I got Fed Up...
Posted by philhendry - 2006/10/16 06:35

...With the crappy GM Screen Black Industries produce for WFRP2 (which has essential combat tables missing, the text is too small to read in a hurry, etc), and am designing my own. Indesign is a wonderful tool. I've done the GM's side - six pages of A4, and have started on the players' side - 'pretty' pictures and the like. Coming along quite nicely.

Funny thing about GM Screens - I love them, but I never like the commercial ones. That even applies to the one I designed for Columbia Games' Harn - they took my design, cut it down from six pages to four, and left out the most useful tables, so I don't even use the commercial one I designed... :/

Of course, it's all copyright so, though I can mess around with it for my own use, I really shouldn't let anyone else have copies... ;)

Phil

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I got Fed Up...
Posted by jackattack - 2006/10/16 11:51

What we really need is a GM screen that has plastic sleeves on the GM's side, so each person can put in the tables they want.

If there were sleeves on the other side, GMs could put up additional charts for players to use, or change the artwork from session to session. ("Okay, you get to the temple, and you are greeted by this guy here in the center panel of the GM screen.")

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I got Fed Up...
Posted by Ghenghis Ska - 2006/10/16 15:45

Back when d20 first came out there were actually a few companies that made just that. There was a tri-fold and quadra fold black plasticy thing that had double sided inserts so you could put what ever you wanted into it.

I used one a lot for my SW game.

I can't rember who made the one i own, but currently there is a similar one being produced by Pinnacle Entertainment.

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I got Fed Up...
Posted by philhendry - 2006/10/16 20:53

It's finished - I think - but you know how it is - I could go on 'tweaking' the design from here to eternity. ;)

The sooner I get the thing printed out and laminated, the sooner I can get back to 'real life'...

The idea of making a 'universal' screen - really just a folding stand-up holder for papers, is a good one. I'll give it some thought - a man of my talents must be able to make something along those sort of lines.

Phil

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I got Fed Up...
Posted by blairgb - 2006/10/16 22:24

I wish more screens would be 'landscape' orientation instead of 'portrait'...I don't need almost a foot of screen to conceal die rolls and what page of what monster book I've got open...

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I got Fed Up...
Posted by philhendry - 2006/10/16 22:31

The Black Industries/GW screen is landscape format - but it doesn't have enough area (two full A4 panels and two panels that are about 4/5 the size of A4). The text is tiny, black on grey, some vital tables have been left off, etc. And landscape doesn't seem high enough to me - it feels too easy to see over, even inadvertently. Just my opinion, worth what it cost you, or even less...

Phil

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I got Fed Up...
Posted by Dante - 2006/10/16 23:54

I did a really nice electronic version for use with a desktop or laptop. Made my own custom encounter charts based on my fantasy setting, created a "Combat Tracker" for entering PC stats and creature stats (automatically subtracts hit points as they're dealt, fills in all vital stats, etc.). It's wicked cool but needs a serious update to run on XP.

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I got Fed Up...
Posted by fiddy - 2006/10/18 11:19

Well, all your dreams have been answered (at least for the tri-fold portrait layout) guys. There's already an inexpensive solution, clear menu holders from a restaurant supply store. Just slide your pages in and out. Put a sheet in facing outward for images on the player side. I picked up one of these back when I ran some d20 modern games a couple years ago and it worked pretty well. I'm not entirely sure this is the exact one I got (since it's been a couple years), but you can see an example of what I'm talking about here. (And yeah, that is the store that I picked mine up from).

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I got Fed Up...

Posted by philhendry - 2006/10/20 07:42

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I've finished it - printed (on my shiny new Canon iP4300), each 'panel' laminated and the whole lot fastened together to make a folding screen. Looks really spiffing. Tonight will be its first use 'in anger'.

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I got Fed Up...

Posted by jkratzer - 2006/10/20 10:39

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Fiddy;

Is there enough room in that tri-fold to insert a slab of heavy cardboard between two sheets of paper, so you can have a double-sided screen that will stand vertical on it's own?
If so, I think I just found my fellow DM's Christmas gift. I can do a custom set of D&D and one for GW, and package the whole thing together for him.

Thanks for finding and posting this one, fiddy!

See ya!

Jim

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I got Fed Up...

Posted by fiddy - 2006/10/20 11:10

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jkratzer:

I don't know about a piece of cardboard (I can take a look tonight... er tomorrow maybe), but I'm pretty sure you should be able to slip a couple pieces of cardstock in there if needed. I don't really remember having a problem with it staying vertical on its own with only a couple pieces of paper in it, but it has been a little while since I used it.

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I got Fed Up...

Posted by Dante - 2006/10/20 13:53

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Even a thin sheet of plastic would work--lend some strength to the whole setup. I'd love to see some pics. Do you have a digital camera so you can post pics?

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