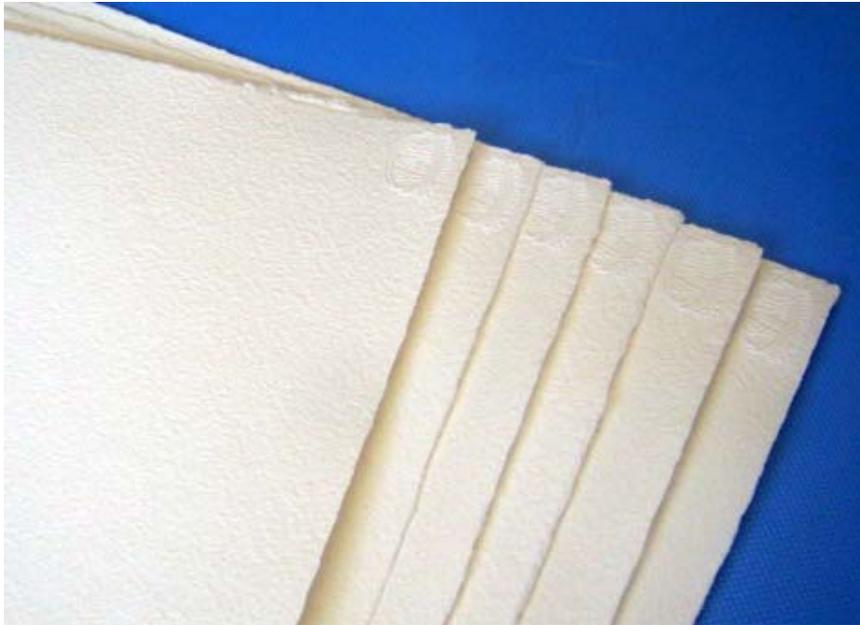




**YAK-100% Hand Made**  
Professional Hand Papermaking



Handmade papers are hand crafted one by one. Variations in texture and pattern occur naturally and should be considered part of the character of these papers. Paper weight may vary slightly from sheet to sheet and within individual sheets themselves. Small imperfections or flecks may spot the surface. Low quality handmade papers may show some slight wear on the edges and corners. The majority of these papers are handled individually throughout their cycle of production, inspection, and packing.

**To distinguish handmade papers pay attention to the following characteristics:**

- Handmade papers have four **deckle edges** because each sheet is made individually and the water drain from the mould in both directions. **Deckle** refers to a wooden frame used in the process and to the irregular edge on the paper produced by the use of that frame. In paper making, a screen or mould is submerged in a suspension of pulp to form sheets of paper. A deckle is a separate wooden frame laid over the paper making mould to prevent excess pulp from spilling over the mould as it is lifted from the vat. A deckle





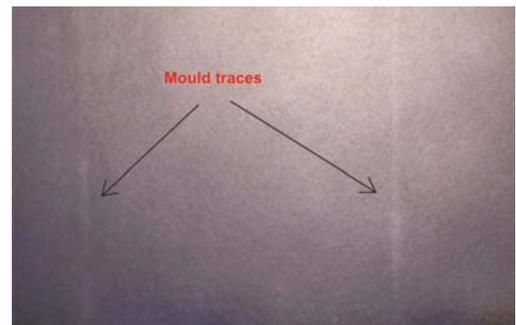
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edge is formed when a small amount of pulp seeps under this frame, producing an irregular edge on the paper. The more seeps of pulp occur, the more untidy deckle edge will produce. In machine (mould) made papers there are only two deckle edges which occur alongside of the paper (on the two lateral sides in production line) At the end of the line the paper is collected as large rolls which then are transferred to cutting section. An operator cuts sheets of papers one by one with a blunt big knife. (Watch [this video](#) from Cuthbert machine-mould-made papers)

- Handmade paper weight may vary slightly from sheet to sheet. Because the production process is individually done and each paper is formed by hand one by one, this slight variation in weight is natural and considered part of the character of handmade papers.

- Handmade papers have naturally some parallel light traces inside them. This is due to the wood supports of the mould frame. If you hold a handmade paper up to transmitted light you could see the variations in opacity and how the paper fibers are dispersed. When you look through the paper in this position, some parallel traces (lines) are visible which seem more transparent and less opaque than other areas.



- Surface of a handmade paper hasn't any predetermined or pre-designed texture or pattern. Each paper, after molding, is couched on a felt and another felt is put on top. So the papers are laid between felts and then pressed to remove the excess water and to form the paper web by fibers. Felts are normally non woven fabrics which have no determined patterns or designs and this is the uniqueness of handmade papers. Apart from having smooth or rough surface (being cold pressed or hot pressed) the design and pattern on the surface is non-repetitive and unique. Textures being created on handmade papers are non-



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repetitive, warm and pleasant, and non-uniform. No two sheets of handmade paper have similar textures or finish!

**Precisely for this reason, each handmade paper has its own unique spirit bearing the manufacturer artist's signature.**

- On the contrary the pattern on machine-mould made papers are repeating and are applied to the surface using large hot embossing rollers.



(to be continued...)

[YAK Paper Mill](http://www.yakpaper.com)

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