

The History

Stillman & Birn has been associated with the art materials industry in the United States for decades. The original company was founded in 1958 by Philip Birn (1911 – 2004), a highly admired Viennese bookbinder who brought his "old world" craftsmanship to a small plant in the SoHo section of Manhattan. From his plant at 270 Lafayette Street, Philip Birn pioneered the concept of the black hardbound sketchbook.

In 2019, Stillman & Birn was added to the Clairefontaine Rhodia family of art papers.

Because of the robust quality of our papers, we believe that our sketchbooks inspire creativity: artists can feel confident to experiment with new ideas and materials because our papers support the most demanding techniques on paper.

Our Manufacturing

Stillman & Birn products are proudly made in the USA and shipped from our manufacturing facility in Hamburg, NY. Because we are one of the few fine art companies that are vertically integrated, controlling the entire production cycle from manufacture of our papers through to the binding process, we are not only able to guarantee consistent quality, but also to minimize environmental impact.

Sketchbook System

In order to meet the wide range of artists' needs, Stillman & Birn's sketchbook system gives them the choice of paper weight, shade, and surface type best suited to their specific techniques. With both internal and surface sizing, our papers have exceptional wet strength that supports the application of multiple washes. Similarly, just as the paper's sizing slows down water absorption, pigment stays on the surface of the sheet. The result: remarkably glowing color!

Our hardbound bindings - stiff when new - are designed to be broken in. The spines get eased in and then lay completely flat, accommodating both two-page drawing layouts and flatbed scanning. The wirebound bindings allow for your book to lay and remain flat and easy removal of pages to archive or share. The softbound covers are sewn bound allowing flexibility while remaining durable. Rounded corners prevents frayed edges and gives each book an elegant finish.

| | ALPHA SERIES | BETA SERIES | GAMMA SERIES | DELTA SERIES | EPSILON SERIES | ZETA SERIES | NOVA SERIES |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Paper weight | Heavyweight | Extra Heavyweight | Heavyweight | Extra Heavyweight | Heavyweight | Extra Heavyweight | Heavyweight |
| Paper specification | 150 gsm | 270 gsm | 150 gsm | 270 gsm | 150 gsm | 270 gsm | 150 gsm |
| Shade | ○ White | ○ White | ● Ivory | ● Ivory | ○ White | ○ White | ● ● ● Beige/Grey/Black |
| Surface | Medium Grain | Cold Press | Medium Grain | Cold Press | Smooth | Smooth | Medium Grain |
| Media | Dry Media, Light Wash, Ink | Dry & Wet Media, Watercolor, Ink | Dry Media, Light Wash, Ink | Dry & Wet Media, Watercolor, Ink | Pen & Ink, Dry Media, Light Wash | Dry & Wet Media, Watercolor, Ink | Dry Media, Light Wash, Ink |

Each series is now available in hardbound, wirebound and softbound formats as well as in full sheets and sheet packs (Nova Series unavailable in hardbound)

