



*Preliminary draft*

# HurryCover 3.x

Advanced Book Cover Manager  
for InDesign CC / CS6 / CS5 / CS4

---

USER MANUAL



## 1. Description

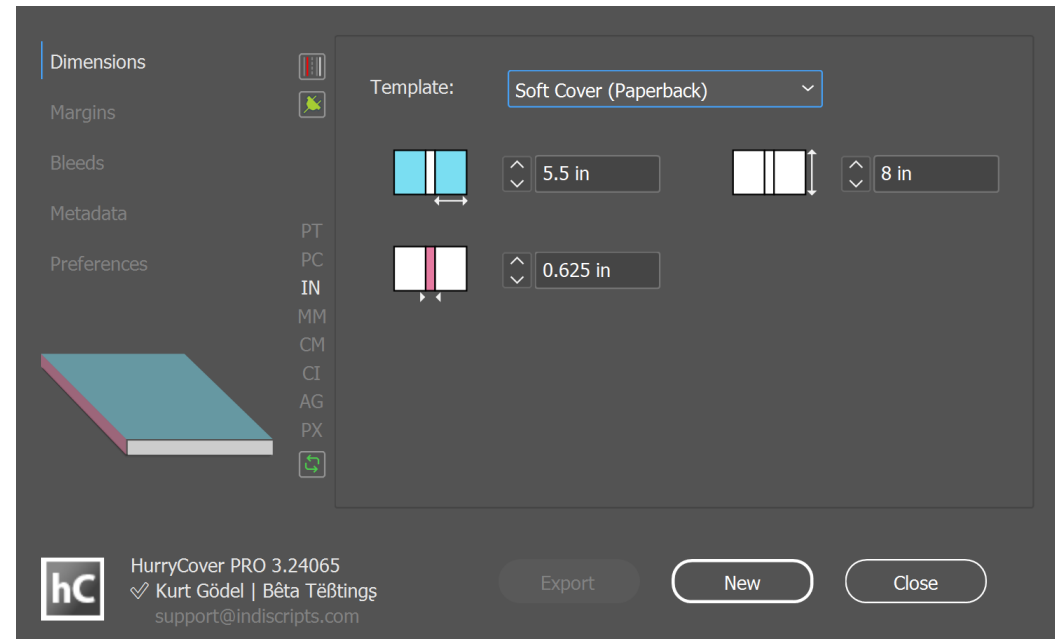
HurryCover allows you to create perfectly sized book covers (paperback, hardcover) or dust jackets whose dimensions, spine, wrap, hinge, flaps... can be easily modified. If your document has to be updated according to new specifications, the program automatically moves all layout elements the required distance and ensures that guides, margins, crop and fold marks still fit the template. HurryCover manages all settings for professional printing: consistent bleeds, custom printer's marks, job info, metadata. It can also export the parts of your book cover as separate PNG/JPEG images.

## 2. System Requirements

- Mac OS X / macOS (10.6 or later),  
or Windows 7 / 8 / 10 / 11.
- CPU with a minimum clock rate of 3 GHz.
- Main memory (RAM) of at least 4GB.
- 800×600 pixel screen-resolution or greater.
- Adobe InDesign (CC/CS6/CS5/CS4).



HurryCover supports all InDesign versions from CC (2024) to CS4, Mac/Win. The **Export** feature is not available in CS5/CS4.



## 3. TRY vs. PRO Version

You can download a free tryout version of HurryCover from: <https://indiscripts.com/blog/public/scripts/HurryCover3Try.zip>. It offers all the features of the PRO release except the following: **Auto Layout**, **Export**, and print-on-demand integration dialogs.

**NOTE** We strongly encourage you to install and test the TRY version before you purchase the PRO license of the product. Always make sure that your system meets the requirements.

The dialog window of HurryCover has a very similar look-and-feel in both Mac OS and Windows environments. The following languages are available (depending on your InDesign locale):

- ▶ English (*default*)
- ▶ French
- ▶ German
- ▶ Spanish
- ▶ Italian

# Getting started



## 1. Before you install

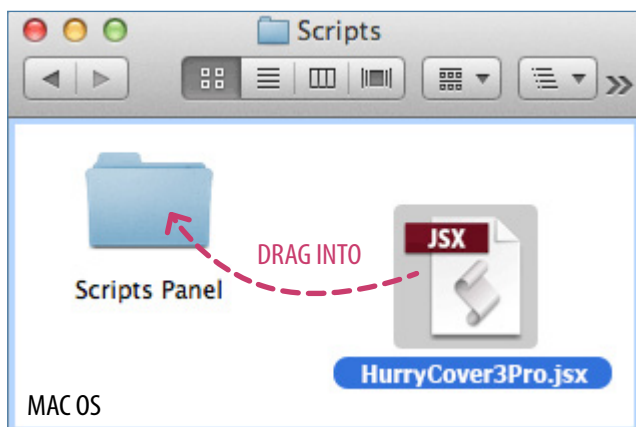
HurryCover resides in a single file: **HurryCover3Pro.jsx**. When you download the file from your private link, however, it is originally zipped.

The first step is to unzip the .ZIP file so you can place **HurryCover3Pro.jsx** at the desired location (see below).

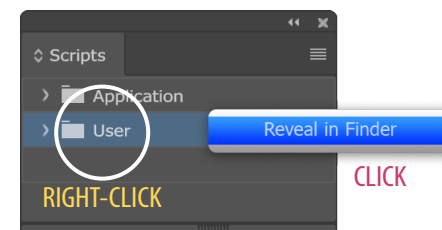
As a precaution before you go on, save your working files and restart InDesign in a clean session.

## 2. Installing in Mac OS

- 1) In InDesign, open the Scripts panel as follows:
  - Window ► Utilities ► Scripts (CC, CS6, CS5), *or*
  - Window ► Automation ► Scripts (CS4).

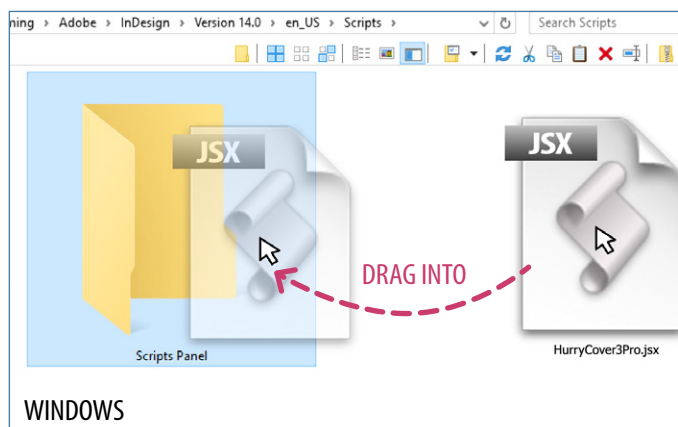
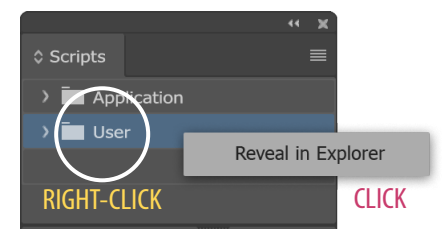


- 2) You see there two main folders: Application and User. Right-click the User folder and pick “Reveal in Finder”.
- 3) You should now see a Scripts Panel folder. Drag **HurryCover3Pro.jsx** into there. Congratulations, HurryCover is now installed!



## 3. Installing in Windows

- 1) In InDesign, open the Scripts panel as follows:
  - Window ► Utilities ► Scripts (CC, CS6, CS5), *or*
  - Window ► Automation ► Scripts (CS4).
- 2) You see there two main folders: Application and User. Right-click the User folder and pick “Reveal in Explorer”.



# Getting started



- 3) You should now see a Scripts Panel folder. Drag **HurryCover3Pro.jsx** into there. Congratulations, HurryCover is now installed!

## 4. Installing an update

If you are notified that an update of the product is available, simply download the new package from your private link, then unzip and install the file **HurryCover3Pro.jsx** over the previous one, i.e. at the same location.

The new version is instantly functional, and your global settings and preferences are all preserved.

## 5. Running HurryCover from the Scripts panel

Once the installation is done, switch back to InDesign. You can run HurryCover from the Scripts panel as follows:

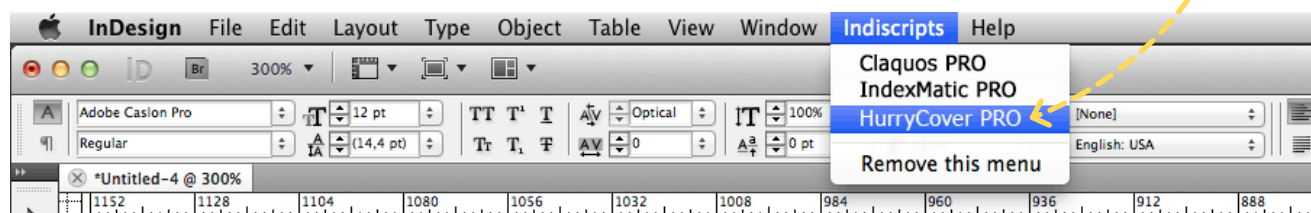
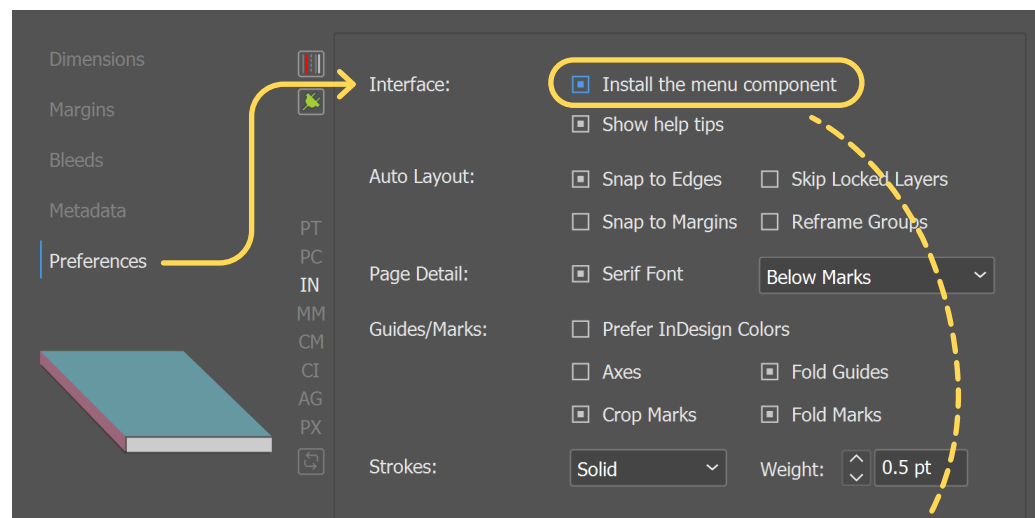
- 1) In InDesign, display the Scripts panel via:
  - Window ► Utilities ► Scripts (CC, CS6, CS5), *or*
  - Window ► Automation ► Scripts (CS4).
- 2) Look for **HurryCover3Pro.jsx** in the User folder, then double-click on it.

## 6. Running HurryCover from the Indiscripts menu

To have HurryCover available in InDesign's menu bar, run the script once (as previously detailed), go to **Preferences** and turn on the option *Install the menu component* (see the screenshot below). Then validate the dialog.

You can now run HurryCover going into:  
Indiscripts ► HurryCover PRO

Tired of continually digging into the Scripts panel? Make HurryCover available in a dedicated menu!



## 7. Converting HurryCover 2 documents

Existing InDesign documents managed by HurryCover 2 can be *upgraded* to HurryCover 3.

**NOTE** ⚠ Do not upgrade documents if you still want to manage them from the previous version.

- 1) Open your HC2 cover in InDesign and/or make it the active document.
- 2) Run HurryCover 3.
- 3) The question box “Upgrade [...] to HurryCover 3?” will pop up. Click **Yes**.
- 4) In the main dialog, check that all dimensions and options match your original HC2 settings.
- 5) Click **Upgrade**.


If something goes wrong, you can still *undo* the operation or revert to the saved document.



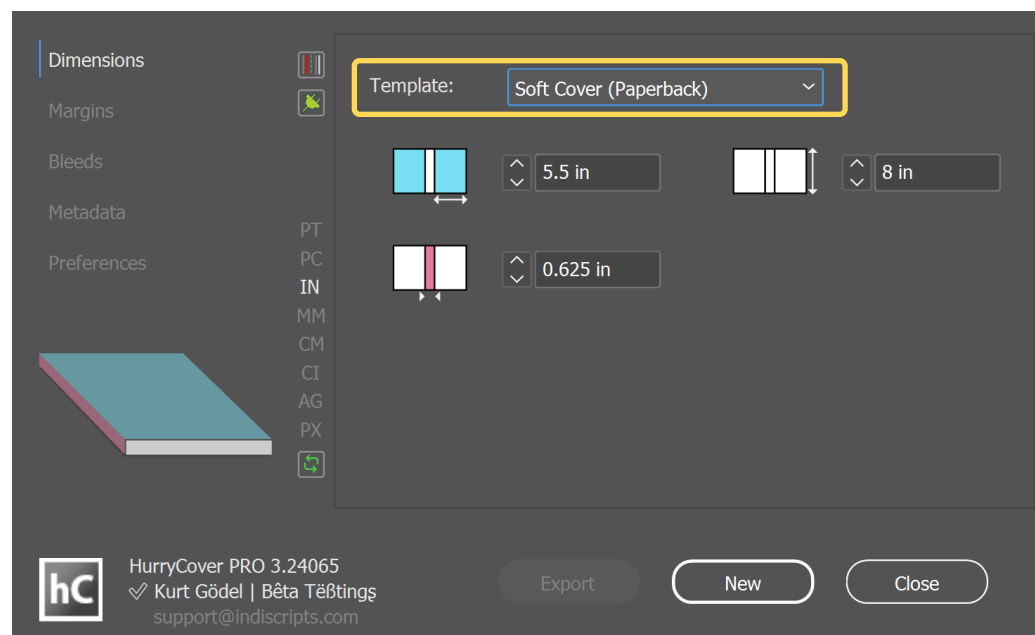
## 8. Create your first cover



Basically, HurryCover allows you to build the full template of a book cover, or a dust jacket, with perfectly sized areas—we shall call them FOLDS—representing the front and back side, the spine, optional flaps and even more specialized zones. The program will create all convenient guides and marks you want to see in your document.

Let's build the most simple structure, the PAPERBACK binding, also referred to as “perfect bound” or “notch bound” depending on how book signatures are put together.

- 1) Close any InDesign document.
- 2) Run HurryCover.
- 3) In the **Dimensions** panel, select the template *Soft Cover (Paperback)*.
- 4) Click the  icon to set the FINISHED WIDTH. You can either enter a numeric value in the current unit (measurements in another unit are supported as well: just add the desired unit when typing), or increase/reduce the active number using the top/bottom arrows.

**TIP** You can change the default measurement unit at any time. Simply select in the vertical bar the one you want to use: **PT**, **PC**, **IN**, **MM**, etc.



- 5) Click the  icon to set the HEIGHT of the book cover.
- 6) Click the  icon to set the SPINE WIDTH.

**NOTE** If you do not yet know the exact thickness of the book (or even other dimensions), this is of no consequence: all these settings can be modified subsequently without disrupting your layout.

- 7) Finally, click the **New** button.

A new InDesign document is then created, having the desired folds. You should also see guides, printer's marks and a short summary at the bottom of the page.

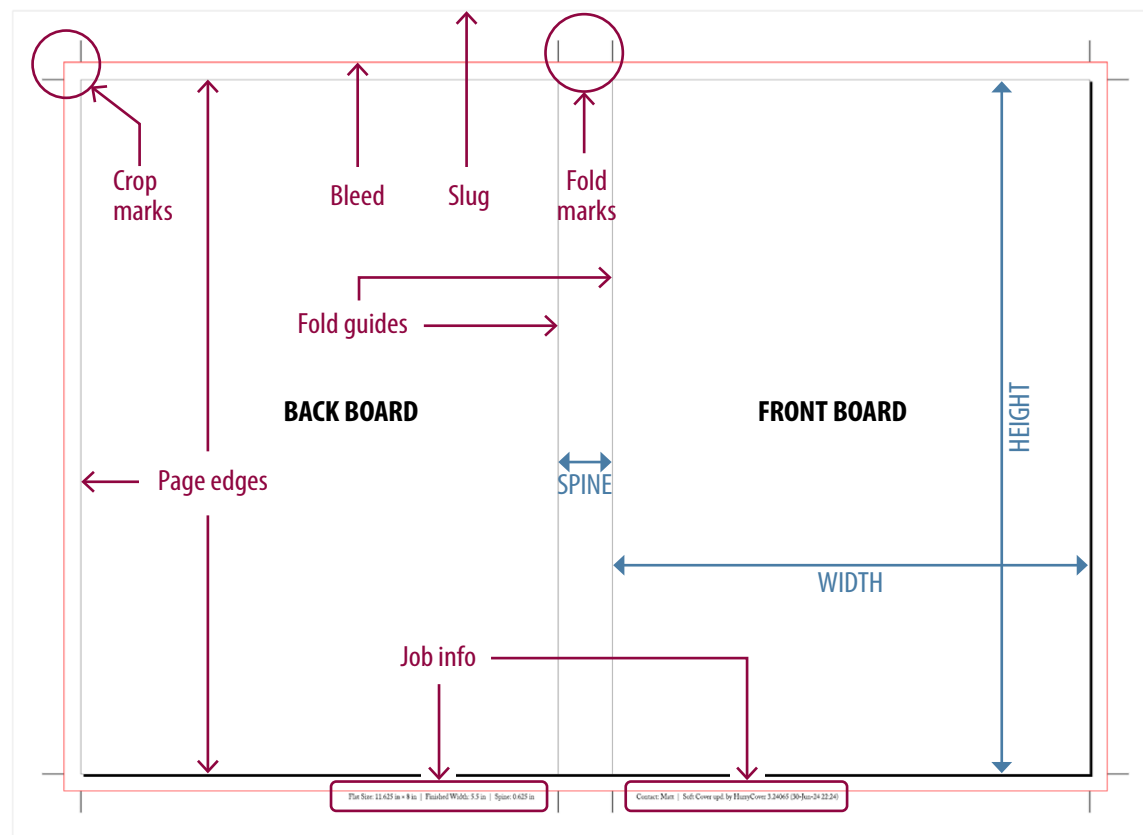
# Getting started



HurryCover's guides and marks are placed on a reserved, locked layer (HC\_GuidesAndMarks) at the very top of the layer stack.

**NOTE** It is not recommended, although allowed, to move the HC\_GuideAndMarks layer to a lower level in your layout. Keeping it at the top ensures that printer's marks are visible even when you apply dark backgrounds to your design.

If some elements are missing, like fold guides or marks, re-run HurryCover and make sure that the options **Fold Guides**, **Crop Marks** and **Fold Marks** are turned on in **Preferences > Guides/Marks**.



Empty paperback template and associated components.



What makes HurryCover really powerful is that you can edit the particular size (width and/or height) of any element after it was created and laid out. For example, if you need to increase the spine width of a book jacket due to a “last minute technical adjustment,” HurryCover will save you from recalculating all the related dimensions. Even better, the program will automatically reposition the items of your design to make free room for the new spine width.

## 1. About “physical” dimensions

Regardless of the active template (soft cover, hard cover, etc), the **Dimensions** panel respects the following rules:

- Every entered dimension applies to a *physical part* of your book cover, hence to the overall size of the InDesign document. Unlike other settings like bleeds or margins (which do not affect the actual size of the page) dimensional parameters imply a larger or smaller printable area, so any changes to them will increase or decrease the size of the document.
- When it is possible to reset the dimension of a specific part to zero (e.g. spine width, flap width, hardcover’s wrap...), the underlying fold is removed. However, any item that may have previously belonged to this region will not disappear. Instead, it will move closer to the central axis of the template.

**NOTE** A simpler way to express this rule is to say that HurryCover never removes any InDesign object.

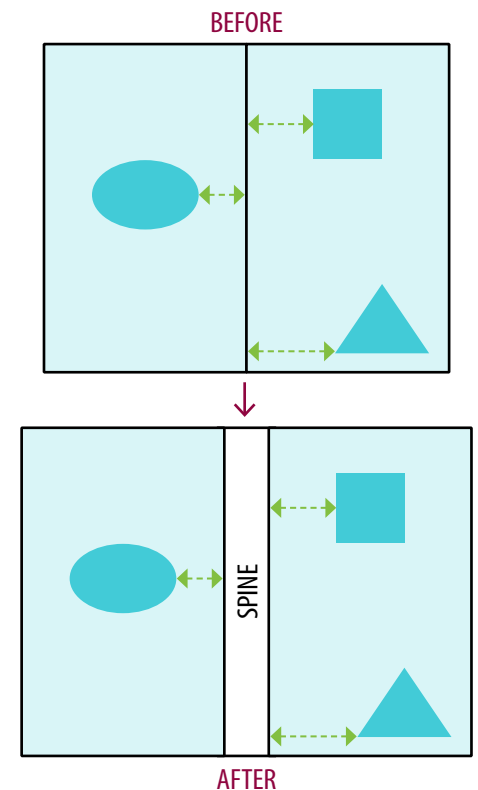
- Conversely, when you increase a dimension initially set to zero, this will reveal a previously *inhibited* fold. Existing objects positioned beyond this point therefore tend to move away from the central axis.

The figure below shows how a cover initially structured without a book spine (i.e. *zero-width spine*) will change when you add this dimension.

Note that the objects located respectively on the front and back board will maintain their position relative to their home area. The green arrows indicate which distances are preserved during this operation.

## 2. Automatic repositioning

The process we have just described is referred to as **AUTOMATIC REPOSITIONING**. This is the central algorithm of the program: it applies in all circumstances, regardless of the physical dimensions being modified and before any other option (like **Auto Layout**) goes into play.





# Dimensions



The key idea is to maintain—in the most consistent way—the relationship between graphic elements and the existing cover template.

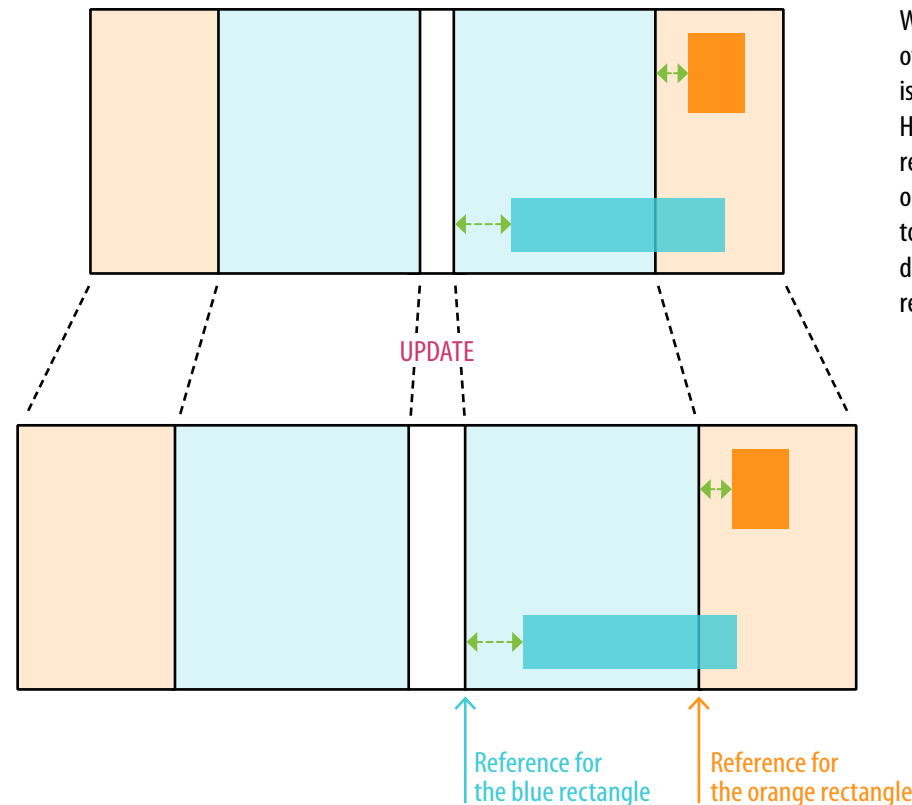
Let's consider a slightly more sophisticated example. Suppose you have an orange rectangle within the bounds of your front flap, and a blue rectangle that goes from the front board to the front flap so it overlaps the flap fold. The top diagram represents the initial situation, the bottom one represents the evolution of all the components if the width is increased *everywhere* (finished width, spine width, flap width).

- The orange rectangle will keep its place on the front flap; that is, the distance from the flap fold to the left edge of the object is preserved.

**NOTE** If the orange rectangle was on the other side (on the back flap), then automatic repositioning would act symmetrically, with respect to the right edge of the object.

- The blue rectangle will keep its place on the front board; that is, the distance from the main fold to the left edge of the object is preserved. Indeed, in that case, the home region of the rectangle is the front board:

*It is the edge closest to the central axis that determines the reference.*



When the width of any area is modified, HurryCover repositions the objects in order to maintain the distance to their reference line.

Also note that, during automatic repositioning, the size of the target objects is never changed. In particular, the width of our blue rectangle is not enlarged and therefore the surface it covers in the flap region becomes less.

Another case that can arise is that of an object that crosses the central axis, covering both front and back regions. In this situation, the object will simply maintain its position relative to the central axis—which then acts as the fallback reference line.

## 3. Templates

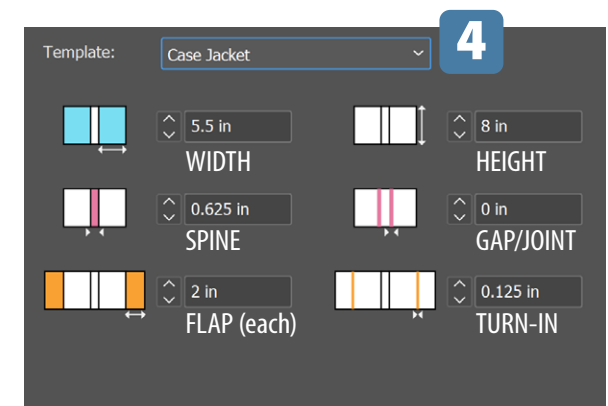
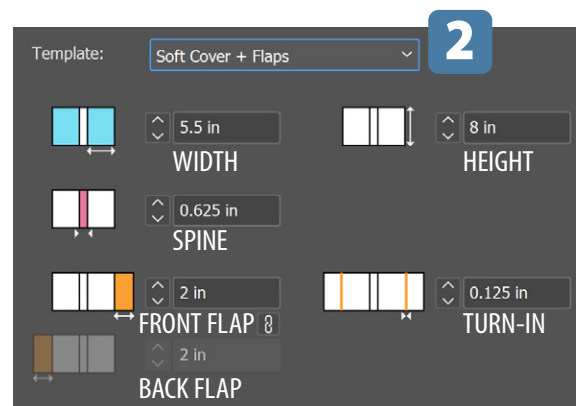
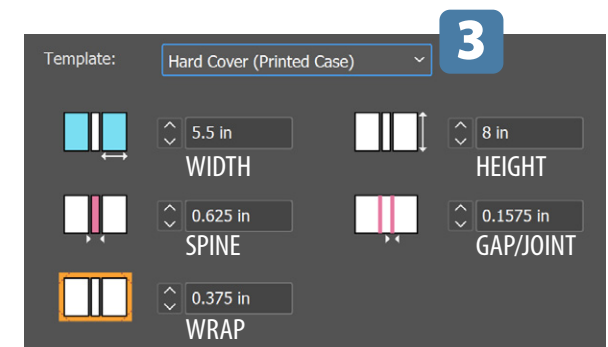
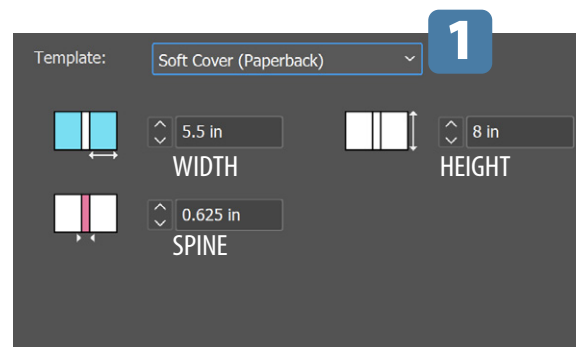
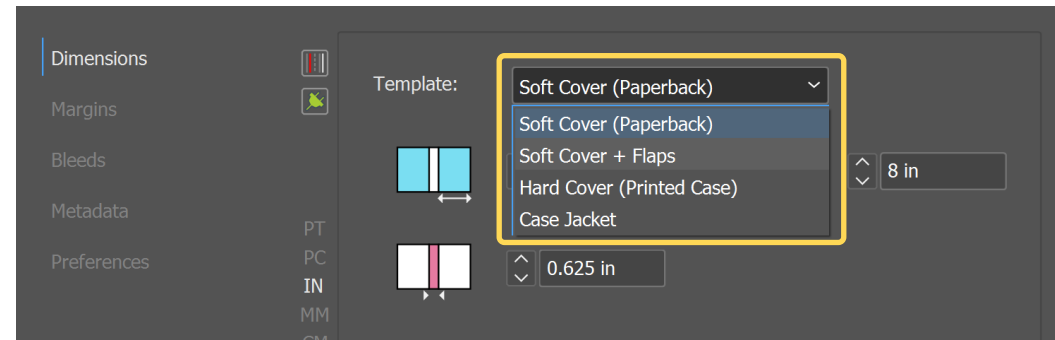
HurryCover has four COVER TEMPLATES:

**1** *Soft Cover (Paperback)*. Use this template to manage simple paperback covers with no extra elements. It only exposes the three essential fields: finished width, height and spine width.

**2** *Soft Cover + Flaps*. Also known as gatefold cover with “French flaps”, this paperback template provides front and back flaps that can be made independent. Flaps are usually much shorter than the cover width; in some projects you may need the front flap only (then, unlink the dimensions and set the back flap to zero). You can also set the flap TURN-IN to a nonzero thickness if you have to control that field as a separate, physical dimension.

**3** *Hard Cover (Printed Case)*. Bookbinding involves many different techniques and materials, but a hard cover basically fits in a *three-piece case* made of two boards (front and back) and a spine strip. You still have to define finished dimensions, spine width, and a spine GAP (or *joint*) may be specified too. Also, since the printed cover is glued to the inside of the boards, you need to extend the root size to a WRAP region of about 1/2 inch around.

**NOTE** Another approach is to manage the spine gap as a margin (hinge), and/or the wrap as a bleed. Then, leave the physical dimensions to 0.



**!** Do not take the values shown in the screenshots as normative: they were entered quite randomly!

**4** *Case Jacket* (also named DUST JACKET). This template has its own group of dimensions, with symmetrical flaps and usually a larger spine gap and turn-in so the jacket has enough room to wrap around the front and back boards.

## 4. Adjusting any dimension and/or template

1) Open an InDesign document that was created with HurryCover.

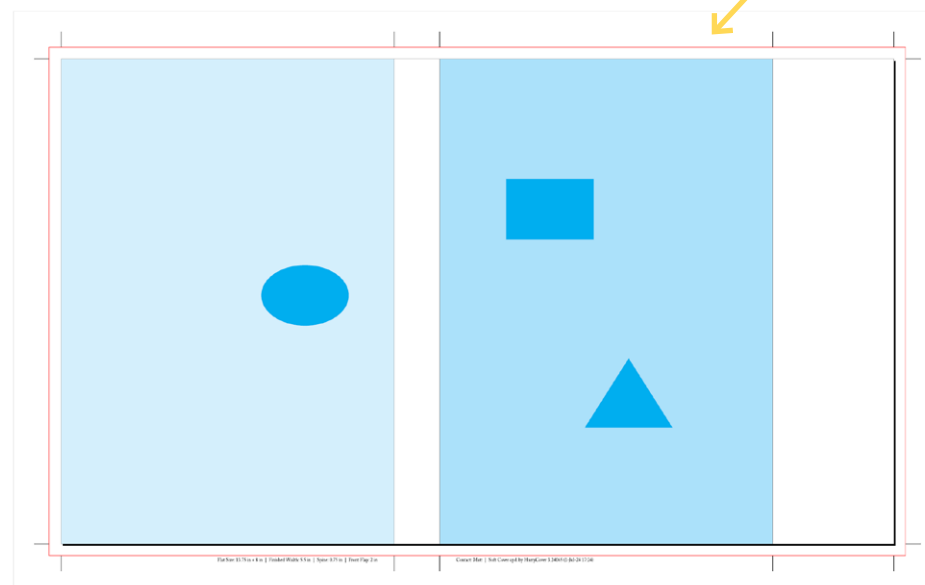
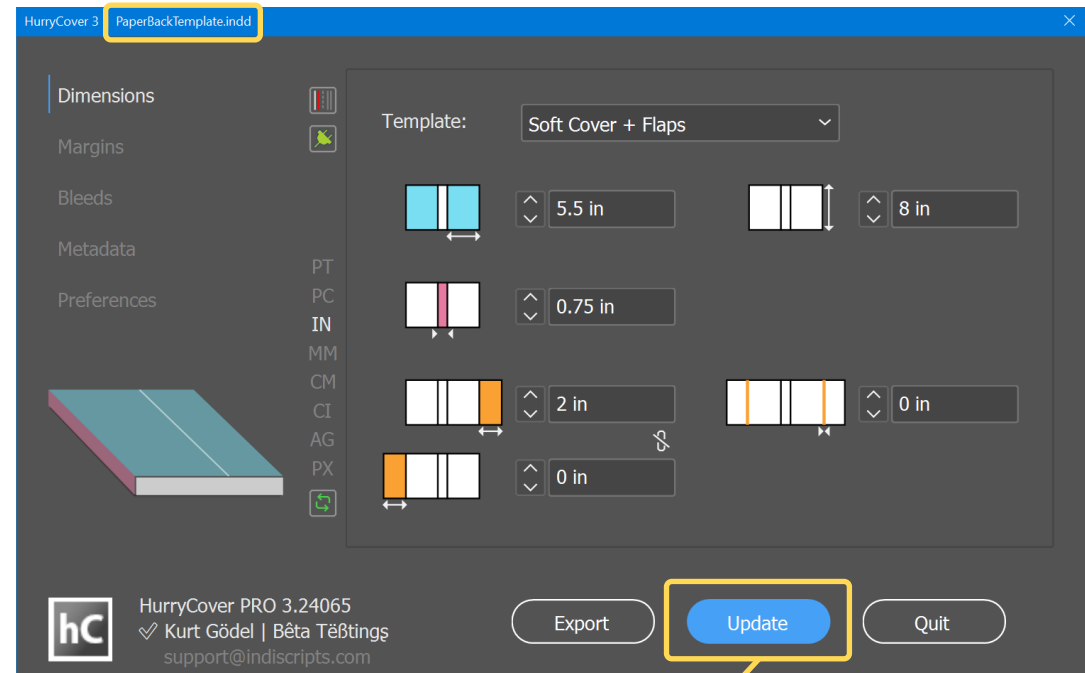
**TIP** It is best to activate the document in InDesign before proceeding. Otherwise, the program searches for the most suitable opened document, based on saved settings, HC version, most recent modification date, etc.

2) Run HurryCover. The main dialog should then display the current dimensions and the default button name should be **Update**, not **New**. (If the cover is from HC2, the button is named **Upgrade**.)

**NOTE** If HurryCover intends to create a new cover, it is because it has not recognized your document as a valid HC project. Make sure the underlying file, settings, size... haven't been altered by some external operation.

3) In the **Dimensions** panel, change any dimension and/or template.


4) Click the **Update** (or **Upgrade**) button.

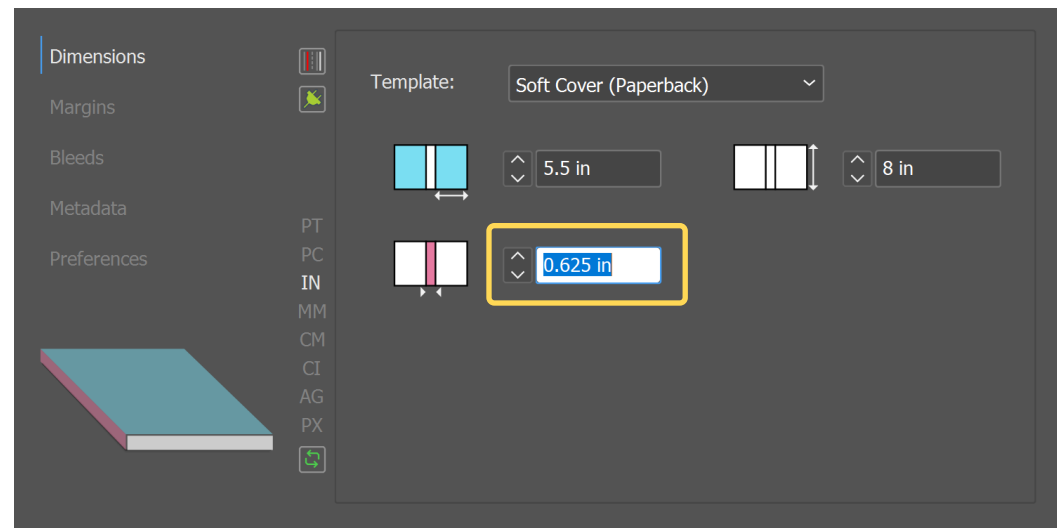


When you update a cover, the name of your document appears in the dialog's title bar.

## 5. Adding / removing the spine


Since HurryCover supports templates with zero-width spine, you can very easily add or remove this area.

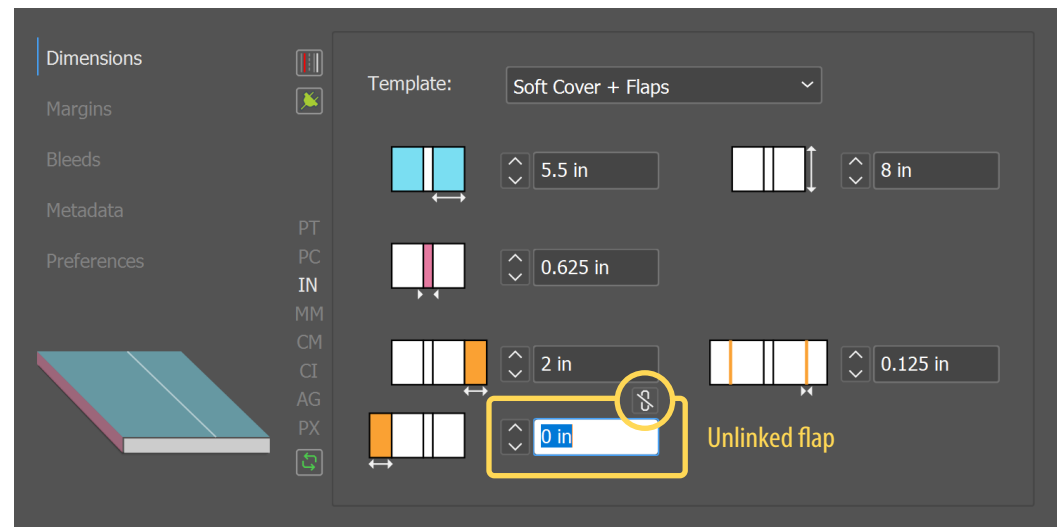
- 1) With your document active in InDesign, run HurryCover.
- 2) Click the  icon (or manually select its edit box).
- 3) Enter the new width of the spine (0 allowed).
- 4) Click the **Update** (or **Upgrade**) button.



## 6. Adding / removing flap(s)

By the same logic the flaps (front and/or back flap) can be added or removed by editing their respective width.

- 1) With your document active in InDesign, run HurryCover.
- 2) If necessary, unlink the flaps by clicking the link button  below the front flap field.
- 3) Click the desired flap icon (or manually select its edit box).
- 4) Enter the new width of the flap (0 allowed).
- 5) Click the **Update** (or **Upgrade**) button.




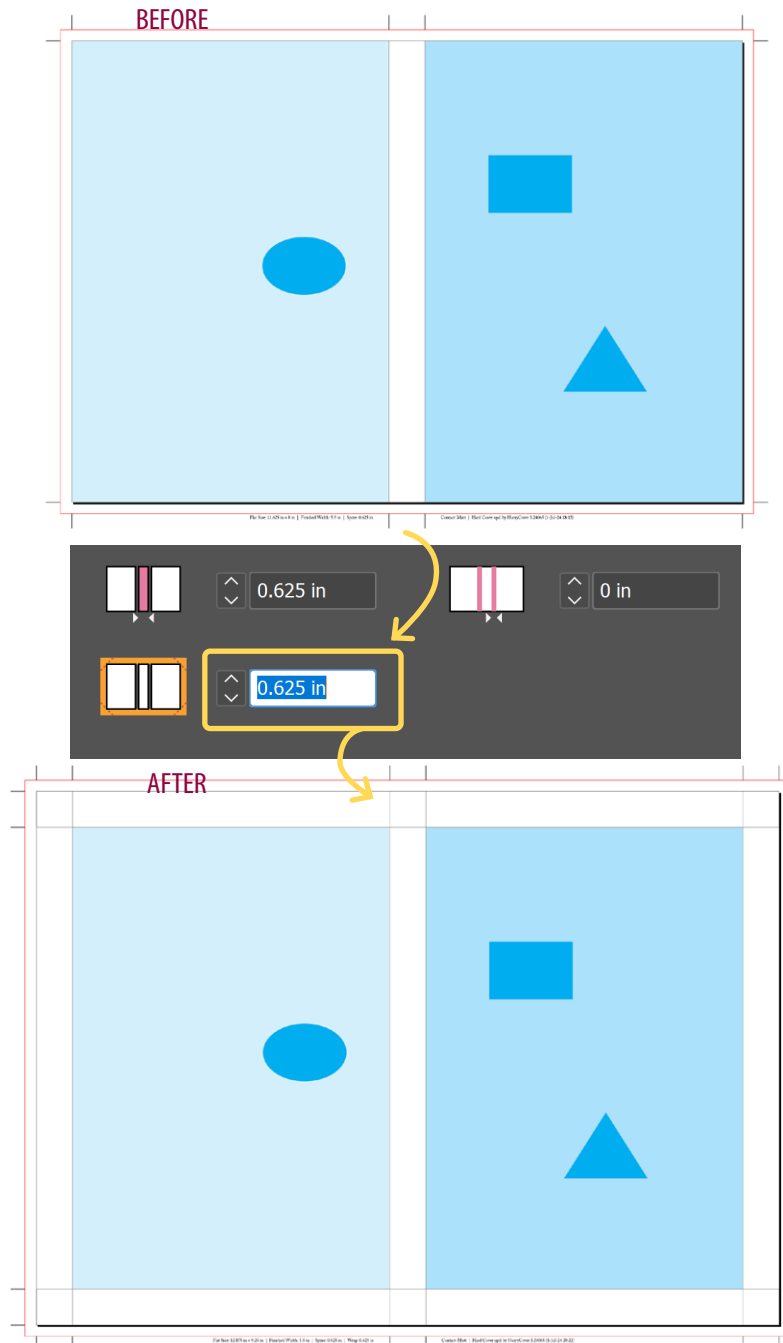
## 7. Adding / removing the wrap

In *Hard Cover* templates, the wrap extends the physical size by adding a new printable zone all around the area of the boards, that is, between the 'visible' part of the cover and the bleed zone.

**NOTE** Quite often, the wrap and the bleed are considered mutually exclusive:

- Some printers demand that the wrap be just materialized by the bleedbox (so you don't use the Wrap field in HurryCover, while making sure your PDF export includes the bleed);
- Others expect a dedicated wrap zone within the trimbox and fold marks adjusted accordingly, in which case the bleed settings may become non-essential. The program allows you to choose either of these options.

- 1) With your document active in InDesign, run HurryCover.
- 2) Click the  icon (or manually select its edit box).
- 3) Enter the new wrap (0 allowed).
- 4) Click the **Update** (or **Upgrade**) button.



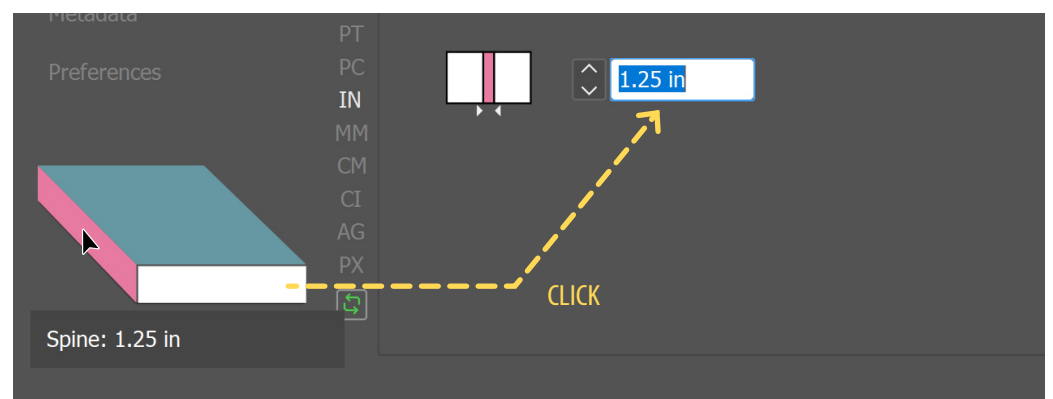
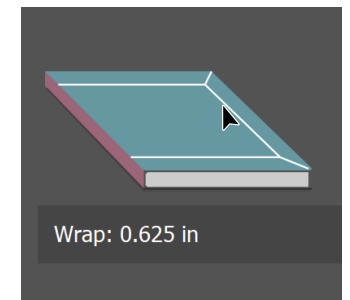
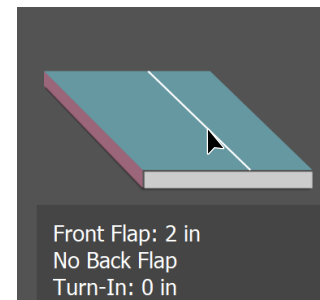
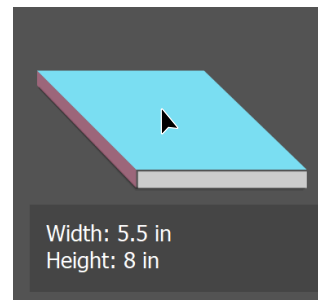
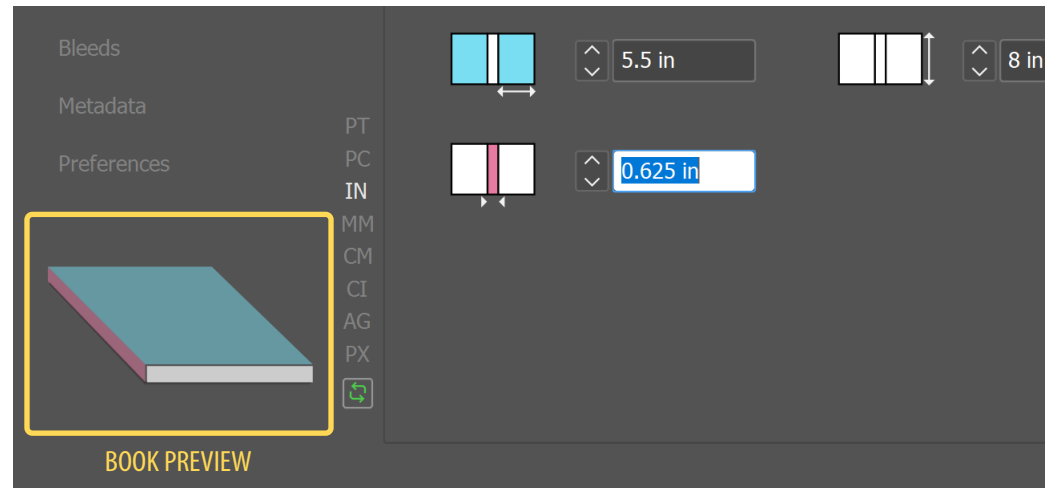
## 8. Using the book preview

HurryCover renders a rough 3D preview of the book's geometry. As imprecise as this view is, it allows you to quickly detect an incorrect dimension—for example, an exaggerated spine width or a distorted book format, which most often indicates an input error.

Hover the mouse over the preview area to highlight the important dimensions:


- Width and height  
when the mouse pointer is above the front board;
- Flap(s) or wrap  
when the mouse pointer is at the edge of the fold;
- Spine width  
when the mouse pointer meets the book spine.

**TIP** When an element is highlighted, just click it to go into the corresponding field in the **Dimensions** panel.



## 9. Going back to your original settings

From any panel ([Dimensions](#), [Margins](#), [Bleeds...](#)), you can restore all measurements that were active when HurryCover started. This feature is useful when you have entered test values in different fields and no longer have in mind the initial settings.

The  button will restore all dimensions, margin, and bleed settings, including associated values related to slug and marks, linked parameters, and the original measurement unit.

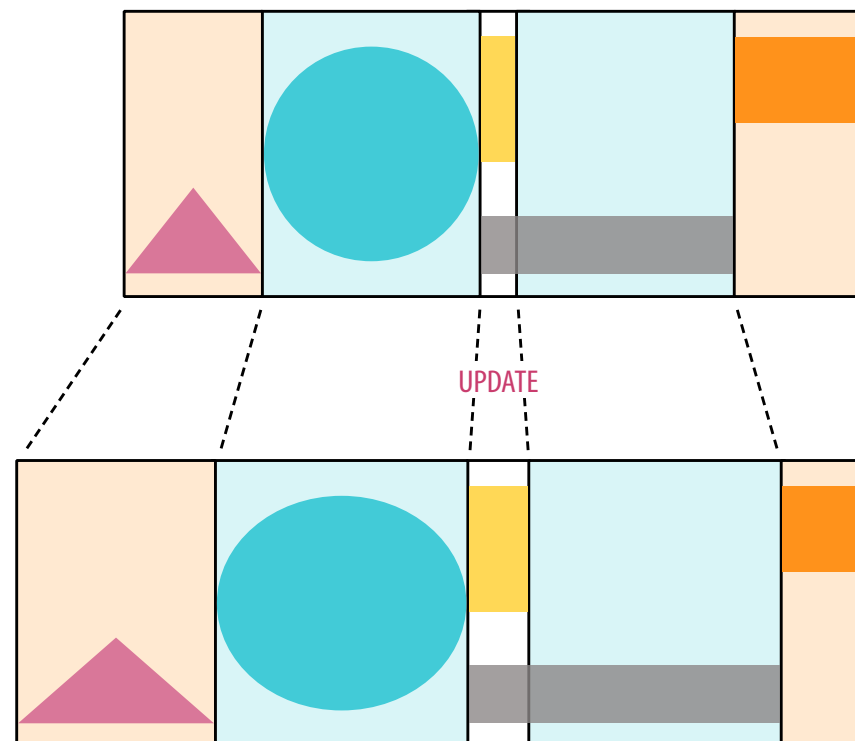
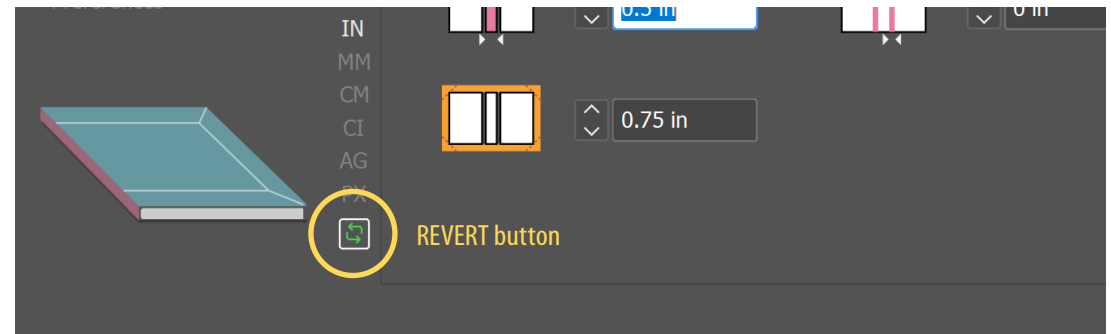
**NOTE** If the Revert button is disabled, the active book cover settings have not been modified since the HurryCover dialog was started.

However, the rollback does not affect other attributes such as metadata or preferences.

## 10. Auto Layout

In addition to automatic repositioning, HurryCover can adjust the size of every InDesign object whose visible bounds are already aligned to the cover edges and folds.

The below diagram shows how your layout might evolve when you update the essential dimensions of your template. The most convenient way to understand this mechanism is to imagine the building blocks as magnetized. Elements whose edges are very close to a reference position will *snap* to it.



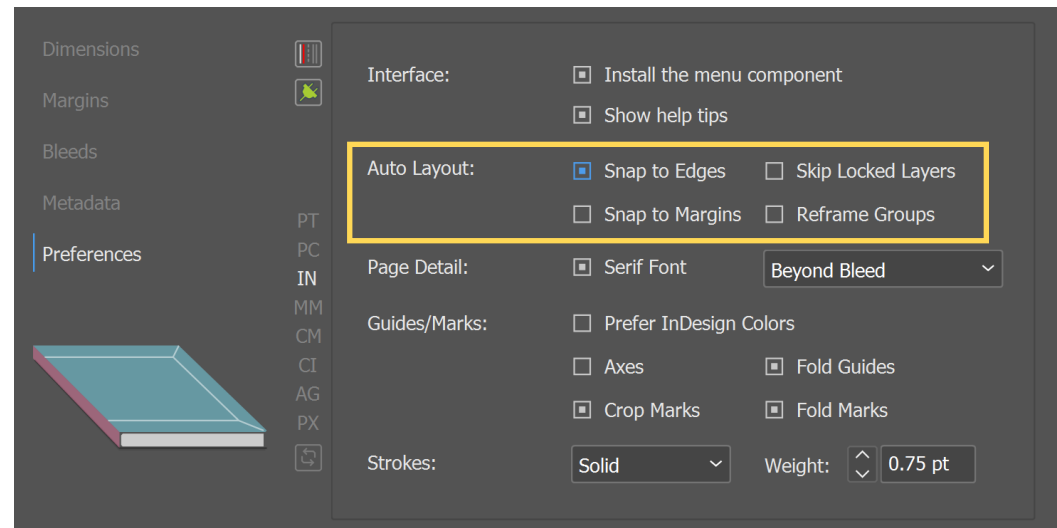
The Auto Layout algorithm is only available in the PRO version of HurryCover. Go into the [Preferences](#) panel to configure its options.



**NOTE** Unlike HC2, HurryCover 3 supports both horizontal and vertical adjustments. It is capable of resizing entire groups. Also, it can take into consideration not only physical dimensions, but also layout margins.

To activate and configure the **Auto Layout** feature:

- 1) Run HurryCover. (If no HC document is available, **Auto Layout** settings will be remembered as default options; otherwise they will only apply to the active cover.)
- 2) Go into **Preferences > Auto Layout**.
- 3) Turn on **Snap to Edges**. This option activates the generic Auto Layout mechanism, which considers at least the elementary lines of the template: page edges, book spine (incl. spine gap), bleed and slug zones, flaps or wrap areas (incl. turn-in).
- 4) In addition you may turn on **Snap to Margins** if you expect *all* margins (regular side margins, top/bottom margins, custom hinge and spine margins) to be treated as reference positions. For example, if the boundaries of some textframe are aligned with your side margins, changing those margins will lead to resize the frame as well.
- 5) The option **Skip Locked Layers** applies to both automatic repositioning and Auto Layout (that's why it remains available in all configurations). When enabled, locked layers escape adjustment



algorithms entirely: this allows objects to be kept there in an “inert state” with respect to changes in dimensions

- 6) The option **Reframe Groups** can be enabled or disabled separately. If turned on, InDesign groups will be treated as simple objects and therefore potentially *reframed*. If, on the contrary, you prefer to always adjust groups manually, uncheck this option.
- 7) Close the main dialog.

**This guide is far from complete. Other features will be documented very soon.**



# HurryCover 3.x

www.indiscripts.com

A plug-in for Adobe® InDesign® based on Adobe® ExtendScript and ScriptUI. Created, designed and developed by Marc Autret. User Interface available in English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian.

*My very very special thanks to Jean-Christophe Courte, Laurent Tournier, Nicolas Pichou, Camilo Umaña, Jean-Claude Tremblay, Robert Kaltenbrunn. I also wish to thank the people who have helped promote this product from then to now, in no particular order: Dominique Chiron, Franck Payen, Jean loup Fusz, Stéphane Baril (Adobe France), Colin Flashman, Mike Rankin & David Blatner (CreativePro), Jean-Marc Bonnard, Eduardo Antunes, Norbert Congard, Philippe Theophanidis, Laurent Grolleau, Ulrich Döllken, Ian Mc Pherson—*not forgetting the graphic designers, trainers, authors, users, and gurus who have all contributed at some level to the success of HurryCover!

Main Product Page: <https://indiscripts.com/category/projects/HurryCover>  
Tryout version: <https://indiscripts.com/blog/public/scripts/HurryCover3Try.zip>  
Technical Support: [support@indiscripts.com](mailto:support@indiscripts.com)

Purchasing HurryCover: <https://indiscripts.com/store/HRCV>  
End User License Agreement: <https://indiscripts.com/pages/eula>  
Terms and Conditions of Sale: <https://indiscripts.com/pages/cgv>  
Copyright Notice: <https://indiscripts.com/pages/copyright>

This manual, as well as the software documented in it, is released under license and may be used or copied only in accordance with the terms of that license. The content of this document is subject to change without notice. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this document is accurate. However, Indiscripts assumes no responsibility or liability for any error that may appear in this document. InDesign, the InDesign logos, are trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

© Indiscripts, 2007-2024.  
All rights reserved. Made in France.

