

Frequently Asked Questions, Submissions

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Do you pay for submissions?

Not currently, although it is absolutely something we are working toward. As artists ourselves, we are aware of the great amount of work that goes into creating comics pages, and are conscious of not taking our creators for granted. Nonetheless, we are still a small operation and are just about able to cover the costs of printing from our cover price. As we expand this is something we wish to address as soon as it's financially feasible. In the mean-time, we offer all of our contributors a free copy of the book as a thank you for contributing.

Do you accept submissions from outside the UK?

No. The UK comics scene is growing at an exponential rate, and there are far too many excellent home-grown creators to include in our anthology as it is. Furthermore, we feel that the UK comics scene has a distinct voice, and are concerned that we would dilute this if we were to include submissions from international creators.

Can I send you pornographic/violent material?

We draw a line along the boundaries of good taste, and won't include anything which we feel stands in opposition to our philosophy of inclusivity and accessibility. This doesn't in any way mean that adult themes are unwelcome, just that we won't include anything which we deem to be overly excessive or gratuitous. There are plenty of underground zines that cater for this type of material, but it is outside of our remit.

How about superhero comics/sci-fi/horror/manga?

You are welcome to submit a genre comic. So long as we like it - and feel it sits well against the other material in our book - then we will include it. Often genre pieces can fall victim to tropes and clichés which make them inaccessible to a general audience. However, this does not mean they can't be done well, and we will always consider work on merit rather than what is necessarily fashionable.

If included in Dirty Rotten Comics, do I retain copyright of my work?

Yes. It is your work and belongs to you. You will be credited fully in Dirty Rotten Comics and we include a disclaimer that it not be re-used – except for review purposes – without the prior consent of the creator. We may use samples from your work in promotional material or for our website, but you can let us know if this is something you'd prefer we not do.

Can I post the strip I've sent you to my personal website? Can I reprint it in my own collection?

As above, the strip belongs to you and you retain full copyright and ownership of it. Please post it wherever you see fit. We would ask that you hold off from posting it elsewhere until a week or two after it has been included in Dirty Rotten Comics, as it gives us some exclusivity and keeps our book unique!

How much will you edit my work? Will you make changes?

Typically, no. On occasion we have returned strips to creators for minor tweaking, such as to correct spelling mistakes. We may also make slight changes to tone and contrast to optimise your work for print, but that'll be as far as our interference goes. We are happy to give advice during the creative process, though.

You didn't include my submission in Dirty Rotten Comics. What now?

As artists ourselves we have been rejected numerous times in the past, and it is never fun. However, as editors – and human beings - we have tastes and preferences like anyone else. Just because we felt your work wasn't right for Dirty Rotten Comics in this instance doesn't mean our word is gospel. It may be that it will fit perfectly elsewhere, or it may be that your next submission will be just right for Dirty Rotten Comics.