Make your Green Squirrel
Free Print & Play game even better

Make the scales and boards

Dragon scales is super bright abd vibrant with its colourful scales. During the game the scales are handled and moved a lot, which is why we recommend you use these simple techniques to add a card backing to your tiles and make them durable, easy to use and as close as possible to the real thing :)

Simply use any kind of card of medium thickness as backing for your game tiles. To make our game, we used two cereal boxes and a bit of glue:

Tips:

1. Make sure all the tiles are placed on the same thickness of card. For example, if you are using cereal boxes, choose two boxes of the same make and kind.

2. If you can, use a dry type of glue or spray mount and spread the adhesive evenly. Immediately after putting the pieces together, smooth the paper carefully. This will help the paper stay smooth and give a nice finish to the tiles.

3. If your cereal boxes or card you are using are big enough, glue the whole printed sheet to them first and then cut out the tiles directly with the card. This way the paper and card will be exactly the same size and will fit better when you play.

4. Pay special attention to the edges and corners of the tiles, making sure they are well glued. This will help with the durability of the tiles.

PS: We made our prototype from 2 large cereal boxes and the three sheets of printed plain paper. That is what we have used in all the photos for the game.

Varnish the tiles of your Print & Play game

A great and very simple idea to make your Print & Play game just like the real thing is to varnish the tiles. Here we have tried two different types of varnish that are widely available and you most likely have at home. The picture on the left shows the effect of simple **clear gloss wood floor varnish** and the picture on the right shows the effect you can achieve with **clear nail varnish**:

Clear Gloss Wood Floor Varnish

Clear Nail Polish

This technique can be used for any tiles and here are a few tips for how to make the most of it:
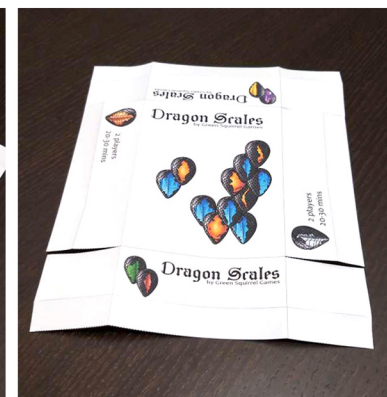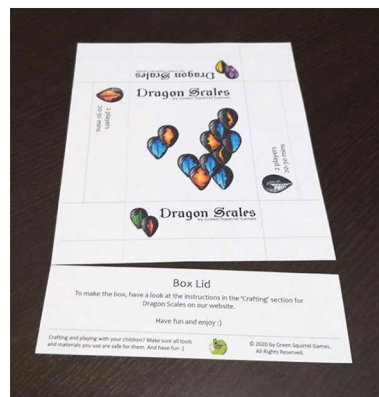1. Make sure the card you mount your design on is plain and has no design or texture. As the varnish soaks through the paper it will show any design underneath as you can see on the tile example on the right.
2. Varnishing the tile will make it very hard to the touch and much more hard-wearing.
3. One layer of varnish will give you a matt effect, two or three layers will make your tiles glossy.
4. If you are making a game to be played by small children, make sure you use materials that are safe for them. Some varnishes contain harmful substances.

Box

We have designed an awesome box for Dragon Scales to hold all the tiny pieces in one neat place. You will find the print file in the Box section for Dragon Scales on our website. Print the file in colour for full effect or in black and white if you prefer. If you can use thicker print paper, that would give a better result, but plain paper will do just fine.
Follow the instructions below to make your box.

1. Start by printing the file and cutting out the overall shape of the box. This box uses the full width of the A4 sheet you print. Make sure the printer is set to print at 100% size, rather than 'shrink to fit'. This way the box will be the appropriate size for the pieces. Your printer probably won't print to the edges, but that's not a problem at all. Simply extend the lines from the design to the edges, using a pencil or just cut and fold by eye.
2. Cut out the overall shape by cutting along the dotted line on the bottom of the design.
3. Next cut along the four short dotted lines in the four corners of the design and fold along all the uninterrupted lines.

Crafting and playing with your children? Make sure all tools and materials you use are safe for them. And have fun :)

This next step is not compulsory. You can skip it if you like, but we are suggesting it because it will add some extra support and durability to your box. What we are doing is to insert four pieces of card into the sides of the box to make it sturdier. As this box is larger than the others in our collection, it has fewer layers of the paper itself and the card helps balance that. So, if you would like to do this step, here is what you need to do:

Use any card that is not too thick. Thin to medium card will do best, but even thick paper will work. It is best to use white card or paper as this will not affect the colour of the box.

Cut two strips of the card that are roughly 30x105mm and 2 strips that are roughly 30x126
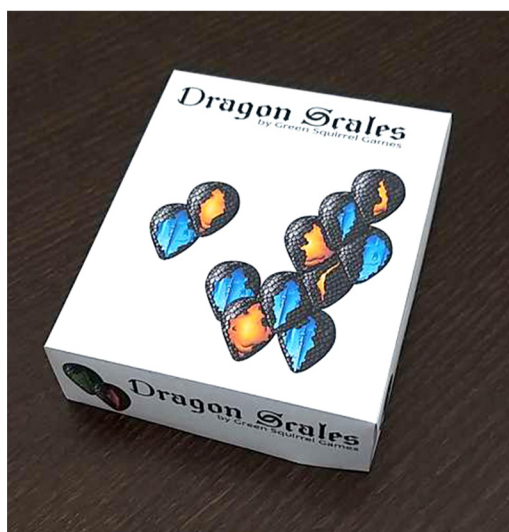To make sure you have the right size, simply measure the inside of the side of the box.
The strip of card needs to be a little smaller than the side itself, so it fits
comfortably and doesn't alter the shape of the box.
Use spray mount or another type of dry glue to glue the pieces of card to the sides of the box itself. Make sure they fit comfortably within the folds of the design. Finally, fold over and glue the two long sides as shown on picture 3 above.
If you chose not to do this step, simply skip the card and just fold over and
glue the paper on the two long sides.

Next, fold the little 'wings' on both long sides of the box and then fold the sides in as shown on the first picture above. Then, add some spray mount or glue to the remaining sides, fold them over the little 'wings' and press to glue well. That's it! One half of your box is ready :)

Repeat all the steps above with the other half of the box design and voilà! You have an adorable little box that fits all the awesome pieces from Dragon Scales.

We hope you enjoy both crafting and playing Dragon Wars :)

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