

PRINT FILE PREPARATION



A Step-by-Step Guide. Rev-1

Step 1. DO NOT TOUCH IT!

Handling Die-lines and Layers



- Do not alter, move, resize, recolor, or delete any part of the dieline.
- Keep the structure clean - your dieline should be placed on a separate layer.
- Any invisible or unnecessary layers should be removed from the final file.

Step 2. BLEEDS ARE ESSENTIAL

Add Bleeds to Avoid Unwanted White Edges



- A bleed is the area that extends beyond the final cut line of your packaging and ensures that no unprinted white edges appear after trimming.
- Extend all background colors, images, or patterns at least 4 mm beyond the cut line for cardboard, and 7 mm for corrugated materials.
- Keep all important content — such as text, logos, and key visual elements — safely inside the trim area: at least 3 mm for cardboard and 7 mm for corrugated.

Step 3. CHOOSE CORRECT COLOR MODE

Accurate print starts with correct color mode



- If your design uses 1–2 special colors, use Pantone colors.
- All artwork files must be created and saved in CMYK mode to ensure proper color output.

Step 4. POLISH YOUR DESIGN

Double-check the details



- Convert all text to outlines/curves to avoid missing fonts or compatibility issues.
- All lines and strokes should be at least 0.3 pt (0.1 mm) in thickness to remain visible in print.
- Images must be 250 - 350 dpi resolution.
- For fonts:
 - Smaller than 7 pt, use only 100% Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, or Pantone colors.
 - Black text should be 100% Black, and black overprint is required.
 - On product packaging sold in retail stores, the x-height of the text must be at least 1.2 mm.
- Black:
 - For large black areas (excluding text under 24 pt and lines under 3 pt), use a rich black mix such as C50 M40 Y30 K100 for deeper more consistent results.
 - Black barcodes, QR codes, and similar elements must be 100% Black.
- Grey:
 - For greys made from black only, use 4–50% K.
 - For CMYK greys, use CMY at 5–20% and K at 5–100%.
 - Avoid using grey made only from CMY — black (K) must always be present and at a higher percentage than CMY values.

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- Gradients:
 - Avoid gradients fading to 0%, as it may cause banding. Use a minimum of 3% per CMYK channel.
 - For backgrounds with gradients, it is recommended to add 2% noise to help prevent banding.

Step 5. SAVE YOUR ARTWORK

Use the Correct File Format



- Export your file as a high-quality PDF.
- Check that your file opens correctly before sending.