

kdpcover: L^AT_EX Package for Amazon Book Covers*

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1 Introduction

This class will render you a book cover, suitable for Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP). I use it for [all my books](#). This is how you make your L^AT_EX document look like:

```
\documentclass[pages=200,6x9]{kdpcover}
\begin{document}
\putSpine{kdpcover, a LaTeX class for KDP books}
\putVolume{1}
\putVersion{0.4.0}
\putPrice{\$0.00}
\putCopyright{\the\year}{Yegor Bugayenko}
\putTitle{kdpcover}
\putAuthor{Yegor Bugayenko}
\putTLDR{This book will tell you an interesting story!}
\putPicture{cactus.pdf}
\end{document}
```

The problem this class solves is the necessity to change the size of the cover PDF according to the number of pages in the book — the bigger the book, the larger the spine of the book must be. The provided class makes the necessary calculations on-the-fly, using the `qpdf` tool. Obviously, you need to have it installed. Also, you must run `pdflatex` with the `--shell-escape` option, in order to allow L^AT_EX to run `qpdf`.

2 Class Options

pages With `pages` you can set the total count of the pages in the book:

```
\documentclass[pages=120]{kdpcover}
\begin{document}
\end{document}
```

pdf It's better not to use `pages` option, but let the class calculate the size of your book from the PDF file (using `qpdf` command line tool, which has to be installed):

*The sources are in GitHub at [yegor256/kdpcover](https://github.com/yegor256/kdpcover)

```
\documentclass[pdf=book.pdf]{kdpcover}
\begin{document}
\end{document}
```

9x6 With this option you can set the size of the page to 6x9 inches. You can also set your own size like this:

```
\documentclass[6x9]{kdpcover}
\setlength\kdpysize{8.1in}
\setlength\kdpxsize{12.7in}
\begin{document}
\end{document}
```

barless To get rid of the black bar at the center of the page, just add `barless` option:

```
\documentclass[barless]{kdpcover}
\begin{document}
\end{document}
```

3 Commands

`\putSpine` The `\putSpine` command puts a vertical black spine line with two white elements inside: the text at the top and the logo at the bottom. Make sure the text is short enough so that it doesn't touch the logo. It's a good practice to mention the volume number at the end of the text, if you have more than one volume, e.g. "my book, vol. 1". I suggest using small caps in the text only.

`\putVolume` This one prints the volume picture. It is intentionally made large, in order to make it obvious.

`\putVersion` This one prints the version and it will also add the date of the latest Git commit in the current directory. If it's not a Git repository, the hash won't be printed.

`\putPrice` This one prints the price, which is a good practice to mention, I believe.

`\putCopyright` This one prints the copyright short message with the year and the name of the author.

`\putCopyright` This one prints the title of the book

`\putAuthor` This one prints the author.

`\putTLDR` This one prints the TL;DR paragraph, which summarizes the message of the entire book.

`\putTLDR` This one prints the front picture. You can use `cactus.pdf`.

`\putBack` This is prints the text on the back of the book, which usually I suggest to omit and keep the back empty and white.

4 Implementation

First, we define a few internal commands:

```
1 \makeatletter
2 \newcommand*\kdp@pages{100}
3 \newlength\kdp@xsize
4 \setlength\kdp@xsize{6in}
5 \newlength\kdp@ysize
6 \setlength\kdp@ysize{9in}
7 \makeatother
```

Then, we include `iexec` for being able to execute `qpdf`:

```
8 \RequirePackage{iexec}
```

Then, we parse class options:

```
9 \RequirePackage{xkeyval}
10 \makeatletter
11 \DeclareOptionX{6x9}
12   {\setlength\kdp@xsize{6in}\setlength\kdp@ysize{9in}}
13 \DeclareOptionX{7x10}
14   {\setlength\kdp@xsize{7in}\setlength\kdp@ysize{10in}}
15 \DeclareOptionX{8x10}
16   {\setlength\kdp@xsize{8in}\setlength\kdp@ysize{10in}}
17 \DeclareOptionX{pages}
18   {\renewcommand*\kdp@pages{#1}}
19 \newif\ifkdp@barless
20 \DeclareOptionX{barless}{\kdp@barlesstrue}
21 \DeclareOptionX{pdf}{%
22   \iexec[trace,quiet,stdout=kdpcover-pages-count.txt]
23     {qpdf --show-npages #1 | tr -d '[:space:]' | \{ cat; echo \%; \}}%
24   \newread\kdp@pagescount%
25   \openin\kdp@pagescount=kdpcover-pages-count.txt
26   \read\kdp@pagescount to \kdp@pages%
27 }
28 \ProcessOptionsX\relax\makeatother
```

Then, we include a few useful packages:

```
29 \RequirePackage{anyfontsize}
30 \RequirePackage{tikz}
31 \RequirePackage[letterspace=-50]{microtype}
32 \RequirePackage{xcolor}
33 \RequirePackage{graphicx}
34 \RequirePackage{calc}
```

Then, we set spacing using `setspace`:

```
35 \RequirePackage{setspace}
36 \setstretch{1.2}
```

Then, we set calculate size. The height of the page is 9 inches plus 0.125 "bleed" on top and on the bottom, see [this](#). The width is 6 inches plus 0.125 "bleed" on each side. The width of the "spine" depends on the amount of pages in the book.

```
37 \makeatletter
38   \newlength\kdp@height
39   \setlength\kdp@height{0.125in + \kdp@ysize + 0.125in}
40   \newlength\kdp@width
41   \setlength\kdp@width{
```

```

42 0.125in + \kdp@xsize
43 + 0.0025in * \kdp@pages
44 + \kdp@xsize + 0.125in}
45 \makeatother

```

Then, we set the size of the page, using geometry:

```

46 \RequirePackage{geometry}
47 \makeatletter
48 \geometry{paperwidth=\kdp@width,paperheight=\kdp@height,
49 left=0pt,right=0pt,top=0pt,bottom=0pt}
50 \makeatother

```

Then, we set coordinates using textpos:

```

51 \RequirePackage[absolute]{textpos}
52 \TPGrid{16}{16}

```

`\putSpine` Then, we define `\putSpine`:

```

53 \makeatletter\newcommand\putSpine[2][kdpcover-signature]{%
54 \ifkdp@barless\else
55 \begin{textblock}{2.4}[0.5,0](8,0)%
56 \begin{tikzpicture}%
57 \node [rectangle, inner sep=0em, fill=black,
58 minimum width=2.4\TPHorizModule,
59 minimum height=16\TPVertModule] at (0,0) {};
60 \end{tikzpicture}%
61 \end{textblock}%
62 \fi
63 \begin{textblock}{1}[0.5,0](8,2)%
64 \begin{tikzpicture}%
65 \node [color=white, inner sep=0cm, outer sep=0cm,
66 rotate=270, minimum height=\TPHorizModule] at (0,0) {
67 \Large #2
68 };%
69 \end{tikzpicture}%
70 \end{textblock}%
71 \begin{textblock}{2.4}[0.5,1](8,14)%
72 \centerline{\includegraphics[width=0.32in]{#1}}%
73 \end{textblock}%
74 }\makeatother

```

`\putPicture` Then, we define `\putPicture`:

```

75 \newcommand\putPicture[1]{%
76 \begin{textblock}{4}(10,2)%
77 \includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{#1}
78 \end{textblock}%
79 }

```

`\putVolume` Then, we define `\putVolume`:

```

80 \newcommand\putVolume[1]{%
81 \begin{textblock}{2}[1,1](15,14)%
82 \raggedleft
83 \includegraphics[height=0.4in]{kdpcover-vol-#1}
84 \end{textblock}%
85 }

```

```

\putPrice Then, we define \putPrice:
86 \newcommand\putPrice[1]{%
87   \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](1,2)%
88     \small #1
89   \end{textblock}%
90 }

\putBack Then, we define \putBack:
91 \newcommand\putBack[1]{%
92   \begin{textblock}{5}[0,0](1,3)%
93     \small #1
94   \end{textblock}%
95 }

\putTitle Then, we define \putTitle:
96 \newcommand\putTitle[1]{%
97   \begin{textblock}{5}(10,9)%
98     \fontsize{32}{32}\selectfont #1
99   \end{textblock}%
100 }

\putAuthor Then, we define \putAuthor:
101 \newcommand\putAuthor[1]{%
102   \begin{textblock}{4}(10,10)%
103     \large by #1
104   \end{textblock}%
105 }

\putTLDR Then, we define \putTLDR:
106 \newcommand\putTLDR[1]{%
107   \begin{textblock}{5}(10,11)%
108     TL;DR #1
109   \end{textblock}%
110 }

\putVersion Then, we define \putVersion:
111 \newcommand\putVersion[1]{%
112   \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](10,14)%
113     #1
114     \quad
115     \iexec{git log -n 1 --pretty='format:%ad' --date='format:%e-%b-%Y'}
116   \end{textblock}%
117 }

\putCopyright Then, we define \putCopyright:
118 \newcommand\putCopyright[2]{%
119   \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](1,14)%
120     \small (c)
121     #1 #2
122   \end{textblock}%
123 }

```

Finally, a few layout instructions:

```
124 \AtBeginDocument{%  
125   \ttfamily%  
126   \raggedright%  
127   \setlength\parindent{0pt}%  
128   \setlength\parskip{0pt}%  
129   \interfootnotelinepenalty=10000%  
130 }
```

Change History

v0.2.0
General: Initial version 3

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