

File Specifications

Fineline Printing Group's goal is to provide customers with the highest quality product at the lowest cost—as quick as possible. Ensure that the artwork transfer process goes smoothly and efficiently by following these guidelines. And, remember that your Fineline representative can answer questions as you develop your artwork.

File Formats Accepted

Please Note: Most file types and versions are accepted, however an artwork processing fee may apply to those formats not listed here.

- QuarkXpress (Mac and PC)
- InDesign (Mac and PC)
- Photoshop (Mac and PC)
- Illustrator (Mac and PC)
- Acrobat (Mac and PC)
- Freehand MX (Mac and PC)

Artwork Development Settings

Page Setup

- Set all pages—including crossovers—as facing pages and not as reader or printer spreads.
- Set all files in single page format to final trim size.
- Output all pages to a single page with correct trim size. (For example: A booklet with two pages side-by-side should output as two separate 8.5" x 11" pages and not as an 11" x 17".)

Page Size

- Set your page size to the exact trim size of the finished product. Do not include bleed or trim marks in your document page size.

- Set bleeds at 1/8". A document has bleeds when the image or graphic has been extended past the edge of the document.

Color

- On a CMYK process job, set any solid black area as a rich black color (40-Cyan and 100-Black or 40-Cyan, 30-Magenta, 30-Yellow, and 100-Black).
- Any color that is RGB, LAB, or ICC cannot be used for print. These color types must be converted to either a process (CMYK) or spot.

Images and Graphics

File Types

- Save all vector graphics as an EPS. (If you are using Freehand MX, make sure you save it as an editable EPS.)
- Save all raster images, such as photos, as either an EPS or TIFF. Avoid using JPG images as they may lose detail within the file compression and/or transfer.
- Save all images with silhouettes or drop shadows as an EPS.

Resolution

- Set the resolution for all raster images at 300 dpi. At minimum, we can accept 200 dpi.
- Set the resolution for all vector images at 1200 dpi. At minimum, we can accept 600 dpi.
- Bitmap images require higher resolution to reproduce clean radius edges.
- Please note that once images are placed into the document, resolution cannot be adjusted. Resolution must come from the properties of the image's original file. If the image has too low of a resolution, the final printed product will not look as clean or as crisp as a file that has followed these guidelines.

Color

- Use CMYK colorspace for four color jobs. Any spot color images will be converted to CMYK when processing the artwork.
- Do not use images in RGB, LAB, or Indexed color, regardless of job specifications. These modes will not convert to CMYK reliably and will have potential color variation.

(over)

File Specifications (continued)

Open Document Settings

Fonts

- Send fonts used in vector images with the files or convert fonts to outlines before finalizing the document. Note, while Fineline has access to many fonts, we cannot guarantee an exact match to the font you used unless you provide the font in either method cited above.
- Send all fonts when sending an open document artwork file. Always compress or “zip” (using applications like Stuffit, etc.) fonts and files when sending them via e-mail or FTP (file transfer protocol).

Color

- Clearly define colors as process (CMYK) or spot, and name colors consistently throughout the document.
- In the designing stage, edits can add or remove different colors. When you have finalized your design, remove all unused colors in all documents.
- Match all colors in your document to your estimate and/or file instructions. (For example: If you have requested a two-color job, please make sure that your artwork reflects this number of colors.)

PDF Files

Use PDF_x1A as a default custom setup for crops and bleeds and composite color when creating your PDF.

Resolution

Set final resolution to 2400 dpi when creating your PDF. (This may be the default setting.)

Page Size

Center all pages with a ½” margin surrounding the document to allow for trim, bleed, and registration marks. (This will appear on screen as a ½” white border surrounding the document and will add an extra inch onto the width and length of the page.)

Fonts

Embed all fonts.

Color

Set all black text to overprint.

Submitting Your Artwork

- Always send a hard copy of all pages submitted to Fineline. (If you are submitting your artwork via FTP, please email a pdf or fax a hard copy to your Fineline representative. Or, if you are submitting open artwork, include a PDF.)
- Files can be submitted by e-mail, FTP, InSite, jump drive, or by disc. Compress all files before sending via-email or FTP.
- Use e-mail for smaller file submissions. Avoid e-mail submissions of 5mb or larger.
- FTP can be used for any size compressed file. You will need to contact your Fineline representative for access to the FTP submission folder. Name your file clearly and notify your Fineline representative of the file name.
- Know your quote. If submitted artwork does not match or conform to quote specifications on file, then the project may require a new quote. (For example: Page number and color count influence the quote provided.)