

d30 Random Book Generator Table

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In my experience, PCs tend to overlook “non-standard” treasure in favor of hard coins, gems, and magic items. If the PCs aren’t dismissing tomes out of hand they want to know specific details about each and every book they come across. I’m used to one extreme or the other, unless the party is looking for a *specific* book. Then, and only then, does the party just want the highlights until they can find what they need.

Inspired by the random spellbook generator from *The Spellslinger’s Guide to World Domination* for 4th Edition HackMaster, these tables are geared towards generating the physical aspects of a book. In creating these tables, I’ve “tweaked” historical data and taken some liberties with the rounding of Metric vs. US Customary measurements.

Using these tables: Roll 1d30 on each sub-table to determine the physical aspects of the book. Keep track of the book’s base weight and add applicable modifiers to the base weight to determine the weight of the finished book.

Table 1: Book Size

Roll	Result	Base Weight
1	Colonial Broadside: 22" x 32" (55.9 x 81.3 cm)	10.7# (4.8 kg)
2	Imperial Broadside: 22" x 30" (55.9 x 76.2 cm)	10# (4.5 kg)
3	Royal Broadside: 20" x 25" (50.8 x 63.5 cm)	7.6# (3.4 kg)
4	Colonial Folio: 16" x 24" (40.6 x 61 cm)	5.8# (2.6 kg)
5	Imperial Folio: 15" 22" (38.1 x 55.9 cm)	5.0# (2.3 kg)
6	Royal Folio: 12 1/2" x 20" (31.8 x 50.8 cm)	3.8# (1.7 kg)
7	Guild Folio: 12" x 16" (30.5 x 40.6 cm)	2.9# (1.3 kg)
8	Magi Folio: 11 1/4" x 17 1/2" (28.6 x 44.5 cm)	3.0# (1.4 kg)
9	Colonial Quarto: 11" x 15" (27.9 x 38.1 cm)	2.5# (1.1 kg)
10	Imperial Quarto: 10" x 12 1/2" (25.4 x 31.8 cm)	1.9# (0.9 kg)
11	Royal Quarto: 8 3/4" x 11 1/2" (22.2 x 29.2 cm)	1.5# (0.7 kg)
12	Guild Quarto: 7 1/2" x 11" (19.1 x 27.9 cm)	1.2# (0.6 kg)
13	Magi Quarto: 7" x 10 1/2" (17.8 x 26.7 cm)	1.1# (0.5 kg)
14	Colonial Octavo: 7" x 10 1/4" (17.8 x 26 cm)	1.1# (0.5 kg)
15	Imperial Octavo: 6 1/2" x 10" (16.5 x 25.4 cm)	1.0# (0.4 kg)
16	Royal Octavo: 6 1/4" x 10" (15.9 x 25.4 cm)	0.9# (0.4 kg)
17	Guild Octavo: 6" x 9 1/2" (15.2 x 24.1 cm)	0.9# (0.4 kg)
18	Magi Octavo: 5 5/8" x 8 3/4" (13.7 x 22.2 cm)	0.7# (0.3 kg)
19	Colonial Duodecimo: 5 1/8" x 7 2/3" (13 x 19.5 cm)	0.6# (0.3 kg)
20	Imperial Duodecimo: 5" x 7 1/2" (12.7 x 19.1 cm)	0.6# (0.3 kg)
21	Royal Duodecimo: 4 3/4" x 7 3/4" (12.1 x 19.7 cm)	0.6# (0.3 kg)
22	Guild Duodecimo: 4 5/8" x 7 1/2" (11.2 x 19.1 cm)	0.5# (0.2 kg)
23	Magi Duodecimo: 4" x 7" (10.2 x 17.8 cm)	0.4# (0.2 kg)
24	Colonial Sextodecimo: 4 1/4" x 6 3/4" (10.8 x 17.1 cm)	0.4# (0.2 kg)
25	Imperial Sextodecimo: 4" x 6 1/3" (10.2 x 16.1 cm)	0.4# (0.2 kg)
26	Royal Sextodecimo: 3 3/4" x 6" (9.5 x 15.2 cm)	0.3# (0.2 kg)
27	Guild Sextodecimo: 3 5/8" x 5 1/2" (8.6 x 14 cm)	0.3# (0.2 kg)
28	Magi Sextodecimo: 3" x 4 3/4" (7.6 x 12.1 cm)	0.2# (0.1 kg)
29	Magi Quadragesimo-octavo: 2 1/2" x 4" (6.4 x 10.2 cm)	0.2# (0.1 kg)
30	Miniature: 2" x 1 1/2" (5.1 x 3.8 cm)	0.1# (0.1 kg)

Table 2: Pages & Thickness

Result	Added Weight
48 Vellum Pages, 5" (12 cm) thick	+2.5# (1.1 kg)
48 Parchment Pages, 5" (12 cm) thick	+0.25# (0.1 kg)
64 Vellum Pages, 6" (15 cm) thick	+3# (1.6 kg)
64 Parchment Pages, 6" (15 cm) thick	+0.5# (0.2 kg)
68 Vellum Pages, 7" (16 cm) thick	+3.5# (1.6 kg)
68 Parchment Pages, 7" (16 cm) thick	+0.5# (0.2 kg)
72 Vellum Pages, 7" (17 cm) thick	+3.5# (1.6 kg)
72 Parchment Pages, 7" (17 cm) thick	+0.5# (0.2 kg)
76 Vellum Pages, 7" (18 cm) thick	+3.5# (1.6 kg)
76 Parchment Pages, 7" (18 cm) thick	+0.5# (0.2 kg)
80 Vellum Pages, 8" (19 cm) thick	+4# (2 kg)
80 Parchment Pages, 8" (19 cm) thick	+0.75# (0.3 kg)
84 Vellum Pages, 8" (20 cm) thick	+4# (2 kg)
84 Parchment Pages, 8" (20 cm) thick	+0.75# (0.3 kg)
88 Vellum Pages, 8" (21 cm) thick	+4# (2 kg)
88 Parchment Pages, 8" (21 cm) thick	+0.75# (0.3 kg)
92 Vellum Pages, 9" (22 cm) thick	+4.5# (2 kg)
92 Parchment Pages, 9" (22 cm) thick	+1# (0.5 kg)
96 Vellum Pages, 9" (23 cm) thick	+4.5# (2 kg)
96 Parchment Pages, 9" (23 cm) thick	+1# (0.5 kg)
100 Vellum Pages, 10" (24 cm) thick	+5# (2.3 kg)
100 Parchment Pages, 10" (24 cm) thick	+1# (0.5 kg)
104 Vellum Pages, 10" (25 cm) thick	+5# (2.3 kg)
104 Parchment Pages, 10" (25 cm) thick	+1.25# (0.6 kg)
108 Vellum Pages, 10" (25 cm) thick	+5# (2.3 kg)
108 Parchment Pages, 10" (25 cm) thick	+1.25# (0.6 kg)
112 Vellum Pages, 11" (26 cm) thick	+5.5# (2.5 kg)
112 Parchment Pages, 11" (26 cm) thick	+1.5# (0.7 kg)
128 Vellum Pages, 12" (30 cm) thick	+6# (2.7 kg)
128 Parchment Pages, 12" (30 cm) thick	+1.75# (0.8 kg)

Table 3: Type of Cover

Result	Added Weight
Leather: Ox	None
Leather: Cow	None
Leather: Yak	None
Leather: Calfskin	None
Leather: Goat	None
Leather: Pig	None
Leather: Seal	None
Leather: Sheep	None
Leather: Deer	None
Leather: Elk	None
Leather: Bear	None
Leather: Alligator	None
Leather: Eel	None
Leather: Rabbit	None
Animal Hide: Calf	+1# (0.5 kg)
Animal Hide: Seal	+1# (0.5 kg)
Animal Hide: Horse	+1# (0.5 kg)
Animal Hide: Goat	+1# (0.5 kg)
Animal Hide: Wild Boar	+1# (0.5 kg)
Animal Hide: Sheep	+1# (0.5 kg)
Animal Hide: Deer	+1# (0.5 kg)
Animal Hide: Elk	+1# (0.5 kg)
Animal Hide: Rabbit	+1# (0.5 kg)
Monster Hide: Basilisk	+1.5# (0.7 kg)
Monster Hide: Chimera	+1.5# (0.7 kg)
Monster Hide: Gnoll	+1.5# (0.7 kg)
Monster Hide: Hippogriff	+1.5# (0.7 kg)
Monster Hide: Lizardman	+2# (1 kg)
Human Skin	None
Dragon Hide/Leather	+3# (1.6 kg)