OFFICIAL BONUS #1 - KDP COVER DESIGN SYSTEM

10 KDP Cover Layouts & Dimensions Guide

Exact 6x9 & 8.5x11 Full-Wrap Specifications + 10 High-Converting Templates

[+] Exact full-wrap cover formulas for 6x9 in and 8.5x11 in Amazon KDP paperbacks.

[+] Spine width calculator for white paper (0.002252 in/page) and cream paper.

[+] Bleed (0.125 in), safe zone margins (0.25 in), and barcode placement rules.

[+] 10 proven detective puzzle cover layout wireframes, color palettes & font pairings.

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1. Amazon KDP Full-Wrap Cover Math (8.5 x 11 & 6 x 9)

Every Amazon KDP paperback cover is uploaded as a single full-wrap PDF containing the Back Cover (left), Spine (center), and Front Cover (right), plus a 0.125 inch bleed around all four outer edges.

Formula for Full-Wrap Cover Dimensions:

- Full Cover Width = (2 x Trim Width) + Spine Width + 0.25 in (bleed)
- Full Cover Height = Trim Height + 0.25 in (bleed)
- White Paper Spine Width = Page Count x 0.002252 in
- Cream Paper Spine Width = Page Count x 0.002500 in

Quick Reference Table - 8.5 x 11 in Trim (Standard Puzzle Book Size):

* 30 Pages (Single Vol + Notes): Spine = 0.068 in | Full PDF = 17.318 x 11.250 in | No spine text (<79 pages)
* 60 Pages (2-in-1 Combo Book): Spine = 0.135 in | Full PDF = 17.385 x 11.250 in | No spine text (<79 pages)
* 100 Pages (4-in-1 Anthology): Spine = 0.225 in | Full PDF = 17.475 x 11.250 in | Spine text allowed
* 120 Pages (5-in-1 Mega Book): Spine = 0.270 in | Full PDF = 17.520 x 11.250 in | Spine text allowed
* 150 Pages (Jumbo Omnibus): Spine = 0.338 in | Full PDF = 17.588 x 11.250 in | Spine text allowed

Quick Reference Table - 6.0 x 9.0 in Trim (Pocket Travel Size):

* 40 Pages (Pocket Volume): Spine = 0.090 in | Full PDF = 12.340 x 9.250 in | No spine text (<79 pages)
* 80 Pages (Double Casebook): Spine = 0.180 in | Full PDF = 12.430 x 9.250 in | Spine text allowed
* 110 Pages (Travel Omnibus): Spine = 0.248 in | Full PDF = 12.498 x 9.250 in | Spine text allowed
* 140 Pages (Deluxe Collector): Spine = 0.315 in | Full PDF = 12.565 x 9.250 in | Spine text allowed

Barcode & Safe Margin Rules:

- Keep all title text and badges at least 0.25 in inside the trim line (0.375 in from bleed edge).
- Reserve a clean 2.0 in wide x 1.2 in high rectangle in the bottom-right corner of the BACK cover for Amazon's auto-generated ISBN barcode.

2. The 10 High-Converting Detective Cover Templates

Template 01: Noir Gold Case File (Best for Whodunit Case Files)

Palette: #0D0D0D Charcoal Background, #F0B429 Gold Foil Header, #F5E6C8 Cream Subtitle

Layout: Top ribbon 'CLASSIFIED CASE DOSSIER', 65% height bold serif title, magnifying glass icon center, bottom badge '12 SOLVABLE LOGIC CASES + FULL SOLUTIONS'.

Template 02: Royal Blueprint Grid (Best for Detective Sudoku)

Palette: #1E50A0 Deep Navy, #FFD166 Warm Gold, #FFFFFF Crisp White Grid Preview

Layout: Tilted 9x9 Sudoku board preview in center-right, bold sans-serif title at top, difficulty progression bar (Easy -> Medium -> Hard) along bottom edge.

Template 03: Emerald Magnifier (Best for Detective Word Search)

Palette: #1B4332 Hunter Green, #E9C46A Brass Gold, #F8F9FA Parchment Letter Grid

Layout: Word search grid background with 3 highlighted clue words ('SUSPECT', 'ALIBI', 'MOTIVE'), dark vignette frame, oversized title banner in upper third.

Template 04: Crimson Labyrinth (Best for Mystery Mazes)

Palette: #781E1E Crimson Red, #1A1A1A Obsidian Frame, #F4D35E Gold Path Line

Layout: High-contrast square maze graphic filling center panel with glowing gold entry arrow, bold condensed title above, 'LARGE PRINT BRAIN TEASERS' pill badge below.

Template 05: Cipher Vault Brass (Best for Secret Ciphers & Cryptograms)

Palette: #2B2118 Espresso Brown, #D4A373 Antique Brass, #FFF8E7 Ivory Code Strip

Layout: Cipher wheel medallion in center, substitution key strip across middle band, typewriter-style subtitle 'CRACK THE DETECTIVE QUOTES'.

Template 06: Manila Folder Evidence Tag (Best for Cold Case Anthologies)

Palette: #E6CCB2 Manila Kraft, #9B2226 Red Stamp Ink, #1D1D1D Typewriter Black

Layout: Diagonal red rubber stamp 'EVIDENCE FILE #01', paperclip graphic on top-left edge, 4-bullet case summary box on front cover.

Template 07: Cozy British Mystery Parlour (Best for Senior/Large-Print Editions)

Palette: #3D2C8D Royal Plum, #F7D08A Champagne Gold, #FAF3DD Warm Cream

Layout: Ornate Victorian corner borders, teacup + spectacles silhouette, extra-large 'EASY-ON-THE-EYES PRINT' badge on lower right.

Template 08: Forensic Lab Grid (Best for 3-in-1 Variety Packs)

Palette: #0F172A Slate Blue-Black, #38BDF8 Cyan Accent, #FACC15 Warning Yellow

Layout: 3-panel preview strip showing Sudoku + Word Search + Maze side-by-side, yellow crime-scene tape

divider bar across lower third.

Template 09: Midnight Streetlamp Noir (Best for Hard/Expert Volumes)

Palette: #111318 Midnight Black, #E09F3E Amber Glow, #E5E7EB Silver Mist

Layout: Silhouette of trench-coat sleuth under amber streetlamp, high-contrast title stack, 'EXPERT EDITION - NO GUESSING REQUIRED' seal.

Template 10: Series Collector Spine-Match System (Best for Multi-Volume Sets)

Palette: Unified Dark Header Band (#141414) + Color-Coded Volume Badge (#1 to #10)

Layout: Consistent top brand bar ('WHODUNIT DETECTIVE PUZZLE STUDIO'), large circular volume number badge on top-right & spine so buyers collect all volumes in the series.

You Finished This One - Here Is the Next

This publisher guide pairs with the complete Whodunit collection: the ten front-end books plus the expanded Pro packs, all listed on the hub.

NEXT IN THE SERIES:

The Complete Whodunit Collection

Find it on our official hub, together with the full catalog and support.

View It on the Marcus Vale Hub

https://puzzlepouttalon-hub.pages.dev/?src=pdf-whodunit#flagship