

HARDCOVER BOOK PRINTING GUIDE

*Everything You Need to Know to Print
Professional Hardcover Books*



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Why This Guide?

You picked hardcover for a reason. Now let us make sure you get exactly what you are picturing. This guide walks you through every decision so you can order with confidence and hold something you are proud of.

HARDCOVER BOOK PRINTING

The Book That Lasts Starts Here



PrintingCenterUSA has been printing hardcover books for over 50 years. Authors, businesses, families, first-timers. We have worked with all of them.

No minimums, G7-certified color, and a real person who checks your files before anything goes to press.

Some books are meant to be read once. Hardcover books are meant to be kept. They sit on shelves, get passed down, show up on coffee tables years later. **If you are printing something that matters, hardcover is how you do it right.**

Hardcover books generated [\\$7.9 billion in US publishing revenue in 2024](#), up 3.6% from the year before. At the same time, [self-published titles jumped 43.5% between 2022 and 2025](#), and more of those authors are choosing hardcover for their launches, their library submissions, and the copies they actually want to be proud of.

People are not settling for paperback when the work deserves more.

Print 10 Copies Starting at

\$142.74

Qty	Size	Price
1	8.5" x 11"	\$101.94
10	8.5" x 11"	\$142.74
25	8.5" x 11"	\$259.35
50	8.5" x 11"	\$453.70
100	8.5" x 11"	\$842.40
250	8.5" x 11"	\$2,008.50

*Based on 8.5 x 11, hardcover, 30 pages, 80# matte text, Prices may vary.

Durability

You are ordering these for your business, your clients, or an event. Hardcover does not bend, warp, or fall apart. It shows up the way you need it to.

Professional Appearance

Your brand is on the cover. Hardcover tells the room this is not a printout, it is a product. It makes the investment visible before anyone reads a word.

Printable Spine

You spent time on every page of this book. A printable spine means your design carries all the way through and looks right on any shelf.

[Talk to an expert](#)

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POPULAR USES FOR HARDCOVER BOOKS

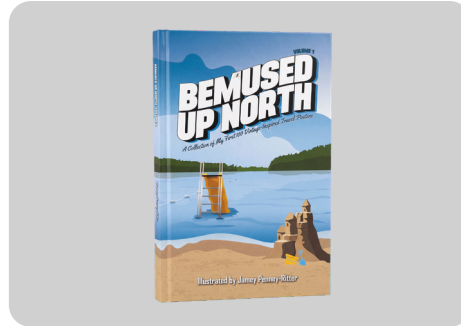
PHOTO BOOKS



Turns your best images into something you actually display and hold onto. Hardcover gives photo books the weight and durability that makes them worth keeping.

- Wedding and family albums
- Photography portfolios
- Brand and campaign books
- Milestone keepsakes

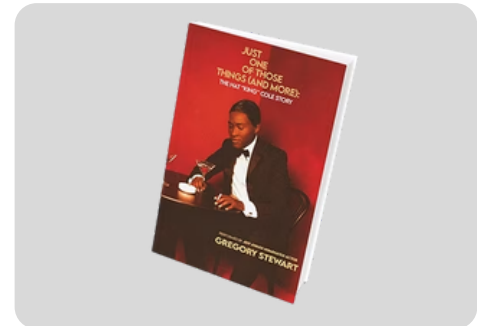
COFFEE TABLE BOOKS



Large format, image-heavy, and designed to be picked up and flipped through. Hardcover gives it the structure and presence they need to hold up over time.

- Art and design books
- Travel and architecture books
- Brand story books
- Collector editions

MEMOIRS



Memoirs are personal. Hardcover makes them feel that way. It is the format people reach for when the story inside is worth preserving the right way.

- Personal memoirs
- Family histories
- Legacy and tribute books
- Biography editions

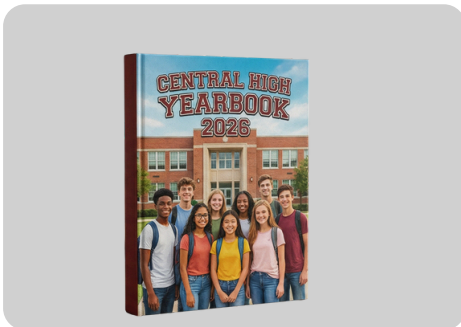
CHILDRENS BOOKS



Hardcover children's books hold up through years of read-alouds and classroom use. They are also the edition most parents and grandparents want to keep on the shelf.

- Picture books
- Storybooks
- Educational books
- Keepsake editions

YEARBOOKS



Yearbooks get handled a lot. They get signed, passed around, and stored for decades. Hardcover keeps them intact and looking good long after the school year ends.

- School yearbooks
- Club and organization books
- Team season recaps
- Annual community publications

NOVELS



A lot of authors print their first run in hardcover for launches, library submissions, and copies they want to be proud of. It is the format that gets taken seriously on any shelf.

- Fiction and nonfiction books
- Self-published debut novels
- Short-run author editions
- Gift and collector copies

[Get Instant Pricing](#)

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HARDCOVER SPECS MADE SIMPLE



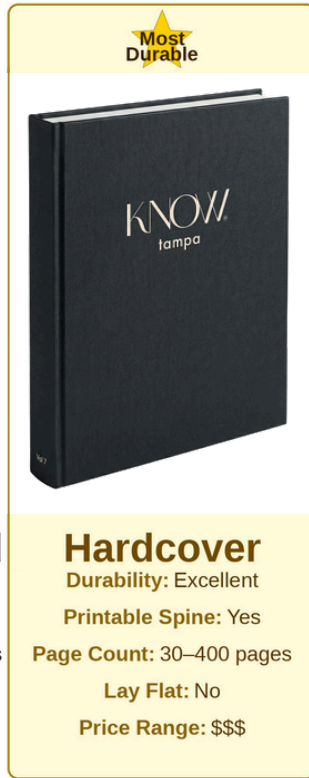
Saddle Stitch

Durability: Moderate
Printable Spine: No
Page Count: 8–92 pages
Lay Flat: Yes
Price Range: \$



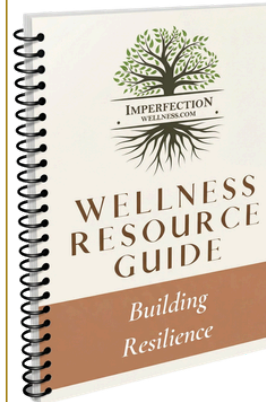
Perfect Bound

Durability: Good
Printable Spine: Yes*
Page Count: 28–400+ pages
Lay Flat: No
Price Range: \$\$



Hardcover

Durability: Excellent
Printable Spine: Yes
Page Count: 30–400 pages
Lay Flat: No
Price Range: \$\$\$



Spiral

Durability: Good
Printable Spine: No
Page Count: 8–400+ pages
Lay Flat: Yes
Price Range: \$\$



Wire-O

Durability: Good
Printable Spine: No
Page Count: 8–400+ pages
Lay Flat: Yes
Price Range: \$\$

Interior Paper: 80# matte or 100# matte

Cover Finish: Matte or gloss lamination Gloss available for 8.5x11 and 11x8.5 only.

End Pages: White, not customizable

Note: When counting pages, only count your interior pages. Covers are not included in your page count.

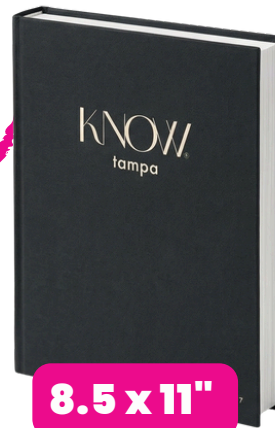
Get a closer look at our paper options, and finishes. Our sample packet helps you compare choices in hand and feel confident before printing your book

[Get a Sample Packet](#)

SIZING

Our two most popular hardcover sizes are 8.5x11 (portrait) and 11x8.5 (landscape). We also offer 5.5x8.5, 6x9, and 8x8.

Custom sizing is not available for hardcover books.

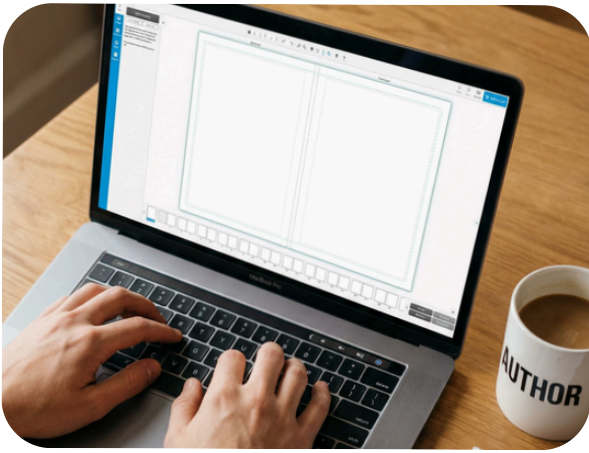


8.5 x 11"



11 x 8.5"

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO DESIGN YOUR BOOK



FREE ONLINE DESIGN TOOL

Our free online design tool lets you build your hardcover book from scratch with no design experience needed. Choose a template, upload your images, add your text, and see exactly how your book will look before you order.

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To get a template with the exact specs for your book, use the pricing tool to enter your size and page count, then hit the Download PDF Template button. Your PDF template will be built to your exact dimensions so nothing gets cut off or misaligned.

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UPLOADING YOUR OWN FILES

Specification	For Best Results
File Format	PDF
Color Mode	CMYK
Resolution	300 DPI minimum
Bleed	0.125" (1/8") on all sides
Safe Zone	Keep text 0.25" from trim

We highly recommend using one of the options above. Hardcover books require two separate files and are easy to get wrong. If you are setting up your own files, you will need:

File 1: Inside Pages - All interior pages in one PDF in sequential order.

File 2: Cover Spread - Front cover, spine, and back cover as a single spread. Find your exact cover size and spine width in our quoting tool under Inside Paper Options.

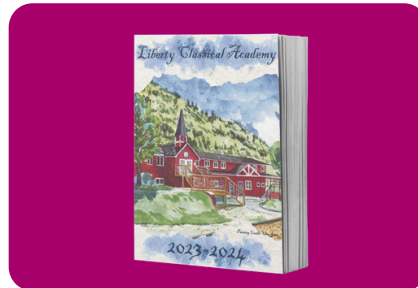
MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT WITH EVERY ORDER

Most successful hardcover customers do not stop at just the book. Here is what they order alongside it to sell more, reach more people, and make a bigger impact.



BOOKLETS

Your book tells the story. A **booklet keeps the conversation going**. Use it as a companion guide, event program, or study material that gives readers more ways to engage with your content.



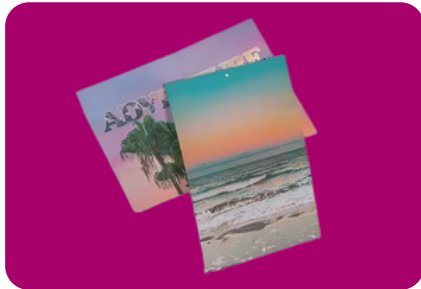
BOOKS

Not everyone will buy a hardcover at first. A softcover edition removes the price barrier and gets your story into more hands without compromising your premium edition.



CALENDAR

A book gets read once. A **calendar gets seen every single day**. It is one of the most effective ways to keep your brand, your message, or your story in front of people all year long.



POSTCARD

The easiest thing you can **hand someone** at a signing, event, or school visit. A postcard gives people something tangible to take home and a reason to come back and buy.



PERFECT BOUND BOOKS

A perfect bound softcover lets you **sell in more places**, at more price points, and to more people. It is the same content, made accessible to a broader audience.



BROCHURE

When you walk into a school, a bookstore, or an event, a **brochure does the selling before you say a word**. It tells your story, builds credibility, and drives people straight to your book.

EARN \$50!



Refer a new customer who places an order and **earn \$50 in printing credit** toward your program. Refer more and watch the credits add up! They also get 15% off their first order.

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A Simple 4-Step Process from Quote to Delivery



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Select your size, paper, and quantity options on our instant pricing tool. Add to cart and checkout securely.



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Upload your print-ready PDF. Our experts perform a 43-point file inspection to catch any technical issues.



PROOF

Review your free electronic proof. Hard copy proofs are also available for final color and paper verification.



PRINT

Your order is printed and you can receive it in as fast as 3 to 4 days from proof approval

[**START YOUR ORDER NOW**](#)

*Turnaround time begins after proof approval. Shipping time is additional based on your location.



QUANTITY PRICING

The more you print, the more you save. Typical savings of 30-50% on larger quantities.



PRODUCTION TURNAROUND

- **Standard Production:** 3 Business Day
- **Rush Production:** 2 Business Days
- **Wait & Save Production:** 4-7 Business days



START WITH 1 BOOK

You can print a single copy to review quality, layout, and finish before committing to a larger run!

TRUSTED, RELIABLE BOOK PRINTING

Unparalleled customer experience is at the core of everything we do, backed by real reviews and real people!

We're rated 4.8/5

Read all 7,635 Verified Reviews [Here.](#)

Shane M.

"Great service and quality. Very happy with my order."

Deborah B.

"This is the first year that we used a hardcover for our yearbook and it was a big hit. The book looks really nice and everyone loved it! Thank you for working with us to create a beautiful book!"

Daniel D.

"Books were exceptional quality. Price point was great for the quality!"

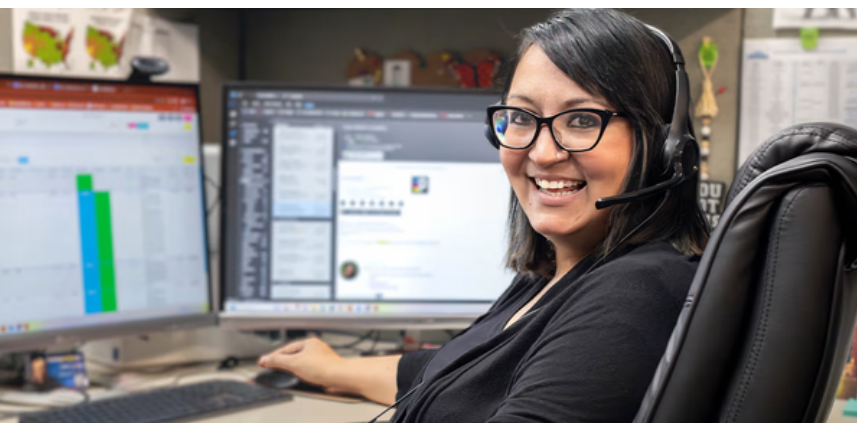
Deborah B.

"Fantastic product, and fantastic customer service. They got ahold of me after I approved the proof. There was something I missed, they caught it, and let me know so I could fix it before print."



SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

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