



PDF CREATION GUIDE



Creating your Book Files



Getting Started

This guide and spec sheet has all the information you'll need to prepare your PDF files for optimal printing. Lulu's book creation platform and Shopify App all work best with fully formatted and prepared PDFs

Interior File Specifications & Layout

The single interior PDF file should include all interior content for your book. This includes a copyright page and any blank pages.

- Images should be 300 ppi resolution when possible, not exceeding 600 ppi resolution
- Vector images should be rasterized
- All fonts should be properly embedded
- Flatten any transparent layers and vector objects
- Your PDF should be single-page layout, portrait orientated
- Size your PDF pages to match the book you are creating. Include the bleed dimensions of 0.125" for your document. For example – a 6"x9" book requires a PDF with pages sized 6.25"x9.25"
- Allow a 0.50" Safety Margin for all content
- Allow a minimum 0.20" Gutter margin for inner edge of all pages
- Do NOT include trim or bleed lines in your PDF.

Cover File Specifications & Layout

Your cover file should be a one piece PDF that includes the back cover, spine, and front cover content in a single page spread. We recommend using the template we provide during the publishing process (sized based on your interior file).

- Images must be 300 ppi resolution
- Vector images should be rasterized
- All fonts should be properly embedded
- All layers should be flattened
- Size your PDF to match the specification provided for your book. The spine width is relative based on the number of pages in your book
- Include bleed dimensions of 0.125" and allow a minimum 0.25" Safety Margin for all content (0.75" for Case Wrap)
- Do NOT include trim or bleed marks in your PDF

Formatting Your Book

It's best to consider your final trim size early in the formatting process because this dictates the dimensions of the Interior and Cover files you will need to prepare for upload.

Anatomy of a Book



Total Document Size

The total dimension of the file with bleed included.

Spine Area

The spine width varies by the number of pages in your book. Use the appropriate formulas/tables to determine Perfect Bound, Casewrap, and Dust Jacket spine widths. Coil and Saddle Stitch products are not glued at the spine, so they do not require extra spacing.

Safety Margin

We recommend maintaining a border between the trimmed edge and important content (e.g. text, page numbers) to prevent it from being trimmed away.

Live Area

An area that text and images are safe from cropping.

Bleed Area

A border is trimmed from the final book block during manufacturing. Imagery or design elements that are intended to extend beyond the edge of the page should fill the bleed area to prevent white space appearing in final production.

Barcode Area *(Optional)*

The recommended area in which your ISBN is placed. Books not intended for retail distribution do not need a barcode or ISBN. We do not generate/add barcodes.

Gutter *(Not Shown)*

Inner margin allowing for the curve of the page.