

Our Resident Artist and Designer, Alisa, used OLO™ markers to test various popular paper brands and paper types. Learn how OLO works with your favorite paper brands, including the pros and cons for each! Not seeing the brand of paper you use? Email us at [hello@olomarker.com](mailto:hello@olomarker.com) and let us know. Stay tuned for additional paper tests!

Paper Brand: X-Press It Blending Card Marker Paper • Size: 8.5"x11" • Weight: 250gsm • Color: White



**PROS:**

- Blends well
- Little to no bleeding over the lines.
- High color saturation
- Colors stay vibrant
- Easy to “erase” with the OLO ZERO

**CONS:**

- Can bleed with heavy ink saturation

Perfect paper for all styles of illustration. Medium thickness and smooth paper allow for controlled blending with less ink saturation. Paper is bright white, which helps make colors pop! Once ink dries, color vibrant (reminder: alcohol ink is not lightfast!). Slight speckling may show from ink, but adds character.

Paper Brand: X-Press It Watercolor Paper • Size: 8.5"x11" • Weight: 200 lb • Color: White



**PROS:**

- Blends well
- Can handle heavy ink saturation
- High color saturation
- Easy to “erase” with the OLO ZERO

**CONS:**

- Ink more likely to bleed over the lines
- Paper absorbs more ink from the marker

Perfect paper to create stylized illustrations. This heavy and fibrous paper absorbs more ink from the marker and colors may spread and/or bleed. Not recommended for small details. Textured paper.

Paper Brand: Strathmore Bristol • Size: 9"x12" • Weight: 100 lb (270g) • Color: Off white



**PROS:**

- Blends well
- Very soft look
- High color saturation

**CONS:**

- Ink spreads over the line

Perfect paper for any style of illustration. Medium thickness and smooth paper results in ink absorption issues with ink spreading over lines.

Paper Brand: Strathmore Mixed Media • Size: 9"x12" • Weight: 117 lb (190g) • Color: Off white



**PROS:**

- Blends well
- Soft look
- Medium color saturation

**CONS:**

- Heavy ink spreading
- Hard to control bleeding
- Thicker paper absorbs ink faster

Paper works for any style of illustration. Heavy ink spreads and bleeds after application.



Paper Brand: Strathmore Marker Paper • Size: 6" x 8" • Weight: 50.5 lb • Color: Off white



**PROS:**

- Soft blending results
- High level of color saturation

**CONS:**

- Fibrous paper makes it harder to control ink spread
- Ink bleed
- Loss of color vibrancy
- Speckling/texture shows

This paper is great for soft/gentle coloring style, but not recommended for sharper edge styles such as comic or manga if bleeding is an issue. Soft, blurred ink spreads over the lines after application. Smooth, but fibrous paper.

Paper Brand: Strathmore Watercolor Paper • Size: 5.5" x 8.5" • Weight: 140 lb • Color: Cream



**PROS:**

- Soft, blended results
- Paper is thick enough to have no bleed through
- Easy to blend using more ink
- High level of ink saturation

**CONS:**

- Hard to control ink spread
- Paper absorbs a lot of ink

This paper is great for watercolor effects. Paper can handle lots of ink saturation. Thicker, textured paper absorbs a lot of ink. Blurred ink spreads over the lines after application. Heavily textured.

Paper Brand: Michaels Brand House White Paper • Size: n/a • Weight: n/a • Color: Off white



**PROS:**

- Blends smoothly
- ZERO pushes ink off cleanly
- Easy to color
- Medium color saturation

**CONS:**

- Slightly desaturates bright color
- Paper absorbs a lot of ink
- Color vibrancy is lost

Great paper for alcohol markers. Recommended for illustration of any kind. No ink spreads/blends over the lines. Overall a good coloring experience. Easier to control the bleed due to a thicker paper.

Paper Brand: Canson XL Watercolor • Size: 7"x10" • Weight: 140 lb (300g) • Color: Off white/cream



**PROS:**

- Blends well
- Soft look
- High color saturation
- ZERO pushes ink cleanly

**CONS:**

- Absorbs more ink
- Minimal spreading over the line due to high ink absorption

Perfect paper for any style of illustration. Perfect for soft/gentle art styles. Thicker, textured paper so it can use up the ink of the marker faster. Minimal ink spreads over the lines after application.



Paper Brand: Hammermill Super Smooth 32# • Size: n/a • Weight: n/a • Color: White



**PROS:**

- High color saturation
- Smooth paper

**CONS:**

- Ink spreading and blotching
- Difficult to control blending
- Can't handle heavy ink saturation

Thinner paper makes it hard to control the ink bleed. Best to color with a light touch. Color stays vibrant so it is good paper to use for comic/manga style where heavy ink saturation is not necessary.

Paper Brand: Hammermill 100# Smooth • Size: n/a • Weight: n/a • Color: Off white/cream



**PROS:**

- Easy to blend and layer ink
- Easy to control ink spread
- Blends well

**CONS:**

- Color appears slightly lighter

Recommended for all illustrations styles. Great for alcohol markers. Heavier paper makes it easier to control ink bleeding.

Paper Brand: Bristol Smooth • Size: n/a • Weight: n/a • Color: Off white/cream



**PROS:**

- Blends well
- Doesn't bleed through the paper
- Soft look
- High color saturation

**CONS:**

- Absorbs more ink
- Multiple dabs of ZERO needed to push ink off the paper

Perfect paper for any kind of illustration. Thicker, heavier paper so it can use up the ink of the marker faster. Blends really well, great paper for alcohol markers. Slightly textured.

Paper Brand: Neenah Classic Crest Solar White • Size: n/a • Weight: n/a • Color: White



**PROS:**

- Blends well
- Doesn't bleed through paper
- Soft look
- High color saturation

**CONS:**

- Absorbs more ink
- Slight bleeding over the lines

Good paper for various styles of illustration. Thicker, heavier paper absorbs more ink. Blends really well, but ink can spread and bleed. Slightly textured.