



Printing Guide



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In order to help along the production of your book and avoid any delays, make sure that the files you submit conform with the following guidelines.

Your book should be submitted in 2 files:

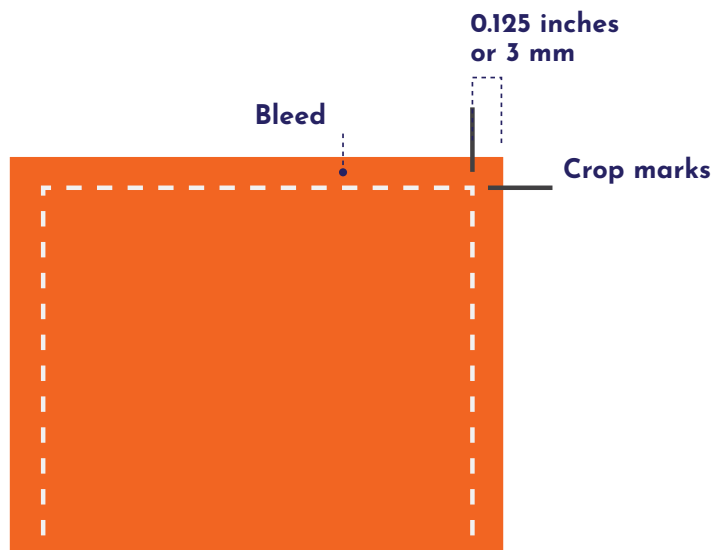
- one PDF file for the interior pages
- one PDF file for the assembled cover pages

A few general recommendations

Both files (interior and cover page) must be formatted as **PDF /X-1A**.

When creating your interior PDF file, make sure that:

- Fonts are embedded in the files;
- All images are set in CMYK and **not** in RGB;
- It is set up in page-by-page and **not** as a spread;
- Your book begins on an **odd-numbered** page (as a reminder, in a standard book even-numbered pages are on the left and odd-numbered pages are on the right);
- Bleed and crop marks are required at least in the cover file (and in the interior file too if it contains elements that will be printed to the page's edge). Minimum required bleed is 0.125 in (3 mm).



For best results

- Your images should have a resolution of 300 dpi to ensure the best possible quality for your book. Note that a resolution lower than 200 dpi will give poor results (pixelated images);
- All your images must be saved in CMYK and not in RGB, otherwise you will notice a difference between the colours visible on your screen and the printed result (*);
- Use the CMYK colour profile GRACoL2013_CRPC6;
- Your text should be set to text and not image mode;
- If there is a barcode, it must be in 100% black and not composed of several colours.

(*) Please note that your screen must have the same colour profile as our presses if you want to obtain an equivalent result. The calibration of your screen must be reviewed regularly. Differences between what you see on your screen and the printed result always come from a screen calibration error. And we cannot be held responsible for a difference in rendering because our presses are calibrated on a daily basis.



Single-sided cover (perfect binding)

Your cover page file should be assembled in a single piece, with the back cover on the left, the front cover on the right, and the spine in the centre (you can find the width of your book's spine on your quote or <http://www.rapido-books.com/calculator/>).

Minimum bleed = 1/8" (3 mm)

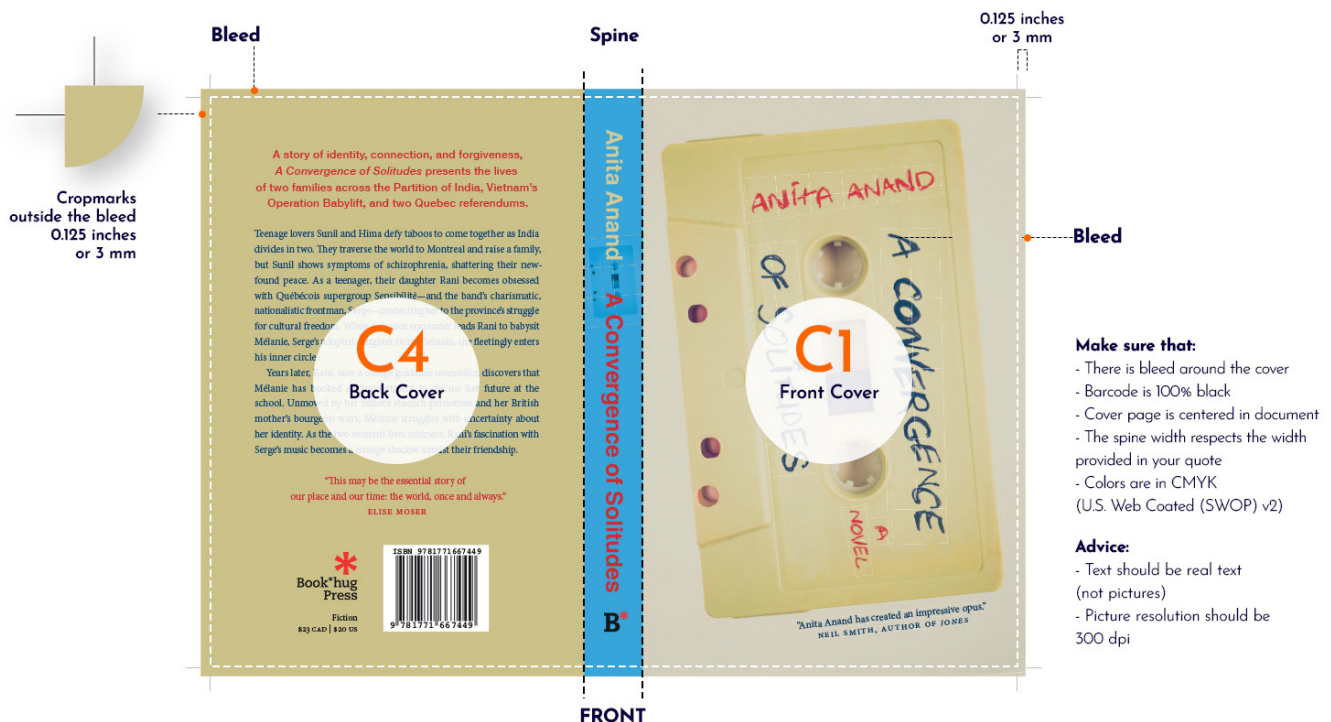
Crop marks cut off at 1/8" (3 mm) of their intersection (so as not to appear on the printed cover page)

Your document should have the following measurements:

Width: 2 x book width (as specified on quote) + spine width + 1/8" bleeds to the right and left of the cover;

Height: book height (as specified on quote) + 1/8" bleeds at the top and bottom of the cover.

For example, the cover page for a book measuring 6x9 inches with a spine of 1 inch should measure 13.25 x 9.25 inches.



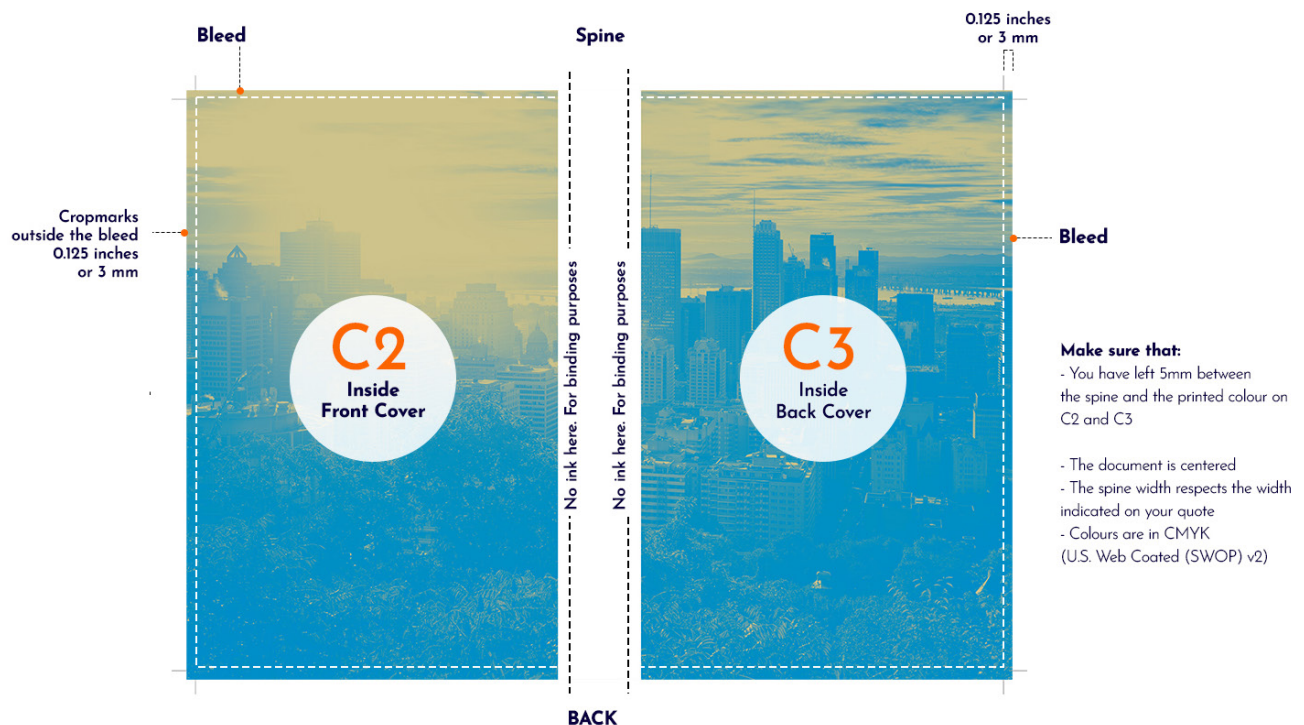
Double-sided cover (perfect binding)

All guidelines pertaining to single-sided colour apply to the double-sided.

The spread for the reverse side (verso) of the cover page should be included in the cover page file as a second page. Measurements should be identical to the recto or front side of the cover (page 1 of your cover page file).

Additional space, however, needs to be added to the spine portion of the spread: 5 mm on either side of the spine, or 10 mm total. This portion **must be** white. This is to ensure that the binding glue will properly adhere to the paper.

For example, in the case of a one-inch spine, the white space should be 1.3 inches wide.



Cover with flaps

The flaps are very aesthetic elements that are placed on both sides of the front and back cover.

They are usually between 2 and 3 inches long. When placing the flaps, your designer will need to increase the width of the cover by 1/16" (or 1.5mm) in width as the cover of a book with flaps should always be slightly larger than the inside for aesthetic reasons.

Your designer will need to position the score line of the flap above and below the cover.

If there is a colour difference between the cover and the flap, your designer will have to extend the width of the cover block by 3 mm instead of 1.5 mm.



Hardcover binding

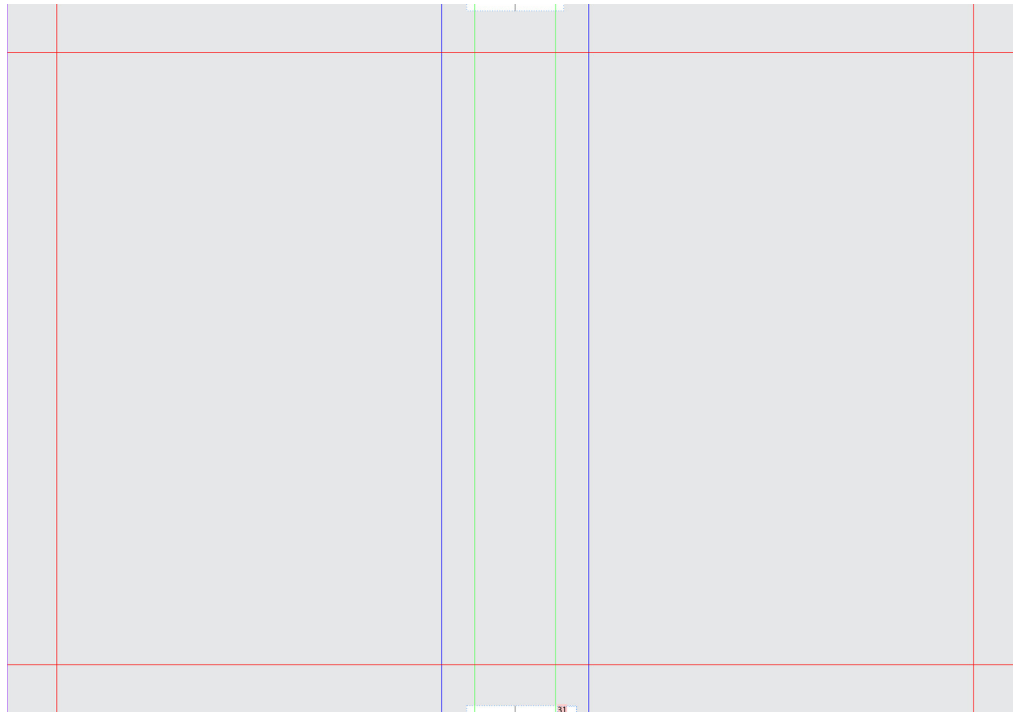
Cover pages for hardcover books need to be fit to a customized template that we will generate for you based on the measurements of your book.

If you are working with a graphic designer, we will provide her/him with this template in PDF and IDML formats.

The template includes three different guides:

- **Red lines** indicate the boundaries of the finished book (anything outside is the bleed).
- **Blue lines** indicate the dimensions of the front and back cover cardboards.
- **Green lines** indicate the width of the spine.

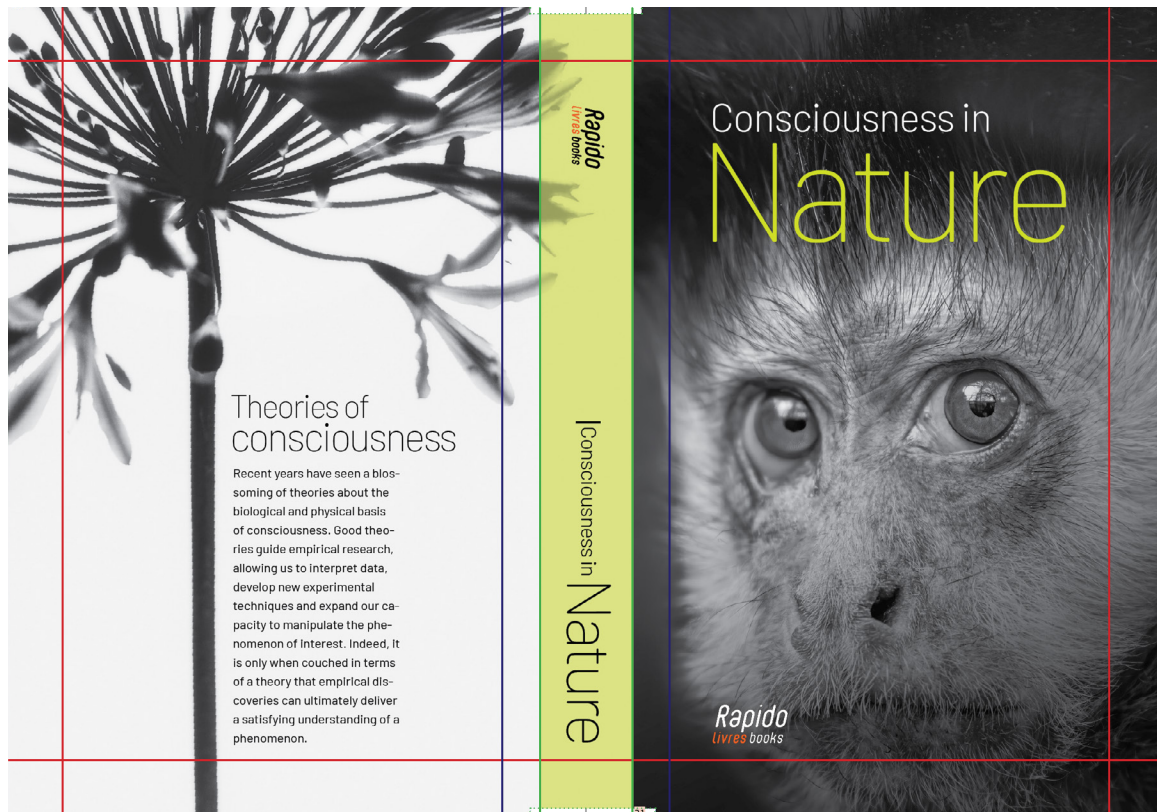
Template provided by Rapido Books



How to use the cover template for hardcover books

To use the template we will provide you with, please follow these steps:

- In Adobe InDesign, go to the parent page and click on the grey area;
- Import the elements of your cover, and make sure to place the spine inside the green lines. This is the best way to ensure that the text will be legible;
- Make sure that no element (no text) of your layout is outside the red lines. The red lines represent the fold area of the cover;
- Once you have checked that your layout has been correctly imported, you can export it in PDF.



Use of transparency and shadows

Adobe's graphic design tools (Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign) allow the user to create transparency effects as a way of producing interesting visuals.

On the screen, these visual effects can be very useful and appealing. However, when print files with transparency are sent to press, the RIB will interpret the information contained in the files in ways that may produce results different from the designer's expectations.

To avoid this, it is imperative to begin with a physical test copy. The test copy is a service we offer and which we can produce within 48 to 72 hours. It is the only way to guarantee a proper review of the print result, prior to production of your order.

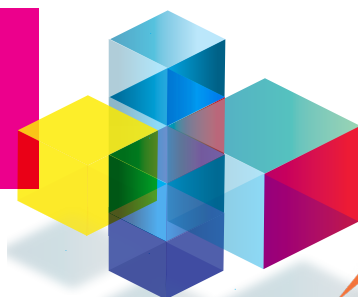
Also, here are a few recommendations to ensure that your print files are properly prepared for print:

- **Never use transparency in InDesign.** If you want to add transparency, do it in Illustrator ;
- **Never use shadows in InDesign.** If you want to add one, do it in Illustrator ;
- **Never use Pantone colours.** Make sure all colours are CMYK (for best results in print, we do not recommend using more than 3 colour components for a single object/colour) ;
- **Export PDF as PDF x1a,** as this will flatten any transparency effects into a single layer, helping to avoid unexpected results in print ;
- **Use the Overprint Preview feature (Adobe InDesign).**

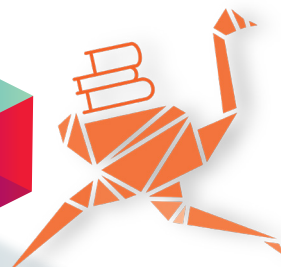
Element created in
Adobe InDesign



Element created in
Adobe Illustrator



Element created in
Adobe Photoshop



As you can see, it is possible
to combine elements created
in different softwares.

For elements created in Adobe
Photoshop, make sure to leave
the background transparent.

Print on demand, Europe and/or USA option

In order for your book to be produced on demand on the presses of our printing partners in Europe and the United States, you must respect three additional rules:

1. The cover file can't be double-sided (single-sided covers only);
2. The total area coverage (TAC) of the cover files must not exceed a total of 240%;
3. Your book must be in one of the formats below.

4.000" x 6.000"	(152 mm x 102 mm)	5.000" x 8.000"	(203mm x 127mm)
4.000" x 7.000"	(178mm x 102 mm)	5.000" x 7.000"	(178mm x 127mm)
4.250" x 7.000"	(178mm x 108 mm)	5.060" x 7.810"	(198mm x 129mm)
4.370" x 7.000"	(178mm x 111 mm)	5.250" x 8.000"	(203mm x 133mm)
4.720" x 7.480"	(190mm x 120mm)	5.500" x 8.500"	(216mm x 140mm)
5.500" x 8.250"	(210mm x 140mm)	8.000" x 8.000"	(203 mm x 203mm)
5.830" x 8.270"	(210mm x 148mm) A5	8.000" x 10.000"	(254mm x 203mm)
6.000" x 9.000"	(229mm x 152mm)	8.000" x 10.880"	(276mm x 203mm)
6.140" x 9.210"	(234mm x 156mm)	8.250" x 11.000"	(280mm x 210mm)
6.500" x 6.500"	(165mm x 165mm)	8.250" x 10.750"	(273mm x 210 mm)
6.625" x 10.250"	(260mm x 168mm)	8.268" x 11.693"	(297mm x 210mm) A4
6.690" x 9.610"	(244mm x 170mm)	8.500" x 9.000"	(229 mm x 216mm)
7.000" x 10.000"	(254mm x 178mm)	8.500" x 8.500"	(216mm x 216mm)
7.440" x 9.690"	(246mm x 189mm)	8.500" x 11.000"	(280mm x 216mm)
7.500" x 9.250"	(235 mm x 191mm)	11.000" x 8.500"	(216mm x 280mm)



Video tutorials

To illustrate our advice and show you how they should be concretely applied when creating your printing files, we have created a number of tutorial videos.

Find them either:

- Directly [on our website](#)
- On [our YouTube channel](#)