

**Which way is the grain?**

**What is grain?**

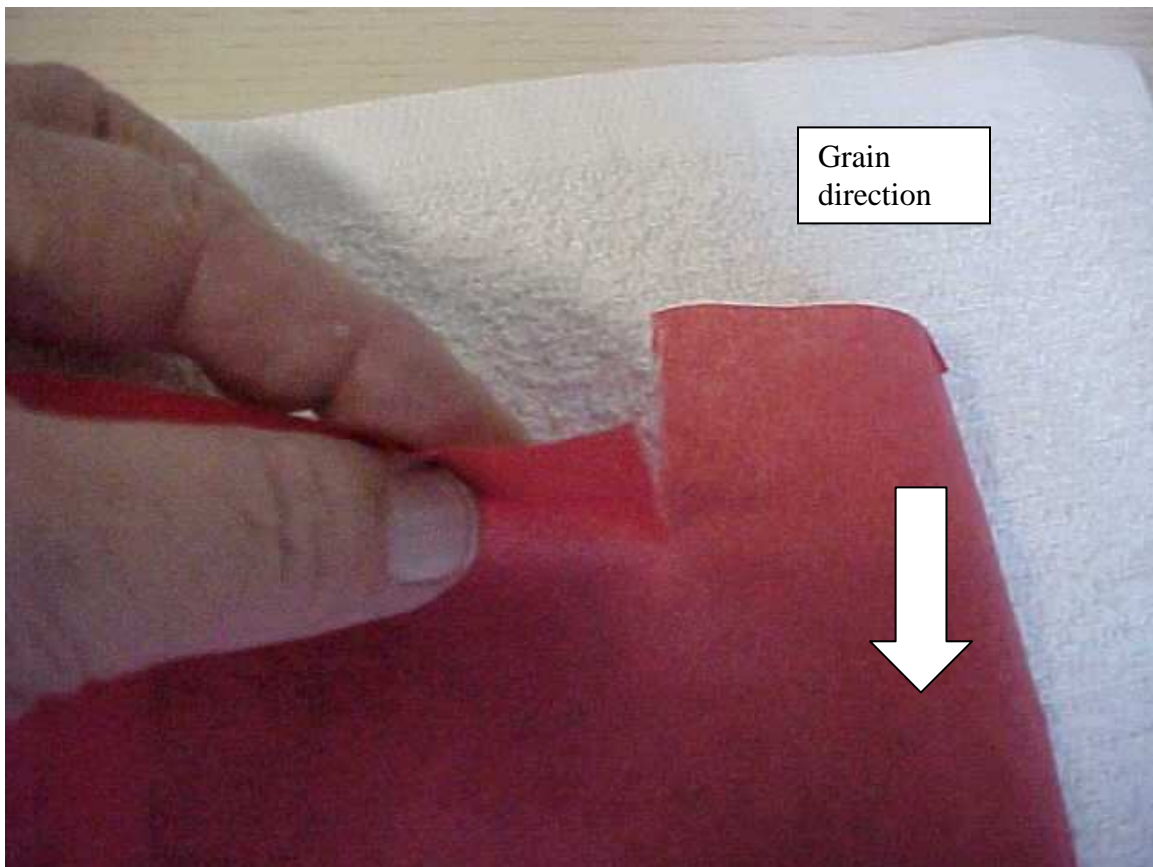
**Why is important to know which way the grain goes?**

**By: Doc Ferguson (docferg@charter.net)**

Many times I was asked. How can you tell the way the grain of paper goes? A simple method was taught to me and it has never failed to determine which way the grain of tissue actually runs. It can be rather important in small planes because of the stress the grain can have on a model. In order to build a larger model it's important to learn which way the grain of paper will pull on parts and which direction. The issue of grain was never explained to me until I got into constructing fireworks.

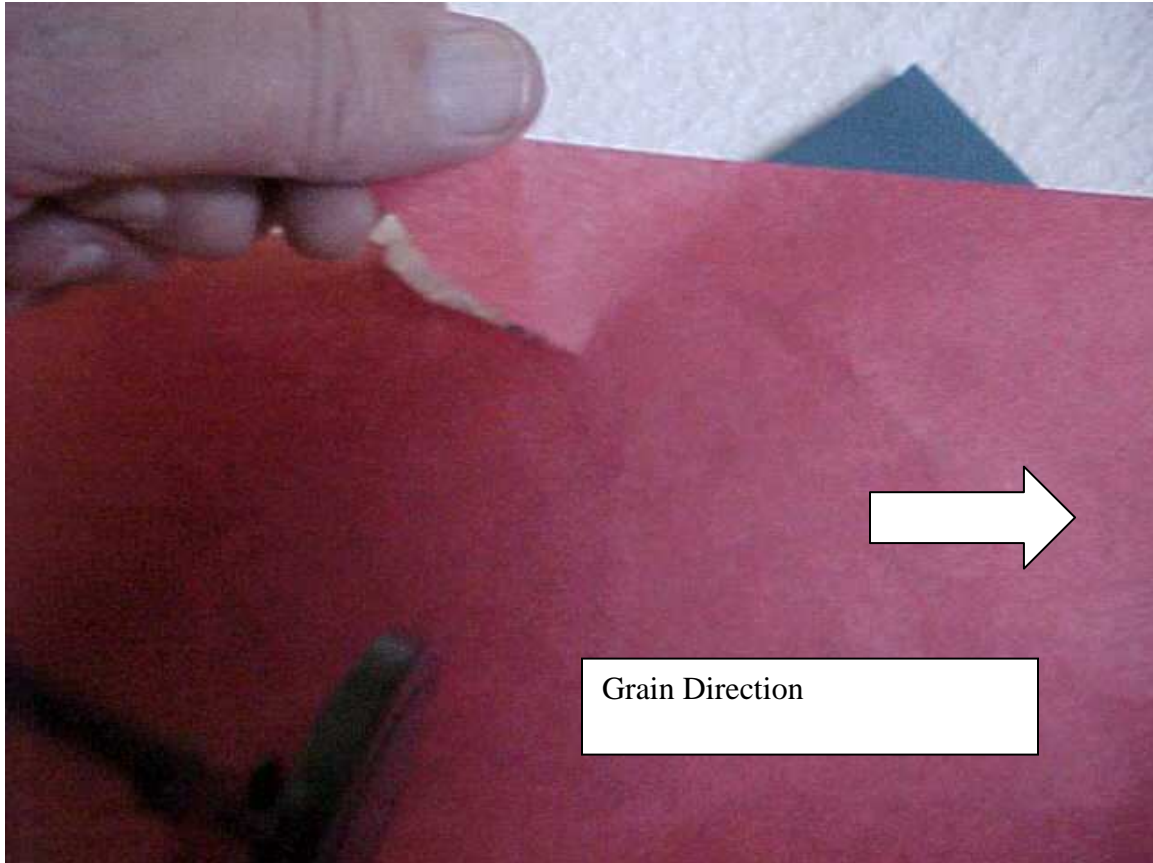
Gampi tissue is used as a separation between halves of round fireworks shells. Again the issue of grain came into the instructions as to wrapping shells. Just what is grain and how do you determine which way the grain of any paper goes?

I was taught a very simple test! Tearing of the paper determines which way the grain actually goes. If you tear with the grain you will get a nice clean tear line and no ragged edges.



See how neat and straight the tear is when you tear with the grain! No more guessing as to which way the grain of paper is going.

The results of tearing against the grain are very dramatic and leave no question that the tear is running ragged and not true.



Try this on any type of paper and you will easily determine which way the grain goes.