

Before integrating with the API, you'll need two print-ready PDF book files:

- **Interior PDF** – a single-page PDF containing the finished pages of your book
- **Cover PDF** – a single-spread PDF containing the back cover, spine, and front cover

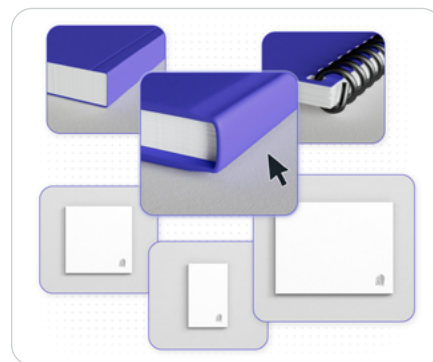
1. Choose Your Book Specifications

Your book specifications determine the dimensions of both your interior and cover files.

Select:

- Trim size (book dimensions)
- Binding type (cover style)
- Interior color (Black & White, Standard Color, or Premium Color)
- Paper type (color and weight)

Important Note: Your final page count determines the spine width for paperback and hardcover books.

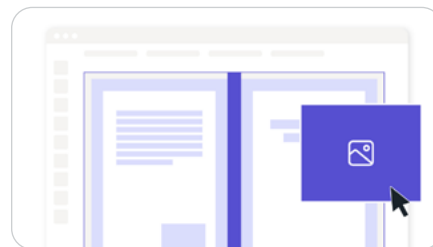


Use the [Lulu API Pricing Calculator](#) to explore available formats and download custom cover templates.

2. Prepare Your Content

For best print results:

- Use high-resolution images (300–600 PPI)
- Keep image and document color spaces consistent
- Use RGB (sRGB) or CMYK (Coated GRACoL 2006) throughout your project
- Use grayscale images for Black & White books
- For photo books or heavy ink coverage, use **Premium Color** with **80# White Uncoated paper**
- Ensure images are sized to extend through bleed or wrap areas on design layouts



Are you a designer or using design software? [Choose your book size](#) and download book templates that include Adobe InDesign and Photoshop interior and cover templates as well as Adobe PDF presets to export your print-ready files.

3. Create Print-Ready Files

Interior PDF

Your interior should be exported as a:

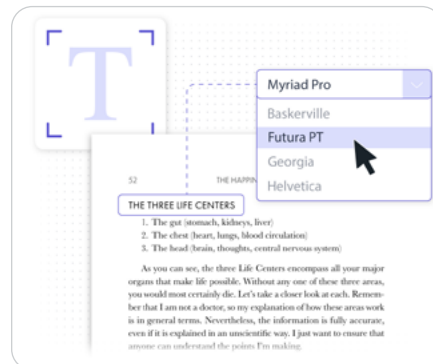
- Single-page PDF
- High-quality print PDF
- File with embedded fonts

Include:

- 0.125" bleed for full-page artwork
- Safe margins for text and important content
- Body text: 0.5" from trim edge
- Headers/footers: 0.25" from trim edge

Before exporting:

- Embed or outline all fonts
- Flatten transparency effects



Cover PDF

Your cover should be exported as a:

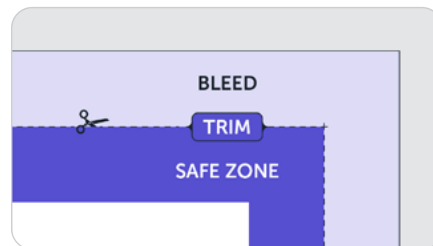
- Single-page integrated spread PDF
- Back cover + spine + front cover

Include:

- [Bleed or wrap areas](#) extending beyond trim or fold lines
- Images and backgrounds extended through bleed or wrap areas
- [Correct spine width](#) based on binding type and page count

Before exporting:

- Embed or outline all fonts
- Flatten transparency effects



Need exact dimensions? Download a custom cover template from the [Lulu API Pricing Calculator](#) using your trim size, binding type, and page count.

Binding-Specific Notes

Coil & Saddle Stitch

- No spine required
- Cover dimensions are based on trim size only

Paperback

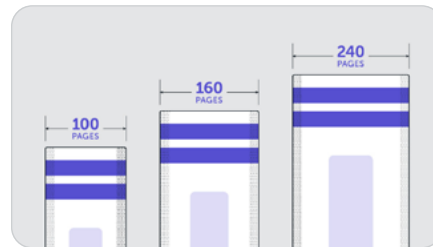
- Spine width is calculated from page count

Hardcover Casewrap

- Spine width is based on predefined page-count ranges

Linen Wrap with Dust Jacket

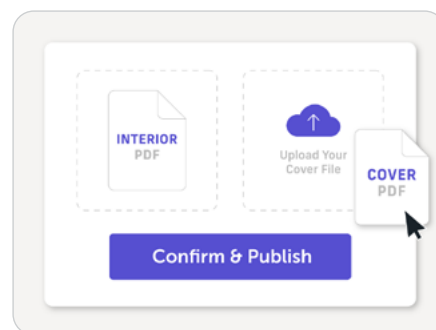
- Linen cover includes spine foil stamping options
- Dust jacket includes front flap and back flap areas
- Spine width is determined by page-count ranges



4. Test Your Files

Before implementing the Print API, test your interior and cover PDFs on Lulu.com.

1. Create a free Lulu account
2. Create a project in the Lulu dashboard
3. Upload your interior PDF
4. Upload your cover PDF
5. Address any file warnings or errors before proceeding with API integration
6. Inspect the rendered book preview



The preview allows you to verify page layout, cover alignment, bleed, and overall appearance before submitting files through the API.

Need Help?

Explore articles in the [Lulu API Knowledge Base](#) of articles or watch tutorials in [Lulu's YouTube video library](#) to get answers and ensure your files are print-ready before integrating with the Lulu Print API.