

**THE GOTHAM STREET PRESS**

**COMIC BOOK  
PRINTING**

**& SETUP**

**HANDBOOK**

# TERMINOLOGY

**BLEED:** This refers to any page that has artwork/ background that goes to the edge of the paper. **Anything that does not have PURE WHITE AT ANY EDGE is considered to have bleed**, and the pages must be adjusted accordingly.

**PAGES:** Seems simple, but leads to much confusion. "Pages" or "Page Count" refers to the interior pages of the comic. **NOTE: All Saddle Stitched (stapled) comics must have pages in multiples of four! That means the page count must be 8,12,16,20, etc.! Perfect Bound (Graphic Novels) only need multiples of 2 (Graphic Novels start at 40 Pages).**

## **"PAGES" DO INCLUDE:**

Any "blank" pages. So if you have 18 Pages of artwork, there will be two "blank" pages at the end, to make a 20 page comic (nearest multiple of four, as the note above states).

## **"PAGES" DO NOT MEAN:**

- A) The number of sheets of paper. Those are "Signatures"
- B) The Front Cover, Back Cover, or the inside covers.
- C) "Front and Back". Each side is one page. The back side is another page.

**Sample: A 24 Page Comic means 24 Interior Pages, plus 4 "Cover Pages."**



# **GENERAL SETUP**

## **SIZES**

There are a few standard comic book sizes:

- **Ashcan:** 5.5" wide x 8.5" tall
- **Standard Comic:** There are actually two different common standard comic sizes: 6.75" x 10.25" or 6.625" x 10.25". **For this book, we will use the 6.75" x 10.25" size as a guideline.**
- **Custom Sizes:** You can make custom comic book sizes. At Gotham Press, we cannot print anything smaller than a 5" x 4". Our largest size is 8.5 x 11

## **RESOLUTION (QUALITY)**

- Artwork should be prepared at a **minimum of 300 dpi**. DPI refers to "Dots Per Inch" and indicates the quality of the printing.

## **PROGRAMS/APPLICATIONS**

- If you have **Adobe Indesign or QuarkXPress**, we recommend using that for putting your comic pages together as one document, then exporting as High Resolution PDF files. If not, you can send documents as individual pages.

## **FILE FORMATS**

- We prefer High Resolution PDF Files. We also accept High Resolution Tiff, JPG, or PSD Files. Please do not send us InDesign or QuarkXPress files. They should be exported as PDF Files first.

## **DELIVERY METHOD**

- You can always come in with a flash drive, CD or SD Card.
- We have an ftp server. contact us for details.
- You can also send Hightail (You Sendit), We Transfer or DropBox, and email us the invites.

# **BLEED, CROPS & SAFE AREA**

The sample below and right are “full bleed” covers. This means that the artwork goes right to the edge

**Standard Comic Page Size: 6.75 x 10.25**  
**Artwork Size with Bleed: 6.875 x 10.375**

Artwork with Bleed should add at least .0625 (1/16th”) on all four edges, making the artwork 6.875 x 10.375 (not counting crop marks).



**THIS IS THE FINAL COVER, AFTER  
IT HAS BEEN CROPPED/CUT**





**EXTRA "BLEED" AREA (INDICATED BY RED BOX). ARTWORK SHOULD EXTEND BEYOND THE FINAL CUT SIZE OF THE PAGE.**

**MARGIN (INDICATED BY YELLOW BOX). NO CRITICAL TEXT SHOULD BE CLOSER THAN 1/4" ON ANY EDGE.**

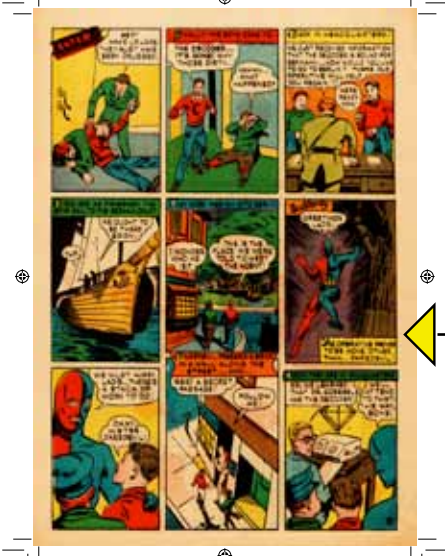
**INNER CROP MARKS; INDICATES WHERE JOB WILL BE CUT. IMAGE SHOULD GO BEYOND CROP MARKS**

# EXPORTING FILES

Do NOT send "Spreads," meaning left and right pages next to each other. The files should be saved as Individual Pages.



**INCORRECT. PAGES SHOULD NOT BE SAVED NEXT TO EACH OTHER**



**CORRECT WAY TO SAVE FILES.**

# ***INDESIGN OR QUARKXPRESS***

- For standard saddle stitched (Stapled) comics, the page count must be in multiples of four, including any blank pages and covers. For example, 20 Pages, 24, 28, 32, etc...
- Export files as .pdf from InDesign or QuarkXPress. NOTE: Make sure you set bleed while exporting to at least .0625 on all four edges. This must be done in the exporting phase, or else your file will not show bleeds. Crop Marks are optional.
- Pages should be in order, as one pdf file:
  - Cover is page 1
  - Inside Front Cover is page 2
  - Interior Page 1 is on page 3, and so on
  - Inside Back Cover, second to last page
  - Back Cover, the last page.

# ***PHOTOSHOP FILES***

- Save files as either high resolution (300 dpi or higher) .tif, .jpg, .pdf or .psd files.
- Pages should be saved with bleed at 6.875 x 10.375.
- Label pages appropriately and clearly: (FrontCover.tif, InsideFrontCover.tif, Page1.tif...etc.)

# ***ILLUSTRATOR FILES***

- Save files as .pdf files. Do not send .eps or .ai
- Pages should be saved with bleed at 6.875 x 10.375. Crop Marks are optional
- Label pages appropriately and clearly: (FrontCover.pdf, InsideFrontCover.pdf, Page1.pdf...etc.)



**GOTHAM PRESS**

**[323] 951.9588**

**GP@GOTHAMPRESS.COM**

**WWW.GOTHAMPRESS.COM**