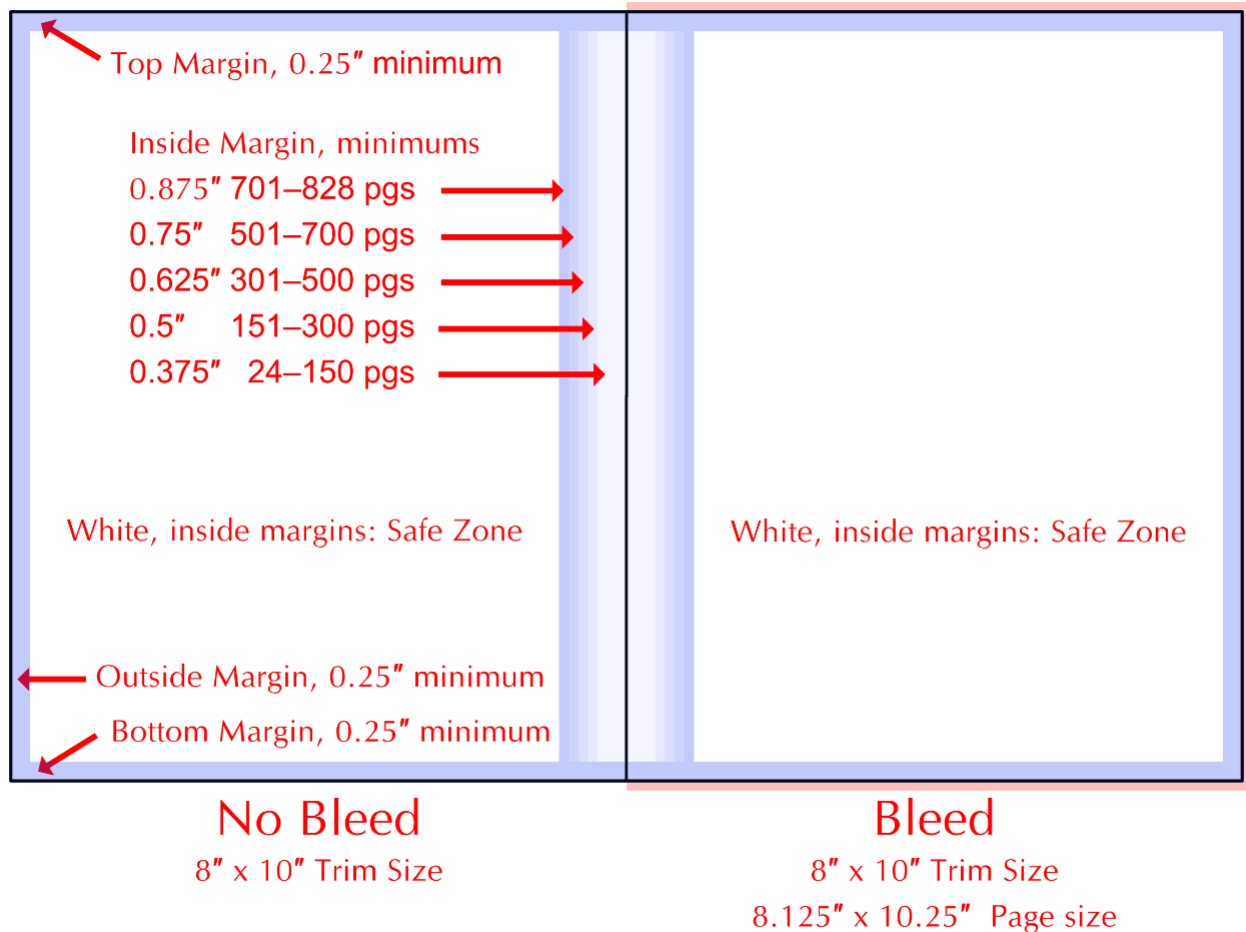


Live Element Margin & Related Issues

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One-Off Press

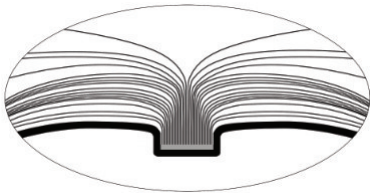
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Text

The minimum margins are just that: minimums. The top, bottom, and outside margins are identical to the Live Element Margins for images, see pages XX–XXX.

The inside margins, which if working in Word are Mirrored, vary according to the total page count.

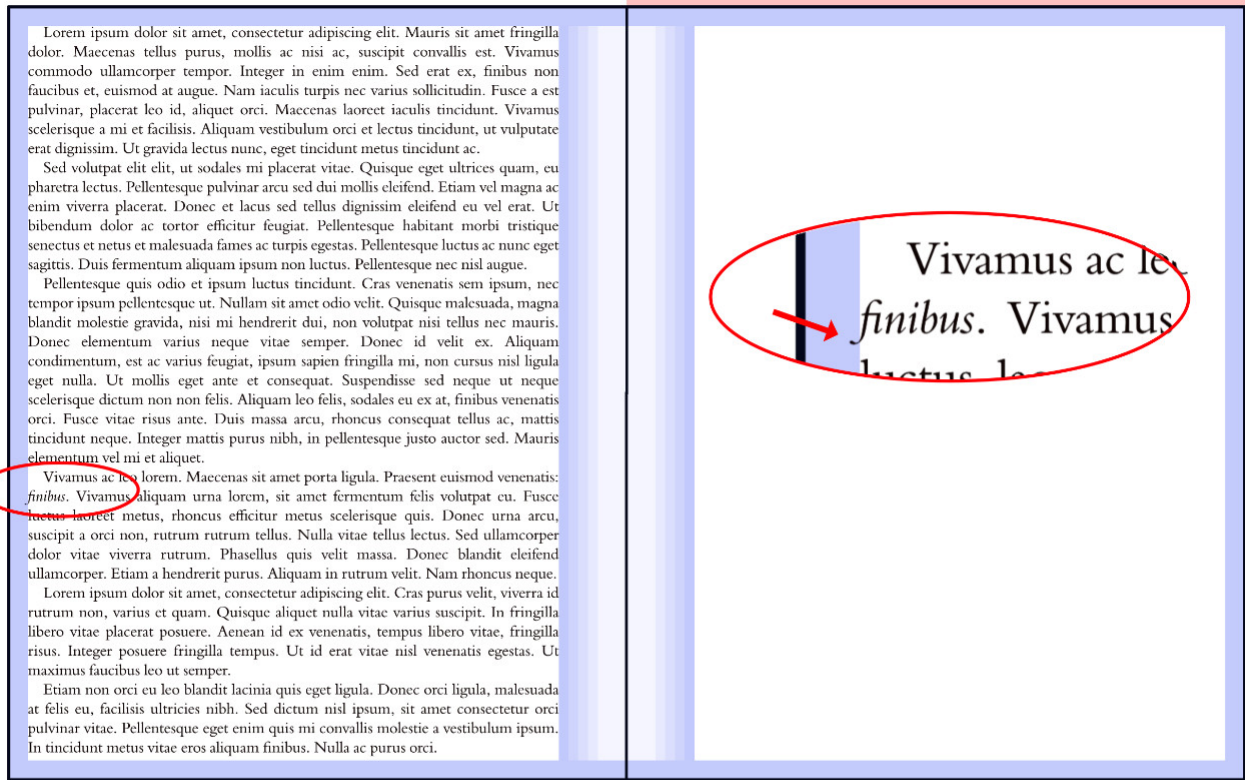


The binding can be very tight. It is difficult to hold books open if the inside margins are set to the minimums. Generally, an inside margin of 0.925"–1.25", regardless of page count, seems to work best.

The top, bottom, and outside margins are too small. I recommend using the books around you to help in working out the best margins—respecting the wider inside margins.

Trying to duplicate a few pages of a model book in Word, InDesign, Affinity Publisher, etc., is a great way to establish the of your pages. Print out and trim the a few pages. Write on them what you did. Live with them a while to see if they are what you want.

The only reason a book should bleed is if there is an illustration or graphic that bleeds. Books that are exclusively text, never bleed.



No Bleed

8" x 10" Trim Size

Bleed

8" x 10" Trim Size

8.125" x 10.25" Page size

One problem with using the minimum margins is that some letters will intrude into the margins. In this example, the italic *f* in *finibus* is the problem. Usually this is a problem associated with descenders in italic fonts. But depending on the typeface, other characters could cause problems. The easiest fix is to use significantly bigger margins.

And for aesthetic reasons, these small margins are unattractive and repellent.



Images

Images must either: 1) must stay in the Safe Zone and not enter the LEP (including non-printing white borders); or 2) extend through the LEM and out to the furthest edge of the bleed margin.

Images that stay within the Safe Zone are seldom problematic in terms of how to set them up, as long as they are 300 dpi.

Images or graphics can bleed on one to four sides.

Bleed images can present problems: in how the actual bleed is handled and in terms of content that either bleeds or enters the LEM.



No Bleed

8" x 10" Trim Size

Image must stay within the Safe Zone: it may not enter the LEM

Here, the No Bleed image stays in the Safe Zone, that is, it does not enter the LEM.

As noted above, Bleed images can bleed on one side, two sides, three sides, or four sides. Any images that bleeds, or any image that is bigger than the safe area, must extend on the sides or sides that bleed, beyond the trim line to the outside edge of the bleed margin.

As shown in examples K–L below, important content (something considered a Live Element) that enters the LEM can block a project. This is often highly subjective on the part of the reviewer.

Content with white gaps, A–D below,



Bleed

8" x 10" Trim Size

8.125" x 10.25" Page Size

Image must extend to the outside edge of the Bleed Margin.

can also block a project. Although this is a misreading/misunderstanding of the written policy, it is, at this time de facto policy.

Also contrary to years gone by, full page and 2-page bleed images may have as much as 0.25" of their middle removed.

Note: At one time full page bleeds (the Bleed example above) or 2-page bleeds (e.g. E—and most of the following—and X below) printed with no problems. They were created as R and S below. Now they do not print well. P–W shows a possible fix, but this has failed miserably in some tests.



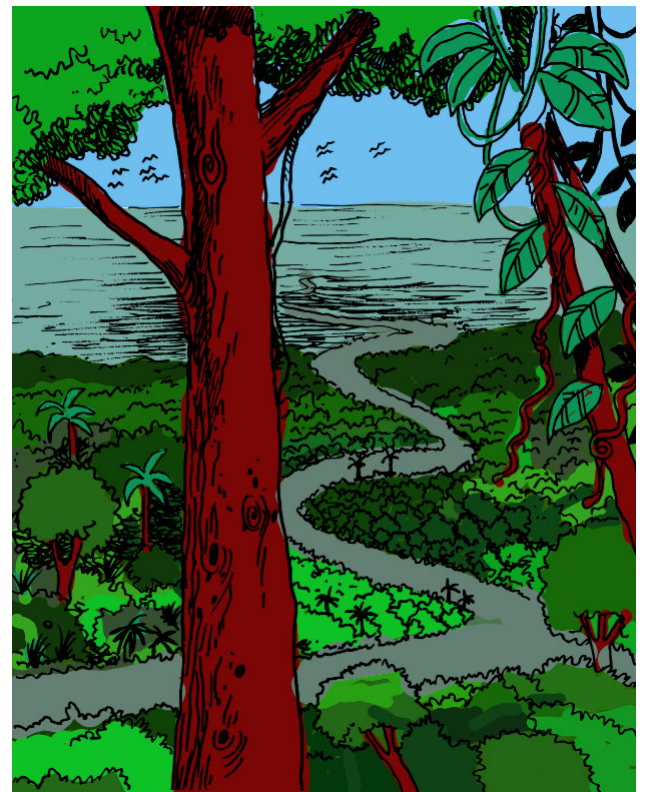
A



B



C



D



E1



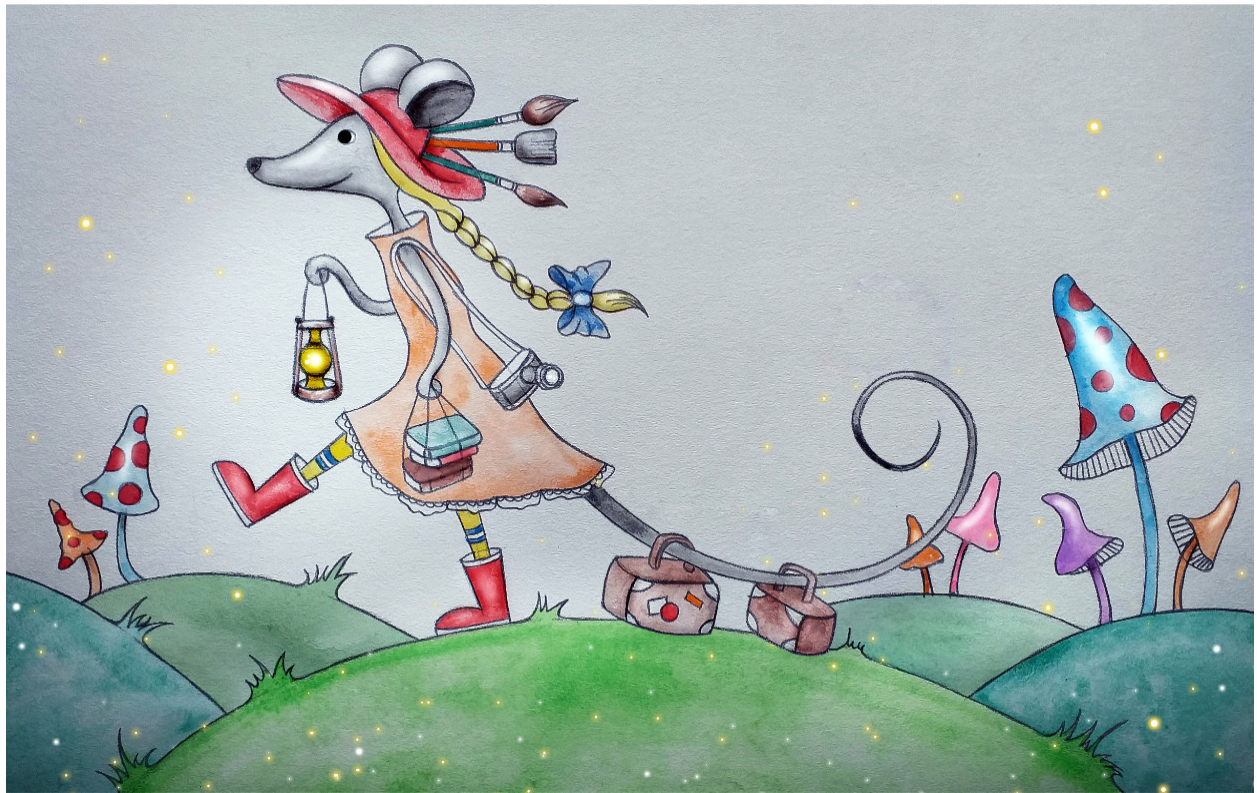
E2



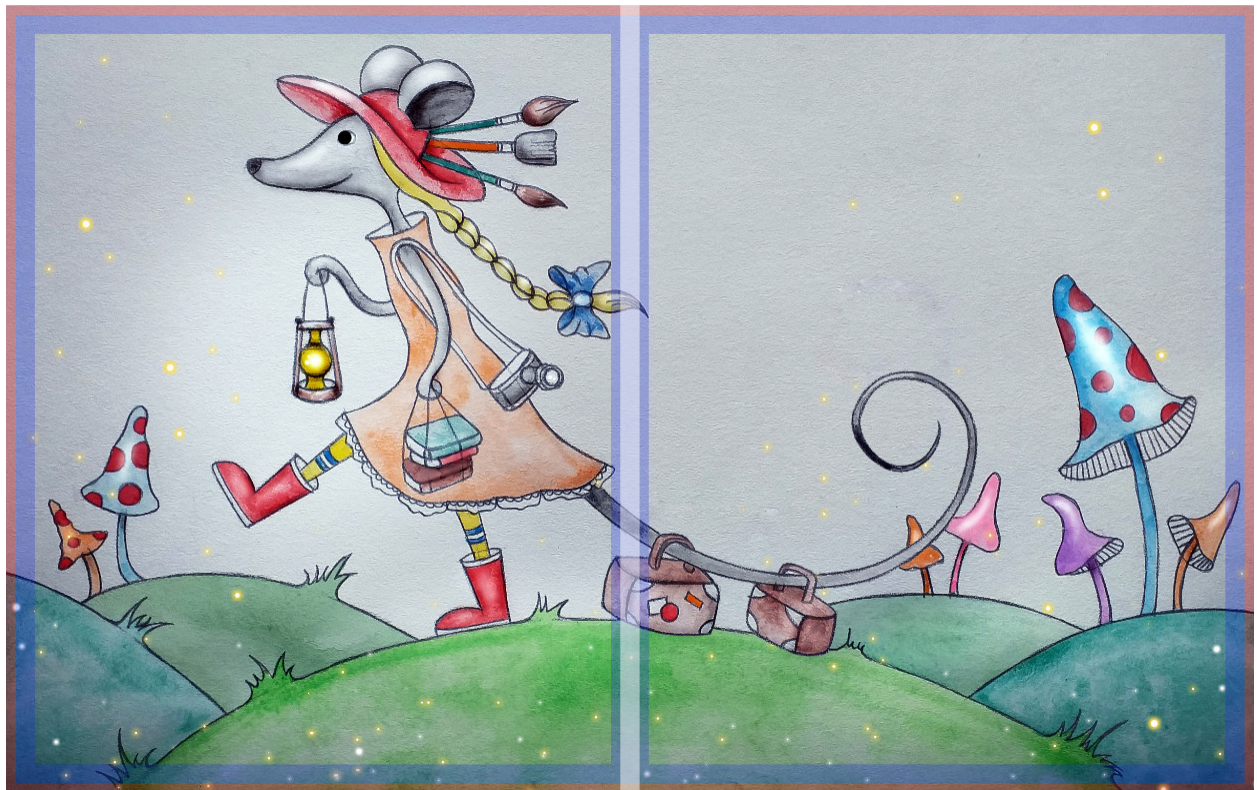
E3



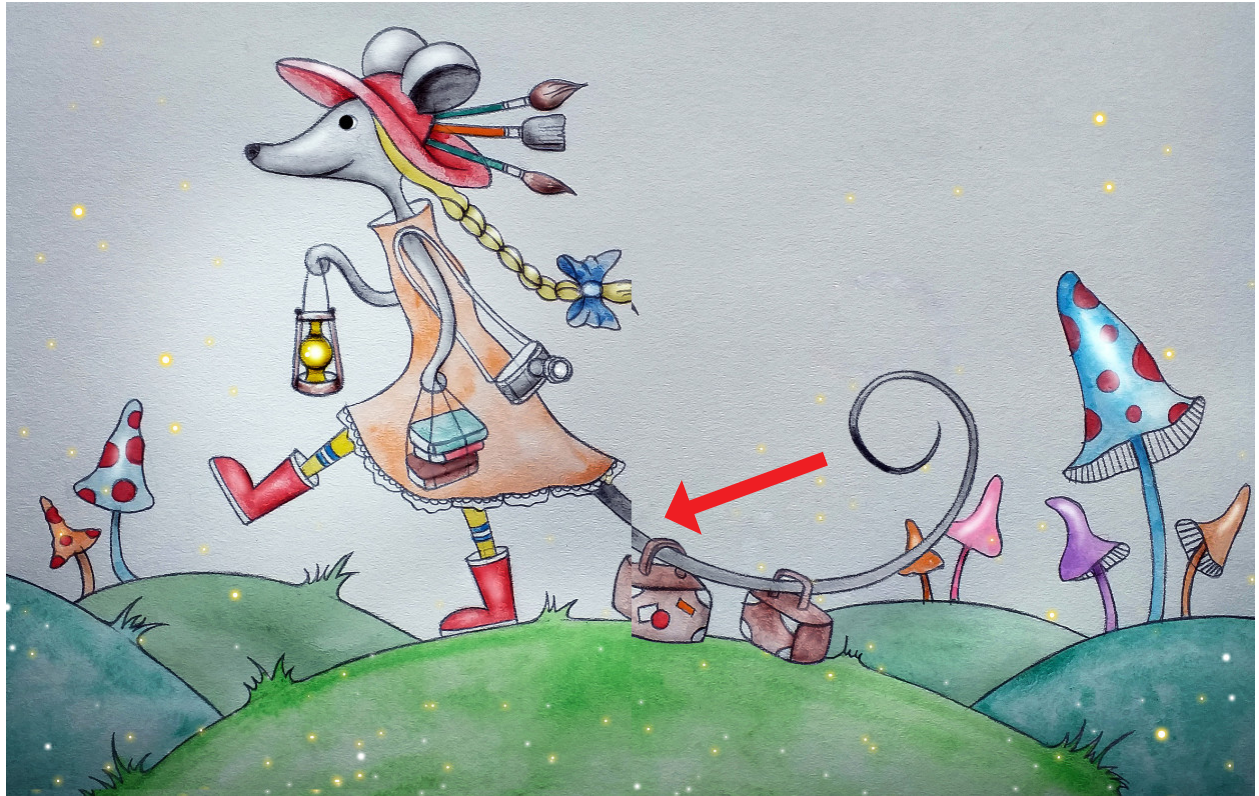
E4



F



G



H



I



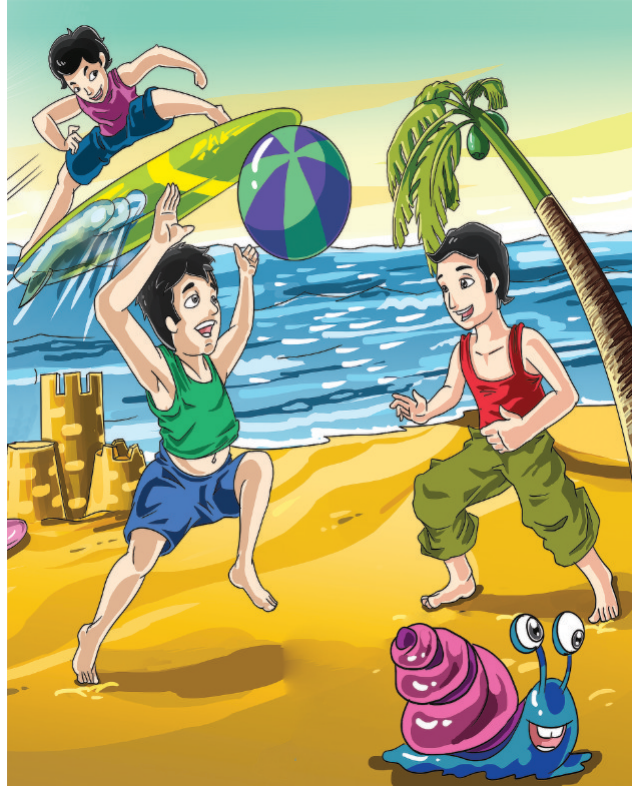
J



K



L



M



N



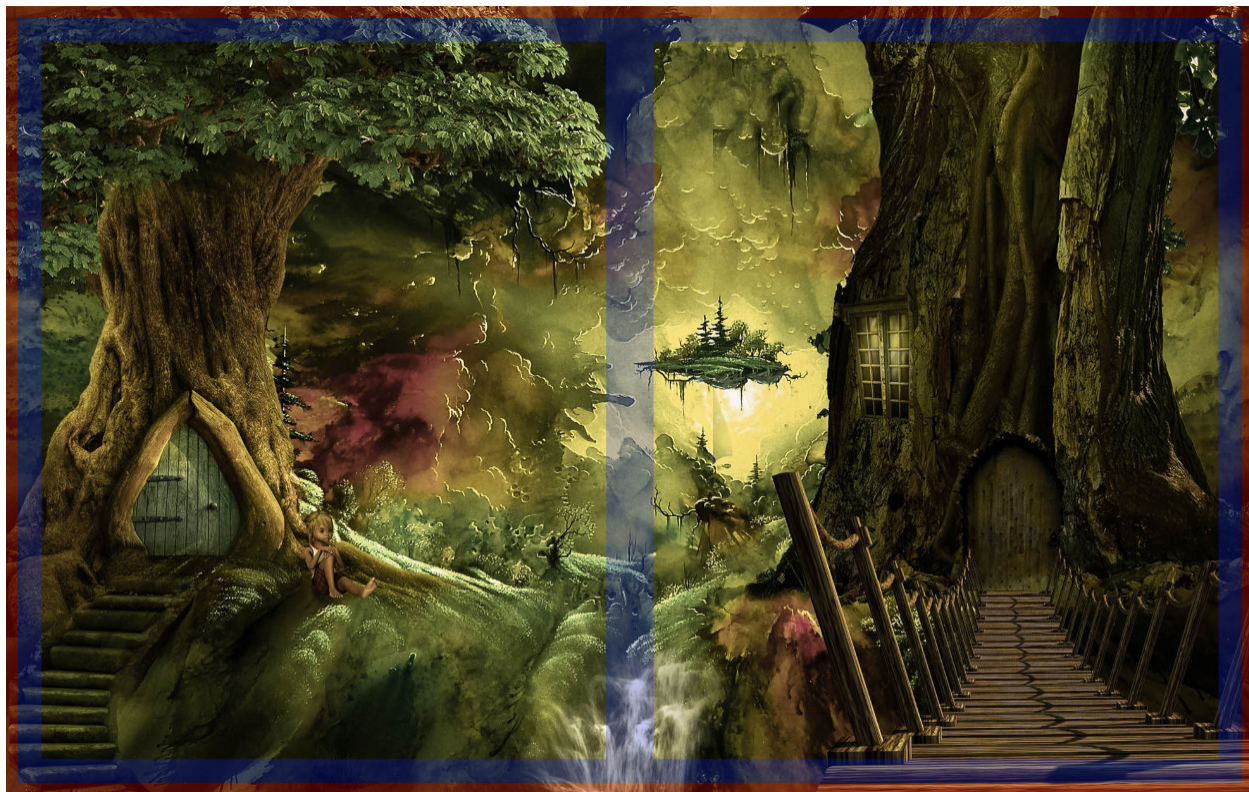
O



P



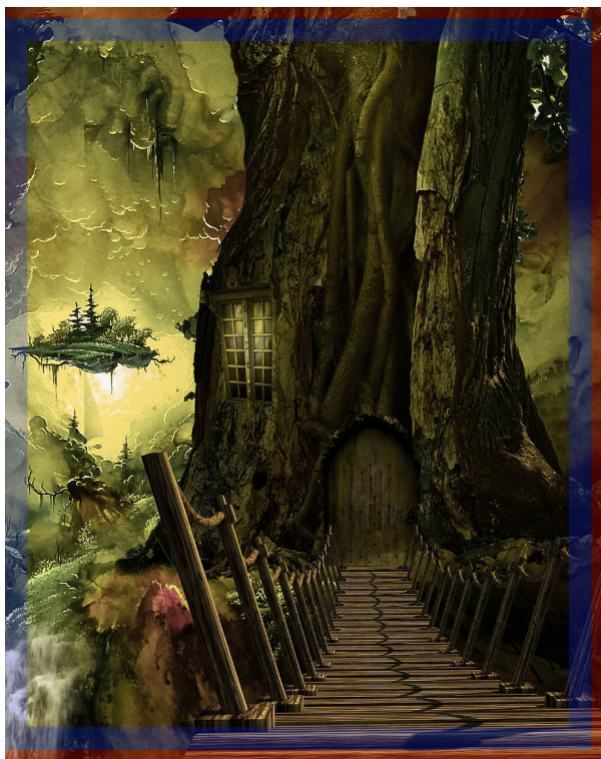
Q



R



S



T



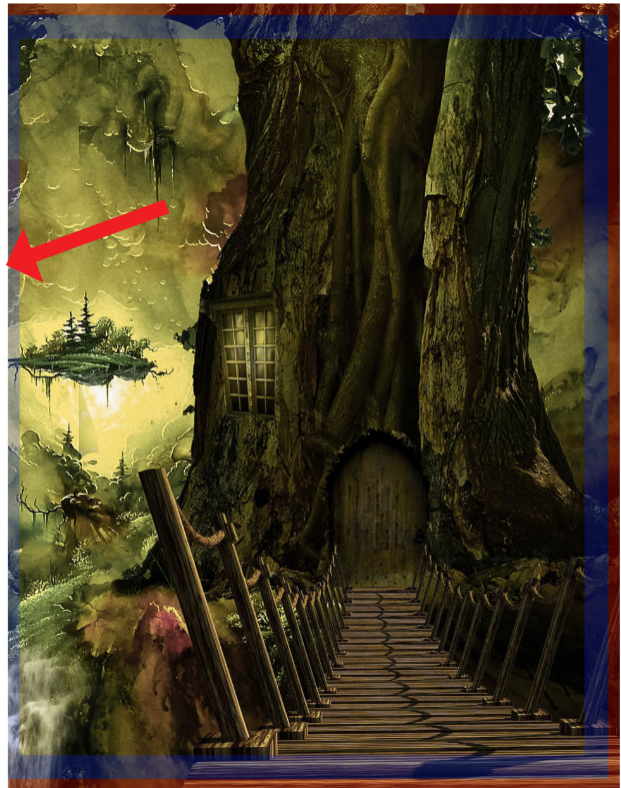
U



V



W



X



Y



Z

Red border: 0.125" bleed margin. Image material must extend further to the outside edge of the margin. Ideally, it will be cropped evenly around the top, bottom, and outside.

Blue border: 0.25" Live Element Margin (LEM)

Live Elements—Live elements include text or other important information [e.g. *image content*] that is intended for reading and should not be cut off when the book is trimmed. All live elements must be located inside the safe zone (recommended margin areas).

Background text or text that's not intended for reading can be located outside the safe zone, but that information could be trimmed from view during publication.

Text within images that span across two pages of the book (such as maps or design text) can be located inside the gutter margin area, but that information could be lost from view inside the binding when printed.

If text or elements are important to the reader, they should not be located outside of the safe zone.

[Pg 11, *Kindle Print Publishing Guide*]

Whitish center border: up to 0.25" the material that may be removed when 2-page images are printed.

A–D Single Page

Gaps along the edges of bleed images are blocking issues.

A: This images has white gaps around the edges. While this violates no actual guideline (it misinterprets basic bleed instructions), books will be blocked.

Your cover file should be a PDF sized with bleed and **no surrounding white space** or crop marks.

There should be **no white space around the edges** of the cover file or it may fail for bleed.

<9.12.21 https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G201834260—emphasis added. I could find nothing else in the Help section or Guidelines that address gaps of white.>

[On the Previewer there is a warning:]

If content (e.g. images) is supposed to extend to the edge of the page, make sure there are no white gaps. Learn how to fix the bleed [Link, which links to:].

Do your images that bleed not extend far enough beyond the trim line? [i.e. a white gap] . . . If your book has bleed, add 0.125" (3.2 mm) to the width and 0.25" (6.4 mm) to the height. . . <9.12.21 https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G201834260#trim>

B: One solution is to reduce the size of the art, so that not only does it not bleed, but it does not enter the LEM.

C: Put a color background behind the line art, or the problematic gaps.

D: Colorize the art.

Note: all but the last example below (X, Y) are full bleed images. The problems (E–Y) revolve around what happens in the middle of the image when printed and bound. Senior Support Analysts advised me: “the white space on the [inside] edges is because of the printing from our end”; however, “I assure you not all our copies will have the white spaces.” That is—sometimes there will be a white gap, which may or may not show, depending on the quality of the binding; and sometimes material will be removed from the images. This variation could be from title to title or from print order to print order.

E1–E4 Gaps

Additional examples of images with gaps along the edges

Again, I would argue that these examples should not be be blocking issues—maybe they won't be when this book is

published. But at the time of writing they tend to be.

F–H 2-Page

Some objects that cross over from one side to the other of 2-page images exacerbate binding problems.

- E: Avoid objects that straddle the two pages, like the tail and suitcase.
- F: The LEM extends around all four sides of each page. I do not think this image would be blocked.
- G: If this image were printed and the center is removed, the suitcase might not be so obvious, but the tail will stand out as a discontinuity problem.

I–K 2-Page

Objects that are in the center of images can be problematic.

- H: This image might be blocked because of the figure, but I'm not sure.
- I: The whitish line shows what could be removed.
- J: The central figure is harmed beyond recognition.

L–M Single Page

Objects deemed "important information" that bleed or enter the LEM can be blocking issues.

- K: Here the snail in the lower right bleeds off the page—arguably, this is a live element that must not bleed.
- L: Moving the snail back inside the safe area, away from the LEM, unblocks the image.

N–P 2-Page

*Given that KDP **may** remove up to 0.25" of image material for gluing and binding, be aware of the effect on the image.*

- M: There are no blocking or cropping issues
- N: This shows what will be cropped, including from the middle
- O: Although nothing is seriously lost, there is a seam running down the middle. This will be won't be visible if the book is bound correctly. This is included, however, to show what you need to look at regardless of anything else.

Q–X 2-Page

IngramSpark requires that images that bleed on the inside edge, have a 0.125" white strip for gluing. The removed image material, creates just such a white strip. Some people add a for this reason with KDP. My tests suggest this sometimes works, and, more often, does not.

- P: This is the 2-page image we want to print.
- Q: Shows the Bleed Margins and LEM.
- R: Shows the left hand page as it would appear in the PDF but with the Bleed and LEM indicated.
- S: Shows the right hand page as it would appear in the PDF but with the Bleed and LEM indicated.
- T: Shows how this would be printed, cropped, and if the middle section were removed.
- U: Shows the left hand page, as it would appear in the PDF, but with a 0.125" white strip along the inside edge. Compare to R.
- V: Shows the right hand page, as it would appear in the PDF, but with a 0.125" white strip along the inside edge. Compare to S
- W: This would be how the print-ready PDF would show the spread in 2-page view. The white gap would be where the glue goes, and the white would be lost in the

tight binding.

Y-Z 2-Page

Common in art books, landscape images are often reproduced as 2-page spreads.

X: This is the image, to be printed. Other than the middle, it falls within the Safe Zone.

Y: This is how this image actually printed in one copy: just shy 0.25" was removed from the middle, and the right hand page was bound almost 0.125" higher than the left hand page.

Note: This page was also tested with a 0.125" white strip on the inside edges, as in U and V above. It did not print well. I recommend against printing 2-page images that do not also bleed top and bottom.

For this section on 2-page images, I created half a dozen different test books, and had three proof copies printed. I picked three copies of the last test book, and made scans of a few of the test images. The following pages show those scans. These books were from one printing, and, regrettably, they are the best set.



Single, Full-page Bleed Image

I've added a black line to show both the outside and inside trim lines.

The left hand page has a 0.125" white strip on the inside edge. The right hand page does not.

The red arrows point to the inside spine.

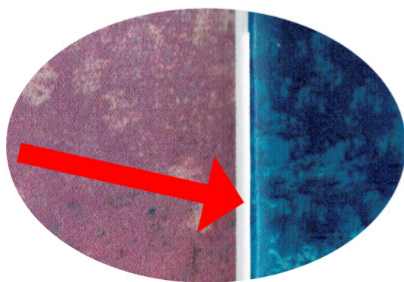
Despite the white strip: books 1 and 2 show white on the inside spine of both images.

Book 3 shows the two facing images printing correctly at the top of the page. However, the gluing/binding is clearly crooked, and the white strips show about a quarter of the way down from the top.

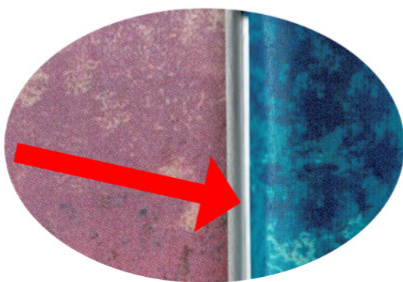
Look at the hay bale on the left of the image. There is green between it and the left edge. On the right hand pages, that green as

been removed. Nonetheless, there is white showing on both inside edges.

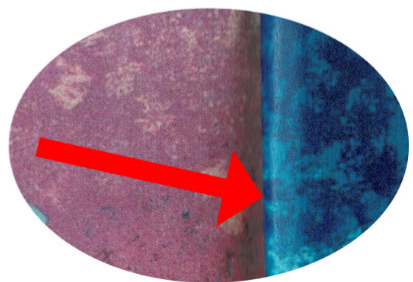
Note: On a full page bleed image, nothing is gained by having a white strip or not.



Book 1



Book 2



Book 3



2-page Image with 0.125" White Strips

Both image halves have a 0.125" white strip on the inside edge.

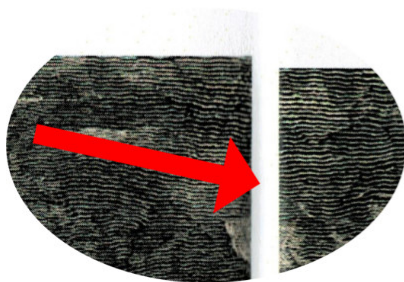
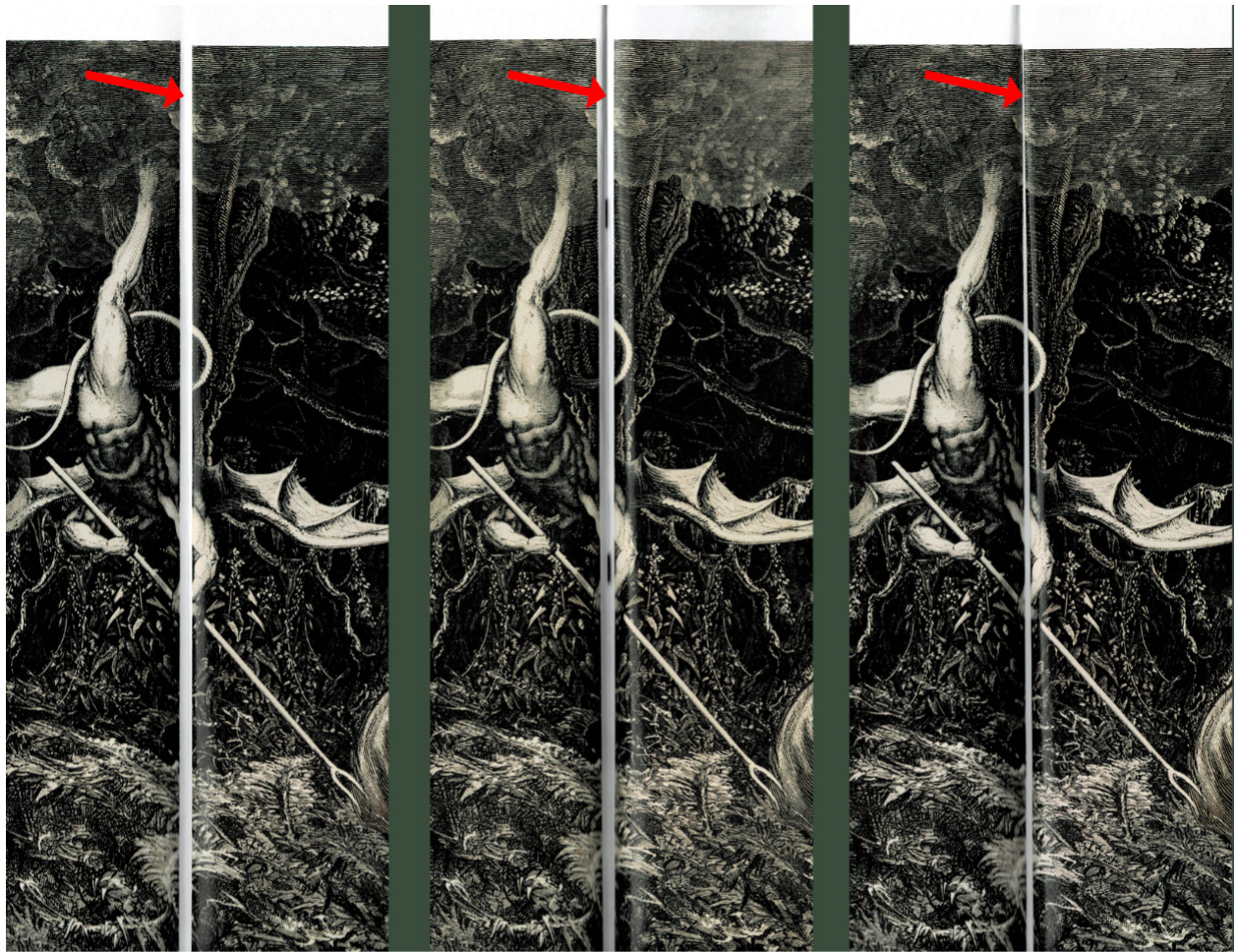
The red arrows point to the inside spine.

Book 2 suggests that 0.0625" would have been a better width for the white strips. However: Books 1 and 3 would have had image material removed. Also, only with Book 2 are the insides evenly distributed between the left and right hand pages.

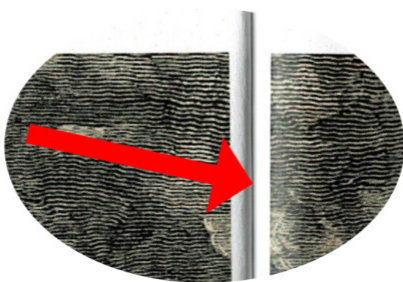
Book 3 seems to show the potential success of adding a white strip—but the binding is crooked.

it is, adding a white strip preserves image material, but creates a visible and distracting white inside spine area.

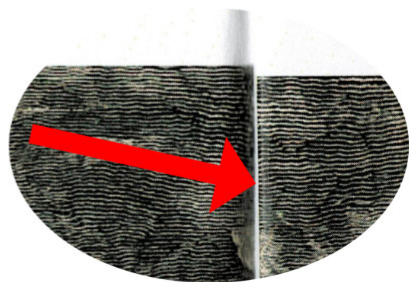
Note: If the binding from book to book were good and consistent, adding a white strip seems like a good idea. Additional testing would determine the ideal width. As



Book 1



Book 2



Book 3



2-page Image

This is both the traditional way of creating 2-page images, but it is the way twenty Customer Support and Support Supervisors said images should be prepared: the inside edges of the images should be flush with the inside trim lines—no white strips.

The red arrows point to the inside spine.

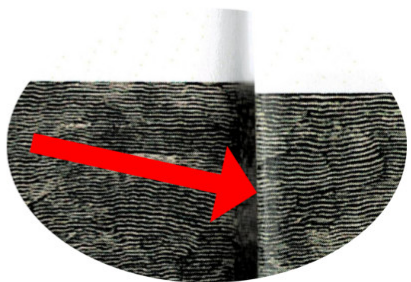
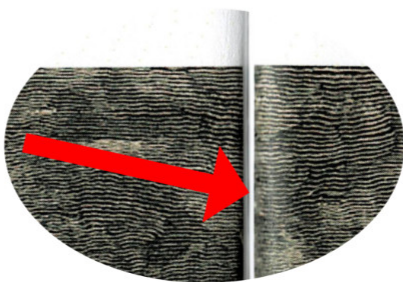
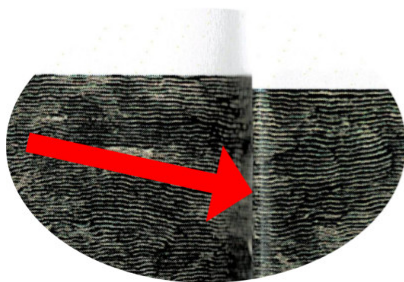
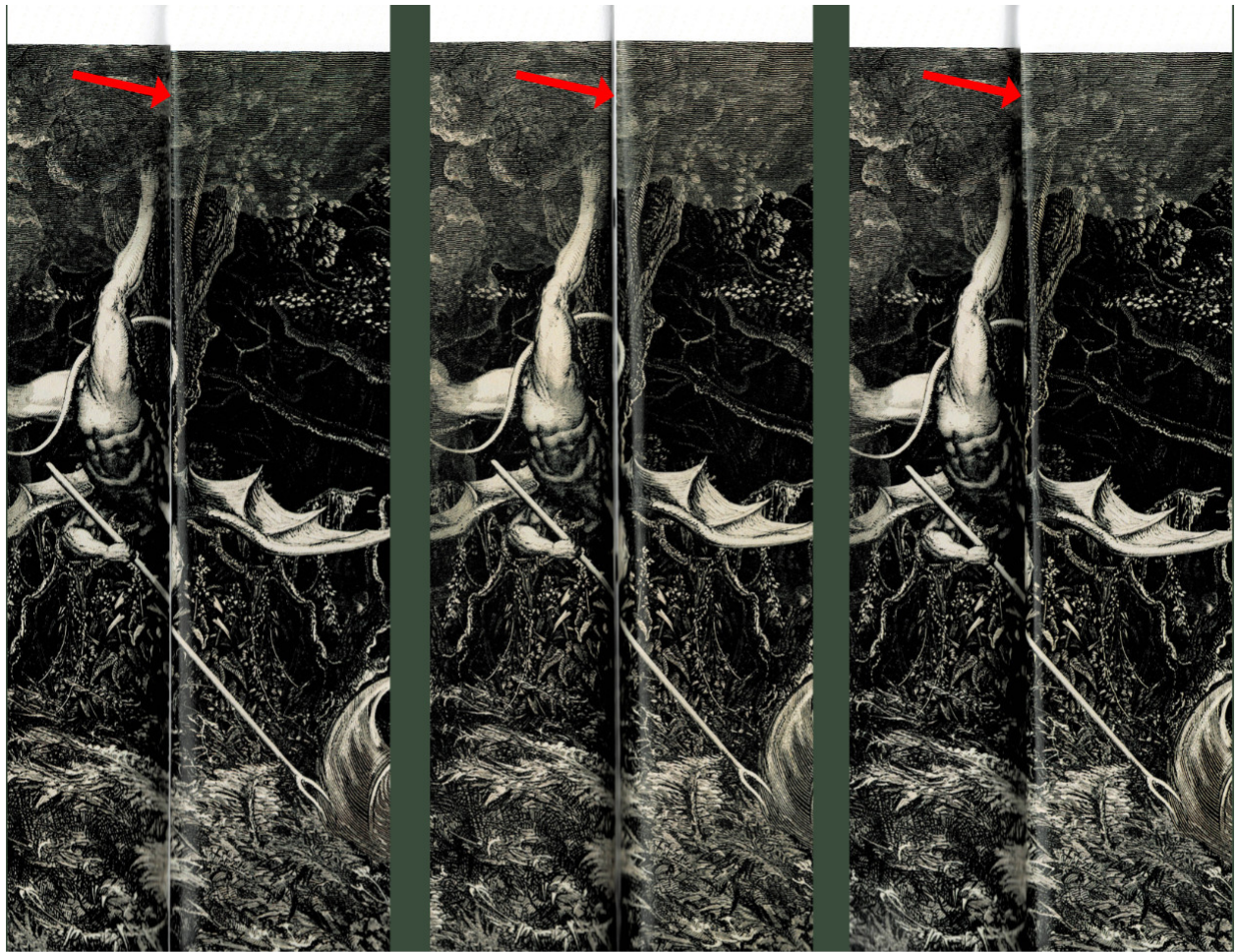
Despite having no white gap in the original 2-page images, Book 2 has a white strip showing.

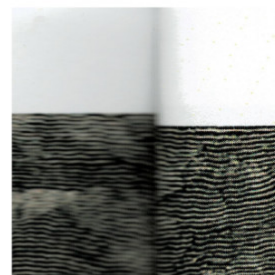
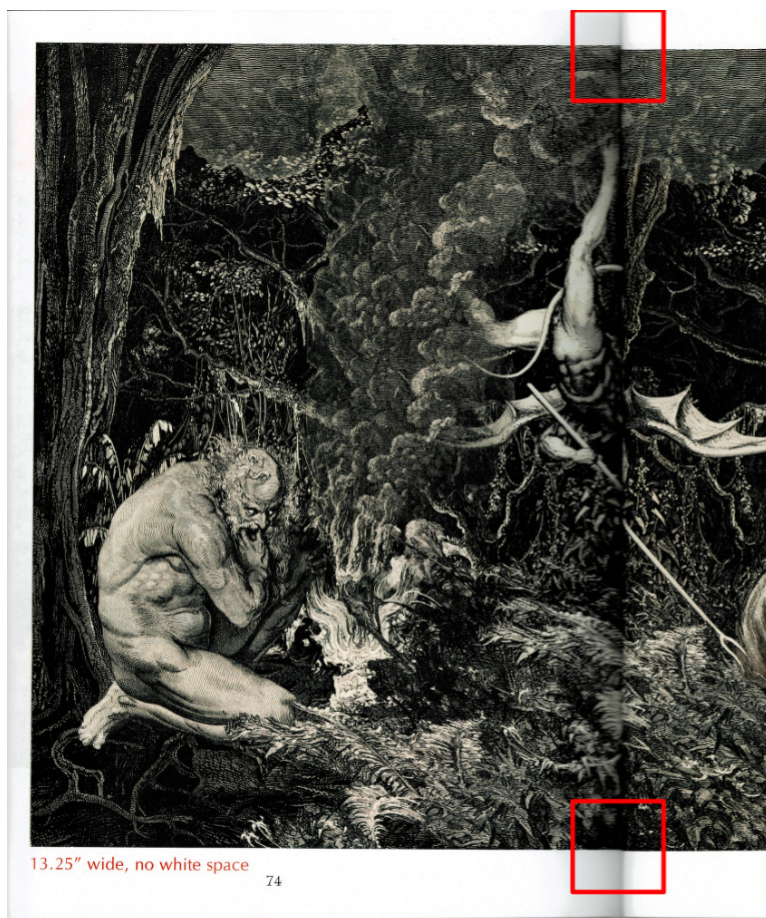
This image had approximately 0.2" of material removed from the middle.

Perhaps the removal of material would be okay—and could be designed/compensated for—if the resulting spread were bound well. Books 1 and 3 are bound with large

discrepancies in vertical alignment. (There is more to this, however, as the next example will show.)

Note: As I have said elsewhere, this method worked well for twenty years with both BookSurge and CreateSpace (the progenitors of KDP Print Publishing). It no longer works.





2-page Image Sizes

Throughout the testing, I've noticed differences in image sizes. However, I was looking mostly at color and print quality, often with a microscope. I remember thinking that because paper is hygroscopic it expands and contracts.

In studying how 2-page images are prepared and printed, I took a second look.

The example above was scanned with shims on the top covers so that both sides were the same height relative to the glass platen, thereby eliminating dimensional distortions.

The vertical alignment is real, independent of the scan. It can be measured: in this case it is 0.046".

If the image halves were not square this

could cause the two halves to appear to have different heights, but in this case, I simply cannot tell. The pages appear relatively square.

Note: Full page bleeds, or images that bleed top and bottom, won't show this because the top and bottom edges will be trimmed off.