



## Designer Gift Guide 2025

We asked some TTGDA Members to suggest tools they use as potential gifts for the designers in your life and collected them into a guide.

### Danielle Reynolds

TTGDA Board Member  
(HerStory, Caution Signs, Tricky Kids)

#### Card Making Supplies

CARL Heavy Duty 18" Rotary Paper Trimmer

*'This paper cutter has helped save me hours of time cutting thick canvas and stacks of paper that I've quickly turned into cards. I cut around 10-15 sheets for thicker paper at a time. The blade has worked since I bought it in 2021!'*



Springhill White 8.5"x11" Cardstock

*'I print on the cardstock front & back so I never need to sleeve cards. I can cut a standard poker deck in less than 5 minutes. I arrange the cards 9 to a page double-sided in indesign before exporting it to print. Then all I have to do is follow the cut lines chopping 12 times to get what I need. I can do it in less cuts if I do less paper.'*



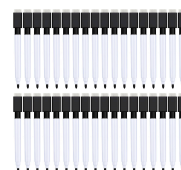
#### Dry Erase Games

Apostrophe Games Dry Erase Blank Playing Cards

Dry Erase Lapboards

SAMSILL No Hole Sheet Protectors

36 Pack Black Magnetic Dry Erase Markers



*'I've been told I'm the queen of dry-erase games. These boards and markers were used in my original Caution Signs prototype. The boards are great for*



doodling ideas and messing around with drawing or writing games so very versatile during the ideation process as well as being a game component. The dry-erase cards I also use for making up game systems or as a way for players to answer questions in party games. The sheet protectors are my favorite hack though! You can print anything on an 8.5x11 paper and slide it into the sheet protector and now it's a dry-erase board. The same concept works when you sleeve playing cards. Perfect for prototyping roll/flip & writes, score sheets, drawing games, word games, etc.'

## Elizabeth Hargrave

TTGDA Treasurer  
(Wingspan, Tussie Mussie, Undergrove)

### Full Sheet Label Paper

Chipboard (OR matboard scraps from a local frame shop)

### Mat Cutter

'I generally try to stick to cardstock as long as possible, but when I need components with some thickness to them my process is to print on full-page sticker paper, put the sticker paper onto mat board or chipboard, and then cut with a mat board cutter. Budget alternative: before I was gifted the cutter I used an xacto knife, a cutting mat, and a good metal ruler with a raised edge (for finger protection!).'



### Playtest Journal

'I've found I really like having a separate journal for each game. And I like half size pages so I can tuck it in my prototype box. At one per game, keep it cheap, like these (60 pages) or these (92 pages).'

## Geoff Engelstein

TTGDA President  
(Super Skill Pinball, Space Cadets)

### Bulk Dice

'Having a large supply of dice in different colors can be a lifesaver on a lot of projects. Being able to just dive into a drawer to grab a bunch can really get the creative juices flowing. There are a number of suppliers that sell large, relatively inexpensive sets, so shop around. For my base supplies kit I bought a block of D6s and a separate set of polyhedral dice, in a wide variety of colors.'



## Jonathan Gilmour-Long

TTGDA Board Member  
(Dead of Winter, Dinosaur Island)

### Token/Board Making

OLFA 9mm Stainless Steel Knife



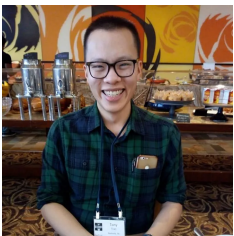


Pencil Grip Steel Ruler  
Avery Full Sheet Sticker Paper  
Replacement Blades

*'These supplies all go together really nicely for quickly making tokens, player boards, or anything else you may need. I usually print on full sheet sticker paper, and then apply to Foam Board or old cardboard scraps and then cut out using these tools. The OLFA knife has been my workhorse craft knife for well over a decade. The blades stay sharp for a good amount of use, and easily break off for quickly getting back to cutting.'*

## Tony Tran

TTGDA Board Member  
(Kiss The Goblin, In Memory Of)



Penny Sleeves (1000 Count)

*'I am a big card games guy and I have used cases of these sleeves through the years for quick prototyping. Sure they are thin and flimsy but if you need a lot of sleeves these are ideal. For prototyping, I will sleeve my printed cards and back them with a playing card to make them more rigid. Pro tip: I would go to a FLGS and buy their bulk MTG cards for super cheap. Most FLGS will even give them out to you for free!'*



## Clarence Simpson

TTGDA Member  
(The Wolves, A Message From The Stars)



Photo Storage Box

*'They are great storage cases for small prototypes. And you can carry all the small prototype cases in the big case if you want.'*

Heckadeck

*I'd also recommend a nice flexible/extended deck of cards. I have the Heckadeck personally. It's like a poker deck, but with 8 suits, extra values, and other extra cards. Sometimes the best prototyping tool (especially for a first proof-of-concept) is not having to make a prototype at all.'*

