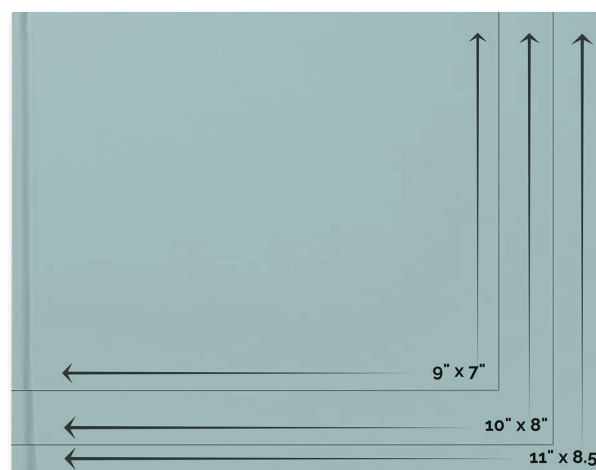


What's trim size? It's the book's width and height. With trim size, the width is listed first, height last. A 5.5" x 8.5" book, for example, is 5.5" wide and 8.5" tall. Books come in all different sizes, so there are no hard rules to choosing yours. Take a peek at your bookshelf, pick up some of your favorites, and see what feels good in your hand. Check out other books in your genre to see if there are standard sizes.



US TRADE:

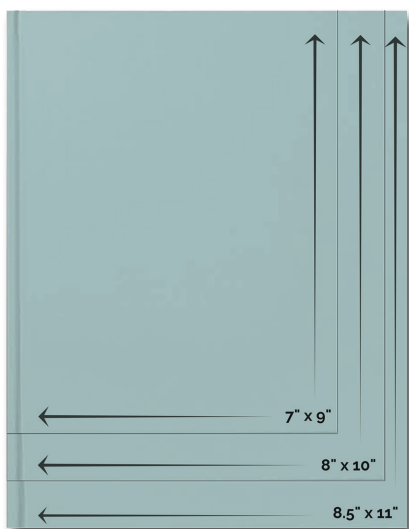
5"X8", 5.5"X8.5", AND 6"X9"

The US Trade book come in three sizes: small (5" x 8"), medium (5.5" x 8.5"), and large (6" x 9"). These are standard sizes, so which one you choose is mostly a matter of personal preference. Pick up some of your favorite books to check their dimensions. Which ones do you like best? That's a good starting point.

LANDSCAPE:

9" X 7", 10" X 8", AND 11" X 8.5"

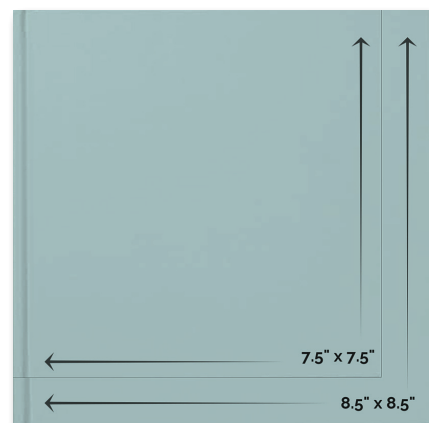
If your book features a lot of images and you want them to make an impact, a landscape trim size is a great option. Image-heavy books include children's, art, and photography books.



PORTRAIT:

7" X 9", 8" X 10", AND 8.5" X 11"

Portrait trim sizes come in the same dimensions as landscape, just reversed. Like landscape trim sizes, portrait is suited best for image-heavy books such as children's, art, and photography books.



SQUARE:

7.5" X 7.5" AND 8.5" X 8.5"

Similar to landscape and portrait books, the square trim size is an excellent choice for image-heavy books, especially art and children's books.



MASS-MARKET PAPERBACK:

4.25" X 6.87"

Mass-market paperbacks are smaller than the standard US trade sizes. When mass-market trim size is used, it's usually for genre fiction. Not all printers offer mass-market trim sizes, however, so it truly is a specialty size.

Other factors to consider include the length of your book and its content. Word count can help determine trim size. Shorter word counts often work best in smaller trim sizes.

If you have charts or graphs, however, they might display better with a larger trim size.

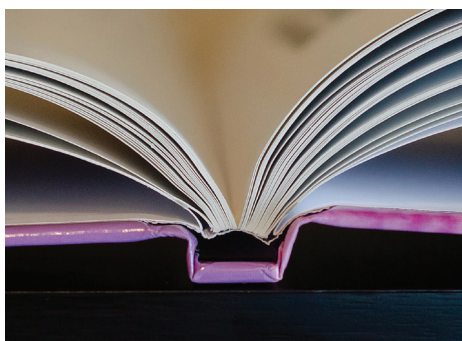
Book binding is the process of attaching the book's interior pages to the spine and cover. Traditionally, most book bindings were sewn. Today, glue bindings are more common.



PERFECT BOUND

Uses **adhesive** (hot glue).

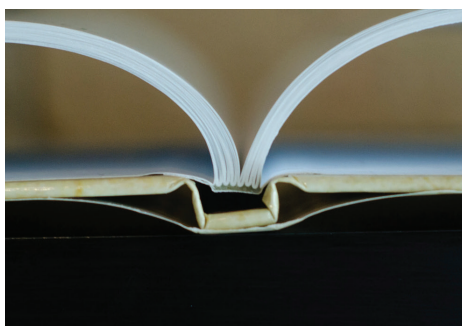
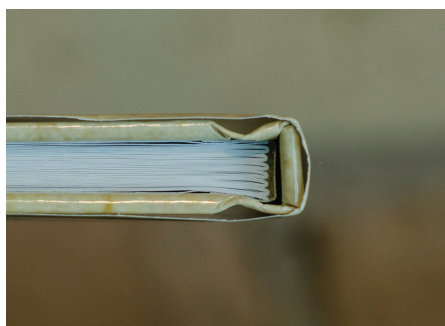
The standard choice for most softcover books, this flexible, glued binding will stand the test of time.



ADHESIVE CASEBOUND

Uses **adhesive** (hot glue).

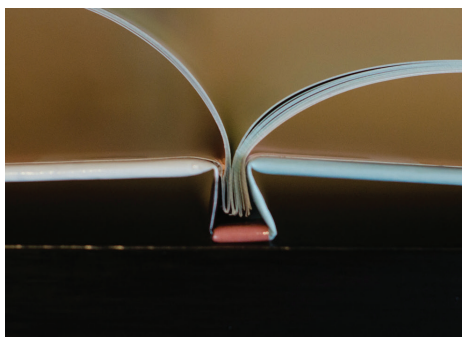
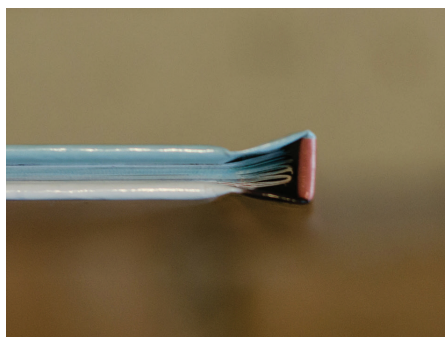
An attractive and durable option for hardcover books. This combines the economy of perfect-bound pages with the protection of a hardcover case.



SMYTH SEWN

Uses **stitching**.

Library quality and archival safe, this is the highest-quality binding in the business. Smyth-sewn binding uses thread to sew through printed signatures which are glued into the hardcover case.



SIDE SEWN

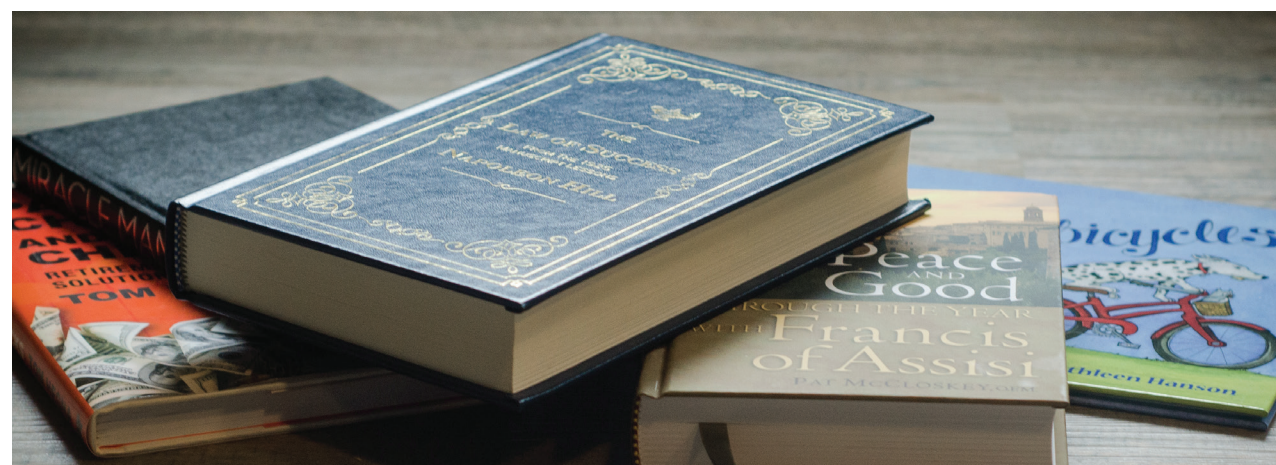
Uses **stitching**.

Sidesewn bindings are well suited to children's and photo books, as well as other thin, cased books. As the name implies, a fiber thread is used to sew through the paper stack, resulting in a secure binding.



Softcover

A softcover book has a wraparound cover made of stiff cardstock that's laminated with a glossy or matte finish.



Hardcover

A hardcover book is bound with rigid protective covers made of cardboard. Traditionally, the cardboard was covered with cloth. These days, it's most often covered with textured paper or leatherette (faux leather).

There are several other components to consider when creating a hardcover book:



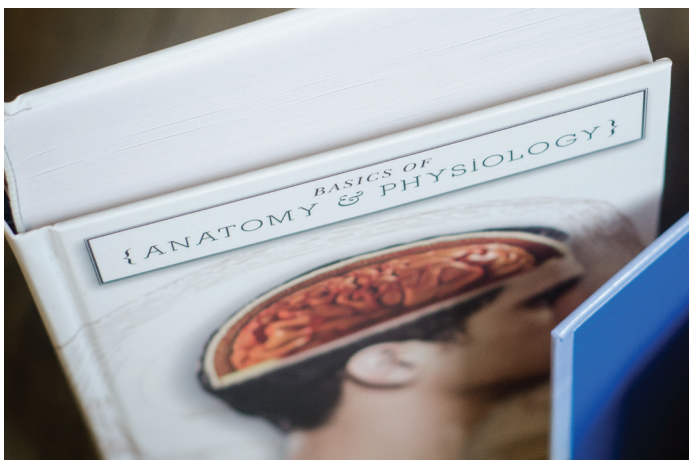
DUST JACKET

The dust jacket is a removable paper cover, generally printed with the book's cover image.



SOLID COLOR CASEWRAP

The casewrap is the covering that is bound to the cardboard of the hardcover. Unlike a dust jacket, it cannot be removed. For hardcover books with a dust jacket, the casewrap is typically a solid color (blue or black), with a foil stamp on the spine.



PRINTED CASEWRAP

As an alternative to a solid color casewrap and dustjacket, an author can choose a printed casewrap, and forgo a dust jacket completely. In this case, the cover image is printed directly onto the casewrap.



SPINE FOIL

The spine foil is the lettering (usually gold or silver) stamped directly onto a hardcover casewrap. This is hidden beneath the dust jacket.

For a printed book cover, there are two main finishes to choose from: glossy or matte.

Matte

This is paper coated with a non-glossy surface. It is sometimes referred to as a “satin” finish.

Glossy

This is paper coated with a slick and shiny surface.



PAPER COLOR

For books with a black-and-white interior, there are two options for the color of the paper: **cream** or **white**. Books with full-color interiors can only be printed on white paper, as the cream paper can affect the appearance of the color images.



INTERIOR INK COLOR

For the interior ink, you will have to decide whether to print in **black-and-white** or **full-color**. If choosing a full-color interior, you will want a **heavier paper stock**, and may want to coat the interior pages with a **gloss** or **matte** finish. Choosing a full-color interior will significantly increase print costs.