The KDP Cookbook Spec Sheet

Paperback and hardcover on Amazon KDP — every print measurement on one sheet, in inches and millimetres. KDP figures as of 26 October 2026.

1 · Trim sizes (the finished page after cutting)

Paperback, 16 sizes:

Inches	mm	Inches	mm
5 × 8	127 × 203	7 × 10	178 × 254
5.06 × 7.81	129 × 198	7.44 × 9.69	189 × 246
5.25 × 8	133 × 203	7.5 × 9.25	191 × 235
5.5 × 8.5	140 × 216	8 × 10	203 × 254
6 × 9	152 × 229	8.25 × 6 (landscape)	210 × 152
6.14 × 9.21	156 × 234	8.25 × 8.25	210 × 210
6.69 × 9.61	170 × 244	8.5 × 8.5	216 × 216
8.27 × 11.69 (A4)	210 × 297	8.5 × 11	216 × 279

Hardcover, 5 sizes: 5.5 × 8.5 · 6 × 9 · 6.14 × 9.21 · 7 × 10 · 8.25 × 11.

2 · Bleed: 0.125" = 3.175 mm (KDP rounds it to 3.2 mm)

- **Interior page:** width + **1 ×** 0.125" (outside edge only) · height + **2 ×** 0.125" (top and bottom). The bound edge is never cut and gets **no** bleed. Example: 6 × 9 → **6.125 × 9.25"**.
- **Cover:** bleed on all four outer edges of the cover sheet.
- With bleed, the interior must be uploaded as a **PDF**.

3 · Margins

Page count	Minimum gutter (inside)
24–150	0.375" (9.525 mm)
151–300	0.5" (12.7 mm)
301–500	0.625" (15.875 mm)
501–700	0.75" (19.05 mm)
701–828	0.875" (22.225 mm)

Outside margins (top, bottom, outer edge): at least **0.25"** without bleed, **0.375"** with bleed. KDP publishes one table for paperback and hardcover.

4 · Page count

- **Minimum:** 24 pages for black & white and premium colour · 72 for standard colour · hardcover 75 per the help page — our September 2026 form check rejected anything below **76** (not rechecked today), so plan conservatively for 76.
- **Maximum depends on trim size and paper**, e.g. 6 × 9: 828 (cream: 776) · 8.5 × 11: 590 (black & white on white, and premium colour) · standard colour at most 600, and not offered at all for 8.27 × 11.69 (A4) · hardcover 550. Planning a thick book? Look up the row for your trim size in KDP's table [A].
- Hardcover has no standard colour — colour always means premium colour there.

5 · Spine width

Paper	per page
White, black & white	0.002252" (0.0572 mm)
Cream (black & white only)	0.0025" (0.0635 mm)
Standard colour	0.002252" (0.0572 mm)
Premium colour	0.002347" (0.0596 mm)

- **Paperback:** spine = page count × per-page value. **No added constant.**
- **Hardcover:** plus the board. KDP does not publish that figure; we measured **+ 4.8 mm (0.189")** in September 2026 (not rechecked today; not a universal KDP rule). For hardcover, always check against KDP's cover template.

6 · Spine text

- **Allowed from 79 pages.** One line of the KDP help page says "more than 79" — **80 pages** meets both readings and also Cover Creator's minimum (80).
- Keep at least **0.0625" (1.6 mm)** clear of both spine edges.
- So the lettering can be at most **spine width – 0.125"** tall (KDP's rounded figure: – 3.2 mm). Allowed doesn't mean big: see the worked example overleaf.

7 · Cover sheet (one single PDF: back, spine, front)

- Width = 0.125" + trim width + spine + trim width + 0.125"
- Height = 0.125" + trim height + 0.125"
- **Hardcover:** wrap around each edge — KDP writes "0.51" (15 mm)", but 0.51" is 12.95 mm; use the **KDP cover template** rather than interpreting that mismatch yourself. Hinge **0.4" (10 mm)** on each side of the spine: nothing there that has to be read.

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Worked examples and a pre-upload checklist

Example 1 — 7 × 10" cookbook, paperback, premium colour, 120 pages

What	Calculation	Result
Spine	120 × 0.002347"	**0.2816" (7.15 mm)**
Interior page with bleed	(7 + 0.125) wide, (10 + 0.25) high	**7.125 × 10.25"**
Gutter	120 pages is in 24–150	**at least 0.375"**
Cover sheet	(0.125 + 7 + 0.2816 + 7 + 0.125) wide, 10.25 high	**14.532 × 10.25"**
Spine text	120 ≥ 80, so allowed; 7.15 − 3.2 mm	**lettering at most 3.95 mm (0.156") tall**

Example 2 — 8 × 10", paperback, standard colour, 90 pages

What	Calculation	Result
Spine	90 × 0.002252"	**0.2027" (5.15 mm)**
Cover sheet	(0.125 + 8 + 0.2027 + 8 + 0.125) wide, 10.25 high	**16.453 × 10.25"**
Spine text	90 ≥ 80, so allowed; 5.15 − 3.2 mm	**only 1.95 mm (0.077") for the lettering**

It is allowed — but lettering under 2 mm is very small. Many people leave a spine this thin blank.

Example 3 — How many pages for 4.8 mm (0.19") spine lettering?

Spine needed: 4.8 + 2 × 1.6 = **8.0 mm (0.315")**. Divide by the per-page value and round up:

Paper	from
Premium colour	**135 pages**
Standard colour or white black & white	**140 pages**
Cream (black & white)	**126 pages**

There is no fixed "from X pages" rule for readable spine text — it depends on paper and type size.

Pre-upload checklist

- ☐ Page count final? Only then set the gutter and the spine — every reflow changes both.
- ☐ PDF page size = trim size (no bleed), or trim size + 0.125" wide and + 0.25" high (with bleed).
- ☐ Same trim size and same bleed setting chosen in the KDP form as in the PDF.
- ☐ Gutter matches the page count; outside margins at least 0.375" with bleed.
- ☐ Cover built as one sheet; spine calculated from the final page count and the right paper.
- ☐ Spine text only from 79 pages (stricter reading: 80), 1.6 mm clear of both edges.
- ☐ Fonts embedded, images at least 300 DPI, no crop marks, layers flattened.
- ☐ AI question in the form answered honestly: text, images or translations created by an AI tool must be disclosed to KDP; if you wrote it yourself and only used AI to edit or polish, you don't have to.
- ☐ Previewer checked page by page. From our own uploads: a green "Manuscript check complete" does not mean the right file is in there — it happened to us twice.

Numbers you'll see elsewhere — and what KDP says

You may read	KDP says
"6 × 9 with bleed = 6.25 × 9.25 inches"	interior page **6.125** × 9.25" — the bound edge gets no bleed
"Spine = pages × factor + 0.06 inch"	**no** added constant for paperback
"No spine text under 100 pages"	allowed from **79**; whether the lettering is big enough, see Example 3
"Bleed 3.5 mm"	0.125" = 3.175 mm

KDP also contradicts itself twice: "at least 79" vs "more than 79" pages for spine text, and hardcover from 75 (help page) vs from 76 (historical form check, not rechecked today). When in doubt, use the stricter number.

Built with MenuTome? MenuTome is a cookbook maker for Windows. In its Amazon print package it sets these values on export and checks the sheet size of the finished file against its own calculation. *Free vs. Pro: the Amazon print package (interior and cover with bleed, spine width calculated) is part of MenuTome Pro. The free plan builds one finished book — up to 15 pages, with a watermark on every page, no Amazon print package.* menutome.com

Sources (Amazon KDP Help): [A] Set Trim Size, Bleed, and Margins — kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/GVBQ3CMEQW3W2VL6 · [B] Create a Paperback Cover — .../G201953020 · [C] Create a Hardcover Cover — .../GDTKFJPNQCBTMRV6 · [D] Paperback Submission Guidelines — .../G201857950 · [E] Content Guidelines — .../G200672390. Sources [A]–[E] re-read on 26 October 2026. Hardcover board allowance 4.8 mm: historical internal measurement, not repeated on 26 October. Millimetres rounded as shown; use inches as the calculation basis. **Created with AI.** Source check: 26 October 2026; historical internal measurements are identified. Amazon and Kindle Direct Publishing are trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates, named only to identify the service. MenuTome is independent and not affiliated with Amazon. Publisher details: menutome.com/impressum.html (in German) · Free to share, unchanged and free of charge. As of 26 Oct 2026.