



## BookCoverPro User Help Manual

First of all, we want to congratulate you on taking a huge step toward your publishing success! With this simple and revolutionary wizard, you don't have to be a professional designer to create rich, stunning covers. Now you can have fun designing your own cover quickly and easily, and have it ready for the printer in less than an hour. Design unlimited, unique book covers - without paying a fortune for professional designer services each time. And be sure to download our [Starter Guide](#) - helpful tips & guidance to get you started on creating your masterpiece.

Enjoy! The **BookCoverPro** team

### System Requirements:

Suggested RAM: 512MB

Suggested free disk space: 4MB

Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows 98 SE, Windows ME, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows 2003, Windows Vista, Windows NT 4.0, MacOS X 10.2 (& later), Linux, some of the BSDs (FreeBSD, etc.) and Solaris.

To extract BookCoverPro in Macintosh: Simply double click to unzip and extract.

To extract BookCoverPro in Windows: Locate the Installer file and open to extract all the files.

**\*If experiencing problems executing BookCoverPro in Windows: Download [BCPWinJreInstallerRetail.exe](#) located in the Member's download area.**

## Setting Up A Book Cover

- [New Covers](#)
- [Existing Covers](#)
- [Cover Templates](#)

### A. New Covers

Select **Menu>New** to begin a new cover.

Enter in your size, spine width or page count, trim size, flaps option and size.

**Height**= Vertical book dimension

**Total Width**= Horizontal book dimension - FRONT + BACK.

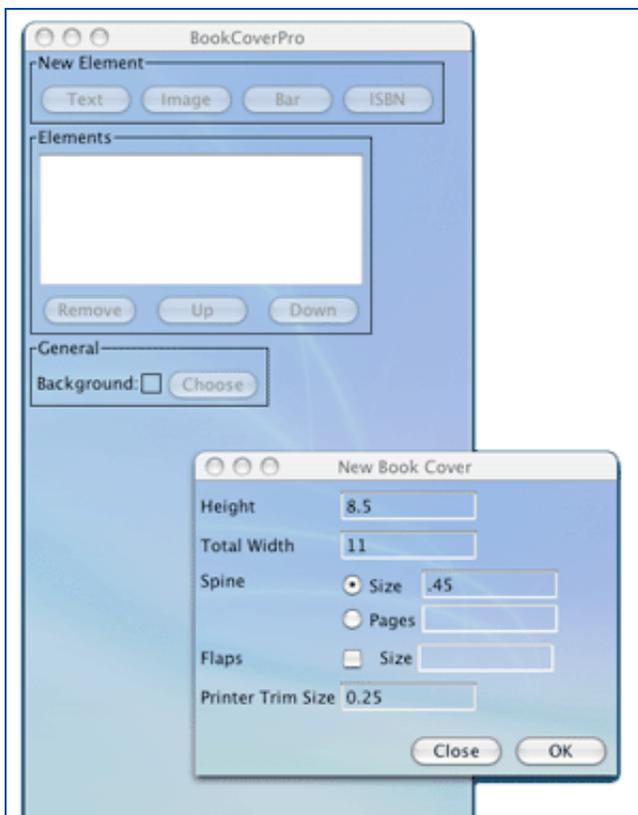
Spine width is not included in this measurement.

**For example: A 6 x 9 book would have 9 in the Height field, and 12 in the Total Width field (6+6).**

**Spine**= Enter your actual spine width (in decimals) in **Size**. If width is not known, Enter your total page count in **Pages**. BookCoverPro will generate the spine width according to industry standards.

**Flaps**= The desired size of your flaps if designing a book jacket or hard cover with wraparounds.

**Printer Trim Size**=The bleed area around the cover. Usually set at about .25 or .125, depending on your printer's specifications.



Click **OK**. A preview window will pop up displaying your book cover blank template.

## B. Existing covers

Select **Menu>Open**. Browse and open your BookCoverPro (.bcv) file. Edit and design as usual.

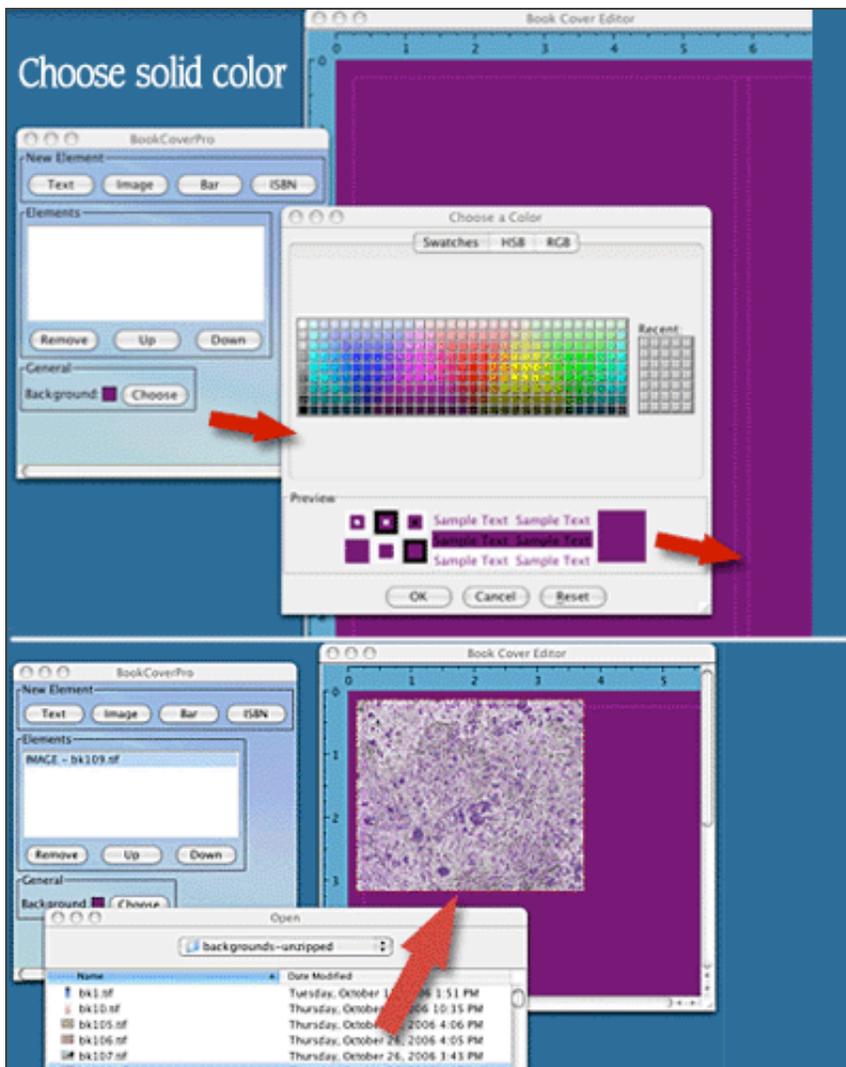
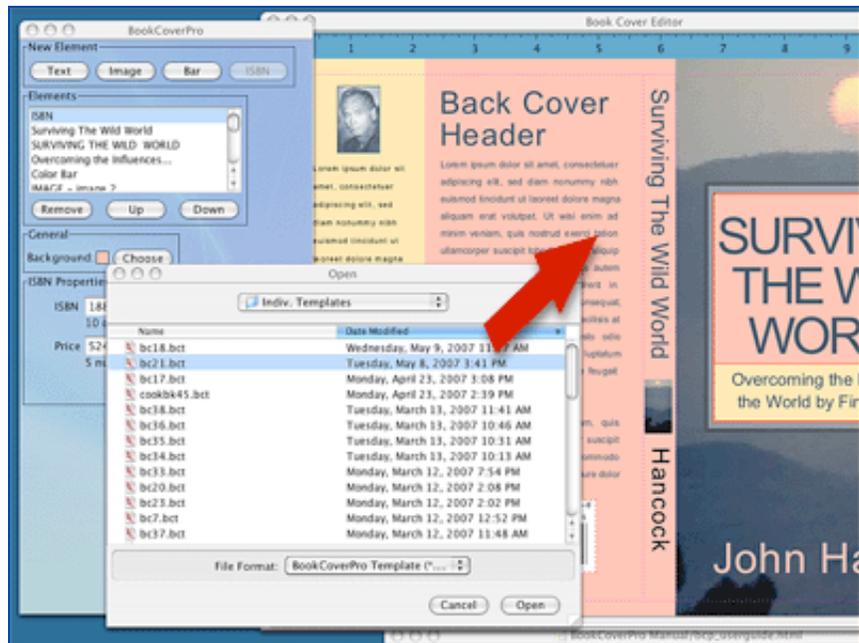
## C. Cover Templates

Select **Menu>Open Template**.

Browse and select the desired unzipped BookCoverPro template (.bct). (Download compressed templates from our Members area.) The template will appear in a preview window as a fully editable cover design. You will see all the element layers in the Elements window. To change the size, select **Cover>Properties** to modify. Note that according to the file size of the template, some may take a few minutes to open. See below for instruction on how to construct a design from a template.

### Adding a Background

There are 2 ways you can create a background:



As a solid color: Select the Bar button. Under Color Bar Properties, choose a color from the color chart. A color box will appear on the preview screen, which you can resize by dragging the lower right corner.

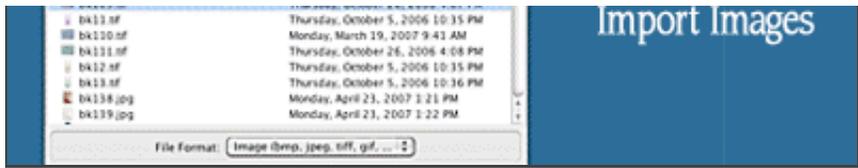
As an image: Select the Image button, and browse for an appropriate background image (.bmp, .jpg, tiff, .gif, and .png images are supported). The image will appear on the top left corner of the preview screen. Resize and move where you wish.

**Bonus:** Login and download pre-designed backgrounds from our backgrounds library - [Go to login page](#)

**Coming in May '07:** Choose to format in either RGB or CMYK color mode, and—Control the transparency and opacity of color with our Alpha color gauge.

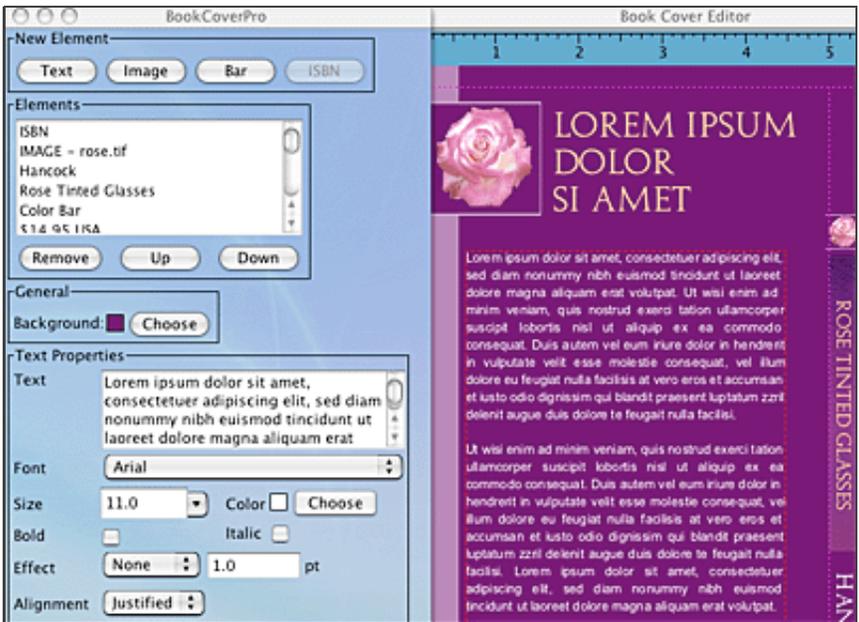
### Adding Text

To add text, select the Text button. In **Text Properties**, type or paste in your desired copy. Choose from several fonts, type in any size, and choose a color to customize your text. You can further customize with several effects, including bold, italic, outline, and shadow; Also adjust the **Alignment, Orientation, and Tracking /**



Leading.

**Alignment** sets your text as flush left, flush right, centered, or justified (flush left and right). **Orientation** sets the text in horizontal or vertical format. **Tracking** is the space between letters; **Leading** is the space between lines. Experiment with different settings for the desired look. To separate paragraphs of text, hard return twice between paragraphs.



Setting Spine Copy: In **Text Properties**, type your text, and set **Orientation** to vertical. This turns your text to a 90° angle. *You can also hard return after every letter to create a stacked title that is vertically read. Set the **Alignment** to center for best results.*

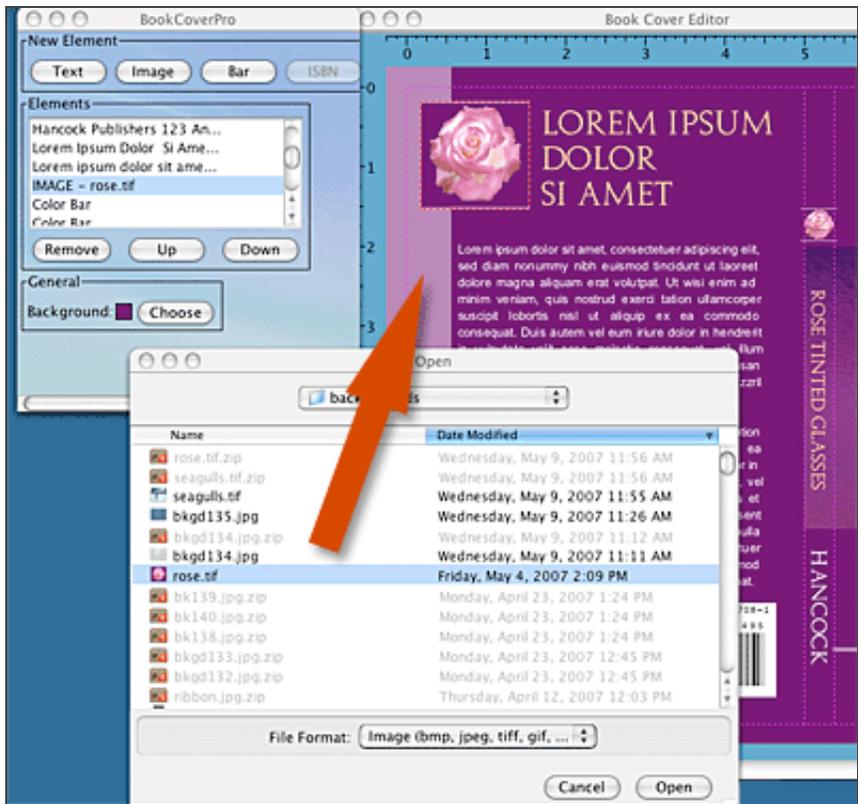
Once your text is placed, hit **Apply**. The copy will appear in the Preview window, in the upper left corner. To move your text box, click inside the box to show a red or green dotted line. (Dotted lines will not show in final output) **Adding Images**

To import an image, select the **Image** button, and browse for desired file (.bmp, .jpg, .tiff, .gif, and .png images are supported). The image will appear on the top left corner of the preview screen, then you can resize and/or move as you wish. To resize, click just inside the lower right corner of the image boundary box to turn the dotted line red (it will either appear red or green), then you will be able to drag and move.

**Tip:** Be sure to set your text and image elements 1/4" in from the trim guides to assure enough allowance for printing. Anything placed outside the trim area will "bleed", or run off the edge of your book.

**Adding a Bar**

Selecting the **Bar** button will open the color chart where you can choose a color to create a color "bar" that is resizeable. This element is ideal for a splash of background color; for header bars where you can place eye-catching copy; or used as an embellishment in the form of lines or

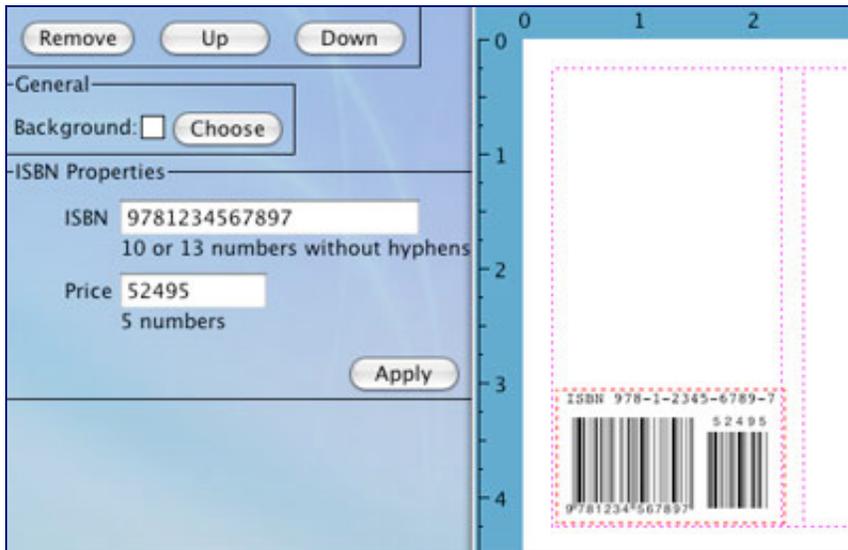


thin bars. This will appear in the upper left corner to move or resize. *Note: When creating lines or thinner bars, moving them may be difficult. Try moving a thicker bar to where you would like it to be, then reducing down in place.*

**Tip:** To adjust the layer order of elements, select an element and click on the "Up" or "Down" button.

**ISBN-13 Barcode**

A really great feature of BookCoverPro is being able to easily generate and integrate your own ISBN-13 barcode right into the cover.



Click the ISBN button. In the ISBN Properties box, enter your 10 or 13 digit ISBN, no dashes. For example: If your ISBN is 1-234567-89-7, enter 1234567897 or 9781234567897.

In the Price area, enter a five-digit number, no signs or decimals. For example, \$24.95 would be entered as 52495. The first number represents the country code; i.e. a 5 typed before the price indicates \$USD. If there isn't a price, just enter 90000 - which is the standard code for no price.

Hit Apply, and the barcode is instantly generated to your cover.

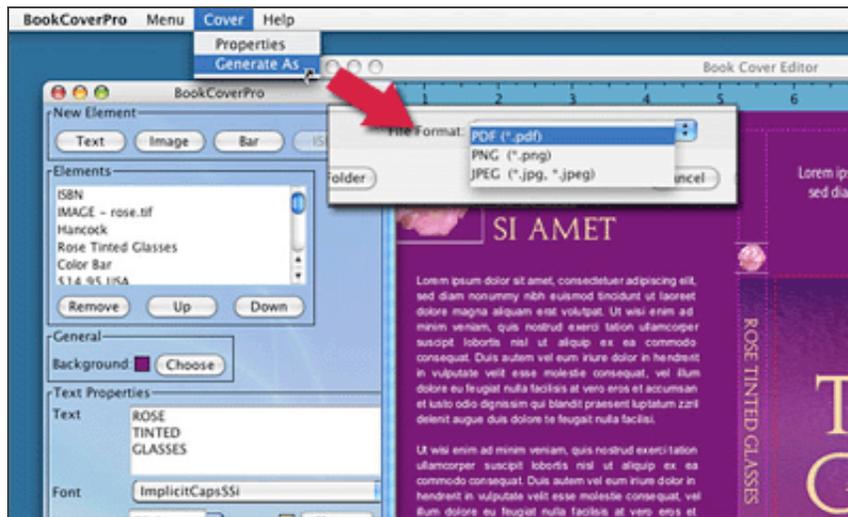
#### More Country Codes:

- 0= Great Britain Pound ( £ )
- 4= New Zealand
- 6= Canada
- 3= Australia

### Saving Your Cover For Future Editing

When you need to save your native BookCoverPro file, make sure your Toolbar window is active, and select **Menu>Save As**. Browse to the desired area or folder, name your file and select Save. Your cover will be in the native .bcv format.

### Generating Your Final Cover For Print or Web Display



When you are ready to turn your cover design into a high-resolution, press-ready or web-ready image, go to **Cover>Generate As**.

- Select **PDF** to turn your cover design into a printer-friendly .pdf image, ready for your book printer.
- Select **PNG** as a lossless compression for use on the internet or in print documents.
- Select **JPEG** for smaller files, suitable for use on the web or in printed documents.

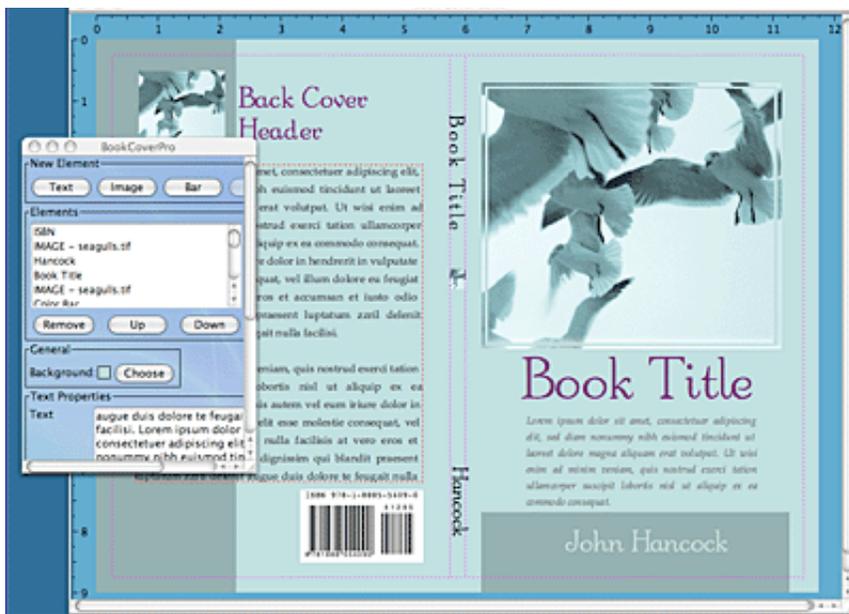
When generated to one of these

formats, the trim lines and dotted boundary lines will not show.

The more you work with BookCoverPro, the easier it gets. Be sure to check [bookcoverpro.com](http://bookcoverpro.com) frequently for any updates, new images, and more.



### Constructing a Cover



## Design From a Template

The BookCoverPro templates serve as a professional "spring board" for your design and are created to save you time, while providing a patterned layout to help you stay on track.

Download your selected Template(s) from the Members Area and unzip into a folder. After launching BookCoverPro, select **Menu>Open Template** and select a template of your choice. Depending on the amount of graphics/elements in the template, it may take up to a few minutes to open.

During this process, there may be pop up windows requesting font replacements if your system does not have the same fonts as the template. Simply select the font of your choice and go on.

Once opened, you will see the template in the Preview window, with all the elements placed on layers for editing. Please note that according to your system's own fonts, the elements may be slightly altered, but is easily fixable. All the templates are either 6x9 or 5.5x8.5, so if your book cover is another size, go to **Cover>Properties** to resize. As always, you can readjust your spine width.

**Modifying the elements:** To change an image, you would work as if constructing a new cover by selecting the **Image** button and choosing your desired image. The image already on the template serves as a placeholder, so you would position your image over the existing, then remove the old image (*make sure the old is selected!*) To change text, simply select the text to be changed and re-type in the Text Properties box. You can also change the size, style, orientation, color, etc.

**ISBN generation:** If the template already has an ISBN barcode, simply select and retype in your own information. **Saving Templates:** You can save your template for later editing by choosing **Menu>Save As**, and your template will be saved in the native .bcv format. **Generating in another format:** Select **Cover>Generate As** just as described above, and select the appropriate format in which you prefer to save.

## FAQ's / Troubleshooting

**Q.** When I try to create a new book cover or open a template, I do not see a preview window. If I click on 'Book Cover Editor', the icon flies to the top right-end of the screen and disappears.

**A.** Try right-clicking on the editor task bar button and click on maximize, maybe for some reason the program is sizing the window in a very strange way.

**Q.** I'm having trouble getting BookCoverPro to execute.

**A.** You may have a Java conflict in your system. To get around this, download [BCPWinJreInstallerRetail.exe](#) located in the Member's download area.

**Q.** When I try to move an element, the background moves instead.

**A.** Try moving your background down below the element so they're not touching, then move your element, and lastly move the background back in place.

**Q.** My ISBN generator shows an "invalid entry".

**A.** Make sure your ISBN is correctly entered. On some systems, the 13 digit doesn't work; but entering the core 10 digit will work and will generate the correct 13 digit with check no.

**Q.** How do I use one of the background images?

A. Go to our private downloads page (information given to you with your order). Download any or all background templates, then with your Preview window open, open and select a background. This image will automatically appear at the top left corner of the preview window.

**Q. When I generate my file to PDF, either nothing happens or I get a corrupt file.**

A. Either you have low memory, or there's some conflict with an entry. Please submit an error report to us so we can diagnose the problem.

**Q. I can't open my saved file - I get an error message about an image.**

A. When an image is renamed or removed from its original place after saving your file, BookCoverPro cannot find it. Put the file with its original name back in the original folder.

**Q. Will the red and green dotted guide lines appear on my generated .pdf image?**

A. No. The guide marks will not be on the final .pdf image.

**Q. I have a suggestion of an element to add to BookCoverPro. How do I contact you?**

A. We would love to hear your suggestions! Email us by clicking [here](#).

**Q. Will you be adding more images to the downloads page?**

A. Absolutely! Be sure to check [www.bookcoverpro.com](http://www.bookcoverpro.com) weekly for additional download goodies.



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