Hardcover Books
Print File Instructions

Follow the steps below to create a successful print file for your hardcover books – we've included info on format, resolution, sizing and more.

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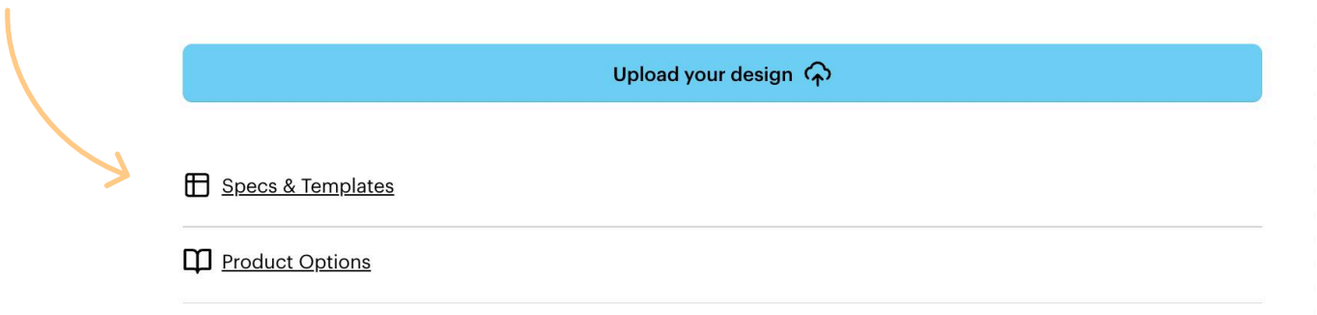
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1. Download your template

Important: Always download and use our automated template. It adjusts for size and page count to help ensure accurate setup and the best results. However, if you choose to upload a pre-existing design file, just be sure it matches our file specification requirements in section 5 & 7.

1. On the hardcover books page, locate 'Specs & Templates,' near the upload button.



2. When asked to select the "Pages" in your book, this means the total number of pages in your document, including the 4 cover pages required for all files. A sheet always consists of 2 pages: A front page and a back page. See section 6 for more information.
3. Our software will generate a template matching your options. Download this in a format that's compatible with your design tool.

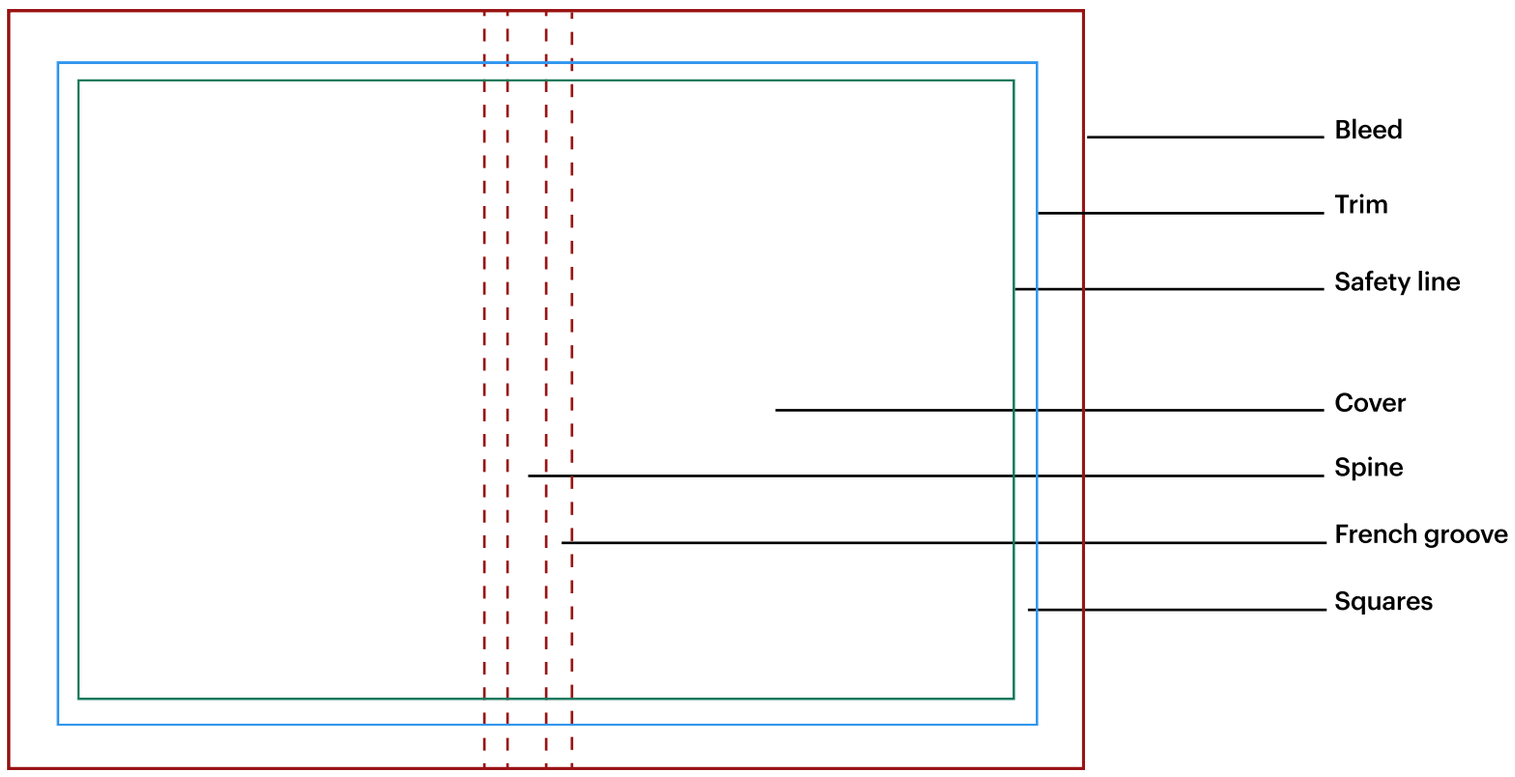
4. Open the downloaded template and use it as the foundation for your print file. If you already have a design file ready, adjust it to align with the template's layout.

2. Cover Pages

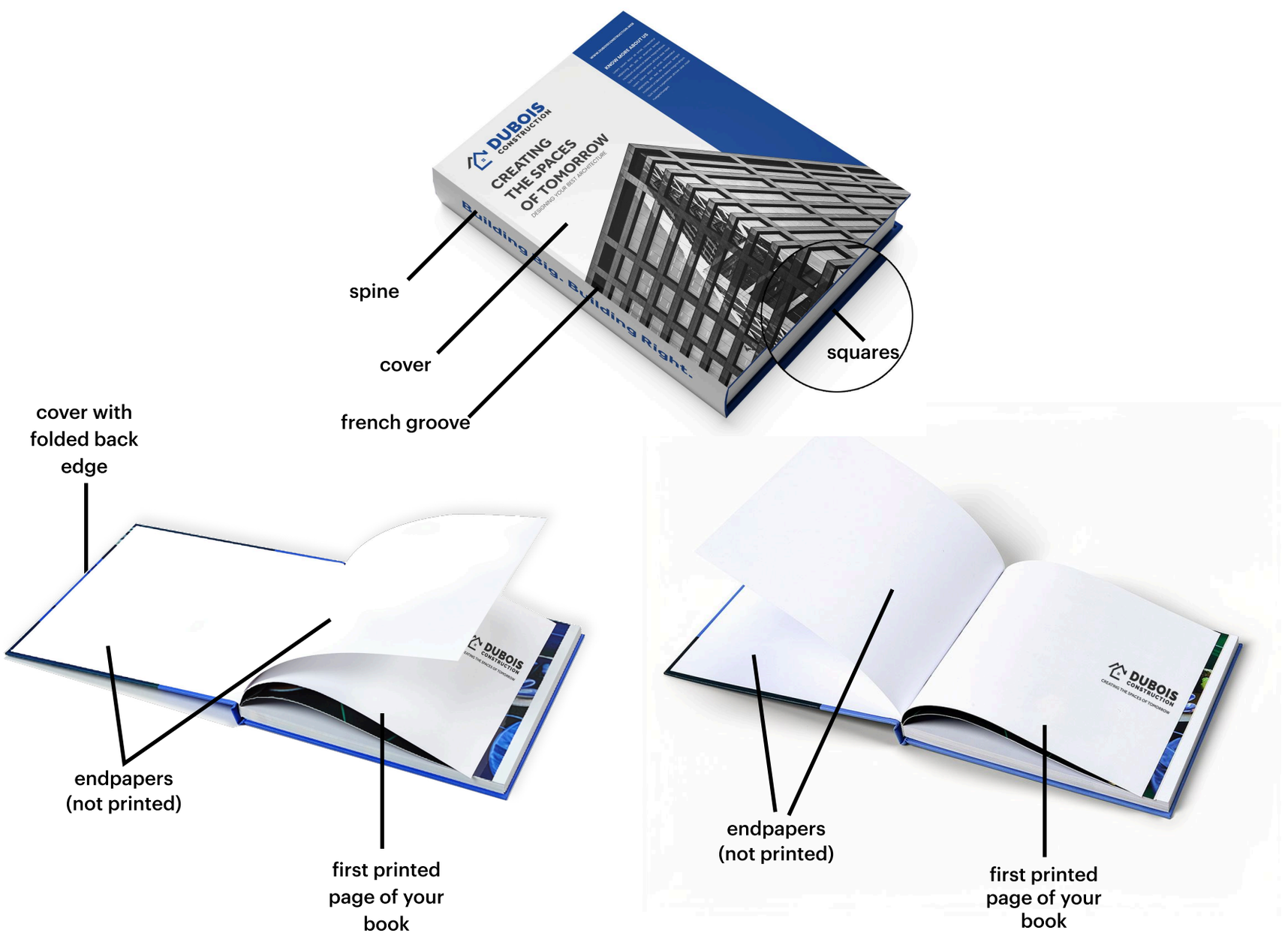
On the template, the spine, bleed (red line) and safety line (green line) will be correctly set up.

Please note: the endpapers cannot be printed on.

Cover template

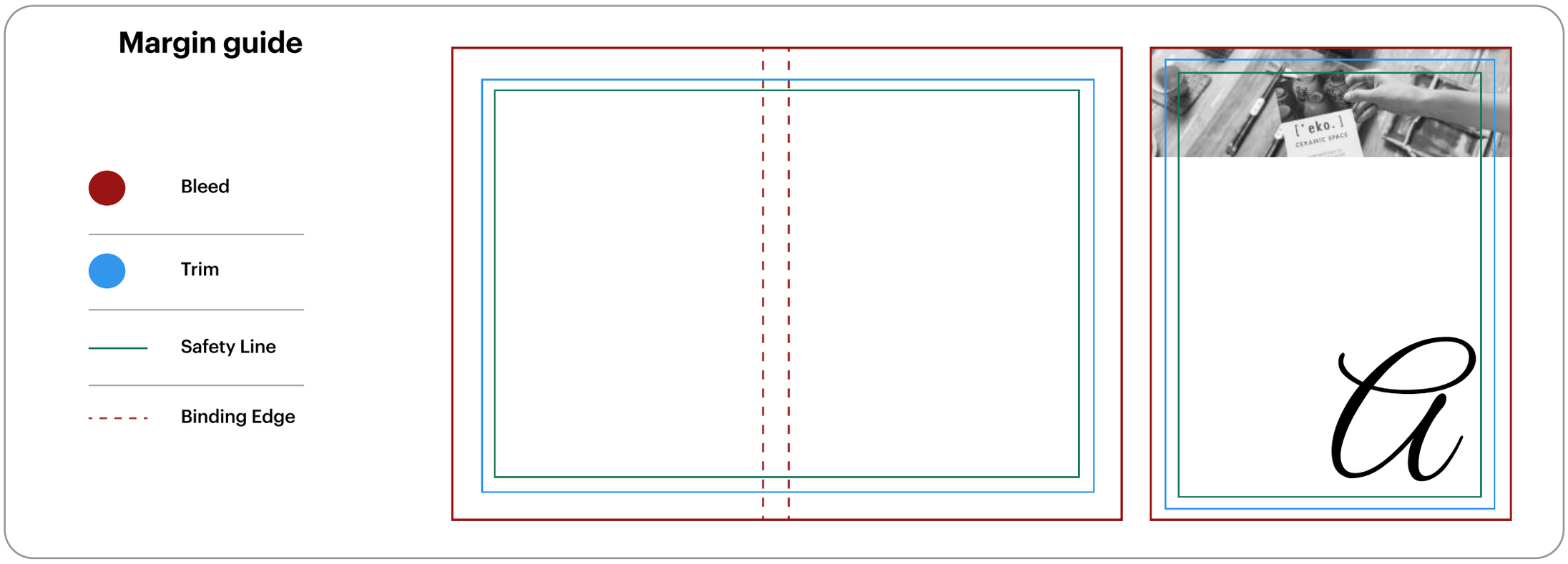


Hardcover book components

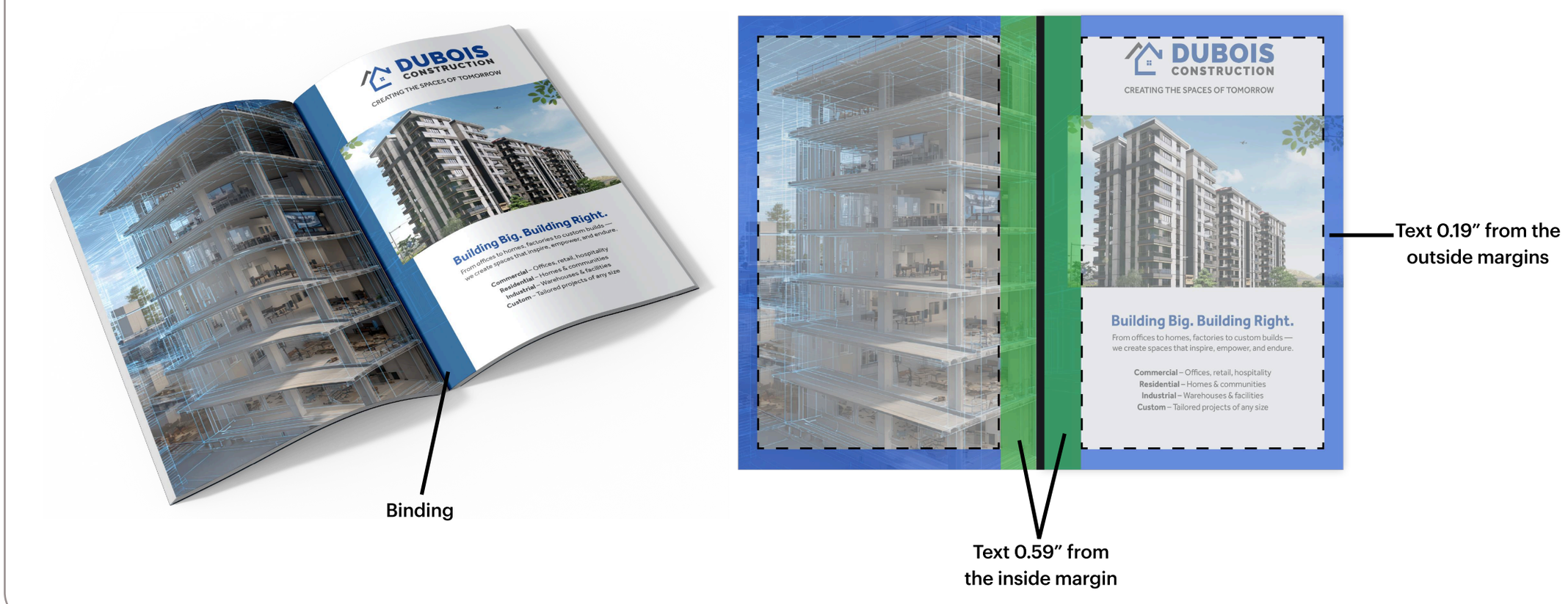


3. Inside Pages

The 0.11” bleed will already be included correctly on each side of the template. Text (and other important information) should be placed at least 0.59” from the binding edge (inside margins) and 0.19” 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.



- **Red line (bleed line):** The extended area that will be trimmed off. Ensure that background colors or images extend to this line.
- **Blue line (trim line):** This marks the final edge of your book.
- **Green line (safety line):** Keep all key content, such as text and images, inside this area to avoid cropping.
- **Dotted line (binding edge):** Keep all key content, such as text and images, at least 0.59” from the binding edge.



4. Formatting your file

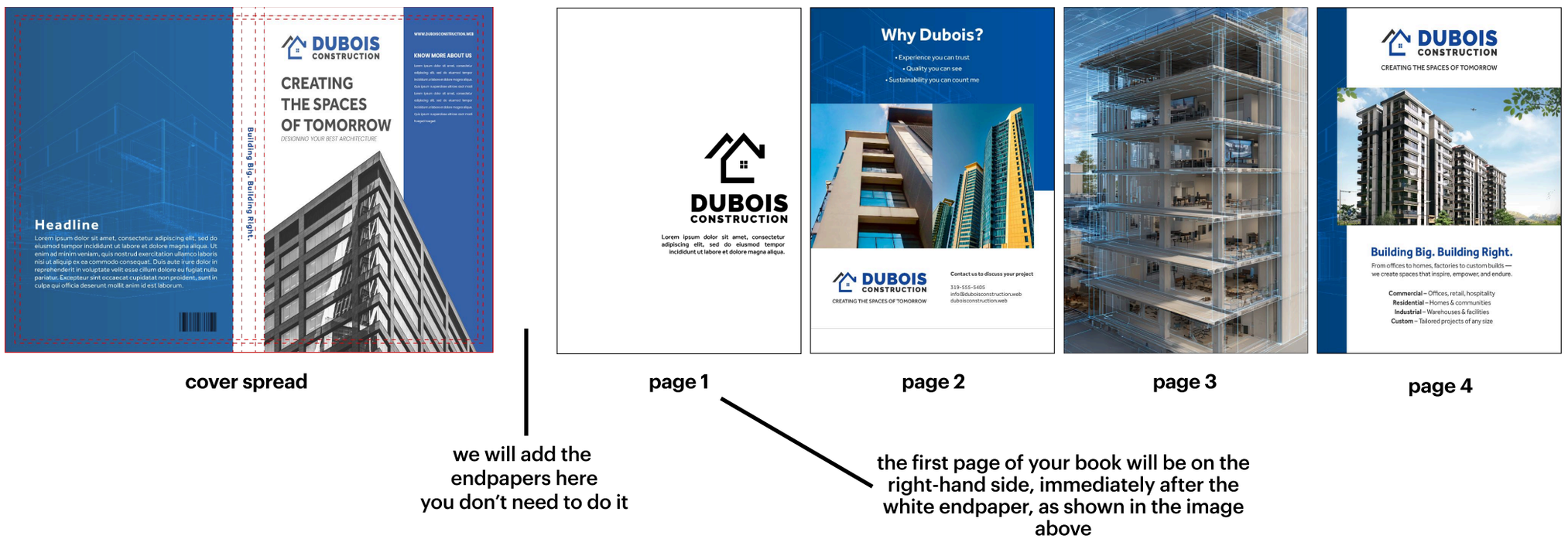
Your file should include:

- 2 cover pages as a double-page spread
- Single inside pages (no double-page spreads)
- All pages arranged in the correct reading order

Please note: the inside front and back covers can't be printed and won't be included in the template, as they're covered by the endpapers and won't be visible in the finished book.

Important: Files print exactly as submitted. Always use the preview to confirm page order, orientation, and overall layout before placing your order.

How to prepare the file



Format Example

For example, here's how it would work if your book has 100 inside pages plus a cover:

When placing your order:

Enter **104 pages** in total – that's **100 inside pages + 4 cover pages.**

The cover always counts as four pages (front cover, inside front cover, inside back cover, and back cover). Endpapers are not included in the page count. Your inside covers will have the endpapers attached to them and cannot be printed, but they must still be included in the total page count.

When downloading the template:

The file will contain 101 pages in total:

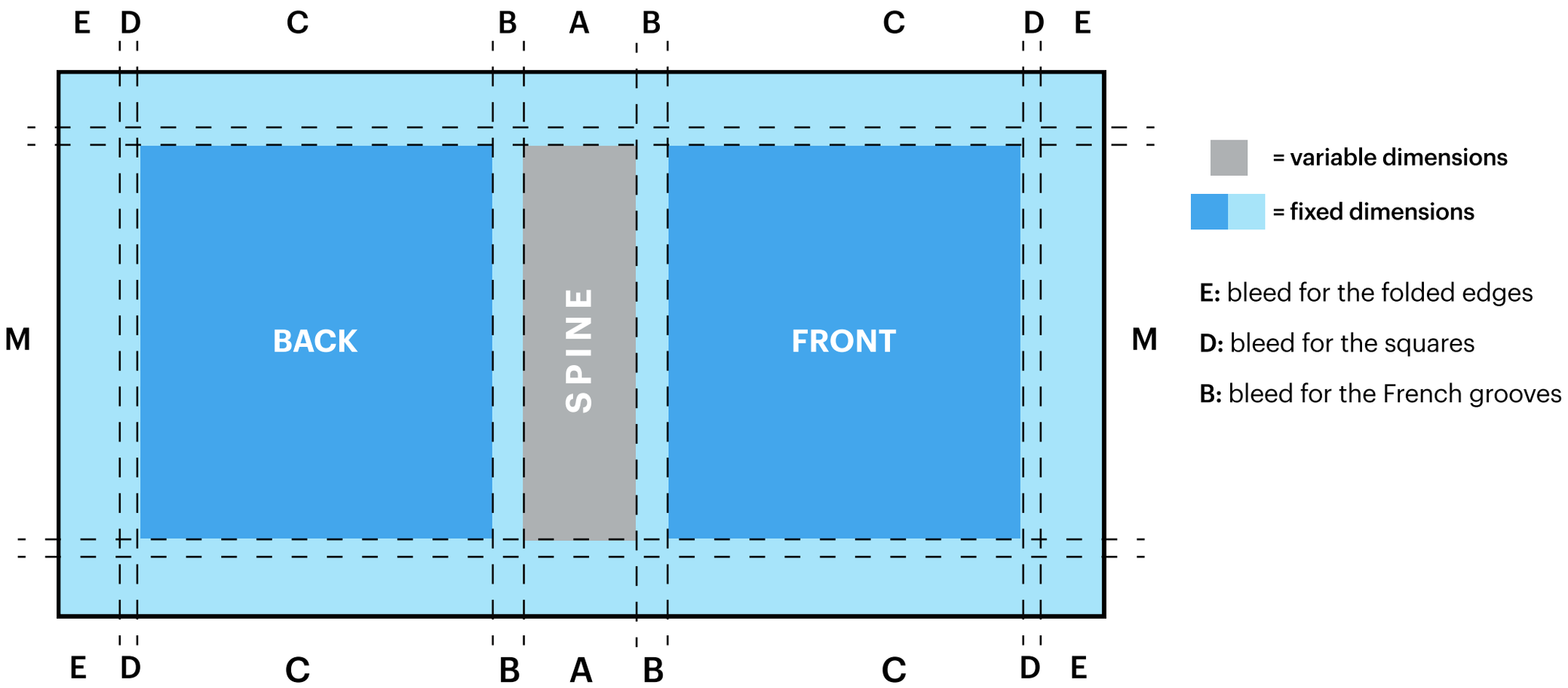
- **1 page** for the full cover spread (front and back cover laid out flat)
- **100 individual inside pages**

5. Creating your own cover

Please note that the following instructions are only required if you are creating your own cover, separate from our template.

IF YOU ARE USING OUR TEMPLATE TO CREATE YOUR COVER, DISREGARD THIS SECTION.

How to prepare the cover file



These measurements are fixed and should be added exactly as shown.

The letters C and M refer to the width and height of the front and back cover. You might notice these are slightly different from the standard format you selected — that's completely normal. The small adjustment lets you make sure your artwork is properly centered.

Use the following tables to calculate the file dimensions for your hardcover book cover. The examples in the height and width tables refer to books with a 0.27″ spine.

Your finished book will still be delivered in the standard format you chose.

Use the following tables to calculate the file dimensions for your hardcover book cover. The examples in this table refer to books with a 0.27″ spine.

Height Calculation Chart

To calculate the height of your file:

SIZE	E	D	M	D	E	TOTAL
Digest (5.5”x8.5”) Portrait	0.74”	0.07”	8.3”	0.74”	0.07”	10.39”
Digest (5.5”x8.5”) Landscape	0.74”	0.07”	5.3”	0.74”	0.07”	7.39”
US Trade (6”x9”) Portrait	0.74”	0.07”	8.8”	0.74”	0.07”	10.89”
US Trade (6”x9”) Landscape	0.74”	0.07”	5.8”	0.74”	0.07”	7.9”
6”x8” Portrait	0.74”	0.07”	7.8”	0.74”	0.07”	9.88”
6”x8” Landscape	0.74”	0.07”	5.8”	0.74”	0.07”	7.9”
Standard Portrait (8”x10”)	0.74”	0.07”	9.8”	0.74”	0.07”	11.89”
Standard Landscape (8”x10”)	0.74”	0.07”	7.8”	0.74”	0.07”	9.88”
Square (8.5”x8.5”)	0.74”	0.07”	8.3”	0.74”	0.07”	10.39”
US Letter (8.5”x11”) Portrait	0.74”	0.07”	10.8”	0.74”	0.07”	12.89”
US Letter (8.5”x11”) Landscape	0.74”	0.07”	8.3”	0.74”	0.07”	10.39”

Width Calculation Chart

To calculate the width of your file:

SIZE	E	D	C	B	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
Digest (5.5”x8.5”) Portrait	0.74”	0.07”	5.3”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	5.3”	0.07”	0.74”	13.4”
Digest (5.5”x8.5”) Landscape	0.74”	0.07”	8.3”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	8.3”	0.07”	0.74”	19.4”
US Trade (6”x9”) Portrait	0.74”	0.07”	5.8”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	5.8”	0.07”	0.74”	14.4”
US Trade (6”x9”) Landscape	0.74”	0.07”	8.8”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	8.8”	0.07”	0.74”	20.39”
6”x8” Portrait	0.74”	0.07”	5.8”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	5.8”	0.07”	0.74”	14.4”
6”x8” Landscape	0.74”	0.07”	7.8”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	7.8”	0.07”	0.74”	18.4”
Standard Portrait (8”x10”)	0.74”	0.07”	7.8”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	7.8”	0.07”	0.74”	18.4”
Standard Landscape (8”x10”)	0.74”	0.07”	9.8”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	9.8”	0.07”	0.74”	22.4”
Square (8.5”x8.5”)	0.74”	0.07”	8.3”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	8.3”	0.07”	0.74”	19.4”
US Letter (8.5”x11”) Portrait	0.74”	0.07”	8.3”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	8.3”	0.07”	0.74”	19.4”
US Letter (8.5”x11”) Landscape	0.74”	0.07”	10.8”	0.43”	0.27”	0.43”	10.8”	0.07”	0.74”	24.41”

6. Design guidelines

Colors

All files 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 color shift in the printed design. To avoid a color shift, make sure your file is in CMYK.

Resolution

300 dpi is the optimum resolution for magazine, catalog and book prints. The reproduction quality of images and photos may drop with lower resolutions.

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.

Additional information

To make sure your book prints just as you expect, please keep the following in mind when preparing your file:

- **Vector lines** should have a minimum stroke weight of **0.25** pt so they reproduce clearly in print.
- Avoid placing **frames, borders, or passepartouts too close to the edges.** Small cutting tolerances are part of the finishing process, and giving your design a little breathing room helps prevent unwanted shifts.
- **Fonts must be embedded in your PDF** and should not be converted to curves or paths.

Use a **minimum font size of 6 pt.** Below this size, we can't guarantee consistent print quality.

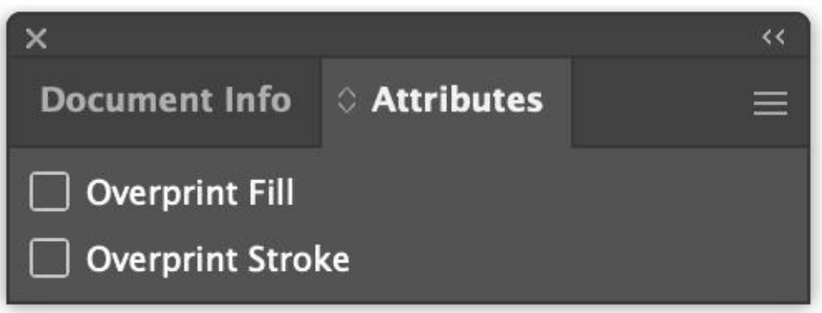
A note on overprinting

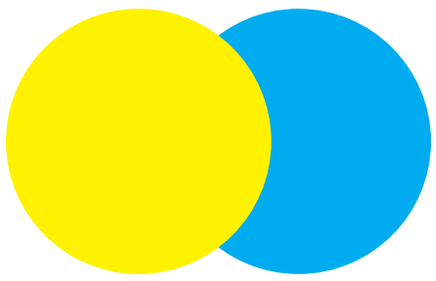
When two solid colors overlap, the top color normally "knocks out" the color underneath, meaning the bottom layer doesn't print in that area. If overprinting is applied, the inks will overlap instead.

To avoid unexpected color results, please make sure there are **no overprinted objects or text in your file.**

Taking a moment to double-check these details will help ensure a smooth production process and a great-looking final result.

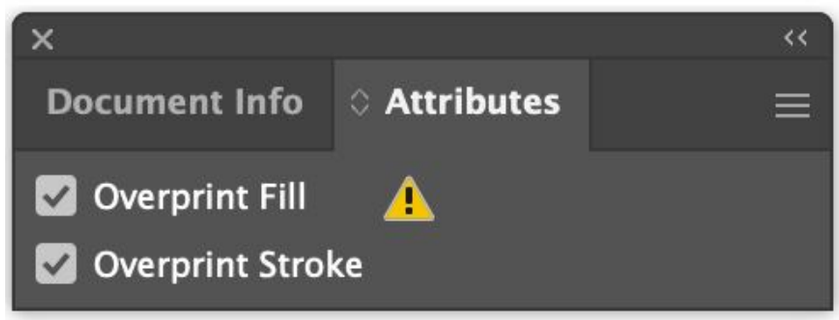
No overprinting

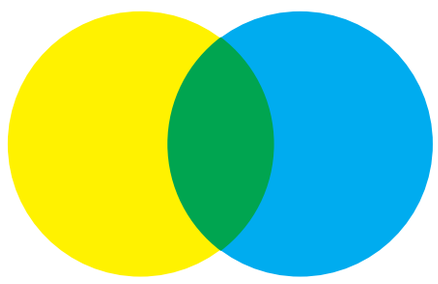






With overprinting







7. File specifications & upload

Once you’re happy with your design, follow these steps to make sure your file is print-ready and your order is completed smoothly:

1. Return to the hardcover books page.
2. Scroll to the configurator (top right) and select the same books specifications you used to download your template.
3. Upload your finished print file.

Submitted files must meet the following specifications:

- Saved as a PDF in 1:1 scale with all fonts embedded
- No password protection
- 1 double-page cover spread, 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

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.