



# Softcover photo books

File set up guidelines



prodigi

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# File set up and sizes

Your content should be the same size as the book size. For example, if creating an A4 book, your content should measure 210 x 297 mm.

## Hardcover book sizes

Size	Orientation	Dimensions (mm / in)
A5	Landscape	148 x 210 mm / 5.8 x 8.3"
A5	Portrait	210 x 148 mm / 8.3 x 5.8"
A4	Landscape	210 x 297 mm / 8.3 x 11.7"
A4	Portrait	297 x 210 mm / 11.7 x 8.3"
8.3 x 8.3"	Square	210 x 210 mm / 8.3 x 8.3"

## Softcover book set up



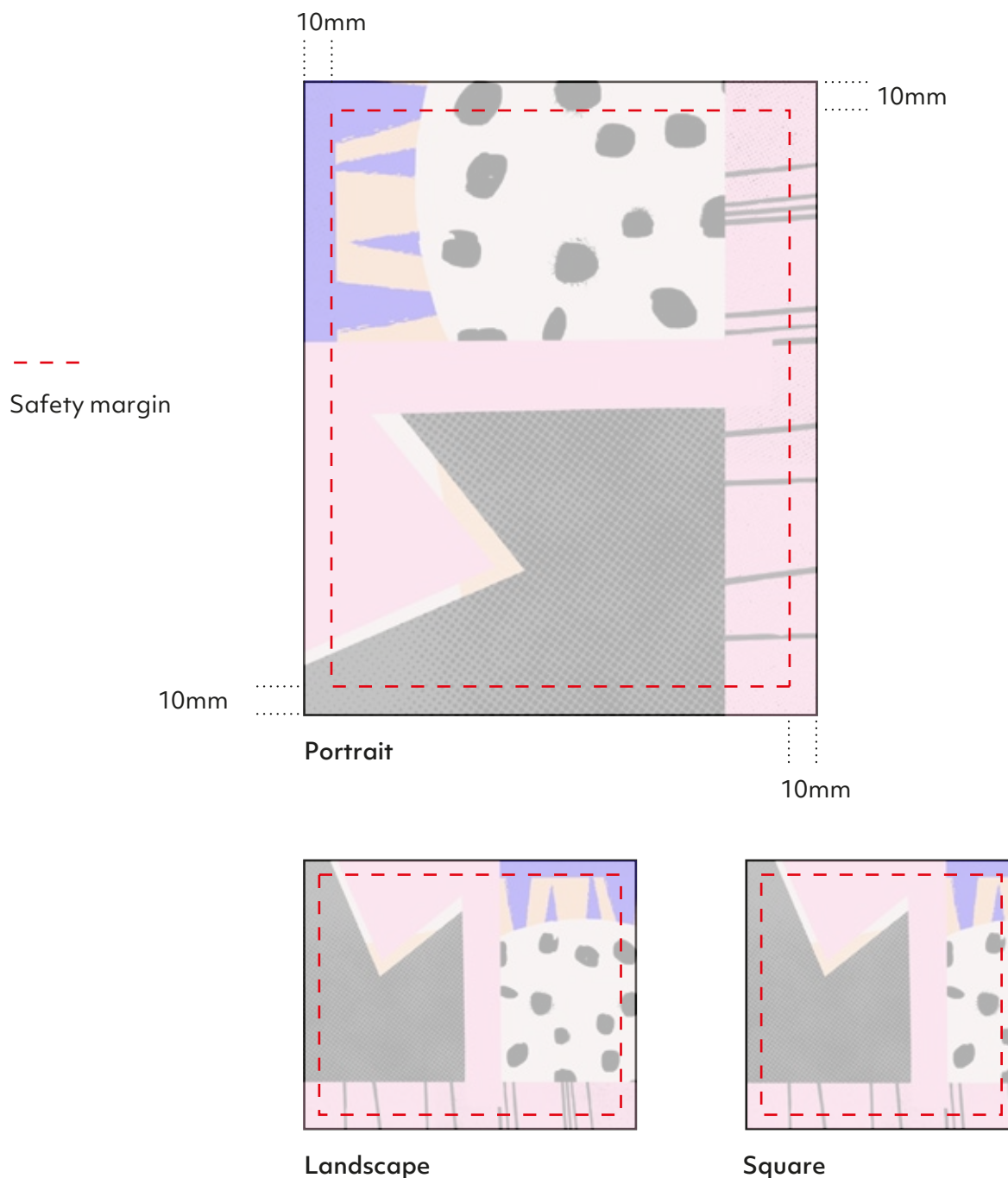
Resolution  
300dpi



Colour profile  
RGB

# Cover and content

- Our softcover books range from 20-300 pages. Your book **must** have an even number of pages.
- Save your print file as one PDF document containing both the cover and content as single pages.
- Your artwork should fill the artboard, but please keep all critical elements, such as text, logos, and key visuals, within the safe area - at least 10mm from the edge of the page to avoid trimming.
- Do not add bleed or cut marks, as our system will automatically generate these.



# Layout

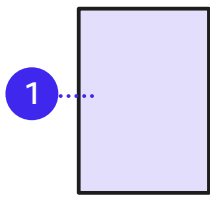
The following diagram illustrates how your softcover book will appear once printed. The numbered text below corresponds to the numbers displayed on the image. Please note that this diagram is for illustrative purposes only.



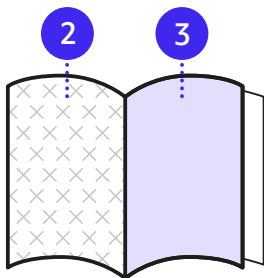
Blank page  
(added by us)



Printed page  
(from your pdf)

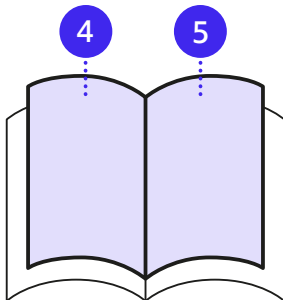


1. **Front cover:** The first page of your PDF will become the front cover of your book.



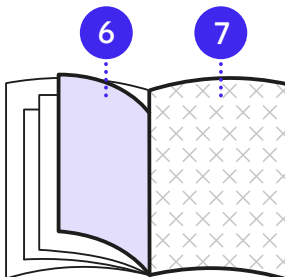
2. **Inside of front cover:** A blank (white) page will be added by us and [cannot be printed on](#).

3. **First content page:** The second page of your PDF will be the first content page in your book and will appear on the right-hand side.



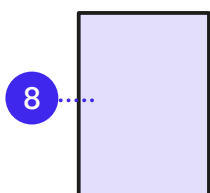
4. **Second content page:** The third page of your PDF will be printed on page 2.

5. **Third content page:** The fourth page of your PDF will be printed on page 3.



6. **Last content page:** The penultimate page of your PDF.

7. **Inside of back cover:** A blank (white) page will be added by us and [cannot be printed on](#).



8. **Back cover:** The last page of your PDF will become the back cover of your book.

# Spine

## Spine design for manual orders

When placing a manual order, you will be prompted within the order form to customise the spine. The following details will be required:

- **Spine text:** You will have the option to enter custom text that will appear on the spine of the book.
- **Text colour:** Select a colour for the spine text that complements the cover design.
- **Background colour:** Choose a background colour for the spine, ensuring it aligns with the overall theme of the book cover.

Make sure that the text is clearly legible against the background colour.

## Spine calculation for API users

For API users, the spine artwork should be provided separately from the cover artwork. Spine dimensions are calculated based on the total number of pages and the specific production lab that will print and bind your photo book.

- To ensure your spine artwork fits correctly, please [query the API\\* to receive the exact dimensions required for your project](#). This will allow you to adjust your spine design to meet the precise requirements based on the page count and the lab handling your order.
- Avoid placing important design elements too close to the edges of the spine to allow for slight variations in printing and binding.



\*For API-specific instructions on how to query the spine dimensions, please refer to our API documentation or contact our support team for assistance.

# Saving your PDF

We recommend exporting your file with a PDF / X-4 Profile (coated FOGRA 39) check on your file. Please ensure that all fonts are embedded and any transparencies are flattened.



Recommended PDF setting  
PDF / X-4 (coated FOGRA 39)



## Got questions?

✉ [support@prodigi.com](mailto:support@prodigi.com)

🌐 [www.prodigi.com](http://www.prodigi.com)