

AMAZON KDP ZERO-REJECTION CHEAT SHEET

Published by PuzzlePoutTalon Studio • Commercial Publishing Guide

1. The Mathematical Spine & Gutter Margin Formula

Amazon KDP's automated pre-flight checker halts books most frequently due to margin clipping. When books are bound at the spine, pages are pinched. If puzzle grids or text sit too close to the inside edge, users cannot read them, causing refunds and automated upload rejection.

Page Count Range	Minimum Inside Gutter Margin	Recommended Studio Setting
24 to 150 pages	0.375 in (9.6 mm)	0.500 in (Safe Zone)
151 to 300 pages	0.500 in (12.7 mm)	0.625 in (Safe Zone)
301 to 500 pages	0.625 in (15.9 mm)	0.750 in (Safe Zone)
501 to 700 pages	0.750 in (19.1 mm)	0.875 in (Safe Zone)
701 to 828 pages	0.875 in (22.3 mm)	1.000 in (Safe Zone)

2. Standard Amazon KDP Trim Dimensions (300 DPI Standard)

- Trim Size: 8.5 x 11 in (No Bleed): Width: 8.500" (2550 px) • Height: 11.000" (3300 px)
- Trim Size: 8.5 x 11 in (WITH Bleed): Width: 8.625" (2588 px) • Height: 11.250" (3375 px)
- Trim Size: 6.0 x 9.0 in (No Bleed): Width: 6.000" (1800 px) • Height: 9.000" (2700 px)
- Trim Size: 6.0 x 9.0 in (WITH Bleed): Width: 6.125" (1838 px) • Height: 9.250" (2775 px)

3. Final Pre-Upload 5-Point Quality Audit

- [] Vector PDF Format: All fonts must be embedded and line art vector-drawn (no pixelated bitmaps).
- [] Barcode Clearance: Keep the lower right 2" x 1.2" on the back cover completely blank of critical text.
- [] Unique Solutions: Ensure each logic grid has exactly ONE deterministic solution (prevents 1-star reviews).
- [] Contrast Standard: For senior books, contrast must exceed 80% (pure black on white, NAVH verified).
- [] Title Alignment: Metadata title entered in KDP dashboard must EXACTLY match the cover text.