

# How to create a print file for perfect bound booklets

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

## 1. Download your template

**Important:** It's essential to download and use our automated template. This will make the process easier and help you achieve the best results.

1. On the [perfect bound booklets page](#), locate 'Specs & Templates,' near the FAQ.
2. Choose your booklet **size**, **paper stock** 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:** See section 2a for important information about page count.
3. Our software will generate a template matching your options. Download this in a format that's compatible with your design tool.
4. Open the downloaded template and use it as the foundation for your print file. If you already have a design file ready, adjust it to align with the template's layout.

	Inside page size (with bleed)	Trimmed inside page size
8.5" x 11"	W: 8.75"   H: 11.25"	W: 8.5"   H: 11"
5.5" x 8.5"	W: 5.75"   H: 8.75"	W: 5.5"   H: 8.5"
6" x 9"	W: 6.25"   H: 9.25"	W: 6"   H: 9"
6" x 6"	W: 6.25"   H: 6.25"	W: 6"   H: 6"
8" x 8"	W: 8.25"   H: 8.25"	W: 8"   H: 8"

**Please note:** You must use these inside page dimensions when setting up your file – anything else won't be accepted.

# 2. Create your print file

## 2a. Page count

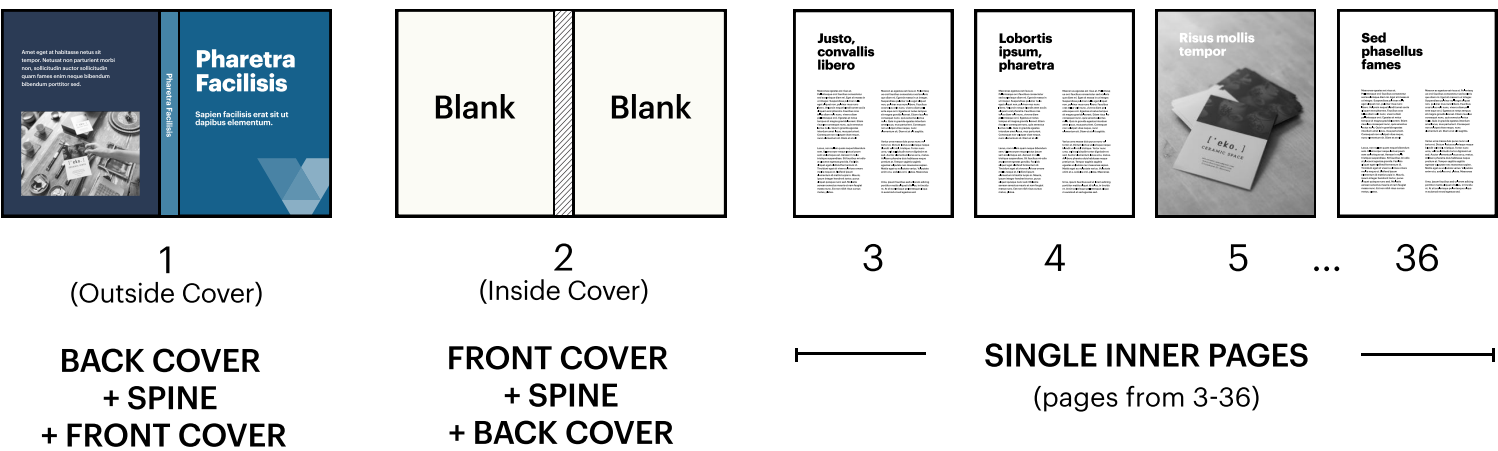
For perfect bound booklets, your print file should have 2 pages fewer than your selected page count – as the inside and outside covers will be merged into 2 single-page spreads with a spine. The spine dimension changes based on your page count and cover stock selection.

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 a print file of 38 pages: 2 single-page cover spreads and 36 inside pages.

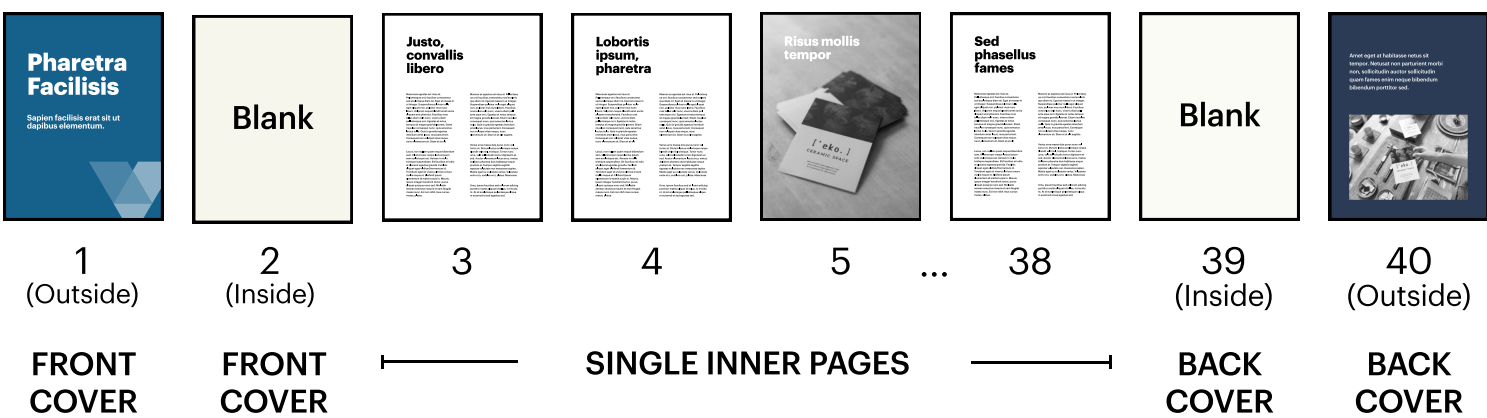
**Please note:** Your file will always include **2 cover spreads** (see below). If you don't want to print on the inside of the covers, include the second cover spread in your file – but leave the page contents blank.

## Based on a 40-page booklet example

**✓ DO**  
Use our automated template – featuring the correct page order and a spine adapted to your page selections.



**✗ DON'T**  
Upload the cover as single pages. The pages are out of order and a spine is missing.



## 2b. Margins, bleeds & spacing

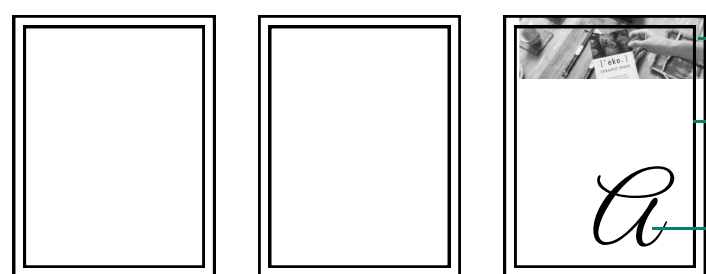
Please add a 0.125" bleed to all sides of each page. This ensures that background colors or images extend all the way to the edge of your booklet after cutting.

- **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 colors 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 0.6" away from them.

Text (and other important information) should be placed at least 0.6" from the binding edge (inside margins) and 0.125" from the outer edges (trim-safe zone). It'll be hard to read if it's too close to the binding. It may be trimmed off if it's too close to the edge.

### ✓ DO

Use a 0.125" bleed on all sides and keep important information 0.125" from the edges.



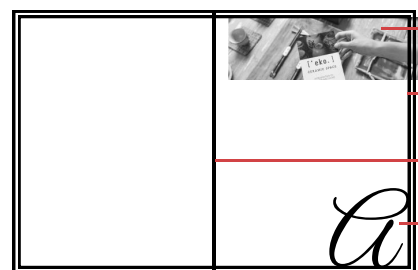
Full-width image extends to the edges

Bleed is 0.125" on all pages, on all sides

Important object is 0.125" from other edges

### ✗ DON'T

Place important information too close to the edges.



Full-width image doesn't extend to the edges

Bleed is less than 0.125"

There is no interior bleed

Important object is too close to the edge

## 2c. Colors

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, catalog 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 6pt for clarity and readability.

## 2f. File specifications

Submitted files must meet the following specifications:

- Saved 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 0.25pt or more
- High resolution recommended (300 dpi)
- File size should be 512 MB or less

## 3. Finalize & upload

Once you're happy with your design, follow these simple steps to make sure 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** and **page count** details you used for your template.
3. Upload your finished print 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.

Follow these steps for a smooth printing process and high-quality results for your perfect bound booklets.