Submission Requirements for Authors

To print your book on the Espresso Book Machine (EBM), you'll need two print-ready PDFs - one for the cover and one for the bookblock. Print-ready means that all of your writing, editing, and formatting is finished, and the PDFs can be printed as-is. If you are unable to create the print-ready PDFs yourself, contact your EBM location to learn about services they can provide to help you.

Bookblock

The bookblock consists of your book's interior pages. Your bookblock PDF should contain everything you want to include in your book – front matter, core text, back matter, blank pages, etc. – all in one PDF.

Bookblock Physical Requirements

➢ The bookblock will print out double-sided on Letter or A4 sheets of paper - one PDF page to one side of a sheet of paper. Excess margins will be trimmed off during the binding process.

➢ There are no paper-folding / signatures involved in the binding process.

➢ The bookblock can only be printed in black and white (no color on the interior pages).

Page Length

Minimum: 40 pages

Maximum: about 800 pages

Determining your Page Count:

For our purposes, a page refers to one PDF page or book page, *not* one sheet of paper. (There are two book pages to each sheet of paper, one on each side.)

Your bookblock PDF should be laid out accordingly – no double-page spreads or signatures.

Your final page count will be the total number of pages in your PDF document – your page count will not be limited to the paginated section of your book, but rather will include everything in the document (blank pages, dedications, about the author pages, etc.)

Trim Size

<div style="border:1px solid #000; padding:1em; text-align:center;">

(width x height in inches)

Minimum   4.5" x 5"

Maximum   8" x 10.5"

</div>

Because of the way the book is bound, the maximum trim size for a book changes depending on the page length. If your book is longer than 300 pages, refer to the list below to find the maximum trim size.

Page Length	Max trim width x height	
Up to 300 pages	8" x 10.5"	20.32 cm x 26.67 cm
Up to 400 pages	7.875" x 10.5"	20.00 cm x 26.67 cm
Up to 500 pages	7.75" x 10.5"	19.69 cm x 26.67 cm
Up to 600 pages	7.6" x 10.5"	19.30 cm x 26.67 cm
Up to 700 pages	7.5" x 10.5"	19.05 cm x 26.67 cm
Up to 800 pages	7.4" x 10.5"	18.79 cm x 26.67 cm

Bookblock PDF Layout Requirements

Ideally the page size of your bookblock PDF should match the intended trim size for your book.

For example, if your book will be 6" x 9", then your PDF should also be 6" x 9".

We can also accept PDFs of text that is formatted for your book's trim size and *centered* within and larger document. We *cannot* accept PDFs laid out in double-page spreads.

We *cannot* take text formatted as Letter or A4-sized PDF and shrink it down to a smaller trim size.

Uploading your file to the book machine will not change it in any way (the software does not add any extra pages, etc).

PDFs with no crop / registration marks are preferred.

Cover File

Cover Physical Requirements

- ➢ The cover can be in color (it will print on a full-color inkjet).
- ➢ Nothing can print on the interior side of the front or back cover.

Cover PDF Layout Requirements

For layout purposes, your cover is the back + spine + front of your book, laid out as a single landscape-oriented image. It will be printed on a Tabloid or A3 sheet of coverstock, which will wrap around the printed bookblock and be trimmed down to the book's trim size.

- ➢ Cover image should be centered vertically and horizontally in a landscape-oriented Tabloid or A3-sized PDF document
- ➢ PDFs with no crop / registration marks are preferred.
- ➢ Retain at least 0.125" to 0.25" bleed on all sides
- ➢ CMYK is ideal, though we can print files created in RGB as well

Calculating Spine Width
Before designing your cover, you must know your spine width.
To calculate this, you'll need your page count and the PPI (Pages per Inch) of the paper you're using. You'll also need to determine whether you're using cream or white paper.

- ➢ The PPI value for our standard cream paper is 434.
- ➢ The PPI value for our standard white paper is 526.

The formula for calculating spine width:

$$\text{page count} \div \text{PPI} = \text{spine width in inches}$$

So the spine width for a 250 page book printed on our standard cream paper would be

$$250 \div 434 = 0.576"$$

Images

All images should be properly embedded within the PDF.

The higher the resolution of an image, the better it will look when printed.

For best print quality, we recommend that any images you include (inside the book or on the cover) should be at least **300 DPI** (Dots per Inch).

Any images included in the bookblock PDF will print in black and white, even if the original is color. Ideally, color images should be converted to grey-scale before inclusion in the bookblock PDF.

PDF Format

When bookblock and cover PDFs are generated, choose a format that is tied to a tight ISO spec. For best results, please submit all files in **PDF/X-1a:2001** format. PDF/A formatting is also acceptable.

If you generate PDFs using Standard conversion settings, the document fonts may not be properly embedded. We cannot be held responsible for printing errors resulting from poorly formatted PDFs.

Please Note:

➢ Only the cover is in color; the book interior will be in black and white.

➢ Uploading to the EBM does not change the book files in any way (there is no automatic addition of blank pages, gutters, etc.). Whatever the author provides is what will print, and if their book is formatted poorly or the PDF was created incorrectly (i.e. without embedded fonts) they may run into problems with the printed version.

➢ We cannot guarantee exact color matching for the cover. The colors an author sees on their computer screen may be different than those produced by the inkjet (though they're usually pretty close).

➢ For these reasons, we recommend printing a proof copy before ordering a larger print run.

➢ The EBM allows for a 1/16" variance on all books printed. This is the same as Lightning Source and other POD companies.