
THE DRAGON A Free Download

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So, it's the Thanksgiving Holiday and by now you're probably sick and tired of turkey, the bickering relatives and the kids screaming for another viewing of the Macy's parade ("but sweetheart, they don't show reruns on this!"). Maybe you should take a break, lock yourself in the basement and just get away from it all. Maybe a paper dragon might help. Please don't take this poor little thing too seriously as it's just a throw-away piece of whimsy for something to do. However, if, for some reason, you do feel compelled to use it, say for your next game of Budget Battlefield or Compact Combat, let us know. We might even whip up the stats.

DISCLAIMER

We have made every effort to make sure that all parts fit together properly, but sometimes tolerances are tight and mistakes do happen. Test fit all pieces before applying glue. Some trimming may be required.

Before photocopying or printing these pages on cardstock, you may wish to assemble a test copy on plain paper to better understand the construction. A minimum of 65# cover stock is recommended for constructing the final models. Regular 20 lb. bond paper can be used, but these items were designed for a heavier stock for extra durability and coloring.

Tools Required:

Scalpel or sharp-bladed hobby knife

Metal ruler or straight-edge

Cutting surface - a self-healing cutting mat is recommended, but a sheet of corrugated cardboard or even heavy poster board will work as well.

Glue - white glue, glue stick or wax stick. Double sided cellophane tape also works well. Rubber cement can be used, but will sometimes stain the cardstock or make it more difficult to color.

A Note About Using White Glue

White glue contains a good deal of water. Too much glue will warp the card stock so that its almost unusable. Warping may also cause the parts to fit together incorrectly. If you use white glue, put a very thin coat on the glue tabs - the thinner the better. You can use a cotton swab or your finger to spread the glue thin. Remember to keep a damp paper towel handy to remove any excess glue.

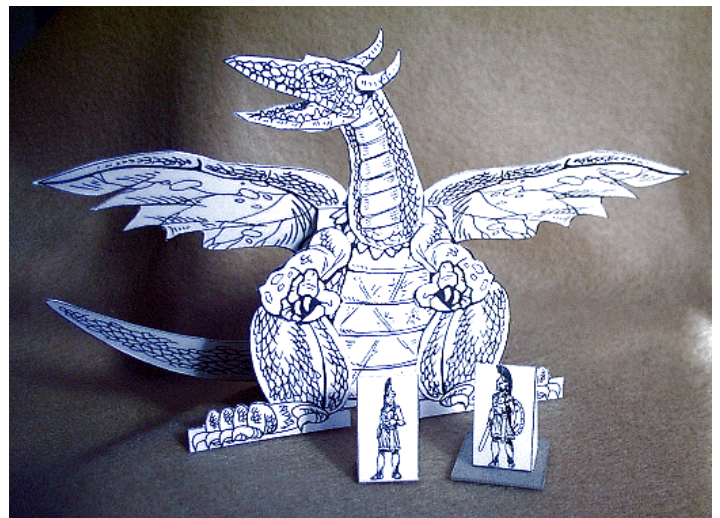
Start out by printing this file to a heavy cardstock. Cut out all the parts and score as indicated. Take the section with the dragon's body, flip it over so that the printed side is down and glue the tab to the bottom of the back section, which is the piece with the wings. When you fold up the front section you should have a

triangular shape with the body on the front and the wings on the back. Glue the legs on the body section, matching the sides with the blank areas. The squares on the inside of the dragon's feet will line up with the edge of the bottom of the dragon's front. Attach the tail to the rear of the body and, now here's the tricky part, adjust it low enough so that it touched the tabletop. The dragon should rest on the tail and the two front feet to stand upright. Attach the dragon's lower jaw to the underside of the upper head. You can adjust just how much you want the dragon's mouth to be open. When dry, attach the finished head to the neck. Here again, you can adjust the head to whatever angle you want. When the head and neck are dry, attach to the body in the center of the front body piece between the wings. As a final touch, cut out the arms and place on the body.

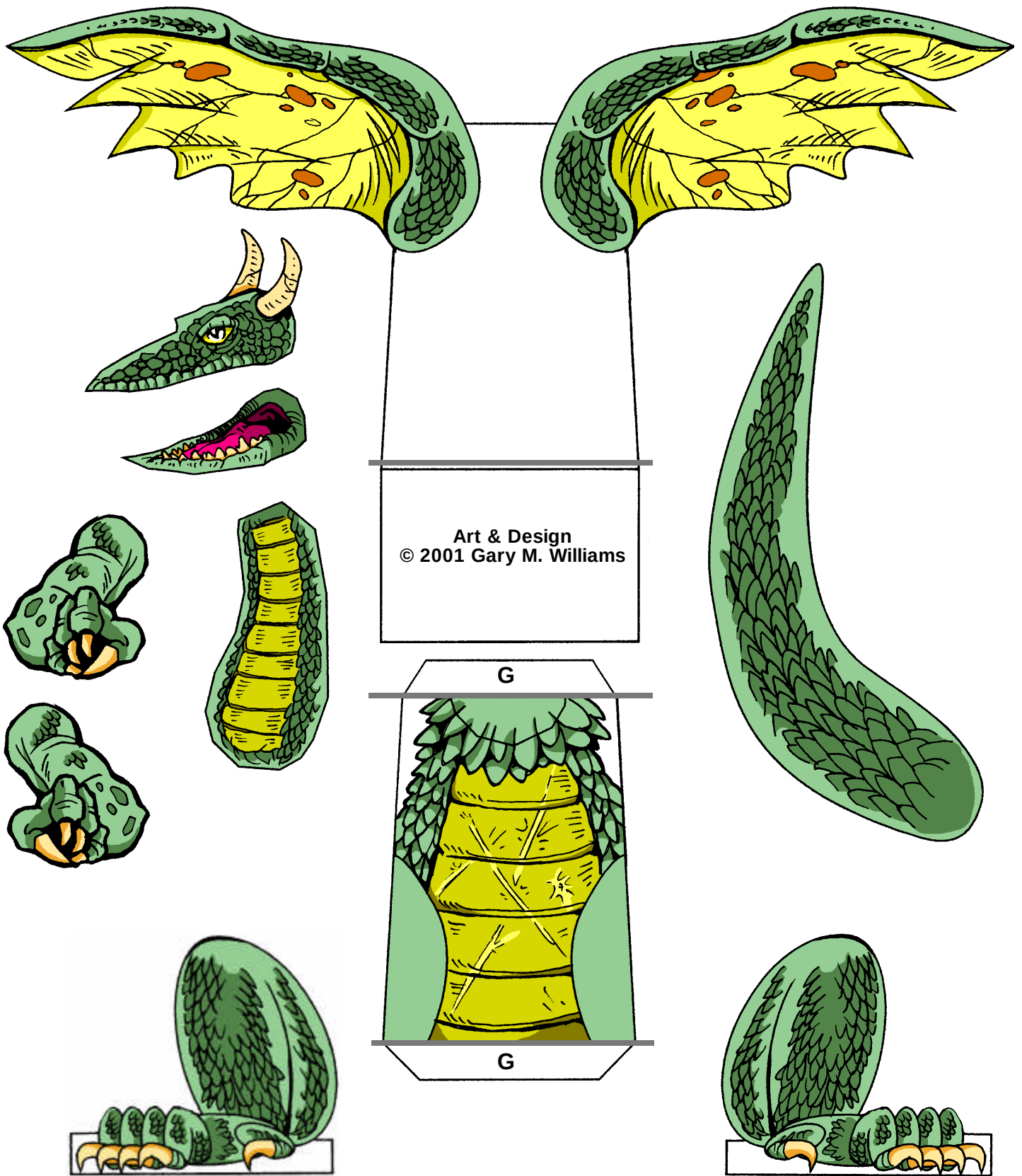
If your printer can handle size adjustments from the PDF file, you can scale the dragon up or down as needed, creating an entire army of adults and hatchlings. A word of caution, however. These illustrations were drawn at 100% and going up in size might make them a little fuzzy (as well as running off your page) and going down might clog up some of the fine detail. But, if your printer is better than mine (which is a pretty good bet it is), then you should have no problem.

A tip of the hat must go to the very talented artist Matt Drake who sent me his dragon that inspired me to try one myself. I'll have to admit, his looks a lot better than mine, but he spent more time on his than the half hour I did on this one. At any rate, have fun terrorizing your miniatures. -Gary M. Williams

PS: Sorry that this is the photo of the black and white one.

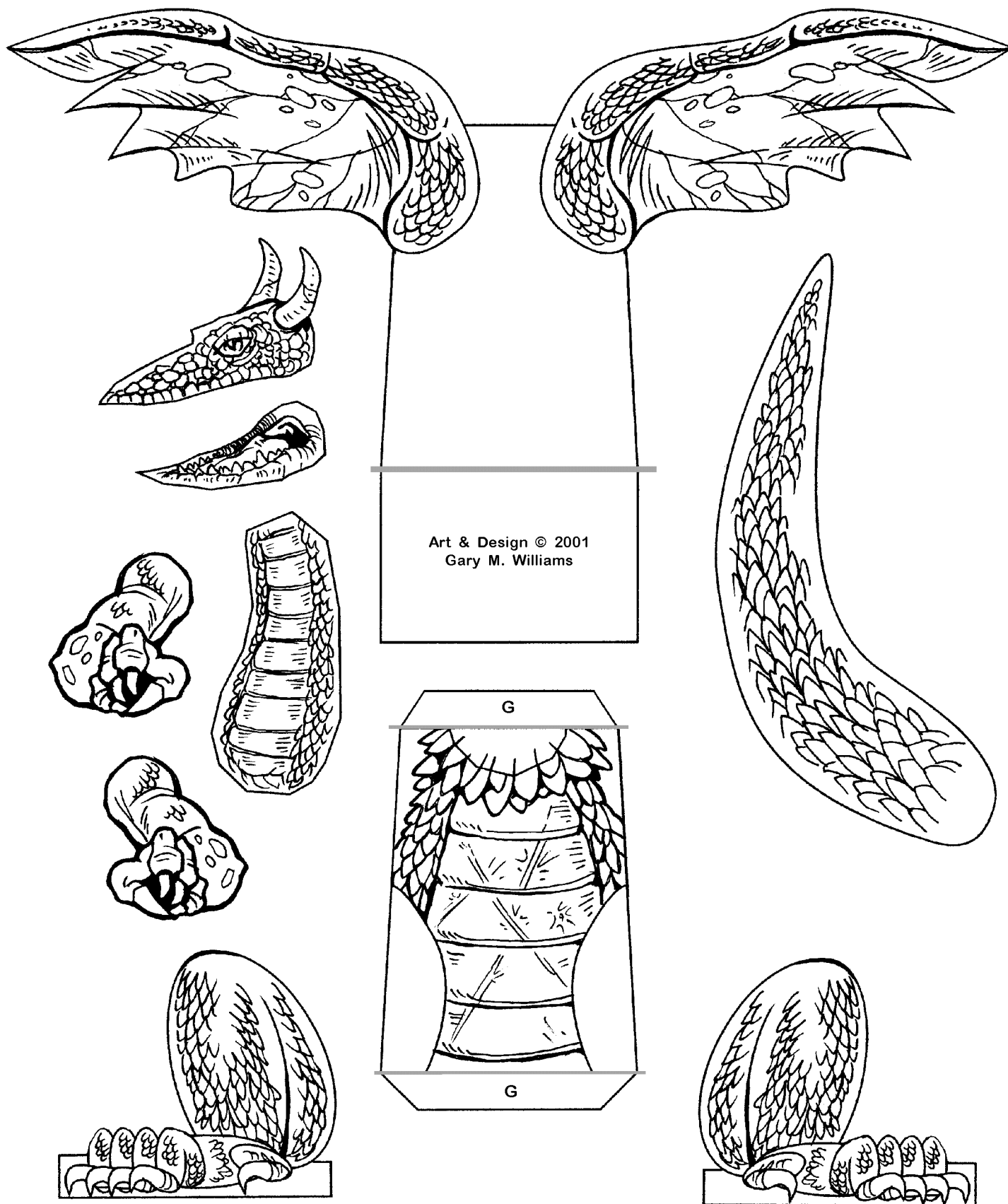


A couple of Amazons Warriors (artwork by Eric Lofgren) have a chance encounter.



The Dragon!

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