



**Lightning  
Source™**

# FILE CREATION GUIDE

**version 6.0**

**[www.lightningsource.com](http://www.lightningsource.com)**



**Lightning**  
**Source**<sup>™</sup>

# **FILE CREATION GUIDE**

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Lightning Source has created this guide to assist in the creation & submission of digital files. The information contained in this guide expands on the requirements in our POD Operations Manual with some greater detail on specific application settings, etc. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with this document prior to the creation and submission of your digital files to LSI.

*We sincerely thank you for your business!*



## **FILE CREATION GUIDE**

## **RESOURCES**

**ALL book types**

**SUBMISSION NOTES &  
NON-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS**

**COVER TEMPLATE GENERATOR**

## SUBMISSION NOTES

Lightning Source expects to receive print-ready manuscript and cover files, and will not perform work of an editorial nature such as proofreading, editing for content, typesetting, or making font alterations throughout a book. A digital file must be **'print ready'**, and sent in accordance with the digital file submission instructions provided to ensure that no problems will be encountered during the manufacturing process. Files are processed as received and are not pre-flighted prior to processing.

Publisher-requested special file editing or manipulation and image touch-up/manipulations will be charged to the publisher at the hourly custom services rate as described in Attachment A - LSI Rate Schedule.

Due to the complexity of processing and printing **COLOR** Books, no manipulation/edits can be made to any color book file submissions. This includes (but is not limited to) color correction or manipulation of color settings on files that have been submitted.

LSI allows for a 1/16" variance for **ALL** books printed. Please keep this in consideration when designing any text and cover files for **BLACK & WHITE** / **COLOR** book titles.

## NON-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

**Microsoft Word / Microsoft Publisher  
Adobe PageMaker  
QuarkXPress 6.5 & older versions  
InDesign CS2 & older versions**

We cannot offer technical support with file creation or provide cover templates for any of these programs

If using **Microsoft Word** to layout text files: **please do not** use the **'shortcut'** button located in the toolbar to create a PDF. We recommend using the **'print'** menu and choosing Adobe PDF as the print driver (instructional PDF on our website). The default conversion setting should be changed from **'Standard'** to **'PDF/X-1a:2001'** (recommended) or the **'High Quality Print'** setting. This will help to ensure that **ALL** fonts are embedded including Base 14 fonts.

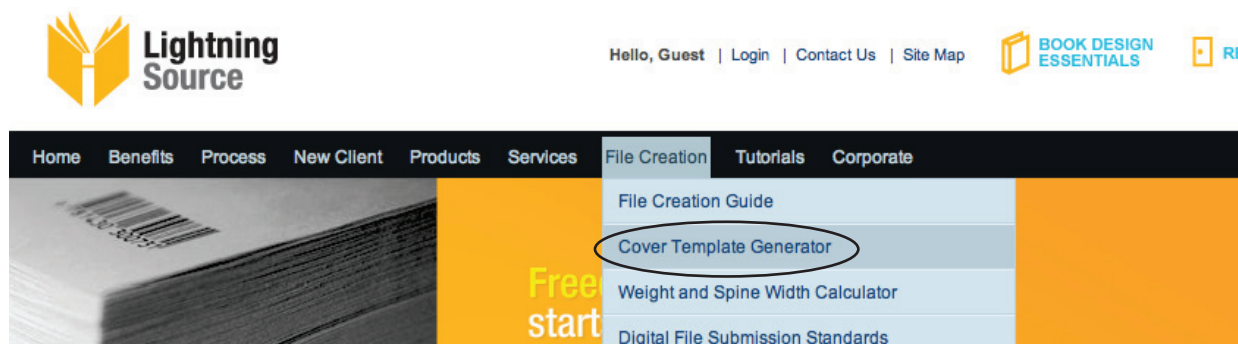
It is also important to change the PDF page size from **8.5"x 11"** to the correct trim size you are using to print. If left at the default size of **'Letter'**, your text block will center from left to right, but **not top to bottom**—causing your proof to print incorrectly and produce delays in receiving a correct proof.

For instructions on creating your PDF from Word, please visit our website, drop down the File Creation menu, and click on **'Digital Bookblock Creation (Standard Books)'**. In section 3, under 'Windows', select 'Microsoft Word' and an instructional PDF will be downloaded for your reference. (direct link below)

## COVER TEMPLATE GENERATOR ...

LSI highly recommends the use of our custom cover template generator. This tool can be found on LSI's website by visiting our home page **www.lightningsource.com**, mouse over the **'File Creation'** tab at the top. In the drop-down menu that appears, click on/select **'Cover Template Generator'**.

The direct link: **<http://www.lightningsource.com/covergenerator.aspx>**



The Cover Template Generator will appear on the new page:

A screenshot of the 'Lightning Source Cover Generator' form. The form is titled 'Lightning Source Cover Generator' and includes a brief instruction: 'Once you complete and submit the form below, LSI will email you back a template and support files to be used to build your cover. Included in the email will be instructions for using the template, creating an appropriate PostScript file and distilling a PDF to LSI specifications.' The form contains several required fields marked with a red checkmark: 'ISBN (with dashes):', 'Publisher Reference Number:', 'Content Type:' (with radio buttons for B&W and Color), 'Paper Type:' (with radio buttons for Creme and White), 'Book Type:' (a dropdown menu), 'Page Count:', 'File Type to Return:' (a dropdown menu set to 'InDesign CS3 and newer'), 'Email Address:', and 'Retype Email Address:'. There is also an 'Optional Information' section with fields for 'Price (including decimal):', 'Price in Bar Code:' (a dropdown set to 'No'), and 'Currency:' (a dropdown set to 'US Dollars'). A 'Submit' button is at the bottom right of the form.

## ... COVER TEMPLATE GENERATOR

On the new page, fill in the information about your cover. **\*\*Fields with red checkmarks are required.**

- Enter your 13 digit ISBN (including any dashes/hyphens) as you wish it to appear above your barcode. 10 digit ISBN entries will be converted to the correct 13 digit number in the template file.

**\*Note:** If the title is set up in our system, once the ISBN is entered and you click to select your trim size information, the page should automatically update and fill in the title information already set up in our system including: content type, paper type, book type and page count.

If your title is not already set up, please choose the correct content type, paper type and book type for your title.

- **Optional:** If you wish to add your own reference number to your template, please add this information to the 'Pub Ref Number field'. This will appear as the subject line of the email you receive.
- Enter page count (must be divisible by **2**)
- Choose the file type you would like to receive:

**InDesign CS3 and newer / QuarkXpress 7 and newer / PDF / EPS**

- Enter email address
- Confirm email address

If you wish to fill in the optional information:

- Enter price including decimal
- Enter desired currency
- Select 'yes' or 'no' for the price to appear in the bar code

✓ File Type to Return:

InDesign CS3 and newer

✓ Email Address:

✓ Retype Email Address:

---

**Optional Information:**

Price (including decimal):

Currency:

US Dollars

Price in Bar Code:

No

Submit

• Your template should arrive to you via e-mail shortly after your request is submitted. Please allow up to 2 hours before requesting another template, or contacting for help. Heavy traffic in requests may cause occasional delays.

### Important notes about the template

• **Please do not move** items on the template. The template shows the barcode centered on the back cover, but this can be moved on the back cover to fit with your design. The guides, guideline elements and placement of the cover should remain in the original locations on the template: these are already set up for LSI's specific printing requirements and workflow.

• **Note:** if you opt to receive a PDF or EPS file from the template generator, the red and blue dotted guides should be removed before submitting a final file. If the guides are visible in your cover design, they will print this way when they reach our technicians for processing. \*InDesign and Quark templates have dotted guidelines on a non-printing layer.



## **FILE CREATION GUIDE**

## **B&W BOOK** **color cover / b&w text**

**TRIM SIZES**

**TEXT QUICK REFERENCE**

**TEXT REQUIREMENTS**

**COVER QUICK REFERENCE**

**COVER REQUIREMENTS**



## B&W BOOK : TRIM SIZES

Trim Size (in)	Trim Size (mm)	Bindtypes Available	Page Range	Stock	Priced As
<b>5 x 8</b>	<b>203 x 127</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	small
		perfect (paperback)	48 - 740	crème	small
<b>5.06 x 7.81</b>	<b>198 x 129</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	small
<b>5.25 x 8</b>	<b>203 x 133</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	small
		perfect (paperback)	48 - 740	crème	small
<b>5.5 x 8.5</b>	<b>216 x 140</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	small
		perfect (paperback)	48 - 740	crème	small
		case laminate (hardcover)	108 - 740	crème	small
		cloth – blue or grey	108 - 740	crème	small
		jacketed	108 - 740	crème	small
<b>5.83 x 8.27</b>	<b>210 x 148</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	small
		perfect (paperback)	48 - 740	crème	small
<b>6 x 9</b>	<b>229 x 152</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	small
		perfect (paperback)	48 - 740	crème	small
		case laminate (hardcover)	108 - 740	crème	small
		cloth – blue or grey	108 - 740	crème	small
		jacketed	108 - 740	crème	small
<b>6.14 x 9.21</b>	<b>234 x 156</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	small
		case laminate (hardcover)	108 - 828	white	small
		cloth – blue or grey	108 - 828	white	small
		jacketed	108 - 828	white	small
<b>6.69 x 9.61</b>	<b>244 x 170</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	small
<b>7.44 x 9.69</b>	<b>246 x 189</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	small
<b>7.50 x 9.25</b>	<b>235 x 191</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	small
<b>7 x 10</b>	<b>254 x 178</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	large
		case laminate (hardcover)	108 - 828	white	large
<b>8 x 10</b>	<b>254 x 203</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	large
<b>8.25 x 11</b>	<b>280 x 210</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	large
<b>8.268 x 11.693 (A4)</b>	<b>297 x 210</b>	perfect (paperback)	48 - 828	white	large

## B&W BOOK : TEXT QUICK REFERENCE

The following are recommendations and specifications that you should know when laying out **text** for a **black & white title**.

**Resolution:** 600 dpi for 1-bit black & white line art  
300 dpi for 8-bit grayscale continuous tone images

**Color Space:** Grayscale

**LPI (lines per inch):** 106

**Preferred file format:** PDF (.pdf) file built to trim size or centered on **8.5"x 11"**

**PDF producer:** Acrobat Distiller  
**PDF/X-1a:2001** recommended or  
High Quality Print setting

**Other accepted files:** PS (.ps) postscript

**Accepted Application Files:** QuarkXPress or InDesign  
(all supporting files included: fonts, images, art, etc.)

**Margins:** Recommended minimum **1/2"** inch on all sides.

**Acceptable Media:** CD, DVD, portable hard drives

**File naming:** Single file naming: **isbn\_txt.pdf** or **isbntxt.pdf**  
Multiple file naming needs to number in ascending order;  
for example: **isbn\_001.pdf**; **isbn\_002.pdf** (for multiple files)

**For instructions on creating your postscript and PDF files, please visit our website and choose your options from the File Creation menu:**

**Digital Bookblock Creation (Standard Books)**

## **B&W BOOK : TEXT REQUIREMENTS**

- **ALL** fonts must be embedded in PDF file submissions. This can be confirmed when the PDF is open in Acrobat under the 'Properties' option under the 'File' menu. The fonts tab lists the names of all fonts used in the file: **'(Embedded)'** or **'(Embedded Subset)'** should appear next to **every** font listing. If the fonts tab does not show either of these tags next to the font, the font is **not** embedded. If a file is sent with unembedded fonts, it will be rejected and a corrected file will be requested of the publisher. **Please do not** use the **'Standard'** default setting in Acrobat: It does not embed base 14 fonts, and will cause a file to be rejected.

- It is recommended that you provide a minimum of **1/2"** (0.5) margin on all sides of your text block. LSI allows for **1/16"** variance in printing. If text/images are close to trim edges, it is possible they may be cut in the printing and binding processes.

- We do not guarantee bleed off any edge of the text page for black & white printing. Files submitted with bleed will not be rejected for a new file. Our process works from the center of the document outward and only utilizes the actual trim size of the book.

- Please do not include crop marks or printer's marks in a file. These are not necessary for LSI's requirements and workflow. Marks included in a file could potentially show up in printed copies.

- We cannot accept files in 'spread' format (2-up per page). Files should be sent as one single-page PDF file. If submissions must be sent as multiple files instead of a single file, please refer to the correct file naming conventions (\*page 9). Incorrectly-named files could potentially process in the wrong sequential order and cause delays in receiving a correct proof. (Color book submissions **must** be sent as one PDF.)

- Please do not include Spot colors or ICC profiles in your file. Spot colors can produce unexpected results during the rip process. ICC profiles applied to 100% black text frequently convert to a shade/percentage of gray (less than 100% black) when processed through the rip. This may result in text in your proof that is not solid black. If text is intended to appear as solid black, please ensure that ICC profiles are not included before submitting PDF your file and text is set to 100% black. Including either Spot colors or ICC profiles can cause delays in receiving a correct proof.

- All text files will be processed and stored with a mod 2 page count: page counts divisible by 2. Books that are 6.14" x 9.21" and smaller will be printed in six-page (three front/three back) single sheet signatures. Books that are 6.69" x 9.61" and larger will be printed in four-page (two front/two back) single sheet signatures.

Storing files at mod 2 page counts will help to ensure the least amount of blank pages possible are added to the back of the book. The publisher should end text files of a book without padding pages, and Lightning Source will add the additional pages necessary to achieve page counts divisible by two during the setup process, and a multiple of four or six (depending on size) during the print process.

- This does not apply to Color saddle-stitch books.

### B&W BOOK : COVER QUICK REFERENCE

The following are recommendations and specifications that you should know when laying out a **color cover** for a **black & white title**.

**Resolution:** 300 dpi

**Color Space:** CMYK

**LPI (lines per inch):** 180

**Preferred file format:** PDF (.pdf) file on LSI cover template  
dimensions vary by trim size

**PDF producer:** Acrobat Distiller  
**PDF/X-1a:2001** recommended or  
High Quality Print setting

**Other accepted files:** TIF (.tiff) tagged image file format  
PS (.ps) postscript

**Accepted Application Files:** QuarkXPress or InDesign  
(all supporting files included: fonts, images, art, etc.)

**Bleed:** 1/8" (0.125") all sides

**Type Safety:** 1/4" (0.25") all sides

**Spine Type Safety:** 1/16" (0.0625") left/right sides for page counts of 108-828  
1/32" (0.03125") left/right sides for page count of 80-104  
**NO** spine text for page counts below 80

**Acceptable Media:** CD, DVD, portable hard drives

**File naming:** **isbn\_cov.pdf** or **isbncov.pdf**

**For instructions on creating your postscript and PDF files, please visit our website and choose your options from the File Creation menu:**

**Digital Cover Creation (Standard Books)**

## **B&W BOOK : COVER REQUIREMENTS**

- Non-template submissions: if you are unable to submit a cover on our template, please send a file built to the correct bleed size, necessary spine calculation and all elements positioned as required (*i.e. type safety observed, etc.*). A technician will place the file in the appropriate template for printing. When building a cover without the Cover Template Generator, do not include extraneous information such as crop marks or web-press comments.

- **All** covers should be built with a **mod 2 spine calculation** (page count divisible by 2).

- Non-template submissions: a spine calculator is available on our site. From the home page, mouse over the **'File Creation'** tab and choose **'Weight and Spine Width Calculator'** page to assist in determining the correct spine width. The direct link: <http://www.lightningsource.com/spinecalc.aspx>

**\*Note:** when selecting a cover produced at a trim size of **5"x8" / 5.5"x8.5" or 6"x9" perfect bound books**, **please be sure to select the correct paper color for your title (white or crème)**. Reference templates are available that can assist with determining measurements and placements. Covers cannot be submitted on reference templates.

- The barcode should be built in 100% Black only and placed on a white background/box. LSI will add or replace barcodes in files received if it is unscannable or incorrect; we will add a generic barcode if the book does not have one assigned to it. The publisher will not be notified if this manipulation is made.

- If you are unable to create/supply a barcode, please leave an area for our technicians to insert a barcode on the back cover. The recommended size for the white box needed is 1.75" wide by 1" high.

**\*Barcodes are mandatory on all covers.**

- For best results regarding black on your cover, we recommend using a rich black where the CMYK values are 60% Cyan, 40% Magenta, 40% Yellow, and 100% Black. CMYK total value should **not** exceed 240%. Black elements should **not** be built in 'Registration' Black (or 100% of all colors). For best results regarding 'body text' (text that is 24 pt. or below), please use 100% black only.

**\*Files sent with densities higher than 240% may be rejected for correction.**

- Please convert all spot colors to CMYK, including those in supporting .eps files. **\*Note:** RGB files received will be converted to CMYK before printing. RGB files may produce unexpected color results when printing. Any dissatisfaction with color shift will be the publisher's responsibility to correct.

- **ALL** fonts must be embedded in PDF file submissions. This can be confirmed when the PDF is open in Acrobat under the 'Properties' option under the 'File' menu. The fonts tab lists the names of all fonts used in the file: **'(Embedded)'** or **'(Embedded Subset)'** should appear next to **every** font listing. If the fonts tab does not show either of these tags next to the font, the font is **not** embedded. If a file is sent with unembedded fonts, it will be rejected and a corrected file will be requested of the publisher. **Please do not** use the **'Standard'** default setting in Acrobat. It does not embed base 14 fonts and will cause a file to be rejected.

- All layers in a TIF file should be flattened before submission.



## **FILE CREATION GUIDE**

## **COLOR BOOK**

**color cover / color text**

**TRIM SIZES**

**TEXT QUICK REFERENCE**

**TEXT REQUIREMENTS**

**COVER QUICK REFERENCE**

**COVER REQUIREMENTS**

## COLOR BOOK : TRIM SIZES

<b>Trim Size (in)</b>	<b>Trim Size (mm)</b>	<b>Bindtypes Available</b>	<b>Page Range</b>	<b>Stock</b>	<b>Priced As</b>
<b>5.5 x 8.5</b>	<b>216 x 140</b>	saddle-stitch (paperback)	4 - 48	white	color
		perfect (paperback)	24 - 480	white	color
<b>7 X 10</b>	<b>254 X 178</b>	saddle-stitch (paperback)	4 - 48	white	color
		perfect (paperback)	24 - 480	white	color
<b>8 X 10</b>	<b>254 X 203</b>	saddle-stitch (paperback)	4 - 48	white	color
		perfect (paperback)	24 - 480	white	color
<b>8.5 x 8.5</b>	<b>216 x 216</b>	saddle-stitch (paperback)	4 - 48	white	color
		perfect (paperback)	24 - 480	white	color
<b>8.5 x 11</b>	<b>280 x 216</b>	saddle-stitch (paperback)	4 - 48	white	color
		perfect (paperback)	24 - 480	white	color

### COLOR BOOK : TEXT QUICK REFERENCE

The following are recommendations and specifications that you should know when laying out **text** for a **color book title**.

**Resolution:** 300 dpi

**Color Space:** CMYK

**LPI (lines per inch):** 180

**Required file format:** PDF (.pdf) file  
dimensions vary by trim size

**PDF producer:** Acrobat Distiller  
**PDF/X-1a:2001** required

**Bleed:** 1/4" except on bind side

**Margins:** Recommended minimum 1/2" inch on all sides

**Acceptable Media:** CD, DVD, portable hard drives

**File naming:** **isbn\_txt.pdf** or **isbntxt.pdf**

**For instructions on creating your postscript and PDF files, please visit our website and choose your options from the File Creation menu:**

**Digital Bookblock Creation (Color Books)**

### BIND TYPE INFORMATION

• **Saddle-stitch titles:** files containing **1-47 pages** of content will have additional pages added by LSI to achieve page counts divisible by four. **Note:** LSI manufactures saddle-stitch books with a total page count from **4-48 pages**. Files will be processed and printed with page counts divisible by 4.

• **Perfect bound titles:** files containing **22-479 pages** of content will have additional pages added by LSI to achieve page counts divisible by two. **Note:** LSI manufactures perfect bound books that have a total page count from **24-480 pages**. Files will be processed with page counts divisible by 2, and printed with page counts divisible by 4.

**Note:** LSI manufactures both types of books (**saddle-stitch & perfect bound**) that have a total page count from **24-48 pages** (customer should designate correct bind type). The final page of all submissions must be completely blank and is reserved for a check barcode and other information for LSI.



## COLOR BOOK : TEXT REQUIREMENTS

- Text files must be submitted as one single PDF file: submissions with multiple files will be rejected. Single file submissions may be zipped/stuffed.
- Files must be **PDF/X-1a:2001** compliant. This setting is found in the Professional versions of Adobe Acrobat 6 or above (listed as **PDF/X-1a** in Acrobat 6 Professional).
- All images in a text file must be CMYK. Images that are less than 72 dpi will be rejected for higher-resolution submissions. Images with these resolutions are considered too low in quality for printing.
- Reference templates for interiors are located under the **'File Creation'** tab on our website. The direct link: **<http://www.lightningsource.com/referencetemplates.aspx#ColorBookblockTemplates>**

These assist in illustrating the requirements for color book interiors. These are the trim sizes and their required PDF document sizes:

5.5 x 8.5	trim size	=	5.75" x 9"	document size
7 x 10	trim size	=	7.25" x 10.5"	document size
8 x 10	trim size	=	8.25" x 10.5"	document size
8.5 x 8.5	trim size	=	8.75" x 9"	document size
8.5 x 11	trim size	=	8.75" x 11.5"	document size

PDF files should be submitted at the above sizes for processing. If a file does not include bleed, and has adequate and distinct white margins around page items, a file may be submitted at trim size.

- For best results regarding **'body text'** (text that is 24 pt. or below), please use 100% black only.
- Please do not include crop marks or printer's marks in a file. Crop marks are not necessary for LSI's specific printing requirements and workflow and, if included in a file, will be rejected.
- **Please do not** send files in **'spread'** format. Files should be sent as a single-page PDF file to process correctly in our workflow. Files sent as spreads will be rejected for a corrected submission.
- All text must be a minimum of **1/2"** from final trim size (non-bleeding text & art)
- Graphics, illustrations, and color intended to print to the edge of a text page should bleed a full **1/4"** past the final trim size (except on the bind side). If an image used does not provide for enough bleed (full **1/4"**), please extend a complimenting color the full amount of bleed required.
- **PERFECT BOUND BOOKS ONLY** : A **1/8"** (0.125") gutter margin (no-ink area) is required on the bind side of all **perfect bound** color books. This is required as this bind type is bound using glue. The no-ink area is designated so glue can adhere to all pages; so the finished book will hold together correctly. (Please see reference templates for visual example) Images/color intended to straddle a spread, or "crossover," may still be included in the file with the gutter/no-ink area placed in between where the images/color would normally meet.
- **SADDLE STITCH BOOKS ONLY** : gutter margin is not required; page items can be taken completely to the bind edge.

### COLOR BOOK : COVER QUICK REFERENCE

The following are recommendations and specifications that you should know when laying out **color cover** for a **color book title**.

**Resolution:** 300 dpi

**Color Space:** CMYK

**LPI (lines per inch):** 180

**Required file format:** PDF (.pdf) file on LSI cover template  
template dimensions = **20.5" x 14.33"**

**PDF producer:** Acrobat Distiller  
**PDF/X-1a:2001** required

**Bleed:** 1/4" (0.25") all sides

**Type Safety:** 1/4" (0.25") all sides

**Spine Type Safety:** 1/16" (0.0625) left/right sides for page counts of 108-828  
1/32" (0.03125) left/right sides for page count of 80-104  
**NO** spine text for page counts below 80

**Acceptable Media:** CD, DVD, portable hard drives

**File naming:** **isbn\_cov.pdf** or **isbncov.pdf**

**For instructions on creating your postscript and PDF files, please visit our website and choose your options from the File Creation menu:**

**Digital Cover Creation (Color Books)**

## COLOR BOOK : COVER REQUIREMENTS

- Cover files must be placed on the correct template produced by the template generator. (\*Please do not send covers on the reference templates or in three separate files/pieces.)
- Files must be **PDF/X-1a:2001** compliant. This setting is found in the Professional versions of Adobe Acrobat 6 or above (listed as **PDF/X-1a** in Acrobat 6 Professional).
- All images in a cover file must be CMYK. Images that are less than 200 dpi (for color books) will be rejected for higher-resolution submissions. Images with these resolutions are considered too low in quality for printing.
- Please do not reposition any items on the template – all elements (trim size markings / crop marks / spine calculation) are needed and correctly placed for LSI's specific printing requirements and workflow. Cropping the template or removing guidelines/markings will result in the rejection of a submission. **\*Note:** The only exception is that red and blue dotted lines **have** to be **removed** before submission.
- For best results regarding black on your cover, we recommend using a rich black where the CMYK values are 60% Cyan, 40% Magenta, 40% Yellow, and 100% Black. CMYK total value should **not** exceed 240%. Black elements should **not** be built in 'Registration' Black (or 100% of all colors). For best results regarding 'body text' (text that is 24 pt. or below), please use 100% black only. Barcodes should be 100% black only.  
**\*Files sent with densities higher than 240% may be rejected for correction.**
- The finished document size of the PDF submitted should be **20.5" x 14.33"** for **all** trim sizes: **(5.5 x 8.5 / 7 x 10 / 8 x 10 / 8.5 x 8.5 / 8.5 x 11)** & **both** bind types (**perfect bound & saddle-stitch**). Cover artwork should be placed within the crop marks and the PDF should be created at the size it's received. Please do not extend artwork past the crop marks: templates are set up for our printing workflow.
- **1/4"** (0.25) bleed is required on all four sides. Graphics, illustrations, and color intended to print to the edge of a cover should bleed a full 1/4" past the final trim size.
- **NO** spine text is allowed for books with page counts below 80.
- All text must be a minimum of **1/4"** from final trim size (this applies to non-bleeding text & art)
- Graphics, illustrations, and color intended to print to the edge of a cover should bleed a full **1/4"** past the final trim size.



## **FILE CREATION GUIDE**

## **PDF NOTES**

**ALL book types**

**PDF/X-1a:2001**

**ADOBE ACROBAT &  
ACROBAT DISTILLER**

## **PDF NOTES : PDF/X-1a:2001**

**PDF/X-1a:2001** compliancy is a requirement for color book file submissions, and always recommended for black & white file submissions (both cover and text files). Some of the reasons this setting is the most efficient to use when creating PDF files for print:

- Requires **all** fonts to be embedded. With **PDF/X-1a:2001**: if a font cannot be embedded, the PDF file will fail to create (unless default preferences have been altered). This should immediately tell the creator that the first issue to check is fonts (and the log should list the reason as well). A common reason a font will not embed using **PDF/X-1a:2001** is due to licensing restrictions with the font.
- Converts **RGB** images/page items to **CMYK**. This is a critical check. **RGB** is how monitors handle color, but it is not intended for printing. If a file is sent as **RGB**, and is printed as is, the shift that it goes through during the rip process may be significant enough to cause the customer to be dissatisfied with the final output—creating extra time and costs in the book to print satisfactorily. A **CMYK** file will result in a truer representation of the color **BEFORE** a file is submitted.
- ‘**Trapping**’ key is defined. This is an issue with how colors interact with each other that generally preview correctly on screen, but can cause a problem when the ink is printed on the paper.
- ‘**Transparency**’ will be flattened (no live transparency). Layering/special effects such as drop shadows should be rendered correctly so that there are no unexpected results when a file goes through the rip process, e.g. a drop shadow turning black when the desired effect was a gray drop shadow.

### PDF NOTES : ADOBE ACROBAT & ACROBAT DISTILLER

LSI recommends and supports submission of PDF files that are created using the Adobe Acrobat Distiller program. Other PDF creators are not guaranteed and any additional charges or revision submissions resulting from the use of other PDF-creator programs will be the responsibility of the publisher.

The PDF file type was created by Adobe Systems. As such we have found their software to be the most consistent and reliable in creating not only PDF files in general, but PDF files that are stable for printing. It would be impossible for us to support all or even a small portion of the PDF producers that are available on the market. These 3rd party companies use different code and software to create PDF files, and these are not always reliable for print-ready files. Adobe Acrobat Distiller is the only PDF producer that has proven to provide consistent and stable PDF files for printing with our processes.

One example of issues that can be seen are font encoding errors with text. In these cases, the PDF will appear correctly when viewed on various machines, but when the file reaches various rip processes or printers, the unseen issue with the file will manifest at this time causing fonts/characters to be replaced with unreadable symbols.

Another example is in regard to cover files: we have seen transparency issues where drop shadows and other effects do not render correctly at the rip process. These are just two of the common examples we have experienced when 3rd party PDF producers were used. \*Please note: Exporting from InDesign creates PDF files using PDF Library (different than Distiller), and has caused the above issues with some files.

We cannot make it a practice to alter/edit files as this can produce unexpected results. Since we are not the creators of the original document, it is impossible for us to discern if a PDF has retained its layout/specifics as it was originally created. Because these errors can often be overlooked, we cannot be held responsible at a later time for the PDF not having been interpreted and printed correctly.

#### **All PDF submissions (cover & text)** .....

Please preview **ALL** PDF files before submission to LSI. It is a common error to only proofread and preflight the application files for errors (i.e. InDesign or QuarkXPress, etc). Please view the PDF in detail after it's created: proofreading/preflighting for errors. More errors can often be caught before submission to us (on the front end) and will save time in producing a correct proof.



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