

Unsure how to create the PDF file for your front cover, including spine? Here's an outline of the two methods for a perfect bound publication printed at St. Croix Press.

The first method, which is acceptable if your spine is either white or a solid color, is to furnish a separate PDF file for the spine copy. It's important that the spine copy be centered horizontally in the PDF. If using a background color, apply the color behind the spine copy before exporting your PDF.

If your cover art/photo wraps around the spine, the method below details the necessary steps to creating your cover PDF.

1. Know Your Spine Width.

As soon as you know the number of pages in your publication, and the paper stock and weight; contact your CSR and ask them to calculate your spine width.

2. Create Your Front Cover Document to Include the Spine.

Let's assume you have an 8.25" x 10.75" magazine with a 1/8 inch spine. Your Quark or InDesign document size should be 8.375" wide to include spine area. You will be adding 1/8" bleed when you create your PDF, so the final PDF size of this example should be 8.625" x 11."

3. Pull a Guide.

Placing a guide at the precise measurement where the spine ends and the front cover begins is the easiest way to position artwork, background colors, and text exactly where you need them.

4. Position Spine Copy.

Center any spine copy in this given area (in the example, 1/8") Watch text placement vertically so it doesn't get too close to trim on top and bottom.

5. Export PDF.

Exporting your PDF with bleed will add an extra 1/8" on all four sides. Don't worry, our pagination software will take care of the extra 1/8" falling left of your spine.

6. Inspect Your Final PDF

Take a moment to open your PDF file and verify that your measurements add up.

Trim size + Spine size + left & right bleed = PDF size

$$8.25'' + .125'' + .125'' + .125'' = 8.625''$$

