

Cover Specification



General



Embedded Fonts

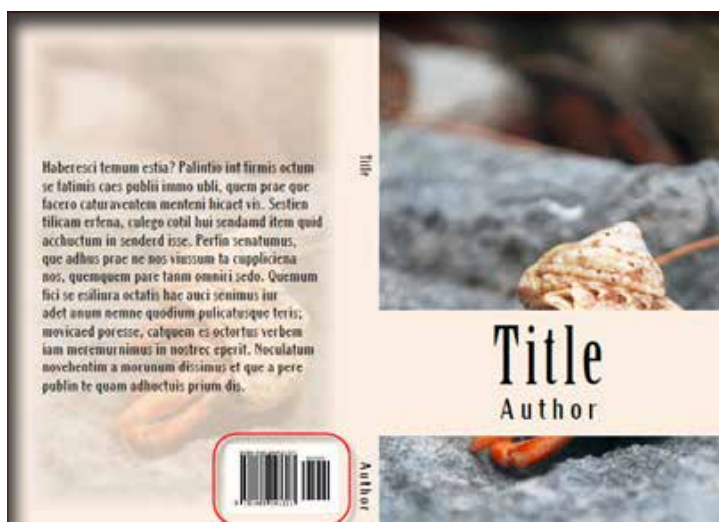
All fonts on the cover and interior should be embedded in the native program before submitting. We will attempt to embed any unembedded fonts through the Interior Reviewer or during the file review process. If we are unable to embed the fonts, the book will be rejected during the file review process.

Why is embedding fonts important?

All fonts on the cover and interior should be embedded before submitting, to ensure the book is printed as intended. Unembedded fonts may cause errors during printing or may fail to print at all.

Placeholder Text

We will reject any files with placeholder text, such as [Lorem Ipsum](#). Placeholder text may appear as an error in the file when sent to the printers.



This cover contains placeholder text for the Title, Author, and the back cover text is Lorem Ipsum placeholder.

Unrecognized Characters

Certain characters can appear as unrecognized fonts or font conversion errors. Symbols or text resembling squares or rectangles cannot be included as text, as these may be interpreted as an error in the file or manufacturing.

PDF Creation Logo

Watermarks and PDF creation logos are remnants of a software or service used to create a PDF.

A document containing watermarks is propriety property that belongs to the company that created it. We are unable to accept any files containing watermarks or PDF creation logos.



Security Encrypted File

Security encrypted or locked files prevent us from completing our file review process. All security should be removed from a file before submitting.

Transparency/Layers

Transparencies, or layers, are created in the native file either to create a visual effect or, sometimes, unintentionally. When a file is converted to PDF, transparencies do not always flatten as they should,

- We recommend flattening all transparent objects in the native file before submitting for review
- Transparencies can cause the file to fail at the printer or cause the file to print with missing content
- We will attempt to flatten transparencies in the review process and reject if unsuccessful
- Flattening transparencies in the review process can cause a color shift or a change of appearance in the content of the file

Crop Marks/Trim Marks

Crop or trim marks are placed in a document to define where the artwork is trimmed after it is printed. We do not recommend including crop marks as they could appear on the printed book.

We will attempt to remove Crop Marks when possible.



Annotations

An annotation is information added to a PDF but it is not intended to print. Examples can include mark-ups, sticky notes, comments, etc.

As annotations are not intended to print, they will be removed during the file review process, possibly causing a visible change to the book.

All content intended to be visible in print should be included within the Safe Zone or margins.

Resolution

For optimal printing we suggest that all images for both the cover and interior are at least 300 DPI.

Identifying Low Resolution Images

Images that are less than 200 DPI will be flagged in the Interior Reviewer and during the file review process.

We will not reject for low resolution images unless there is text within the image that is blurry and illegible.

If the cover and/or interior files are submitted at the wrong size and they need to be scaled, this can affect the resolution of the images within the file. When an image is scaled up in size, its resolution proportionately decreases.

In order to determine if you are satisfied with the quality of the images in print, we suggest you order a physical proof copy of your title before approving it for sale.

Resolution (continued)

Image to the right - 300 DPI



Image to the left - 150 DPI

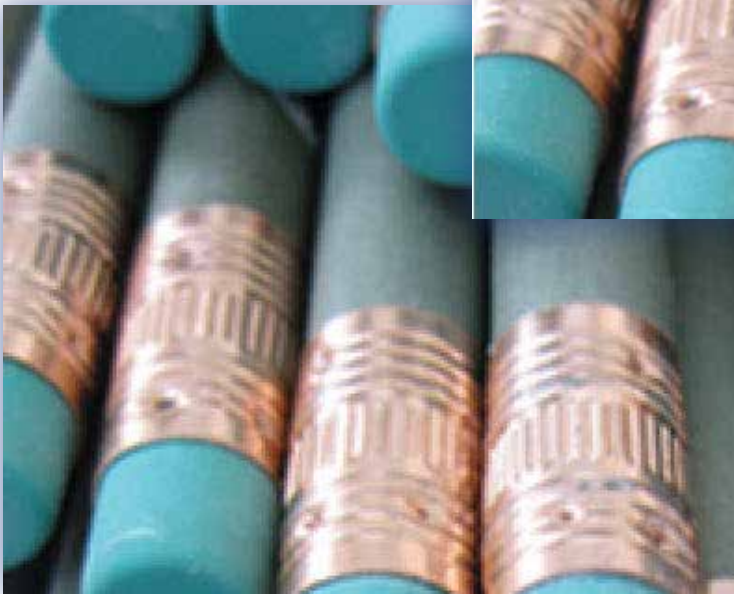


Image to the right - 72 DPI



References in Files

CreateSpace References

CreateSpace is the printer of your book and as such cannot be listed as the publisher.

Can Include:

- Printed by CreateSpace
- eStore address (i.e. www.CreateSpace.com/TITLEID)
- Printed by CreateSpace, An Amazon.com Company
- CreateSpace, Charleston SC
- CreateSpace

Cannot Include:

- Published by CreateSpace
- Published through CreateSpace
- Printed by CreateSpace Publishing
- CreateSpace, LLC
- CreateSpace Edition
- CreateSpace Logo

Amazon References

Amazon logos or trademarks cannot be included in the interior or cover files unless permission is provided in writing by Amazon.

In order to mention Amazon.com as an outlet to purchase your book, you must also cite other sources for distribution.

Can Include:

- Printed by CreateSpace, An Amazon.com Company
- Available from Amazon.com and other retail outlets
- Available from Amazon.com and other online stores
- Available from Amazon.com and other book stores
- Available from Amazon.com, CreateSpace.com, and other retail outlets
- A reference to an Amazon review
- Available on Kindle and other devices
- Available on Kindle and other retail outlets
- Available on Kindle and other book stores
- Available on Kindle and online stores

References in Files (continued)

Bundle References

Your manuscript and cover files should not imply that your paperback is part of a bundled set (such as a box set or disc set).

If you include a reference to supplemental media in your files or paperback description, you must specify the location and accessibility of the referenced media. For example, you can provide a specific URL for a disc or a link to a digital download.

Genre-specific Requirements

Companion Books

Companion guides are based on an original work (examples might include summaries, study guides, or analyses). To ensure that customers don't confuse your work with the original version, we ask that all companion guides meet the following criteria:

- The title begins with Summary, Study guide, or Analysis (for example, Summary and Analysis: *Pride and Prejudice*)
- The cover image prominently indicates the content is a summary, study guide, or analysis before title of the original book in a font size that is at least as large as the rest of the title
- The contributor(s) of the original book do not appear in the contributor field
- The content is categorized in a Study Aid or Literary Criticism category that best reflects the work (for example, Study Aid | Book Notes)

Joke books

Joke or gag books with repeated content or an intentional absence of content can be published as long as they are clearly labeled as such in the title information, product description and they meet all other specification requirements. Joke and gag books should include some type of content that clearly indicates the page is intended to be blank.

Journals/Notebooks

Journals or notebooks can be published as long as they are clearly labeled as such in the title information, product description and meet all other specification requirements. Journals and notebooks should include some type of content such as lines, boxes to draw in, or an area for "notes" in order to indicate that the pages are intended to be blank.

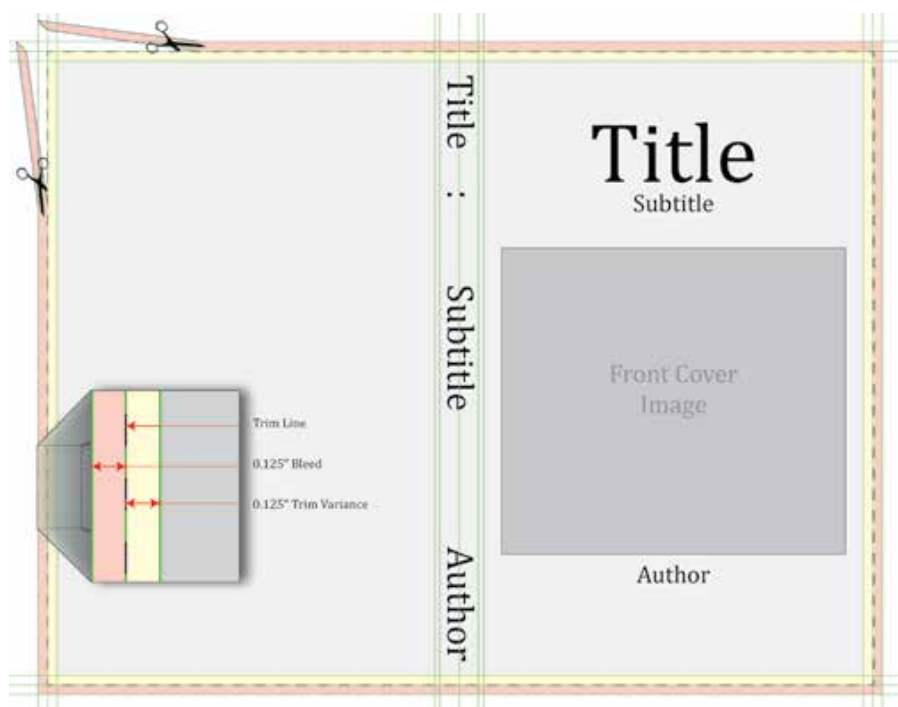
Cover Overview



Cover Overview

Your cover must be a single PDF formatted to the trim size of your book, which includes the back cover, spine, and front cover as one image. You can submit your cover on any size page as long as the printable area is:

- Measured exactly to your book's trim size, spine width, and 0.125" bleed on all sides
- Centered horizontally and vertically



- If only a front cover image is submitted, we will attempt to construct a full cover by adding a solid white back cover and spine.
- If only a back cover and/or spine image is submitted, we will not be able to construct a full cover and the file will be rejected.
- Every book will vary slightly when bound. Allow for 0.0625" variance on either side of the fold lines for your cover. For example, if your spine width is 1", your spine text or logos should be no wider than 0.875". Because of this variance, cover designs with spines that have hard edges or lines that end on the fold line may experience some wrapping to the front or back cover.

Calculating the Cover Size

Your cover must be a single PDF, formatted to the trim size of your book, which includes the back cover, spine, and front cover as one image.

Spine Calculation:

To format your cover you will first want to calculate the spine width of your book. To do so, multiply the total page count with the spine multiplier associated with your book's paper type below:

- **For black and white-interior books:**
 - White paper: multiply page count by 0.002252"
 - Cream paper: multiply page count by 0.0025"
- **For color-interior books:**
 - Multiply page count by 0.002347"

Example Calculation:

A 60-page black and white book printed on white paper will be created using the following formula:

$$60 \text{ (pages)} \times 0.002252'' \text{ (spine multiplier)} = 0.135'' \text{ (spine width)}$$

Once you have your spine width you can calculate the fully formatted cover size. You will calculate the fully formatted cover size using the spine width calculation, the trim size width and height, and our 0.125" bleed requirement using the following equations:

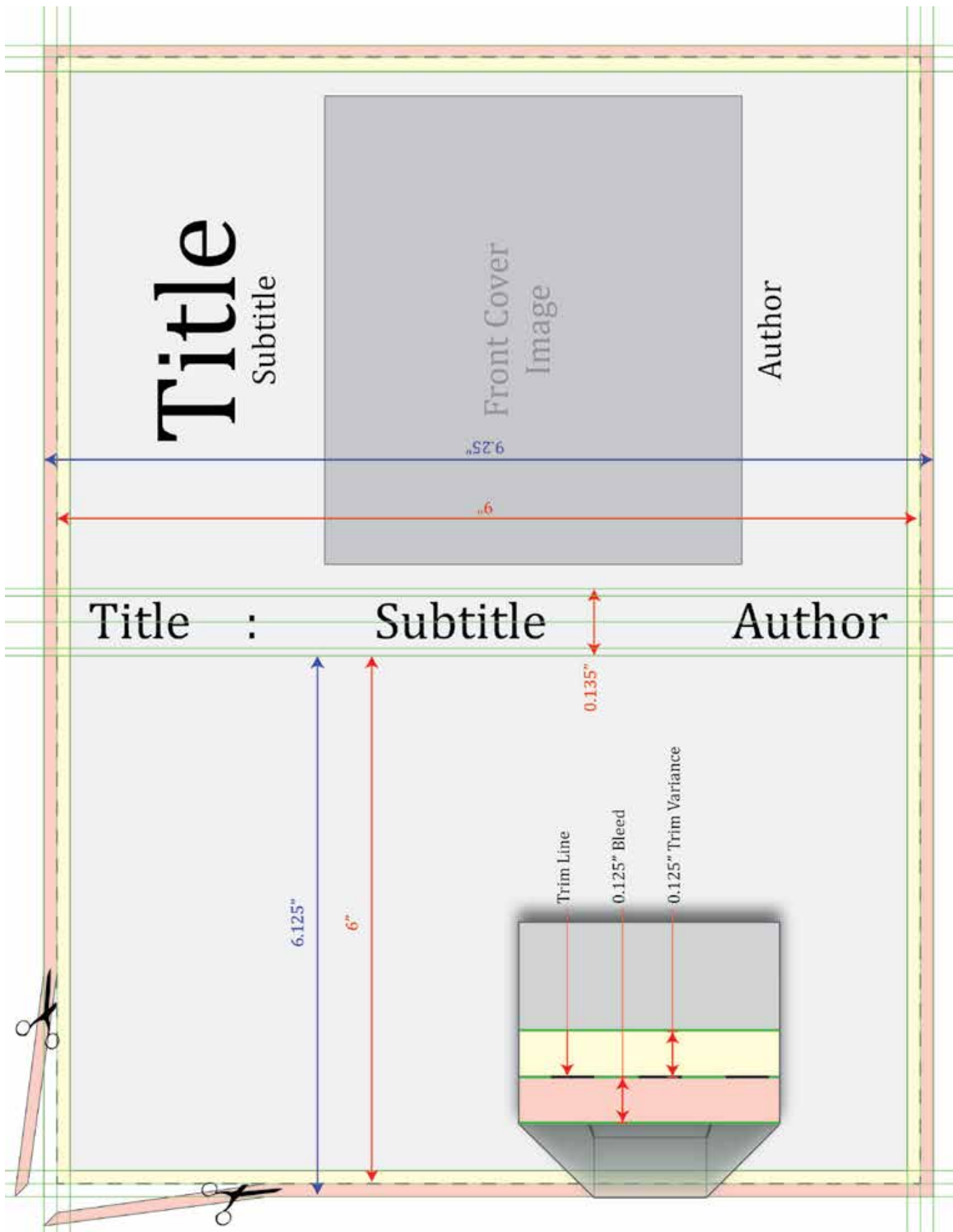
- Cover Width = Bleed + Back Cover Width + Spine Width + Front Cover Width + Bleed
- Cover Height = Bleed + Trim Height + Bleed

Example Calculation:

6" x 9" trim size with 60 B&W pages on white paper:

$$\text{Cover Width} = 0.125'' + 6'' + 0.135'' + 6'' + 0.125'' = \mathbf{12.385''}$$

$$\text{Cover Height} = 0.125'' + 9'' + 0.125'' = \mathbf{9.25''}$$

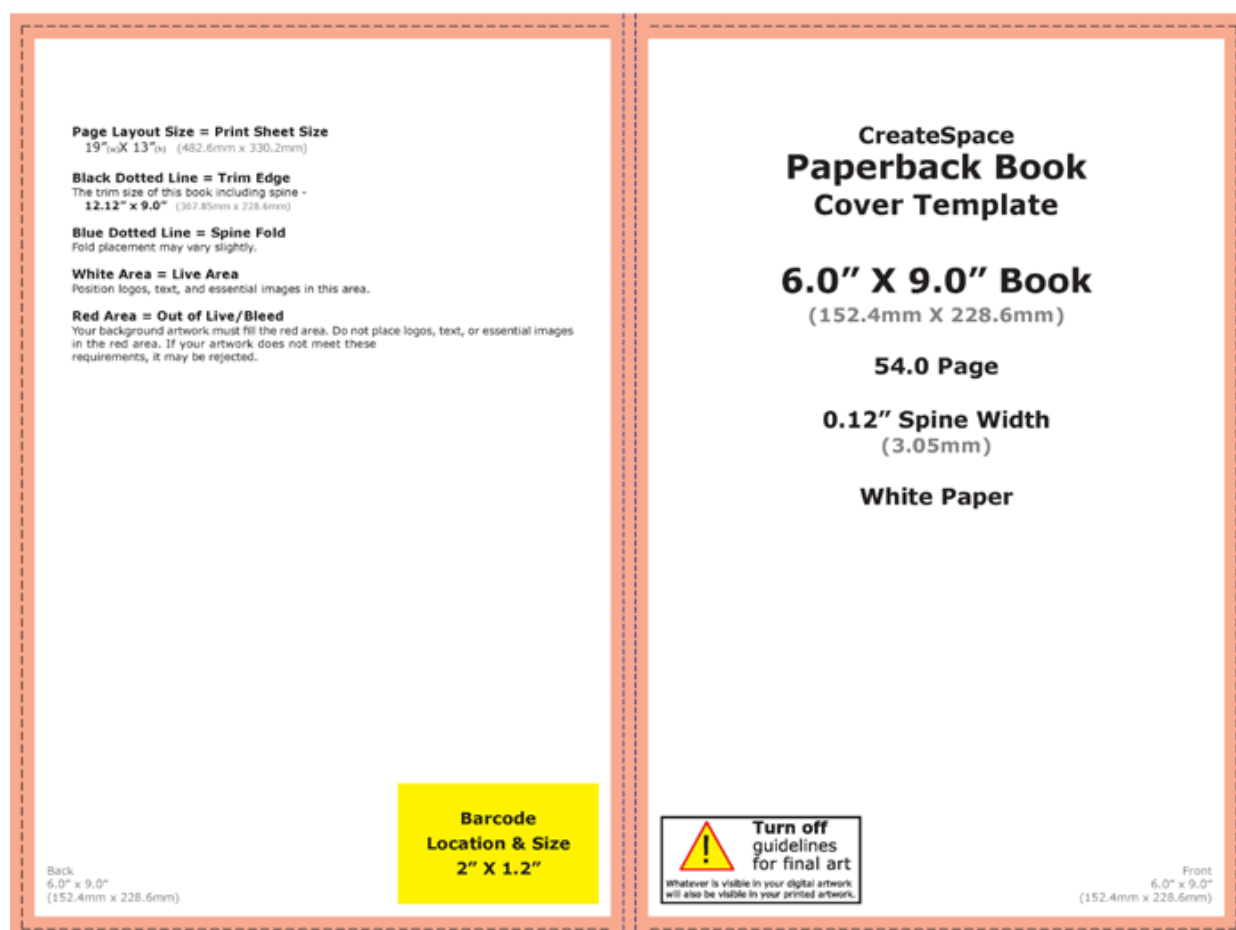


Cover Templates

CreateSpace offers templates make it easier for you to quickly create print-ready files in Adobe Photoshop®, Adobe InDesign®, or any software that will allow you to open a .png or PDF file and save a PDF file. These templates contain the proper dimensions, layout, and bleed for the trim size and page count you select.

<https://www.createspace.com/Help/Book/Artwork.do>

Templates are not available for all trim sizes and page counts.



This is how the guide appears when opened in any of the above mentioned programs.

Note: this guide is for a 6" x 9" black and white book on white paper.

Live Graphics



What are Live Graphics?

Live Graphics is content that is placed within the viewable area (or safe zone) of a page that is always seen.

All metadata, such as the title, subtitle, author name(s), volume, etc. is considered to be live graphics and must be inside the live graphics safe zone.

We can allow ascenders, descenders, edges of text, and text as design elements to fully extend to the edges of the cover file as long as the text is still legible within the live graphics area. Please note that all descriptive, body, and small text still needs to be at least 0.125" away from the trim lines and 0.25" away from the bleed lines.

- We will attempt to correct live graphics issues during the file review process where possible

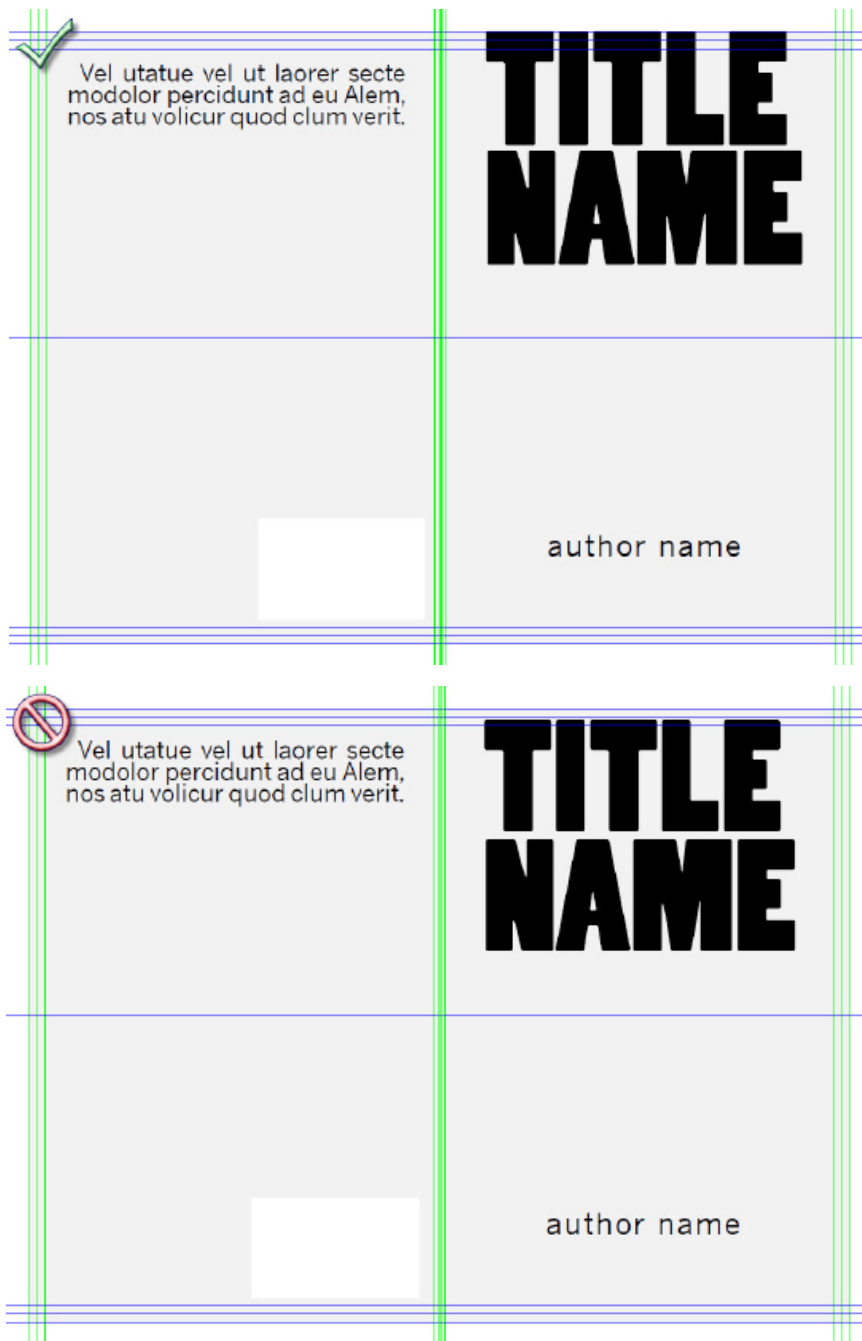


Why do Live Graphics Matter?

Ensuring all elements are contained within this area safeguards that no essential elements are cut during the bookmaking process.

Due to our unique printing model, we cannot accept cover designs with Live Graphics extending off the cover's edge unless the cover is designed as described above. Otherwise, this may look like an error in the production of the book which will halt the printing process and cause orders to be delayed.

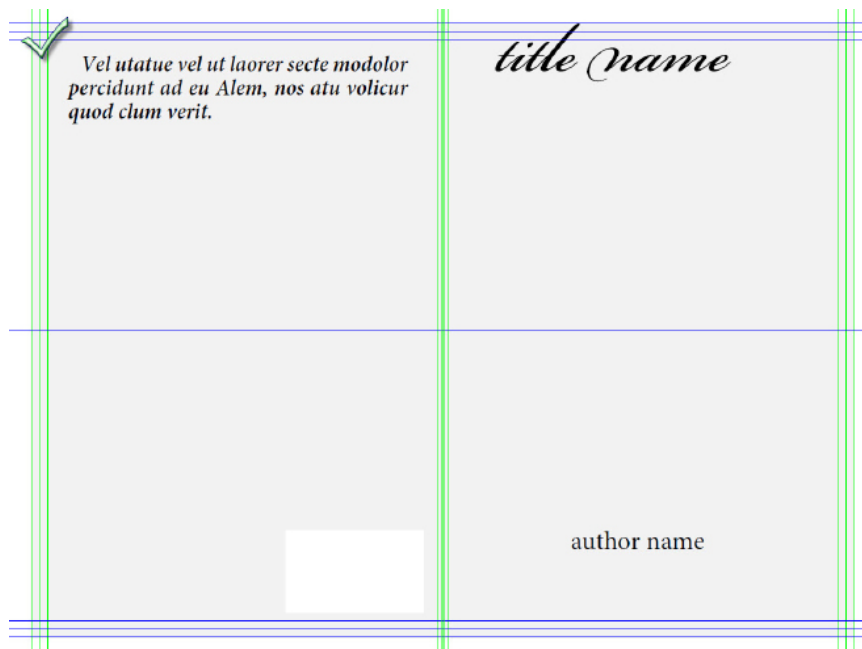
Examples of Live Graphics



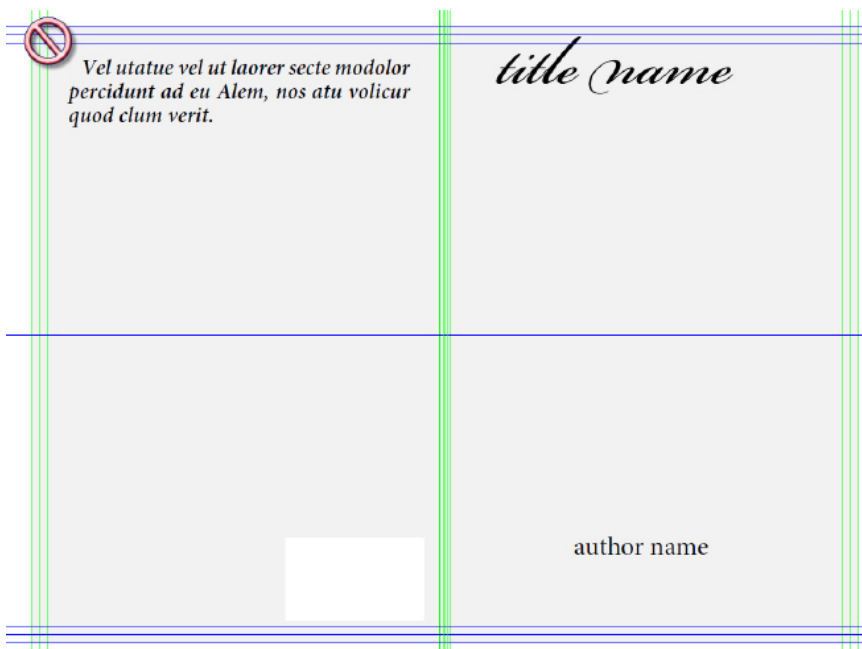
Title extends to the edge of the cover and it is still legible in the safe zone.

Title falls outside the safe zone, but does not extend all the way to the edge of the cover.

Examples of Live Graphics



Ascender extends to the edge of the cover and it is still legible in the safe zone.



Ascender falls outside the safe zone, but does not extend all the way to the edge of the cover.

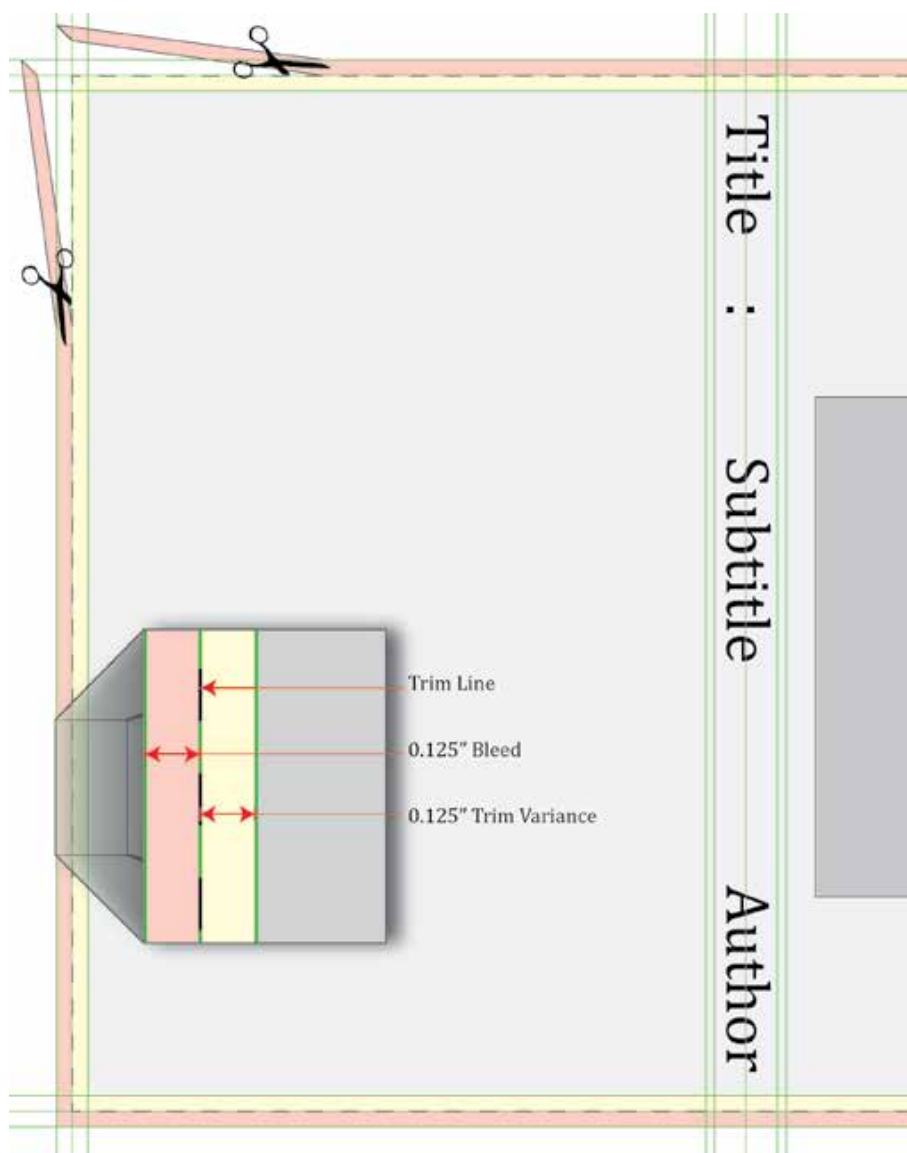
Cover Bleed

What is Cover Bleed?

Bleed is the part of an image that extends beyond the edge of the printed page to accommodate for cutting and/or trimming tolerance to ensure there are no white lines around the edges of the page.

Bleed area should not include any Live Graphics that cannot be cut during the manufacturing process. We require all covers include 0.125" of bleed on all four sides of the fully formatted cover.

**If the cover file is lacking bleed, we will attempt to add bleed during the file review process.*



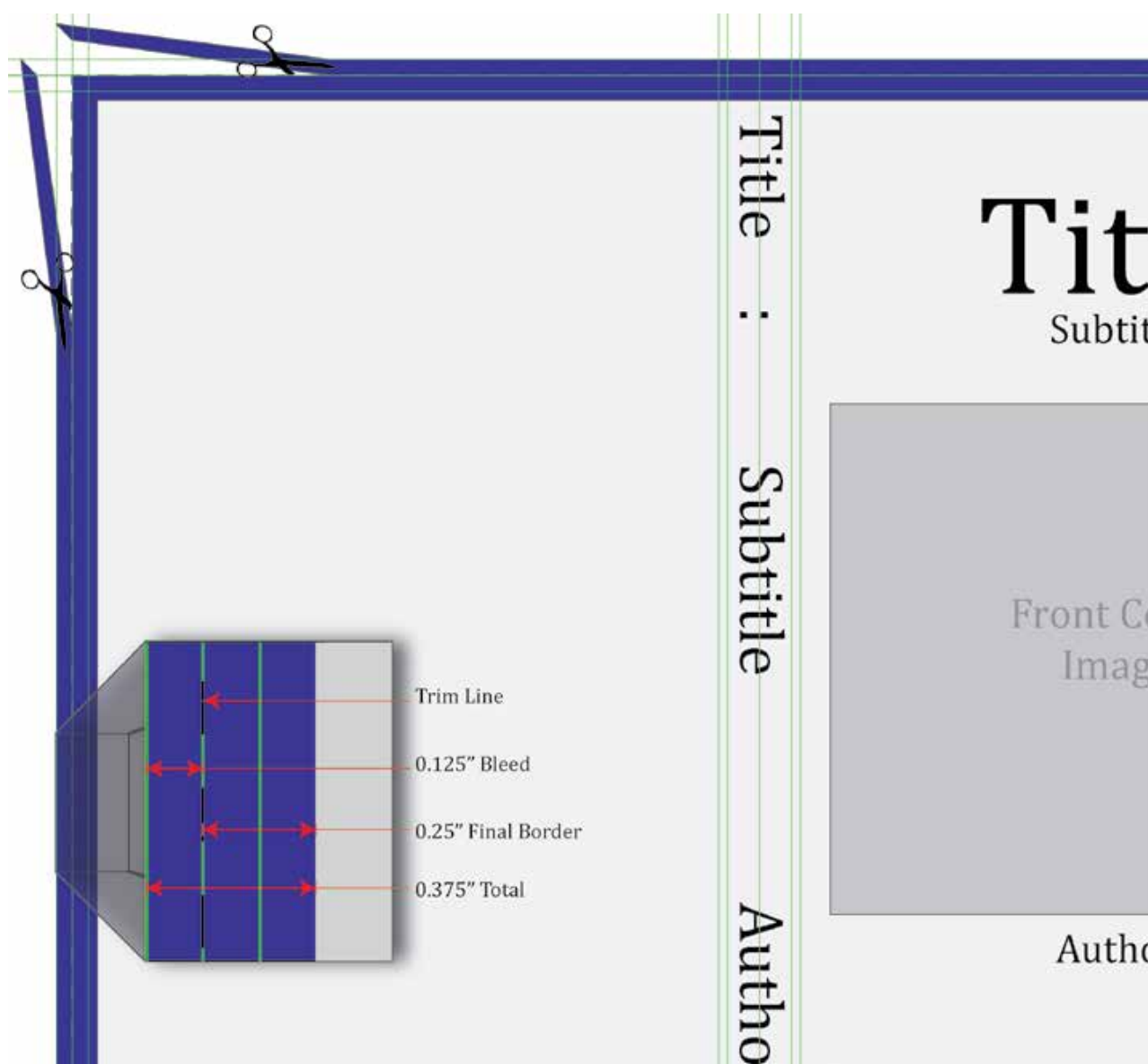
Borders



Border Requirements on Covers

We don't recommend including borders around the cover due to our 0.125" production variance which may cause the border to be trimmed or appear uneven.

If the cover is designed with borders, we recommend the border extend inside the trim area by at least 0.25" to ensure the best outcome in print.



Spine Text



Spine Text and Image Requirements

Books must have more than 100 pages to include spine text.

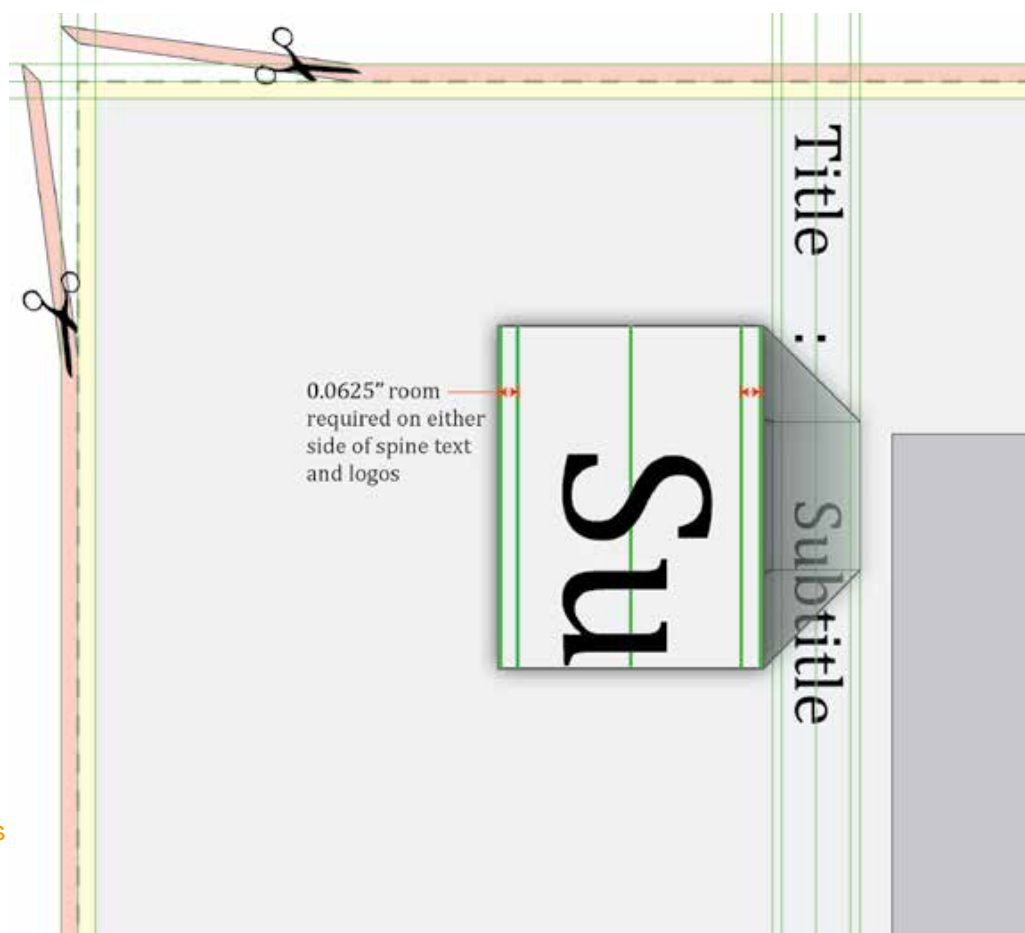
This is due to potential print variance and spine requirements. Any book with less than 101 pages with 0.0625" of space on either side of the text would be too small to be easily read.

We strongly recommend not including spine text on books with fewer than 131 pages due to the potential for print variance.

Spine text and spine logos must have 0.0625" of space on either side. This includes letters with ascenders and/or descenders like 'y,' 'g,' or 'd' where the letter extends below the baseline or above the mean line of a font.

We will attempt to adjust spine text or spine logos issues to meet our requirements during the review process.

These requirements are to ensure the text always prints on the spine during the bookmaking process.



[Link to Table of Contents](#)

Barcode



Barcode Size and Placement

Commonly we see that publisher-submitted barcodes have underlying issues which prevent orders from being fulfilled in a timely manner. To prevent this, we will automatically add a high resolution and appropriately-sized barcode to ensure that there are no delays or issues for customer orders and other retailers.

We will automatically add a barcode in the lower right-hand corner of your book's back cover, free of charge.

- Our system will place the ISBN barcode in a space 2" wide and 1.2" tall
- The bottom of this barcode is located 0.25" up from the bottom trim line of the cover
- The right side of the barcode is located 0.25" to the left of the spine
- Please ensure that you don't have any important images or text in this standard location
- If there is not enough room in the standard location, at the standard size, then we will attempt to place the bar code in an alternative location. If there's no room at all, then the cover file will be rejected.
- We do not add or embed a price in the barcodes.
- If you want the barcode to be placed in a specific area or orientation, indicate that with a white box at 2" wide and 1.2" tall

