Printable Tool Research/Article

I found a great tool while scrolling through Thingaverse. User Tony3D uploaded a "Resizable Paper Clip for photo backgrounds". As an artist and designer, I find myself having to document my work a lot with photographs, and sometimes I need to get a nice photo at the last minute. Tony3D's clever design comes to the rescue when documenting small works and only requires a light weight sheet of paper in your desired backdrop color. After slipping the paper through two of Tony3D's printed pieces, and they'll have a quick and dirty documentation studio! After printing, the design successfully held up my paper background, but it took a few minutes of fiddling with the print first. Keep these in mind and you'll be good to go with Tony's print:

The Weight of the Print:

3D printing has come a long way, but with the common plastics, PLA and ABS, it's hard to create something with real mass. At first, the weight of standard 8.5 by 11 sheet of paper was enough to tip the paper clips over.

The Weight of the Paper

I was able to work around the first problem by feeding more of the paper through the clips such that the paper wouldn't be so top heavy and cause the clips to tip over. This hack works, but if you're documenting a larger object, there may not be enough paper to provide a good backdrop. Perhaps in this case, lighter weight paper is more ideal. Consider brands of news print, or wrapping paper and let us know how it works!

Pre Folding

A third tip is to loosely roll your paper back drop so that it has an easier time conforming to the curvature of the clips, and is less likely to tip over

Overall, Tony3D's print is clever and addresses a problem perfect for a DIY solution. If you don't have access to a full documentation studio, a nice lamp and pair of these clips will do just fine. To improve your set up even more, consider adhering the clips to a ground surface, or using lighter paper.

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