

# LavaMind's Manga Contest

## Submission Guidelines

*Below are the complete submission guidelines. Please follow all the steps outlined below.*

- 1) Make sure to include a signed Release Form with your submission. If this is not included, I'm afraid we'll have to discard your submission unread. You can download a copy of the Release Form from [www.lavamind.com/files/release.pdf](http://www.lavamind.com/files/release.pdf)
- 2) Please submit photocopies only. Do not submit original artwork because your work will not be returned to you. If we do not accept your work, it will either be filed away or recycled.
- 3) Submissions must be original material created by you.
- 4) Please be aware that LavaMind does not accept any submissions of artwork, manga, or stories by email. If you wish to submit any creative work, you must make a photocopy of your work and send it to us by regular mail. Please do not use UPS or FedEx. Regular USPS is what we prefer because we'd rather not have to sign for every submission that we receive.
- 5) Because we receive so many submissions, we cannot guarantee a response. While we are committed to reviewing all submissions, please don't expect a reply from our staff. Also, please do not contact us to ask about your submission. If we are interested in your work, we will definitely be in touch with you. If you do not hear from us within thirty days, you can safely assume that we did not find your work at the level required for further consideration. This does not mean you don't have talent. It just means that either you didn't beat out the other competitors or your work wasn't quite there yet.
- 6) Please only make one submission per quarter.
- 7) It goes without saying, but please don't submit the same material twice. Unlike a good bottle of whiskey, submissions don't get better the second time around.
- 8) Please be aware that we don't post or discuss deal terms in advance. These topics will be dealt with only if we're interested in working with you. This is because the deal will depend on what role you'll play and how much development work the project will require. Some projects may require us to bring in other artists and writers, while some may be nearly ready for publishing. We may even invite you to join a project in development. From our experience, no two projects are ever exactly the same.

9) Make sure to send a sample of your work that best represents your abilities as a manga artist. One drawing is not enough. We need at least eight pages of clearly laid out manga so that we can accurately evaluate your abilities. If your talents are limited to one thing, like drawing cars only, then please make this clear. A good submission will include ten or more pages of a single story, showing a character in many different situations. We love to see characters that display a range of emotions and appear in various poses, yet remain consistent throughout. Consistency is the hardest part. We also like to see well crafted panel layouts. These details are what separates a great manga artist from a mediocre one.

10) Please submit samples on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Don't send pin-up shots, because they don't demonstrate your visual storytelling ability. You may want to use real manga paper for the sample work and send us a photocopy of it on regular paper. Deleter is a popular brand of manga paper, and there are several others available. Many manga artists use paper sizes B4 and B5. You can always reduce the photocopy to fit on 8 1/2" x 11" paper.

11) We are always looking for talented manga Inkers with professional experience and an understanding of how manga inking techniques differ from those used in American comics. Manga Inkers should submit copies of eight or more pages they have inked.

12) We are also looking for Manga Toners, who possess an understanding of toning techniques specific to black and white manga. Toners should also have a detailed knowledge of Photoshop or other graphics software. Please describe your ability to use software in your submission.

13) Right now we are not accepting writing samples. If you're a writer, please try to collaborate with an artist to develop eight or more pages of visual storytelling. Manga is all about the visuals. This is what we care about. Sorry, but no matter how great your story is, we cannot accept any written story without at least eight pages of visuals.

14) The ideal submission will include ten pages of finished sequential art (inked, toned and lettered) from any part of the story. Two pages of finished character designs (inked and toned). These should be your three most important characters.

15) Make sure that your samples not only tell a great story but are paced well. We like to see that you can deliver something with oomph, like a car chase, space battle, or love scene. Humor and embarrassing moments are also a plus. Get us excited, and we'll respond.

16) Last but not least, please tell us how long you spent on each page, and if you're working with a team, we'd like to know who did what.

If you've followed the guidelines above, please submit your work to:

LavaMind  
752 - 38th Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94121