

An open photo album is displayed on a white marble surface. The left page features a collage of four photographs: a boy in a blue jacket, a girl in a pink dress jumping, a family group, and two girls. The right page shows a large photo of a family walking across a stone bridge in a park, with city buildings in the background. A vase with orange and pink flowers sits in the top right corner. A semi-transparent white box with text is centered over the album.

LAYOUT GUIDE

DESIGNING PAGE SPREADS FOR DESIGN AGLOW ALBUMS



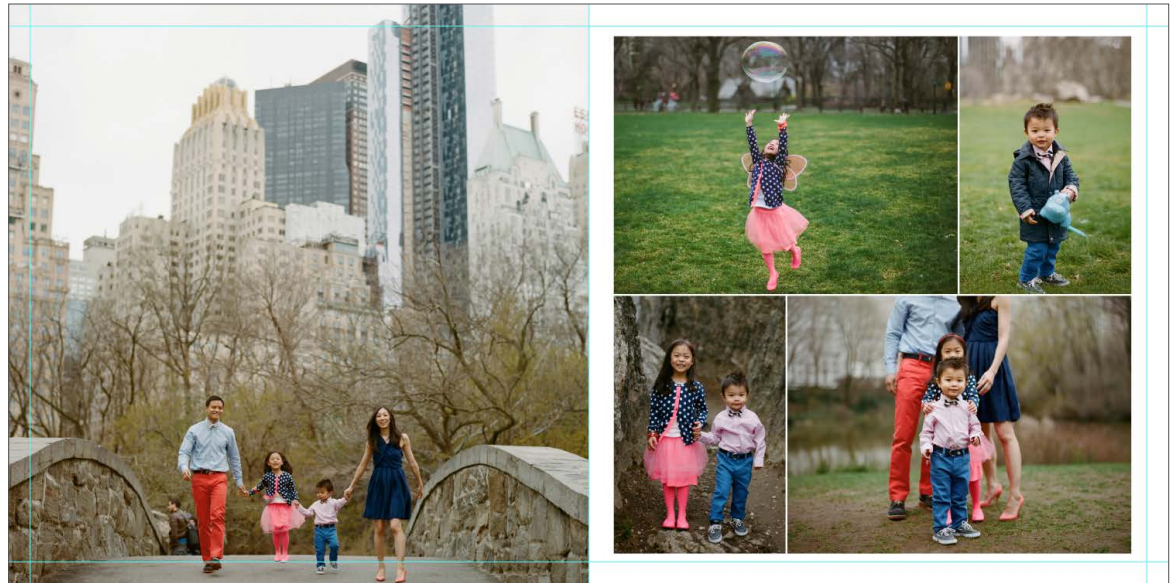
GETTING STARTED

Once you've downloaded our templates, you can choose to layout your album in Photoshop or InDesign. You can also choose to organize your images manually, or use a template from Design Aglow. And remember that when designing, less is more!

SAFETY MARGIN

All page designs should include a $\frac{3}{8}$ th inch safety margin around the outside.

These albums are all hand-trimmed, so there will be some variation between pages. This trim is usually only a small amount, and tends to be less than the $\frac{3}{8}$ th inch, but it's always best to make sure that words, faces and other critical elements fall outside this safety margin. You don't want to lose anything important!



This 10x10 spread looks pretty good, but the family's feet are almost entirely contained between the trim lines and the edge of the page.

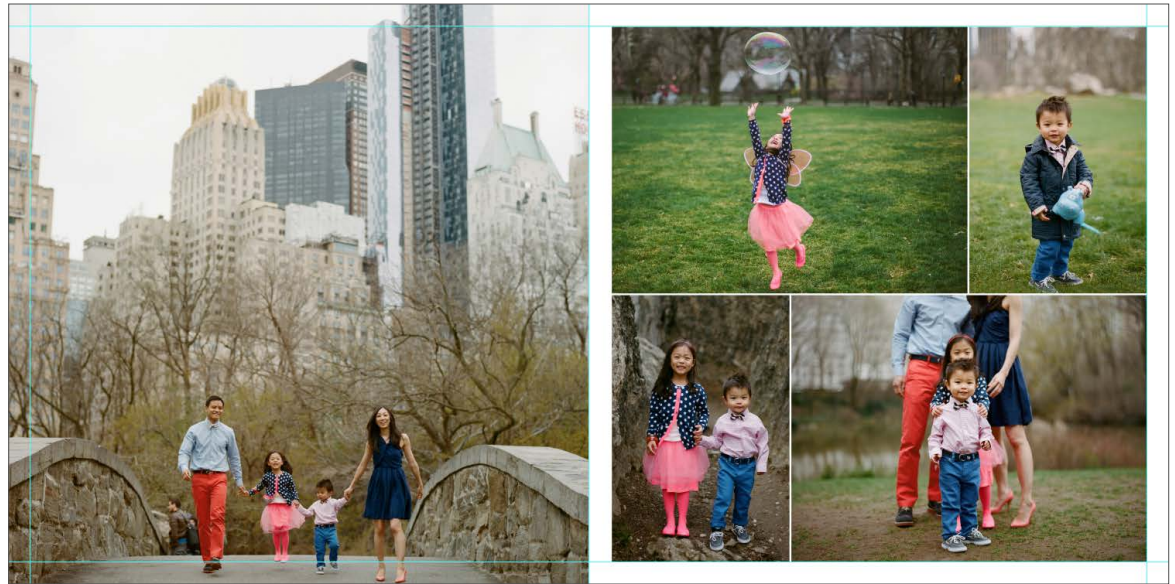


If the page is trimmed at our guide, we'll lose their feet entirely!

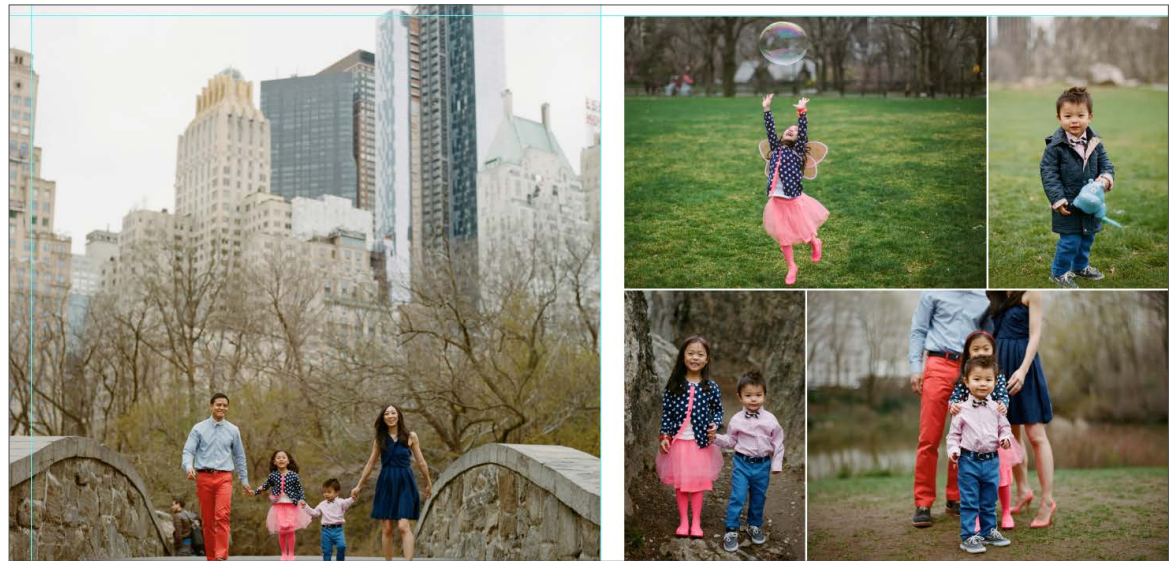
UNEVEN TRIM

Due to the handbound process, not all sides of the album page may be trimmed evenly.

Because of an uneven trim, we recommend giving a little breathing room between your images and the trim line.



In this spread, the images on the left meet the guides.



You could very likely end up with a page that is trimmed imperfectly. The full trim was taken off the right, and is uneven on the top and bottom.

SCALING FILES



A 12x12 wedding album with a 8x8 clone for parents is a great selling combination. While your dimension ratio is perfect, you'll need to recheck where your guides will fall on your spreads in a smaller size.

SPREADS VS. SINGLE PAGES

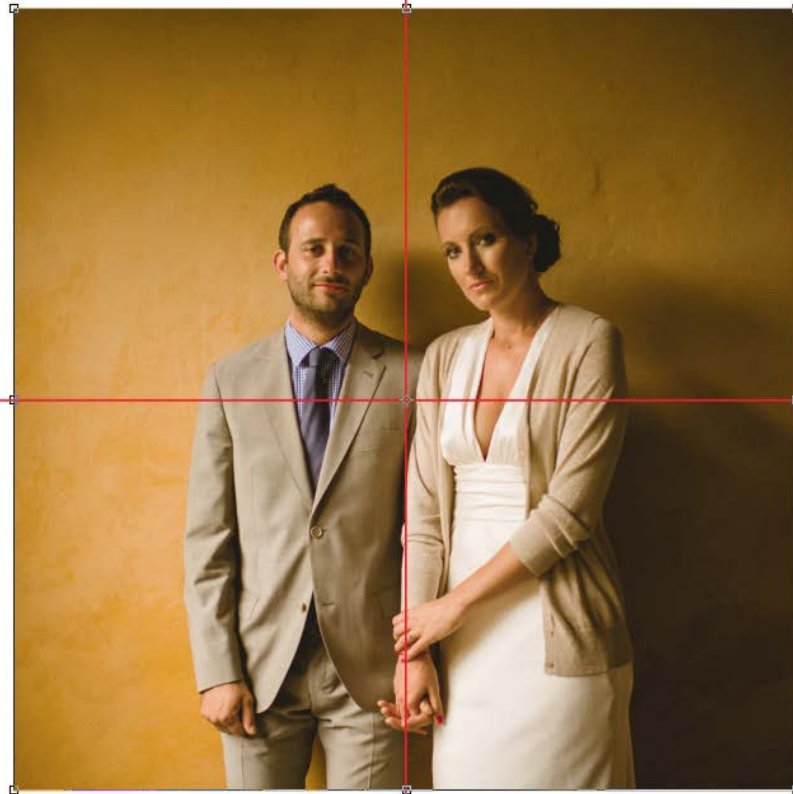


Up until now we have only dealt with spreads. Our albums start on the right, which means the first and last page will be an individual image, half the size of the spreads. Our Photoshop & InDesign templates will make this very easy for you, however, there are a few things to note when you are working with a single page instead of a spread.

VISUAL CENTERING

Any time you are trying to directly center an element on a single page or spread, problems can occur.

Think back to our safety margin. If you are working with a single page, and not a spread, keep in mind that you now have only 3 sides that will be effected by the trim. The side closest to the inside seam of the book will receive no trim, so if you plan on trying to center your image make sure that you determine your VISUAL center and not just the actual center of your layout. Keep the safety margin in mind.



CHECKLIST

☐ Are my files numbered correctly?

Each spread in your album should be saved as a separate file and numbered according to order of appearance. For example: YourStudio-0001.jpg, YourStudio-0203.jpg, YourStudio-0405.jpg. You will need to organize these files in a folder and then compress them to a .ZIP file for uploading.

☐ Are my files the correct size?

Files should be sized for the exact album size that you are creating. For example, a 12x12 inch album would be designed as a 24x12 inch spread. Our albums are right-start albums, so the first and last pages should be individual 12x12 inch images. All page designs & cover images MUST be sized correctly. We will not do any re-configuring of files.

☐ Did I take trim into account while designing?

Don't let anything fall past the 3/8th inch guides that you're not willing to lose!

☐ Do I want a cover option?

We offer cameos and cover bands or jackets for each album (except 6x9 and 9x6). Cover cameos should be submitted as a 4x4 inch jpeg at 300 dpi. The templates for cover bands and jackets are included in our blank setup guides.

☐ Are my files the correct resolution & color space?

All files need to be RGB at 300 dpi.

Special thanks to Nordica Photography, Gabe McClintock Photography, Tiffani Jones Photography & Fer Juarista for the lovely images throughout this tutorial.