

# Softcover Layout

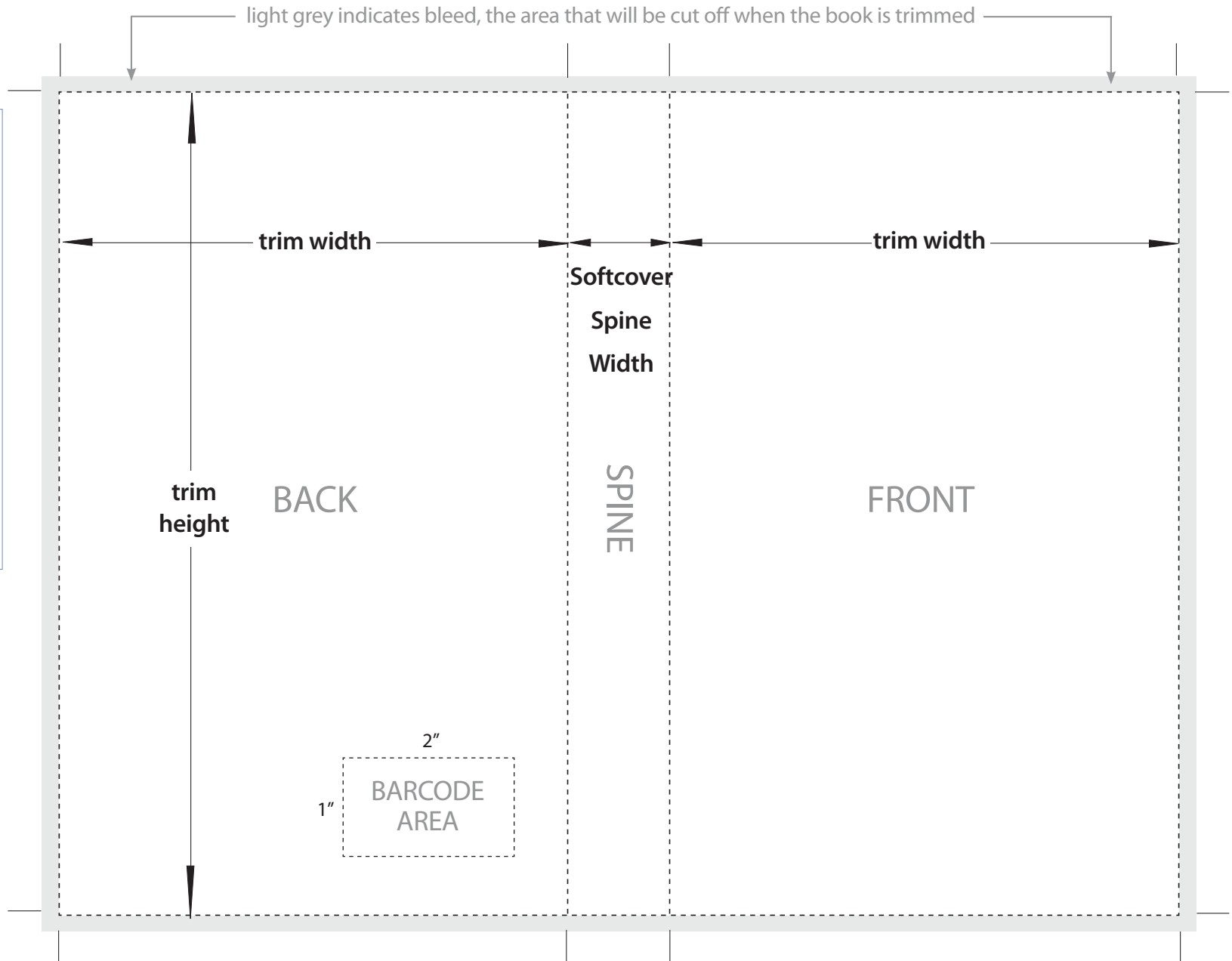
**Document Width:**  
.125 inch bleed  
+ trim width in inches  
+ Spine Width *(see link below)*  
+ trim width inches  
+ .125 inch bleed  
= Total Document Width

**Document Height:**  
.125 inch bleed  
+ trim height inches  
+ .125 inch bleed  
= Total Document Height

**Get Spine Width:**

See the spine width calculator at: [Spine Widths](#)

Other info:  
[Writing your Back Cover](#)  
[Image Specs](#)



Dotted lines are for visual assistance only, do not include in your file.

# Design Tips

## Color

- Small type should be 100% black (overprint) or 100% white (knockout).
- Your file can include a mix of CMYK or RGB images.
- Use Adobe RGB (1998) to achieve the richest and most vibrant colors in your image output. (sRGB will cause over-saturation and inaccurate color output, so we recommend avoiding the use of this color setting.)
- Use CMYK builds for solid colors. For best quality, add Noise to solid colors to create an allover pattern.
- Do not use spot colors.
- Use North American Prepress color settings.

## Color Management

One difficulty in digital color printing is matching color. All color printers are different. We cannot match exactly to your color printout, although we will strive to come as close as possible. We recommend using North American Prepress color settings and embedding them within your files. If you do not assign profiles to your images, we will only be able to shoot for "pleasing color." If you do assign profiles properly, our equipment is set to not convert them, however, the color will most likely not match your home printer.

## Spine

- If the spine of your book will be any smaller than  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (.375) wide, spine type should be in All Caps. **NO TYPE IS ALLOWED on spines that are less than .15" wide.**
- Allow for  $\frac{1}{16}$ " between the words and the vertical spine edges.
- Avoid designing the cover with the spine a separate color from both the front and the back. It makes the book more difficult to bind.

## Spacing

- We do not recommend placing type closer than .25 from the trim edges.
- Double-check centering of all front and back cover elements.

## Type

- Make sure all fonts you use are properly loaded.

## Barcode

- The area behind the barcode should be 100% paper (no color).
- Avoid using a low-resolution format for barcodes, like .jpg or gif.
- Do not stretch barcode.
- You can order your barcode from [Bowker](#) when you purchase your ISBN or,
- We can create one for you to place on your cover. Give us the ISBN and price you want shown and we will make a barcode and place it on the back cover for \$25. You must allow about 1 inch high x 2 inches wide at the lower right of your back cover or,
- We can create your barcode as above, but email the .eps file to you, for you to place on the cover yourself.