



ANALOG-INSPIRED CREATIVE RESOURCES

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Guide to Using RetroSupply's Get-It-Done Paper Textures

If you've ever been working on a project and thought, "This just needs something to ground it, a little bit of texture to take away that overly polished digital feel," this freebie is exactly what you need.

These five paper textures have been pulled straight from the RetroSupply Archive, which is a collection that's evolved over years (and, I'll admit, a bit of an obsession) from old finds in antique shops, my grandparents' garage, and more than a few late-night eBay deep dives.

THE STORY BEHIND THE TEXTURES (A LITTLE PEEK AT MY ARCHIVE ADDICTION)

The textures you're getting are part of a slowly built collection that started innocently enough—I just wanted to save some of the beautiful old packaging from my grandparents' garage.

You know the type: soap boxes with that perfect worn ink, and receipts with handwritten notes in pencil that haven't faded one bit in 50 years.

Over time, this grew into the RetroSupply Archive—a stockpile of vintage paper, documents, and ephemera that serves as the foundation for a lot of the products we create.

These specific textures are go-tos because they're quick to use but still pack a lot of character. They range from super clean and simple (for when you just need a little extra touch) to authentically aged, complete with stains and lines from decades of use.



And yes, there's something kind of satisfying about knowing the exact source of each texture—like the Archive Leaf texture, which literally came from an old book I found in a box at a garage sale, water damage and all.

A BREAKDOWN OF THE TEXTURES

Here's what you're working with:

- **RSCO Antique Studio Stock.** This is your clean, reliable paper texture. Nothing too flashy, just a solid texture that works great for adding a bit of depth without stealing the show.
- **RSCO Archive Leaf.** Pulled from a book that's older than I am, this one has water stains and marks from where the binding sat. It's perfect when you want something with character—a texture that feels like it's seen things.
- **RSCO Classic Aged Stock.** This is a texture that's just the right amount of weathered. Think of it as the paper equivalent of an old manila folder—worn, but not falling apart.
- **RSCO Classic Art Stock.** Simple, clean, and unobtrusive. Perfect when you need to add texture without it being a distraction. Sometimes less is more, you know?
- **RSCO Classic Commercial Stock.** This one's somewhere in the middle. Not too clean, not too rough—it's a versatile texture that works in a lot of scenarios.

HOW TO USE THESE TEXTURES (WITHOUT OVERCOMPLICATING IT)

If you're anything like me, you don't always have hours to spend tweaking every little element of your design. Sometimes you just need a quick win—and that's where these textures come in.

The easiest way to use them is to drop them into your design and set the blending mode to Multiply. Done. It's that simple.

But if you've got the time and want to take it a step further, you can break the textures into layers—highlights, shadows, and midtones—and then sandwich your artwork between those layers for a more realistic, dimensional look.

This technique isn't always necessary, but when you do it right, it can really sell the effect of your design being printed on real paper (if you want to see this concept in action check out our Phantom Paper Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 Paper Textures).

***One more tip:** don't be afraid to adjust the opacity. Sometimes, less texture is actually more—it gives just enough of that tactile, organic feel without overpowering the rest of your work.*

WHY THESE TEXTURES AREN'T SPECIAL (AND THAT'S OKAY)



These textures aren't rare finds—they're just high-res scans from our collection. Honestly, you could start your own archive anytime by picking up old books, packaging, or receipts from flea markets or garage sales. It's not hard to do.

The real value here is the time you save.

Instead of scanning and prepping textures yourself, you can dive straight into your work. These are simple, reliable tools for when you just want to focus on creating, not hunting down the perfect piece of paper.

FINAL THOUGHTS

At the end of the day, these textures are here to make your life easier. They're simple to use but full of personality, and they give your digital work that tangible, real-world touch that's often missing.

Whether you're working on a retro-style project or just need to add a little bit of warmth to a modern design, these textures will help you get there quickly, without fuss.

So, go ahead—throw them into your next project, experiment with blending modes, and see what works. And don't worry too much about getting it "perfect." Sometimes, the imperfections are what make a design feel alive.

LICENSE AGREEMENT

You are free to use these paper textures in both personal and commercial projects. However, you may not resell, share, or distribute the textures as-is, nor use them in a way where the primary value of your product is derived from the texture itself. RetroSupply Co. is not liable for any issues, disputes, or costs that may arise from the use of these textures.



