

PREPARE

Files

If your files are not print-ready, Mira has professional graphic design and page layout services available to you. Our experienced in-house design team can create a book cover or page layout to complement your content.

Please give us a call at (866) 341-9588 for more information.

The following information is intended for authors, publishers, or graphic designers who have knowledge in graphic design and book layout. If you still have questions, give us a call.



COVER FILE

The files you submit to us will print in the exact manner in which you submit them. To achieve the book cover that you envision, submit your final cover to us in a fully formatted PDF file with all fonts and images embedded. We recommend providing the "native" files (meaning the source files used to create your artwork and ALL its associated graphics and fonts) along with your print-ready PDF. This is so your artwork and spine width can easily be adjusted to fit your page count and paper weight, based on our specifications. Please allow a 1/8" bleed to your cover artwork. It is the customer's responsibility to maintain a copy of all original artwork.

BLEED

Your cover's background must extend at least .125" (or 1/8") beyond the final trim size to accommodate for cutting/trimming tolerance. We encourage additional bleed beyond the minimum of .125"; if you desire, your bleed can even extend to the edge of the page.

CROPS/REGISTRATION MARKS

Please do not include any crops or registration marks on any files you submit to Mira, as they may interfere with the binding process or appear on some copies of the book because of a small variance in cutting. We use our own measurements, specific to our print production, for cutting and binding. Remember, paper thickness may vary.

COLOR MODE

All image, graphics, and color elements should be provided in CMYK color mode or Pantone color. We do not recommend printing using RGB color mode because of color shifts that can occur during printing. Our printers use CMYK ink. It is very important to remember that what you see on your monitor is not consistent with what the print will look like. If you are specific with the color, always see a printed proof. PDF online proofs are for layout verification only and are not used to proof color.

SPINE WIDTH AND VARIANCE

It is important to keep in mind that each book printed at Mira is individually hand-bound using a perfect binder. Therefore you should avoid hard vertical lines separating your front or back cover panels from your spine and should allow for at least a .125" (or 1/8") variance of your spine on each side (for example, the text on a 1" spine should be no larger than .75" wide). Images that run from the front cover to the back cover across the spine will provide the most consistent quality among your books. While we can accommodate special requests for books with fewer than 75 pages to have spine text, there is a premium applied because of added waste and labor. Contact us for details. For books with a page count of fewer than 75 pages, we strongly recommend a blank spine. Your spine width should be calculated based on the paper stock and number of pages in your book document. Ask us about our online Spine Calculator.

RESOLUTION

To ensure the highest print quality possible, we require all images be at least 300 dots per inch (dpi) and all images and fonts be embedded in your final PDF documents. If your images are less than 300 dpi, we will notify you of this issue and will process them through our system only at your request. The print quality of these lower-resolution images are less than photo quality and may show pixilation.

BARCODES

If you are using a barcode, Mira recommends all book covers have a high-resolution (at least 300 dpi) barcode that is 1.5" – 2" in width with proportional height. If you do not have a barcode but need one, Mira can provide one for \$30 as long as you have your ISBN.

TEXT PAGE LAYOUT

Mira accepts text page documents in Microsoft Word, PDF, InDesign, and Quark. If your document is in an application not listed, please contact us for assistance. We will accept files in any word processing format with the understanding that they will not go directly to print without some page formatting. In order to ensure your text page file is print-ready, please refer to the following checklist:

- Make sure the gutter margin (or spine margin) is .5" – .75" depending on your layout.
- Embed fonts in PDF document.
- Set up document size to match trim size of your book. (i.e., if your trim size is 6" x 9", make sure your PDF document is sized to 6" x 9")
- If submitting your layout in InDesign or Quark, please provide all fonts and linked images.
- All images need to be at least 300 dpi resolution.
- All color images should be in 4 color process (CMYK) or Pantone. No RGB.
- Black & white images should be in grayscale, not submitted in color.

NOTE: Make sure your file is in its final form and has been spell-checked before submitting it to Mira. If you need assistance with text corrections or page layout, we can help. Mira offers a full range of graphic design services and can arrange proofreading if required and requested.

