

Path B Guide

How to prepare your designed PDF and use FormatBookForPrint for print

FormatBookForPrint.com

This guide is for people who already designed (or will design) the inside pages of a book in Canva, InDesign, Affinity, PowerPoint, or another program, and need a PDF ready for Amazon KDP, IngramSpark, or another paper printer.

You do not need to be a graphics professional. It explains, slowly, what to prepare before you upload, and how to use each Path B control.

1. In plain words: what Path B is

Think of your Canva PDF as a photo album: each page is one full picture (type, decoration, and whatever white space it already has).

Path B does not rewrite your book or move letter by letter. It takes each page and places it inside a mold the size of the real printed book. That mold follows what printers require: the side where sheets are bound (the spine) and, if you check it, a little extra art for trimming (bleed).

What it DOES:

- Fits your design into the trim size you choose (6 x 9 inches, and so on).
- Shows an open book (two pages) with red safety lines.
- Lets you add illustrations in two different ways (explained below).
- Builds a preview and, after payment, a high-quality PDF.

What it does NOT do:

- It will not enlarge your design if you pick a bigger book than you used in Canva. If you designed at 5 x 8 and then ask for 6 x 9, the art does not stretch: it looks smaller or sits in a frame.
- It does not change page numbers you already drew in Canva.
- It does not "read" where a paragraph ends in order to invent margins. Reading space around the text must already be in the design.

Bottom line: art and type are solved in Canva, at the right size. Here you calibrate so the printer does not slice letters or push type into the spine.

2. Before you open Canva: choose the book size

"Trim size" is the size of each leaf after the book is bound and cut. Common examples:

- 6 x 9 in: standard novel
- 5.5 x 8.5 in: more compact
- 5 x 8 in: pocket
- 8.5 x 11 in: letter / academic
- 8.5 x 8.5 in: square (children, album)

In Canva, create a custom size equal to those inches (or the matching centimetres). That must be the same format you later pick on Path B.

If the PDF is one size and the website is another, the factory fits the whole page into the new mold: it does not "expand" the original.

3. How the interior PDF file should be made

Interior only, no front or back cover

The cover (jacket, cover spine, flaps) is a separate file. Here you upload only the inside: title pages, chapters, text, interior art.

One PDF page = one side of the book

Do not export one long JPG or a single-canvas PDF. It must be a multi-page PDF: page 1, page 2, page 3...

In an open book:

- page 1 sits on the RIGHT (odd);
- page 2 sits on the LEFT (even);
- the spine (where sheets are joined) is in the MIDDLE.

When you draw headers or numbers, think about that side. A number glued to the spine will vanish into the binding.

Margins: air so you can read

Leave space around the type in Canva, as if you were holding the book. A comfortable starting point is about 2 cm on the reading edges, and a bit MORE toward the middle (the spine), because the page curves there.

Path B will show a red line: that is the printer's safety zone. The spine side is wider than the cut side. Do not put letters on the solid line. The dotted line leaves about 3 mm extra "just in case" the cutter is not perfect.

You do not need to copy Amazon or Ingram millimetres by hand: the mold applies them. If Canva already has very large print margins AND the factory fits the page again, text can look smaller, with a double frame. Better: reading margins in Canva; the technical spine is finished by the mold.

Bleed, only if you need it

Bleed means a colour or picture runs to the paper edge, and a little beyond, so trimming does not leave a white hairline.

- If the book is mostly type on white or cream, you usually do NOT need bleed.
- If colour fields or full-page photos must reach the edge, add 0.125 inches (about 3 mm) extra on the three trim sides in Canva, and check "Cutting bleed" on Path B.
- Type still stays away from the edge, even with bleed.

Colour and quality

Amazon KDP asks for screen colour (RGB). That is what this site outputs. Some printers, for a colour interior, want CMYK; that export may come later.

Use sharp pictures. The practical print rule is 300 DPI: a photo that looks fine at 8 cm on screen will look soft if you blow it up to a full page. In Canva, upload large photos, not WhatsApp crops.

How to export from Canva

- Share or download as PDF.
- Pick the highest quality / print option, not "compact PDF for screens".
- Check that the PDF page count matches your design.
- Use a clear name, for example: Interior-MyBook-6x9.pdf

4. The two ways to add illustrations (pick ONE)

On Path B, the Images tab has two modes. They apply to the whole book in that session. Do not mix both logics at once.

The real difference:

- Mode 1: the pages for the photos ALREADY EXIST in your PDF (you left them blank on purpose).
 - Mode 2: your PDF is mostly text and NOW you want to add new sheets with illustrations.
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5. Mode 1: "I already left blank pages in the PDF"

When to use it

You planned it in the design: "after chapter 3 there is a plate", and in Canva you inserted an empty (or almost empty) page there.

That blank page may:

- carry a page number in the footer, like the rest of the book, or
- have no number, if you want the plate to look "clean".

That is your choice. The factory does not invent or erase that number: if it is already drawn in the PDF, it stays, and the illustration is placed on top of that page.

How to prepare those pages in Canva

1. In the same interior document, insert a page the SAME size as all the others.
2. Leave it blank (or a light frame, or only the footer number).
3. Count which number that page is in the PDF (1, 2, 3...). That is the number you will type beside the thumbnail.
4. If you want text on the back of the photo, that next side must already exist in the PDF as a text page. Mode 1 does not "create" the verso: it uses what you already designed.

How to prepare the IMAGES you will inject (mode 1 and mode 2)

Every illustration should be born the same way, even if the drawing inside is different.

1. In Canva (or another program) create a file in the SAME format as the book. If the book is 6 x 9 inches, each plate is a 6 x 9 canvas (or the pixel equivalent at 300 DPI).
2. Place the drawing or photo in the centre, or wherever you like. If the art is smaller, leave white (or cream) around it. That white is part of the file.
3. Do not crop each photo to a random rectangle (some landscape, some square). The plate file is always the book's rectangle.
4. Export each plate as JPG or PNG, high quality, 300 DPI. One file per illustration. Clear names: plate-chapter3.png
5. File size: it should look sharp at full page, not a social-media thumbnail.

Example at 300 DPI for 6 x 9 inches: about 1800 x 2700 pixels. If you export much smaller, print will look soft.

What you do on the website (mode 1)

1. Upload the interior PDF first and fit the spread mold (section 7).
2. Open the Images tab.
3. Choose "I already left blank pages in the PDF".

4. Upload all JPG/PNG files.
5. Beside each thumbnail type: "Goes on page []" with the viewer number (the blank page in your PDF).
6. Adjust the FIRST image in the red mold (+ / -, arrows). That setting applies to ALL.
7. Click "Insert images and view the book".

Result: no extra sheets. Canva page 12 is still file page 12. You only filled the slot.

If two images point to the same page, the app warns you. If one photo is not the same proportion as the first, it warns you too: export it again in the standard format.

6. Mode 2: "I want extra leaves" (the design had no empty slots)

When to use it

You finished the text PDF (numbers already drawn) and later decided to add illustrations. You do not want to reopen Canva to insert blank pages.

What the factory does

It inserts a FULL sheet of paper (two sides):

- front: your illustration (when possible on the right, like a classic plate);
- back: empty (paper colour: cream or white).

Numbers you already drew in Canva are NOT renumbered. "12" still says 12. But the Amazon file will have more sheets, because we added paper. Plates are not part of that design folio.

That is why we always insert two sides: so the following text pages do not flip (a page meant for the right does not suddenly land on the left).

How to prepare the images (same as mode 1)

Same format as the book, 300 DPI, JPG or PNG, white around the art if it is smaller, all the same proportion.

What you do on the website (mode 2)

1. Upload the PDF and fit the text mold.
2. Images tab: choose "I want extra leaves".
3. Upload the illustrations.
4. Beside each thumbnail: "Between page [] and []". Example: you want the photo after 4 and before 5, type 4 and 5. If you only type 4, 5 fills in by itself.
5. Adjust the first image in the mold; it applies to all.
6. Insert images.

If the book gets much thicker (many plates), the spine grows. Check the text spread mold again in case the centre needs a little more air.

7. How to use the spread mold (the red frame)

After you upload the PDF you will see two pages together, like an open book: page 2 on the left, a green "Spine" strip in the middle, page 1 on the right.

- The rectangle is the trim size you chose. Above the confirm button you will see, for example: Current trim: 6 x 9 in.

- Solid red line: important type and decoration should stay inside it. The spine side is wider.
- Dotted red line: about 3 mm of air. Keep type INSIDE that dotted line.
- + and -: enlarge or shrink BOTH pages at once.
- Up and down arrows: move both pages together.
- Arrows that point inward pull both pages toward the spine. Arrows that point outward open them toward the trim.
- You can also drag the design with the mouse.
- The centre button (circular arrow) returns to the first fit.

When the text block looks comfortable and inside the dotted line on both pages, click "Confirm spread and view the book".

Then you can go to plates with "Next: plates in the Images tab".

8. Paper, preview, sample, and payment

Cream paper: typical for novels. White paper: manuals or heavy image use. Paper type changes spine thickness. Ask your printer which stocks they accept.

Preview and sample are watermarked. The sample is 5 pages. You get up to 10 samples per session (the counter is shared with Path A).

The complete PDF, with no watermark, downloads after a USD 19 PayPal payment. If you then change the file, the mold, or the plates, you pay again. The same paid book can be downloaded again.

The viewer shows the book two pages at a time, as in print.

9. Checklist to print and keep by the computer

Before you export the PDF:

- Canva page size is the same trim you will pick on the site.
- The file is interior only, separate pages, not the cover.
- Type has air; nothing glued to the edge or the future spine.
- Page 1 is designed for the right-hand side.
- Full-bleed backgrounds only if you will check bleed.
- Sharp photos (300 DPI).

If you will inject images:

- Every plate: same rectangle as the book, JPG or PNG, 300 DPI.
 - Mode 1: the PDF already has blank pages; you point each photo at that number.
 - Mode 2: no empty slots; you type "between page X and Y"; an extra leaf is added (photo + empty back).
 - One mode per upload. You adjust the first photo; the others copy that setting.
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