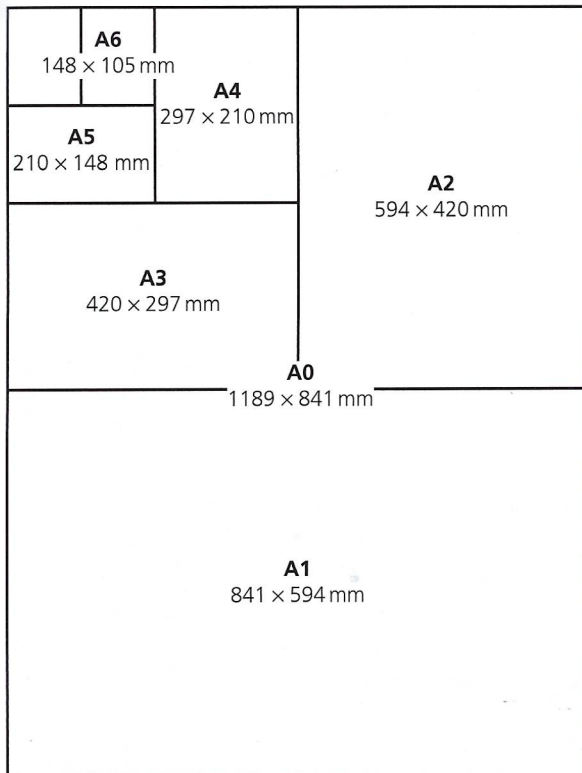


Stock forms

Stock forms are the different sizes, shapes and conditions in which a material is available. Paper is typically available in sheets or rolls of varying thickness. Sheets of paper come in standard sizes. The area of the sheet doubles with each size – for example, A3 is twice the size of A4, and A4 is twice the size of A5.



▲ Standard paper sizes

Key word

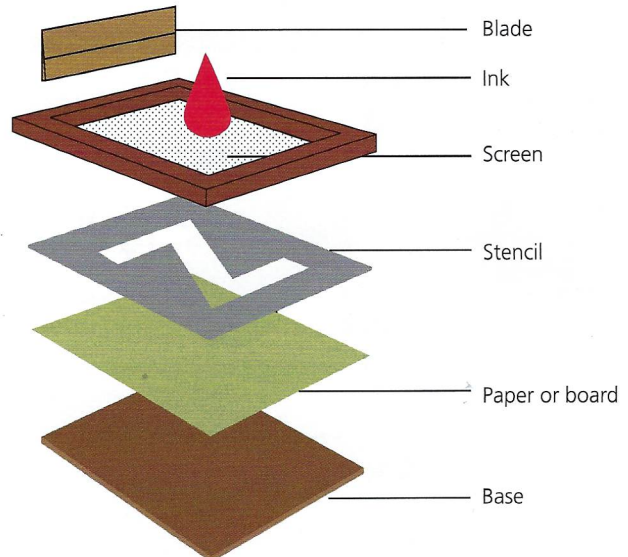
stock forms – the different sizes, shapes and conditions in which a material is available.

Processes used to make products from paper and board

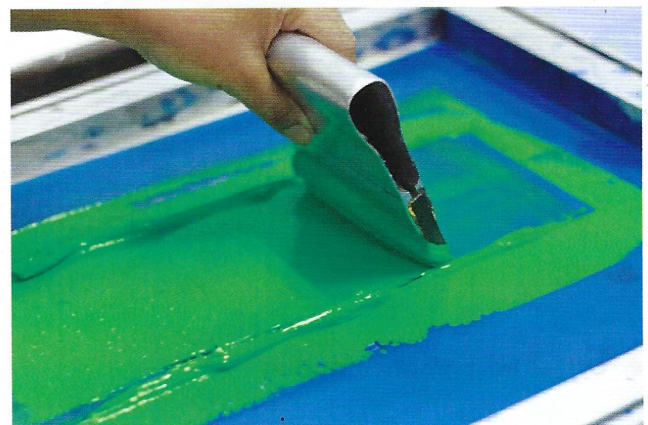
Printing

Printing is used to apply designs to paper or board. A laser printer or inkjet printer might be used to print one product or a few products with the same design.

To produce a small number of identical prints, screen printing might be used. A stencil of the design is cut out and stuck to a screen. Ink is squeezed through the screen, and the stencil acts as a mask that only allows ink to contact the paper or board in the shape that is wanted. A different stencil is needed for each colour in the design. Screen printing uses relatively low-cost equipment but is time-consuming.

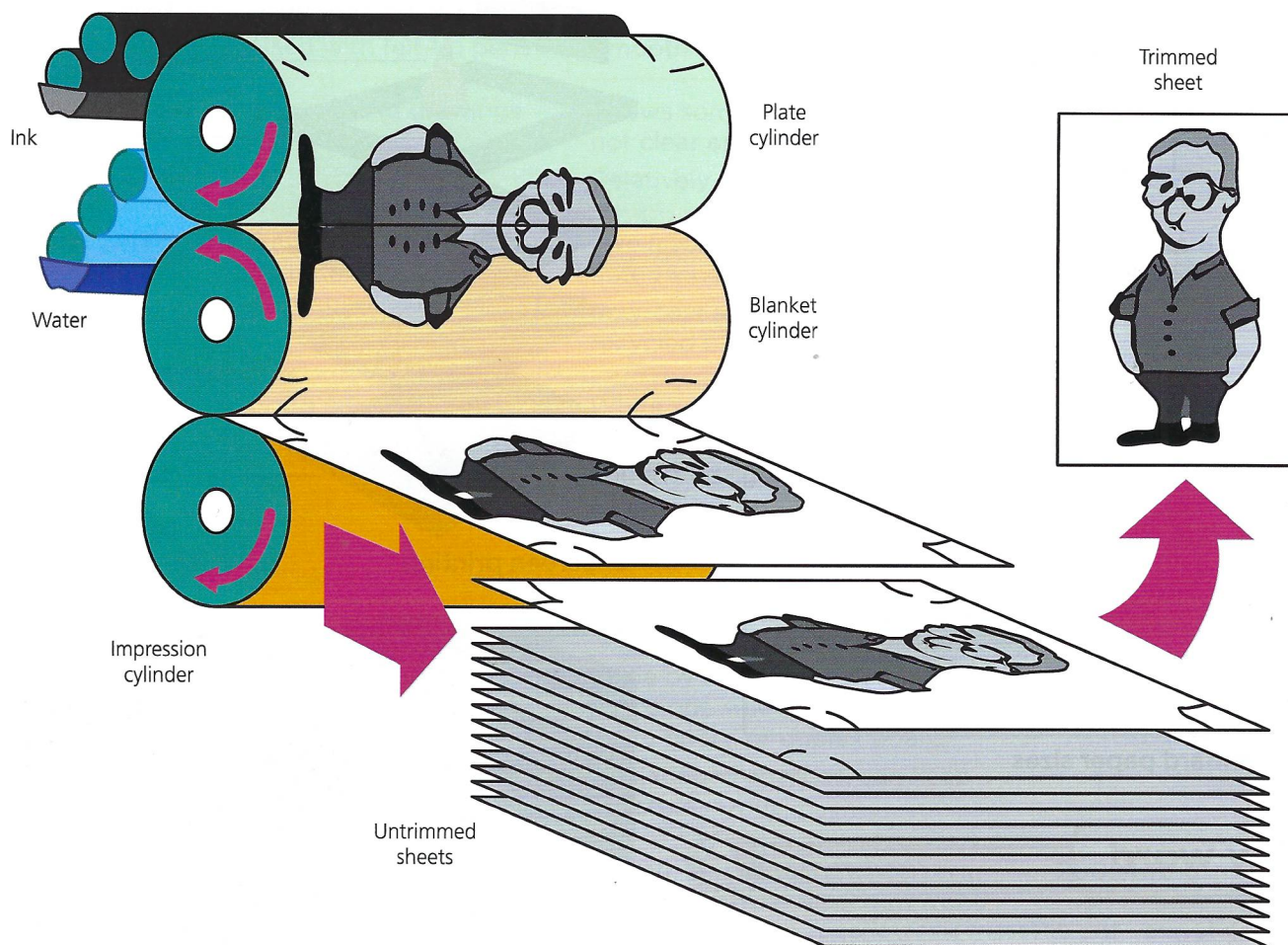


▲ Screen printing



▲ Screen printing

Some products, such as magazines, need to be printed in large quantities. For these, offset lithography may be used. This uses a printing plate with an image marked on it. The printing plate transfers the inked image onto a rubber blanket cylinder, which in turn presses the image onto the paper or board as it is fed through. This process is expensive to set up but can quickly print many products.



▲ Offset lithography printing