

How to create an artwork file for perfect bound booklets

Below, we've compiled the essential guidelines and specifications to create a successful print file for booklets with perfect binding.

1. Download your template

Important: It is essential to download and use our template to guarantee error-free printing and achieve the best possible results. Follow these simple steps to download the right template document for your project:

1. Go back to our [perfect bound booklets page](#).
2. Find the "Specs & Templates" section underneath the "Upload file" button.
3. Choose your **booklet size, paper stock, inside page thickness and page count details**. These will ensure you get the correct template with the correct spine thickness (if you change any specs, be sure to download a new template).
Note: When asked to select the "Page count", this means the total number of single pages of your booklet – including 4 cover pages. For example, Page Count 40 results in a booklet with 4 cover pages and 36 inside pages.
4. Once your template is generated, download it in a format that matches your specifications.
5. Open the downloaded template and use it as the foundation for your artwork file. If you already have a design, adjust it to align with the template's layout.

	Page size (includes bleed)	Trimmed booklet size
A4 Portrait	W: 30.3 cm H: 21.6 cm	W: 29.7 cm H: 21 cm
A5 Landscape	W: 21.6 cm H: 15.4 cm	W: 21 cm H: 14.8 cm
A5 Portrait	W: 15.4 cm H: 21.6 cm	W: 14.8 cm H: 21 cm
A5 Landscape	W: 21.6 cm H: 15.4 cm	W: 21 cm H: 14.8 cm

Please note: Use these dimensions when setting up your file – anything else won't be accepted.

2. Create your artwork file

2a. Page counts

For perfect bound booklets, your artwork file should have 2 pages fewer than your selected page count – as the front and back cover pages will be merged into 2 double-page spreads with a spine.

For example, selecting Page Count 40 on the product page results in a booklet with 4 cover pages and 36 inside pages, but will need an artwork file of 38 pages with 2 double-page cover spreads and 36 inside pages.

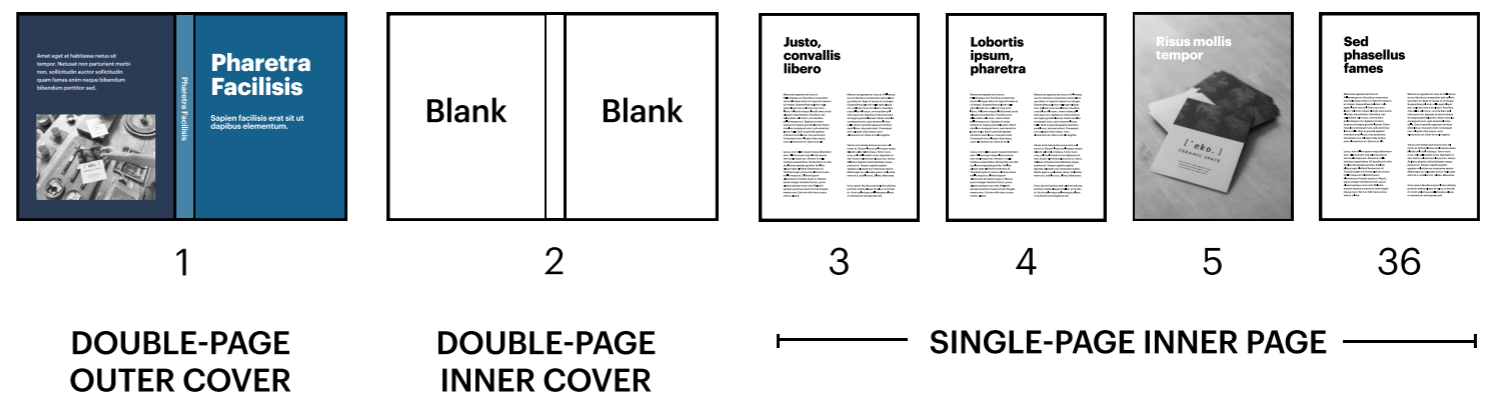
Please note: Your file will always include **2 double-cover spreads** (see below). If you only want to print on the outside of the covers, include the second double-cover spread in your file – but leave it empty.

Based on a 40-page booklet example



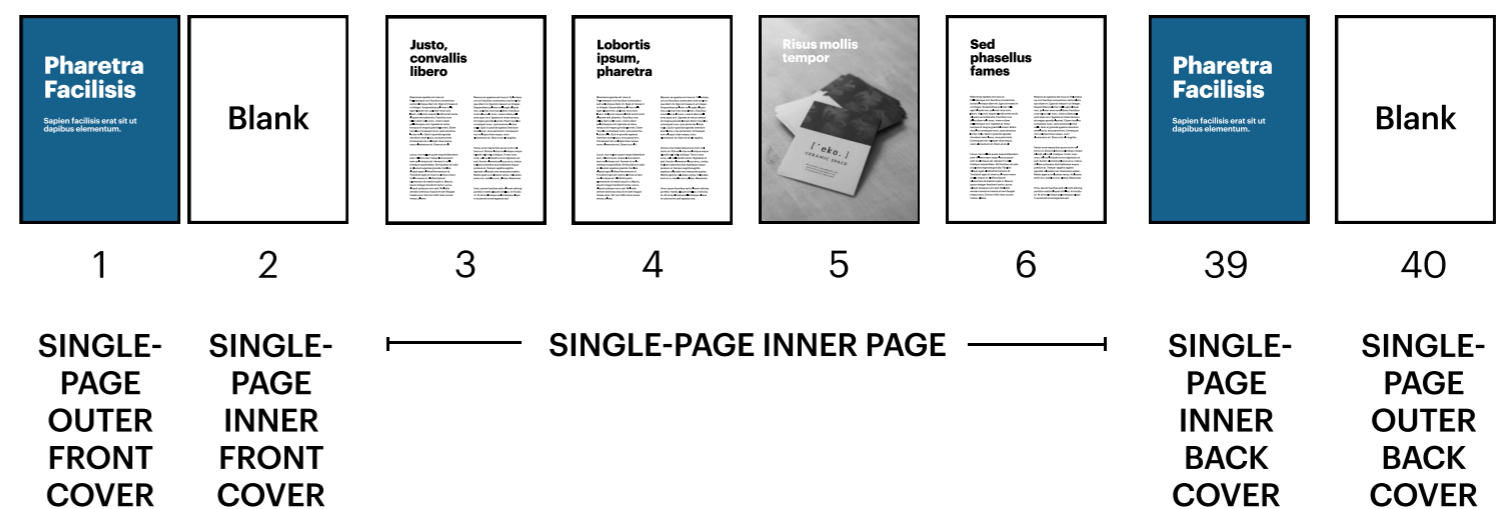
DO

Start with 2 double-page cover spreads, followed by single-page inner pages.



DON'T

Upload the cover in single pages.



2b. Margins, bleeds & spacing

To ensure edge-to-edge printing, please add a 3 mm bleed to all sides of each page. This ensures that background colours or images extend all the way to the edge of your booklet after cutting.

- Solid green line (safety line): Keep all key content, such as text and images, inside this area to avoid cropping.
- Solid blue line (trim line): This marks the final edge of your booklet.
- Solid red line (bleed line): The extended area that will be trimmed off. Ensure that background colours or images extend to this line.
- Dotted red line (binding edges): These lines define the spine of the booklet. Make sure that all key content is at least 15 mm away from them.

Text (and other important information) should be placed at least 15 mm from the binding edge (inside margins) and 5 mm from the outer edges (trim-safe zone). It will be hard to read if it's too close to the binding. It may be trimmed off if it is too close to the edge.

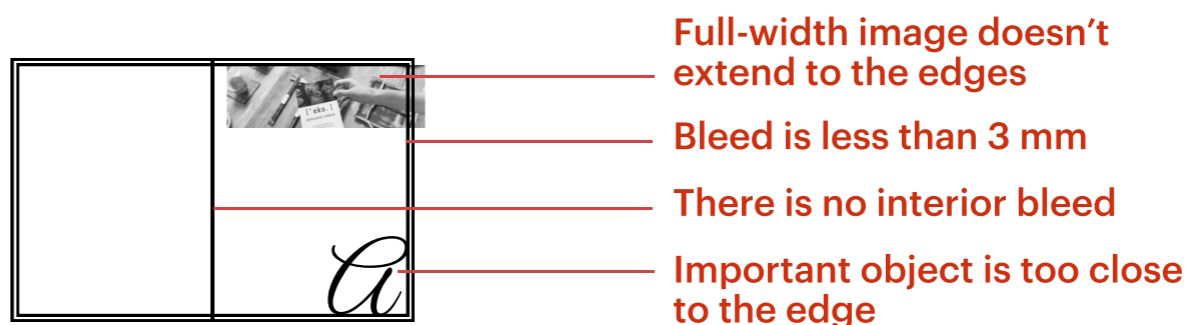
✓ DO

Use 3 mm bleed on all sides, and keep important information 5 mm from the edges.



✗ DON'T

Place important information too close to the edges.



2c. Colours

Your perfect-bound booklets will be printed in CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black) with the Fogra 39 printing profile. Images in RGB or PANTONE are automatically converted to the standard separation profile, which may result in a slight colour shift in the printed design. To avoid colour shift, make sure your file is in CMYK.

2d. Resolution

300 dpi (dots per inch) is the required resolution for high-quality magazine, catalogue and book printing. Lower resolutions may affect your booklet's printing quality.

2e. Fonts

All fonts must be embedded in the PDF – avoid converting them into curves or paths. We recommend a minimum font size of 6 pt for clarity and readability.

2f. File specifications

Submitted files must meet the following specifications:

- Save your file as a PDF in 1:1 scale with all fonts embedded
- No password protection
- 2 double-page cover spreads, followed by single-page inner pages, arranged in the correct reading order
- Line weight should be 0.25 pt or more
- High resolution recommended (300 dpi)
- File size should be 512 MB or less

3. Finalise & upload

Once you're happy with your artwork, follow these simple steps to ensure your file is print-ready and your order is completed smoothly:

1. Return to the perfect bound booklets page.
2. Scroll to the configurator (top right) and select the same **booklet size, paper stock, inside page thickness and page count** details you used for your template.
3. Upload your finished artwork file.
4. Review your file to ensure bleeds are applied correctly and important content is within safe zones.
5. Approve the proof and complete your order.

Following these steps ensures a smooth printing process and high-quality results for your perfect bound booklet.