

BookCoverPro User Guide

© BookCoverPro. All rights reserved.

Contents

Introduction.....	4
Package Contents.....	5
Installation.....	5

The Basics

An overview of the program.....	6
Creating a cover from scratch.....	7
Cover specifications.....	8

The Toolbar

Text.....	9
Images.....	11
Bar.....	13
Oval.....	14
ISBN.....	14
Remove, Up, Down.....	16
Background.....	16

The Menu

Menu

New.....	17
Open.....	17
Close.....	17
Save.....	17
Save As.....	17
Export to E-Book.....	17
Open Template.....	18
Exit.....	18

Cover

Properties.....	18
Generate As.....	18
Undo.....	18

Help

Help.....	18
Update.....	19

License.....	19
Report an Error.....	19
About.....	19

The Galleries

Templates.....	19
Backgrounds.....	20
Eclectic Galleries.....	22
Patterns • Bars & Boxes • Flourishes • Grunge	

The Goodies

Working with Templates.....	22
BCP's New features: Explained.....	24
Helpful Tips.....	25
Resources.....	25
Quick Reference.....	26

Introduction

Thanks for purchasing [BookCoverPro](#).

This user guide is a complete overview of how [BookCoverPro](#) works, covering everything from starting a cover from scratch to generating your finished file for the printer. We show you how you don't have to be a professional designer to create rich, stunning book covers. You will learn how to design your own cover quickly and easily, and have it ready for the printer -- in less than an hour. Create unlimited, unique book covers — without paying a fortune.

If you define yourself as creative, but “artistically challenged”, or just want a quick boost, download our **Starter Guide** — which contains helpful tips & guidance to get you started on creating your masterpiece.

With appreciation,

The BookCoverPro Creative Team

Package Contents

[BookCoverPro](#) comes in two different packages: Standard and Deluxe. Both packages contain a user manual and starter guide.

The Standard package contains the full version of [BookCoverPro](#), with access to the backgrounds/images library, and includes 1 cover template. This package is perfect for those who want to create their own custom covers at a low cost, and take full advantage of all features the program offers. This can be upgraded to deluxe at any time.

The deluxe package contains the full version of [BookCoverPro](#), with access to:

- Full templates library
- Background/images library
- Eclectic images galleries
- Full version of [PrintMarketingPro](#)
- [PrintMarketingPro](#) templates
- Three 3D ebook covers generated free.

The deluxe package is great for those who want to create several covers, who work in the graphic design field, and for those in a time crunch who would benefit from pre-designed templates.

Both packages are available as a download, or as a mailed CD with download access.

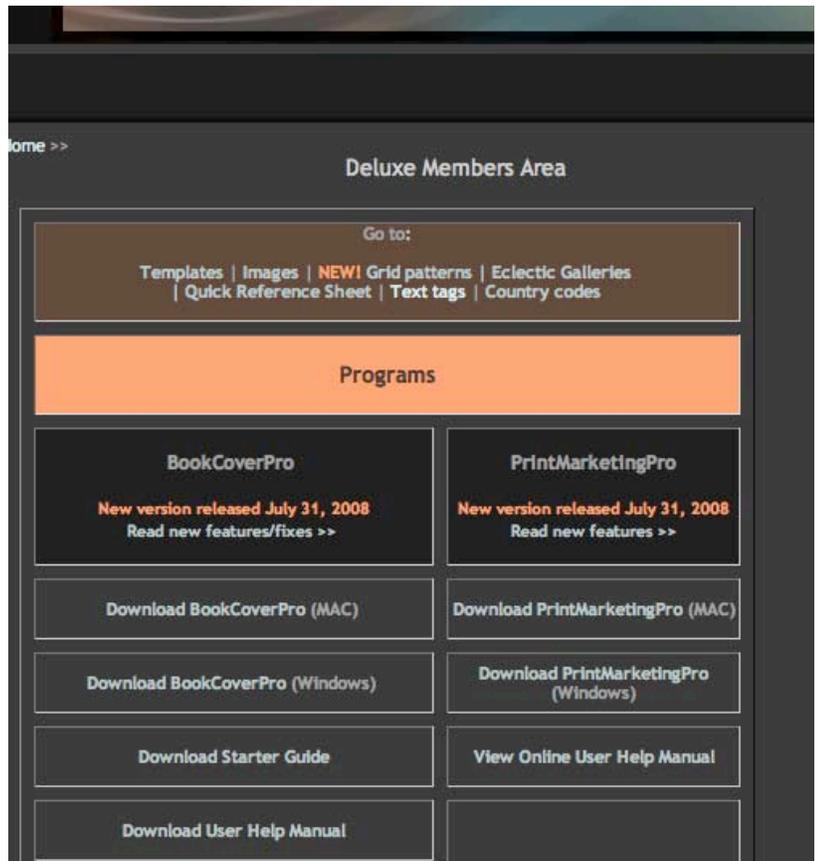
Installation

When you placed the order for BookCoverPro, you should have received a confirmation email containing your special login code.

To install BookCoverPro as an instant download:

Go to the Member Login: <http://www.bookcoverpro.com/login.html>. You will see three links: **Deluxe Login**, **Standard Login**, and **PMP (PrintMarketingPro) Login**.

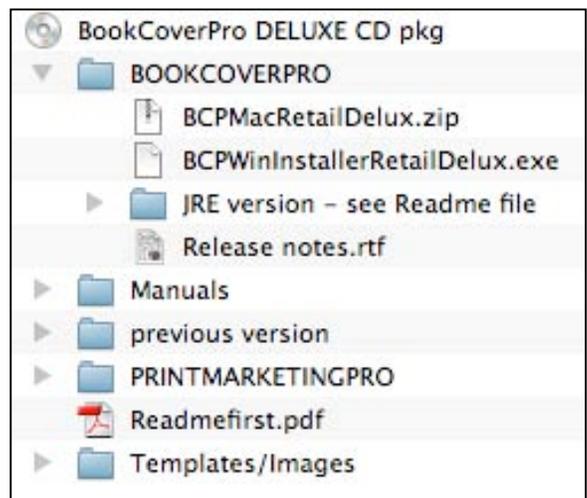
Click the appropriate link and enter your login in the pop-up window. This will take you to our member downloads page.



To install BookCoverPro on CD:

On your CD, locate the **BookCoverPro** folder, then click on either: **BCPWinInstallerRetailDelux.exe** (PC version) or **BCPMacRetailDelux.zip** (Mac version). You will also see other folders and files containing the manuals, PrintMarketingPro program (deluxe version), Templates/Images, and notes.

Our **JRE version** is the same program, only coded to override certain java-based conflicts on a few systems.



An overview of the program

When you launch BookCoverPro you will see a toolbar window like shown (This is shown in Macintosh, Windows will appear slightly different.) Above you will see the menu bar. When you select to create a new cover, or open an existing cover or template, another window will appear, which is the preview canvas. The toolbar window can be moved around anywhere on your screen. Having separate windows allows for maximum viewing of the preview canvas.

Creating a cover from scratch:

Select **Menu>New** to begin a new cover. You will see a new window appear that will allow you to type in the specifications of your cover.



Cover Specifications:

Height: The vertical book dimension.

Total Width: The horizontal book dimension (FRONT + BACK). Do not include the spine width this measurement. For example: A 6 x 9 book would have 9 in the Height field, and 12 in the Total Width field (6+6). If entering flaps for a book jacket, the dimension would be FRONT+BACK+LEFT FLAP+RIGHT FLAP. So a 6x9 book with 3.5" flaps would have a total width of 6+6+3.5+3.5, or 19. You will also enter the flap size in the **Flaps** section.

Set your measurement in either inches (IN) or centimeters (CM).

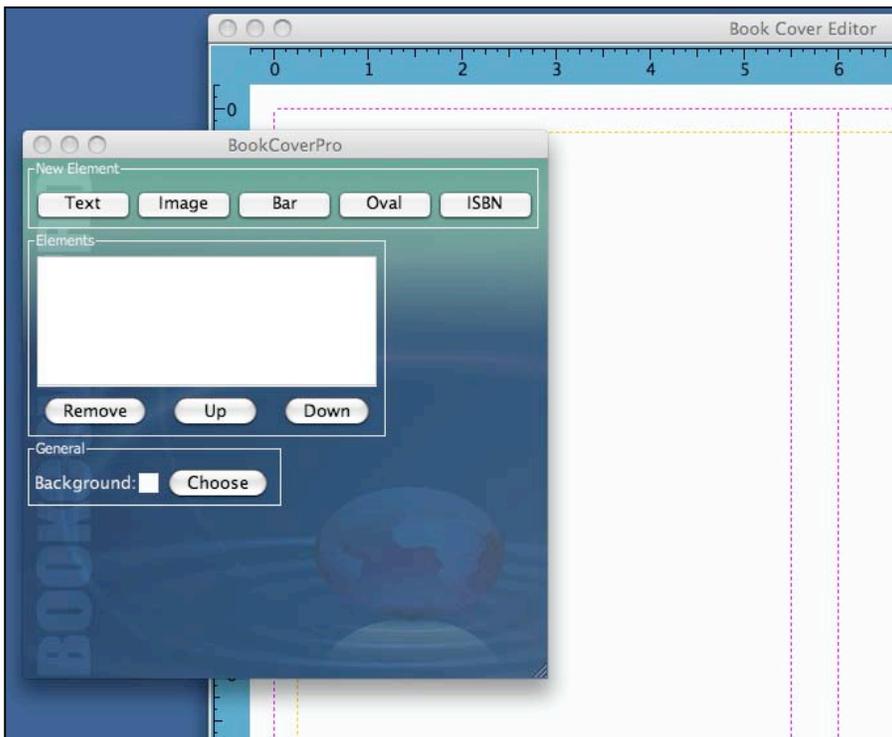
Spine: Enter your actual spine width (in decimals) in **Size**. If width is not known, Enter your total page count in **Pages**. BookCoverPro will generate the spine width according to industry standards.

Flaps: The desired size of your flaps if designing a book jacket or hard cover with wraparounds. This size is also determined by your printer. Include this size in your **Total width** (see above), plus enter here to set guide marks for the flaps.

Bleed Area: The bleed, or trim, area around the cover. Usually set at about .25 or .125, depending on your printer's specifications.

Color Mode: Choose either RGB (Red-Green-Blue) or CMYK (Cyan-Magenta-Yellow-Black) color scheme. Most printers prefer a CMYK scheme; however check with your printer to make sure.

Resolution: Select either 300 dpi or 600 dpi (dots per inch). Most printers prefer at least 300 dpi for best quality.



Click OK. Now you will see two windows: **The toolbar window** and **the preview canvas**.

The **toolbar window** contains all the tools necessary for creating your book cover, including an elements window

that displays all the layered elements of your cover. This window will change its contents and display according to what layer you have selected.

The **preview canvas** is your actual book cover at work, set to your specs. You will see some basic guides: A ruler around the canvas displaying in the selected measurement, the spine area, and two dotted borders around the canvas.

The outer border is your trim area, set to your specs;
The inner border is the "safe area" set in 1/4" from the trim area in which to safely place your elements.

Note: You can always go back to Cover>Properties anytime during the course of design to change any specs, including your color mode and resolution.

The Toolbar

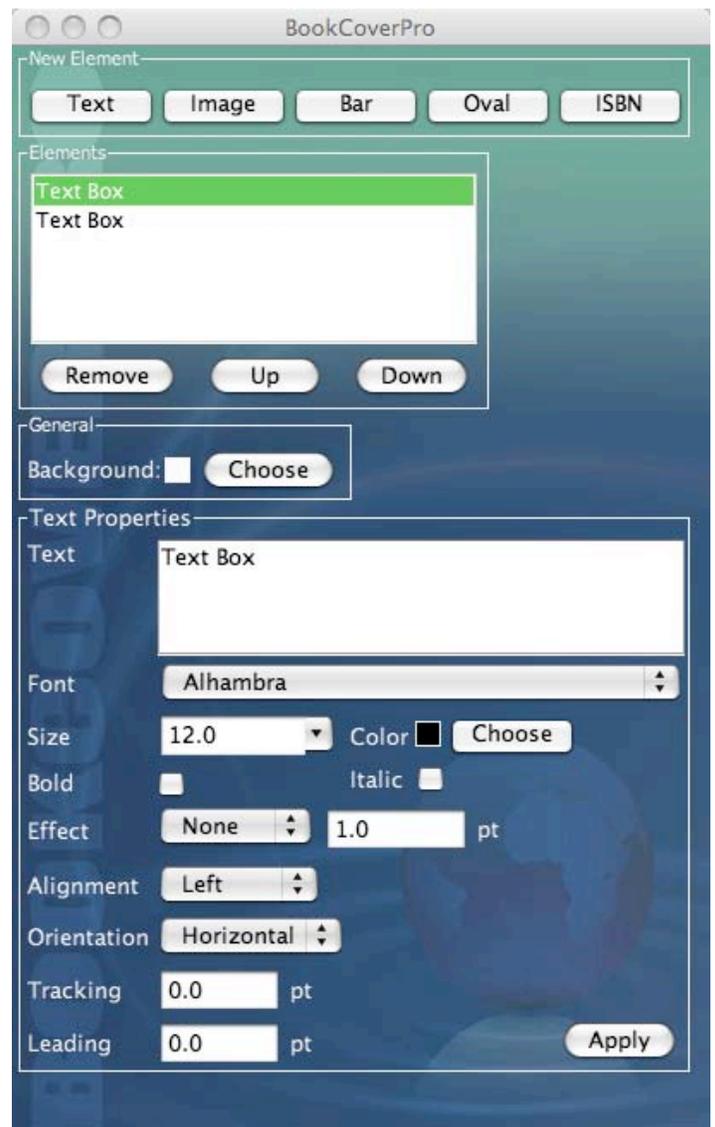
You will see five buttons at the top: **Text**, **Image**, **Bar**, **Oval**, and **ISBN**. Below the Elements box are **Remove**, **Up**, and **Down**, and a **Background** color chooser. When a certain element button is selected, the toolbar changes information below to reflect that element.

Here we will explain what each button means and how to utilize them.

Text:

When **Text** is chosen, the toolbar window changes to show the text properties. An automatic text box appears in your preview canvas with the phrase "Text Box", and a new text layer appears in the Elements box.

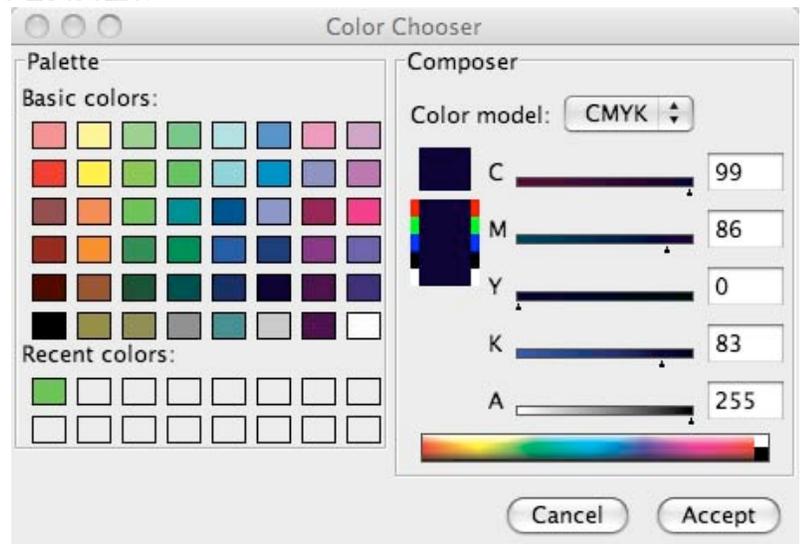
To edit your text, click in the Text Properties box and type in, or copy and



paste in from another program. You will see many different ways to style your text:

- **Font:** Choose a desired font from the list. BookCoverPro supports the fonts already installed in your system.
- **Size:** Click on the down arrow to select a predetermined size, or click inside the size window to type in a size.

- **Color:** Click on the Choose button to select a color from the color chart (shown). Choose a **Color model**, and select a color from the **Basic** color chart or create one of your own with the sliders. The “A” slider at the bottom is the alpha slider for making a color more transparent. Click **Accept**.



- **Bold:** Will create a faux bold style (if your font supports this).
- **Italic:** Creates a faux italic (again, if supported by your font).
- **Effect:** Choose either Outline or Shadow, and customize the thickness in points.
- **Alignment:** Set your type to flush left, flush right, centered, or justified. Justified is having straight edges of text on both left and right.
- **Orientation:** Set your type to read Horizontally or Vertically. Vertical is ideal for spine text.
- **Tracking:** Set the spacing between letters.
- **Leading:** Set the spacing between lines of text.

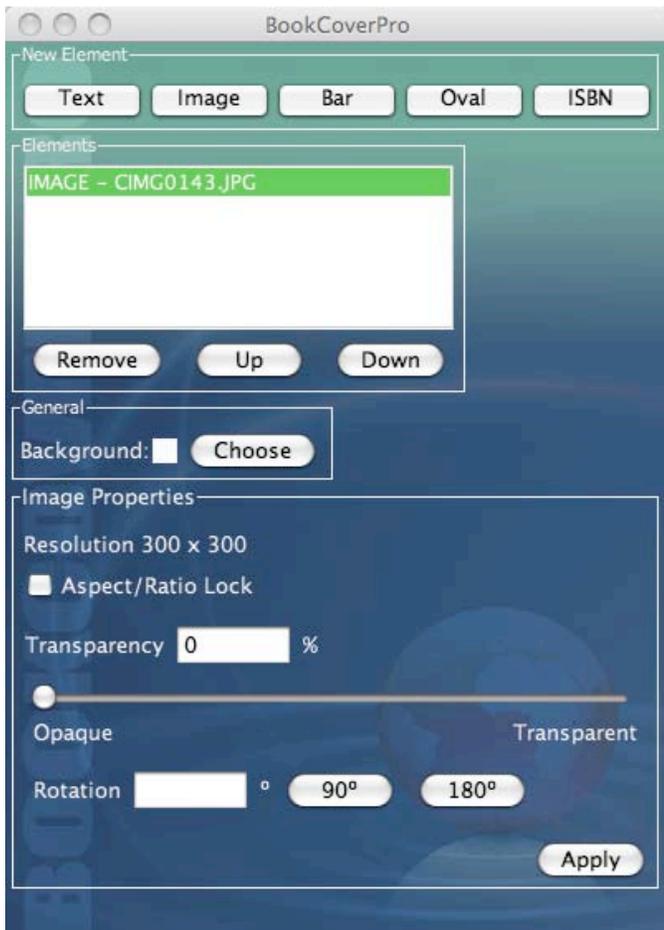
Text tags: You can apply special tags to your text to perform different functions. This is great for acknowledging titles, testimonials, bulleted items, or emphasizing certain phrases without having to create and place another text box.

Tag commands:

- **[b]text in bold[/b]**
- **[i]text in italic[/i]**
- **[indent 20]** text indented 20 points
(apply any amount)
- **[typesize 20]some text of size 20[/typesize]**
(apply any size)

You can also apply two tags to one text, for example: **[b][i]text in bold and italic[/i][/b]**

Or, overlap two tags: [b] text in bold [i]and italic[/b]but this text is just italic. [/i]



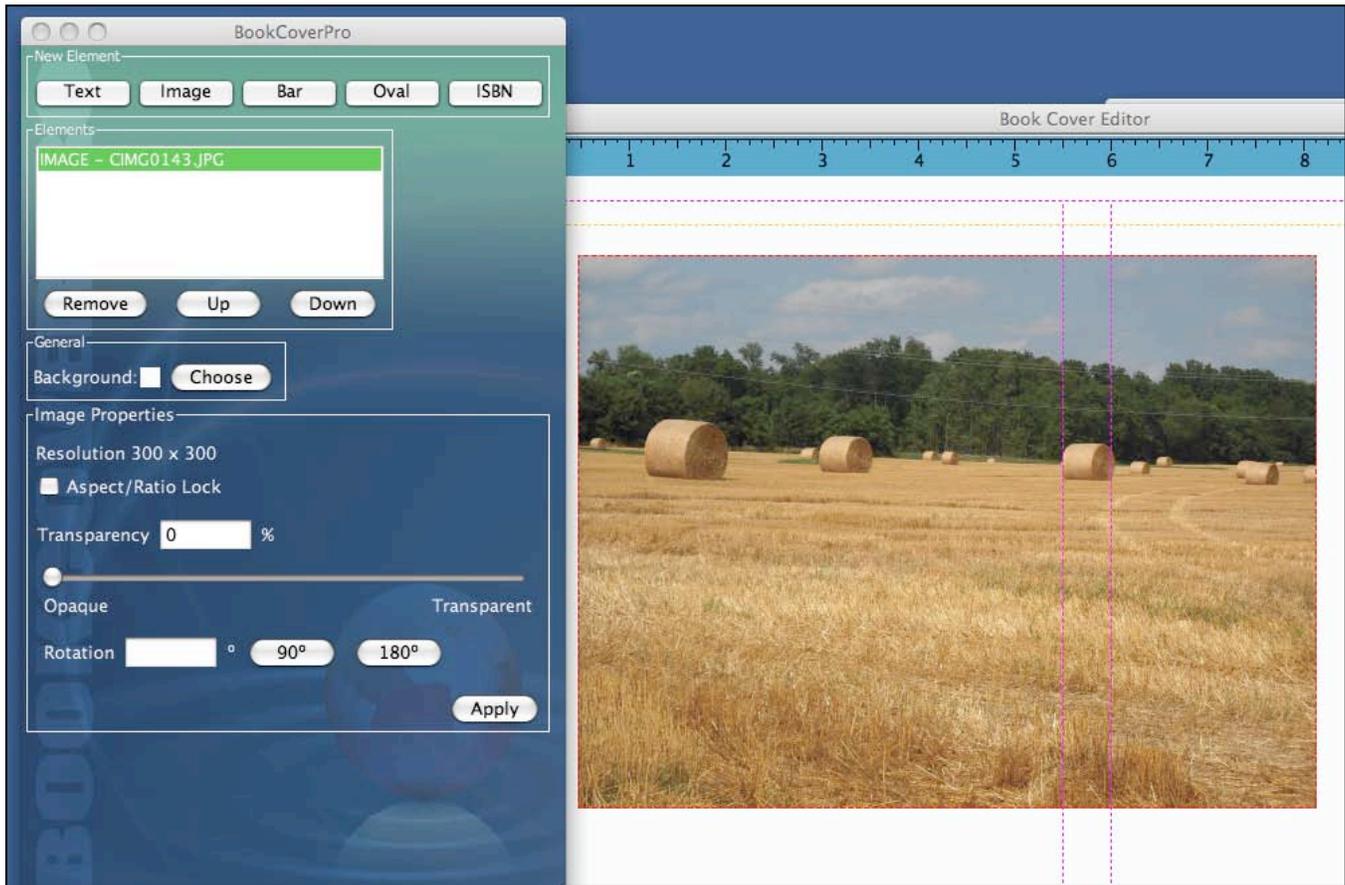
Images:

When you select the image button, the file browser pops up to let you locate an image to import. BookCoverPro supports these image formats:

TIFF
PNG
GIF
JPEG
BMP

The image imported should be at least 300 dpi -- or 600 dpi if you have chosen that resolution for your design.

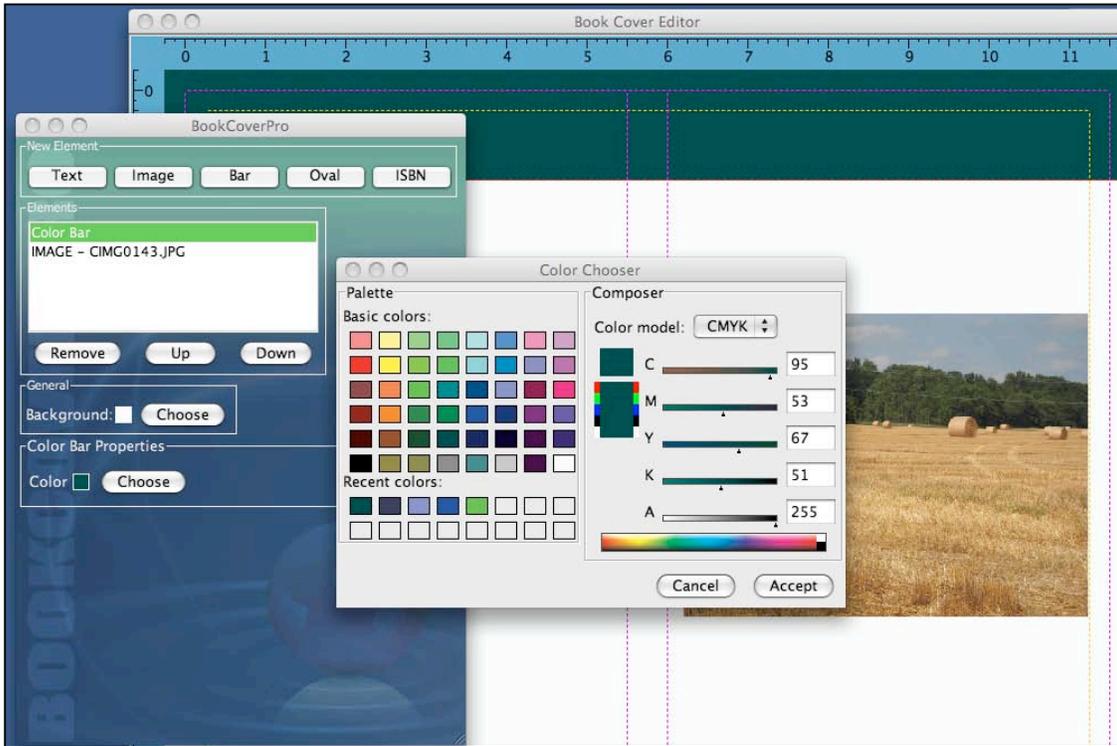
Anything in a lower resolution will appear tiny. Tiny images that are enlarged will be very pixilated, or blurry, and will not be of good quality. Keep in mind that images extracted from the web (not including downloaded stock images) are normally 72 dpi.



Recommended: Images that are downloaded from an online photo/images stock gallery such [iStockphoto.com](https://www.istockphoto.com).

When you see the image pop up in the preview canvas, you will have a good amount of control of how this is displayed.

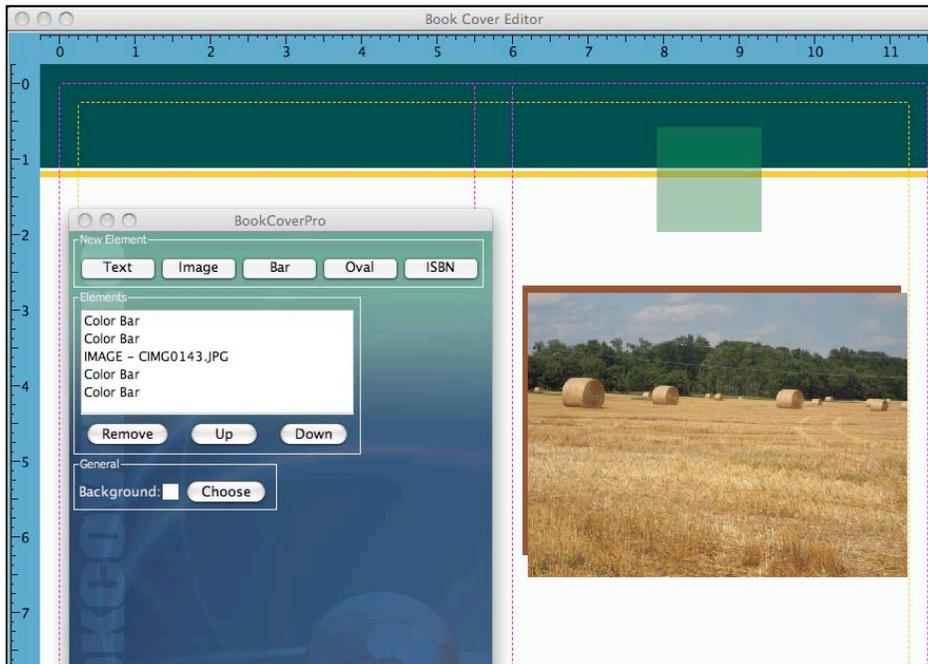
- In **Image Properties**, there are several selectors. The image is automatically set to a 300 dpi (or 600 dpi) resolution. So as mentioned above, if your image is lower than 300 dpi, it will be reduced in size to equal 300 dpi.
- Selecting **Aspect/Ratio Lock** locks in, or retains, the relative H/W ratio of your image as you resize.
- The **Transparency** slider allows you to customize how transparent the image appears in the cover, or you can type in a percentage above.
- Type in a **Rotation** degree, or click the 90° / 180° to rotate your image accordingly.



Bar:

Selecting **Bar** creates a square box or “bar” of color that can be changed in color and size to fit as desired. Bars are ideal for visually setting off an area for focus; for example, a

bar at the top of the cover to emphasize a testimonial, award, or endorsement; or an author’s name. It is also used to provide a “shadow effect” behind images, and to overlay elements as a semi-transparency to provide an interesting effect (see image below). Here are a few more ideas:



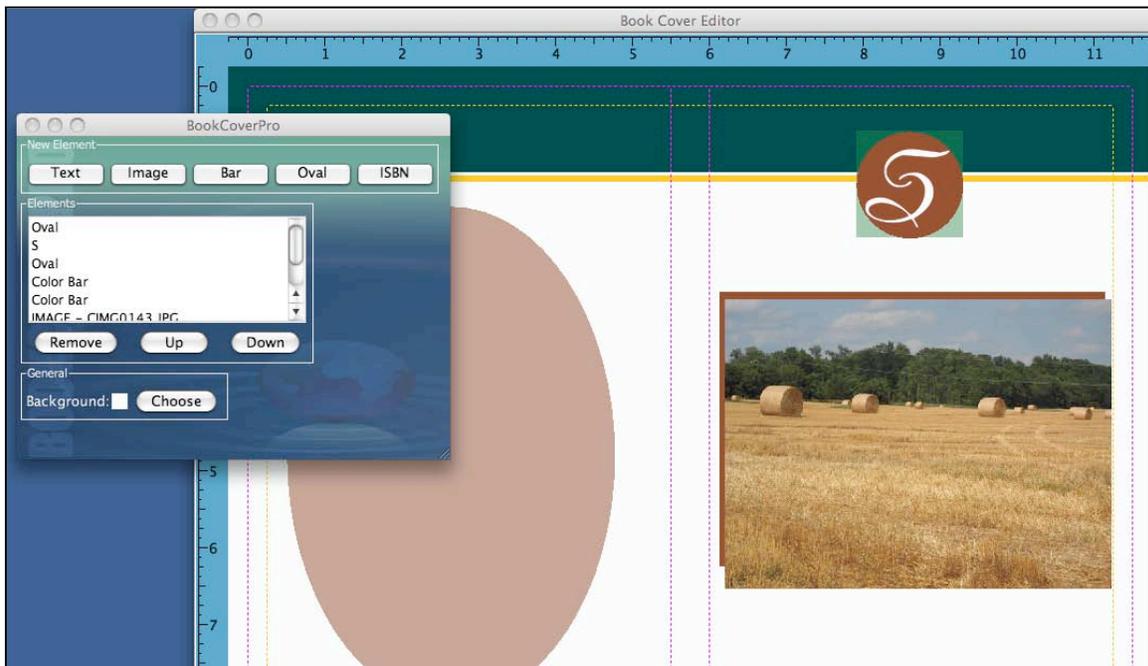
- A splash of background color;
- Title/header bars where you can place eye-catching copy;
- An embellishment resized in the form of lines or thin bars.

Select **Bar**, then click the **Choose** button in Color Bar Properties. As shown

earlier in text, you will be able to choose a desired color, model, and alpha transparency. Click **Accept**; click in the color bar to resize or move.

Oval:

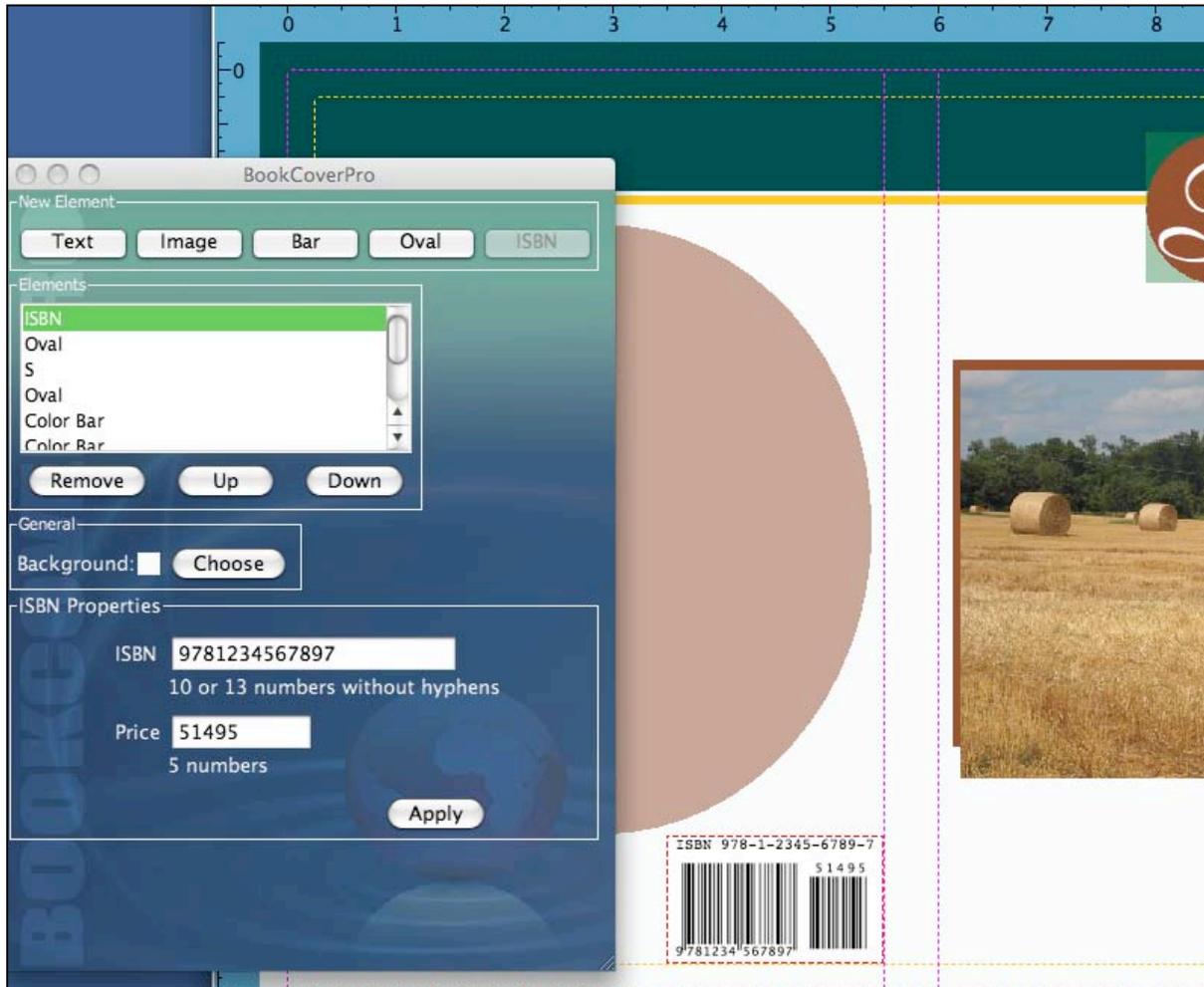
Similar to *Bar*, selecting **Oval** from the menu (a newer feature) creates an oval of color that can be manipulated the same way. The only extra feature about Ovals is it has a checkbox to constrain it to a circle. Ovals are ideal using the ways shown below: Used as a focal point for a crest, as embellishments to decorate, or it can be used to set off text.



ISBN:

A really great feature of BookCoverPro is being able to easily generate and integrate your own industry standard ISBN-13 barcode right into the cover.

Click the **ISBN** button.



In the ISBN Properties box, enter your 10 or 13 digit ISBN, no dashes. For example: If your ISBN is 1-234567-89-7, enter 1234567897 or 9781234567897.

In the Price area, enter a five-digit number, no signs or decimals. For example, \$14.95 would be entered as 51495.

The first number represents the country code; so a 5 typed before the price indicates \$USD. If there isn't a price—or if you prefer not to include a price, enter 90000, which is standard code for no price.

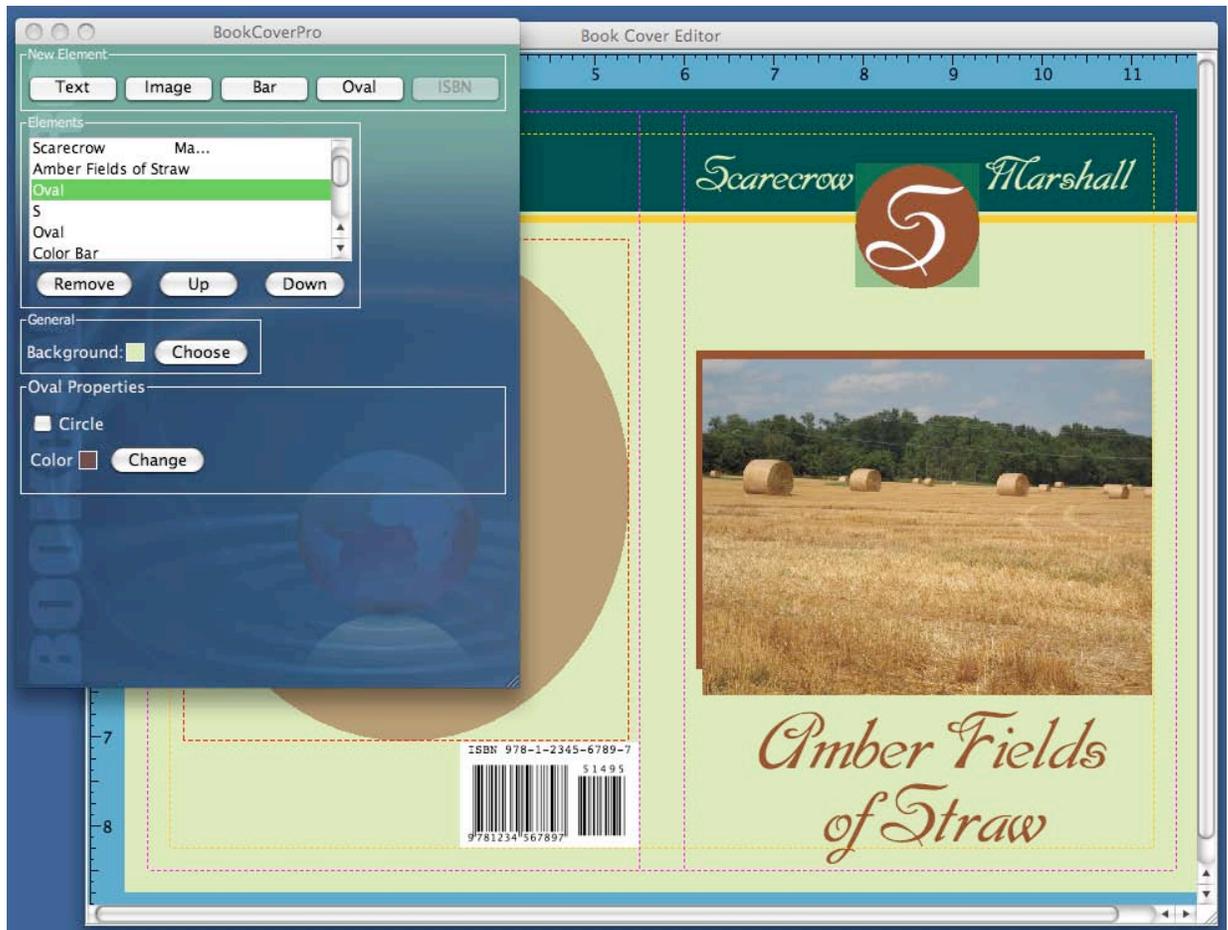
See the member's page for more country codes.

Click **Apply**, and the high-resolution barcode is instantly generated to your cover.

Remove, Up, Down

These three buttons adjust your element layer order. To remove, select an element from the list and click Remove. To move elements up or down, select an element and click on the Up/Down button. This moves the element one level at a time.

Background



The background color can be set by clicking the Background **Choose** button and selecting a desired color.

Alpha transparency will not work for the background; however other transparency bars can be placed on top.

The Menu

Let's review the menu bar titles and commands listed under each one.

Menu • Cover • Help

Menu

New: This opens a window where you can set your specifications for a new cover, created from scratch.

Open: Select this to browse and open an existing cover design.

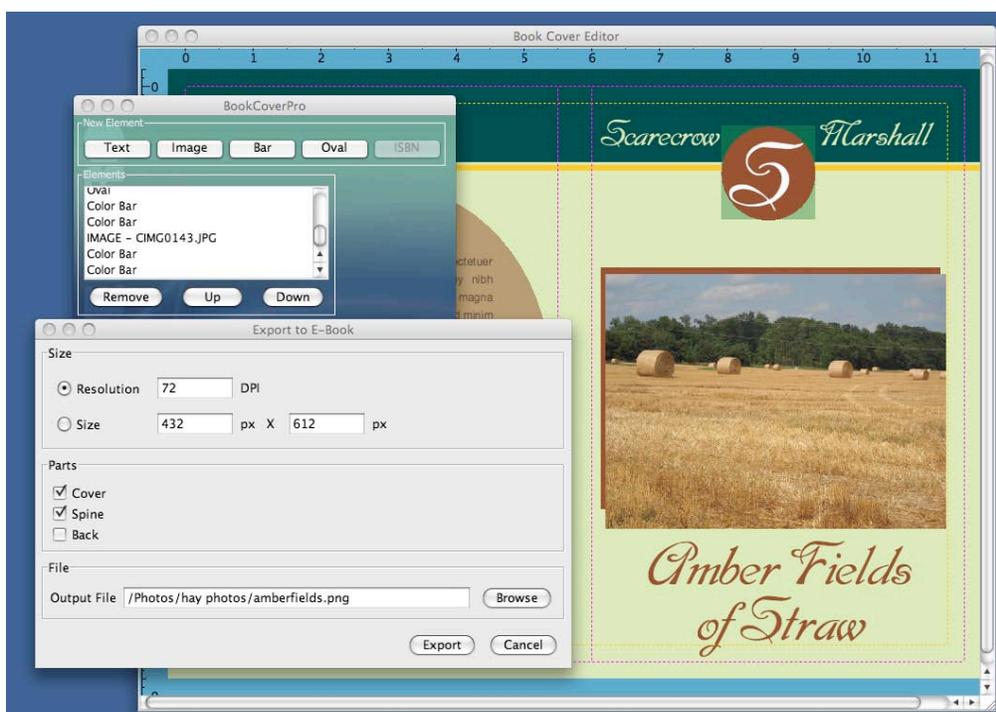
Close: Closes the program.

Save: This saves your program in the native .bcv format. We recommend saving your file several times while you create your cover, and save your finished file before generating to another format.

Save As... : Same as above.

Export to E-Book: This is a new feature that allows you to generate a 2D eBook cover from your finished file. Customize the resolution, size, and the

view; either front, back, spine, or a combination of the three, and select to save your eBook cover in JPEG or PNG format. See image below.



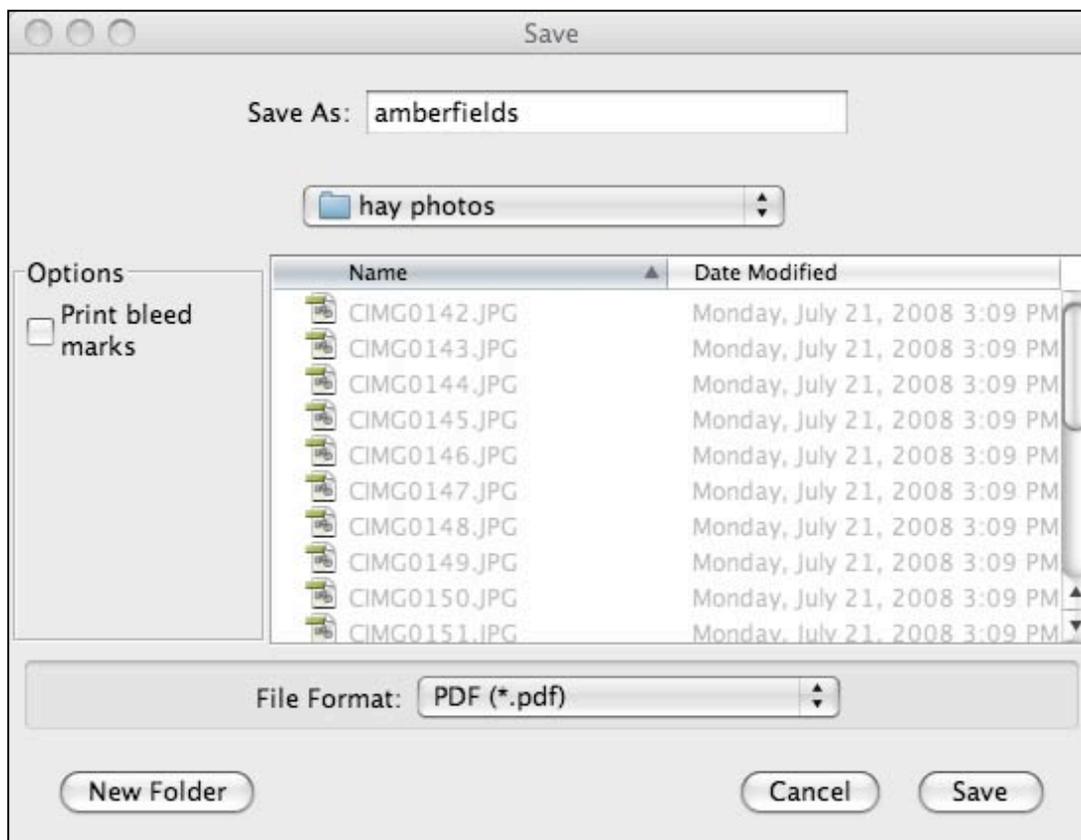
Open Template...: Select this to browse and open a template (.bct) file.

Exit: Exits, or quits the program.

Cover

Properties: This is the window that appears when you select a New cover, which contains the size, resolution, and other specifications (For the full list, refer to [Color Specifications](#) in this guide). To change your cover's specs at any time during creation, select **Properties** and change as desired.

Generate As: This is used when you have finished and saved your cover design. *See image below.* Choose where to save your file, and you can choose the option to include bleed (crop) marks on the corners. Depending on which mode – RGB or CMYK – your cover is in, you have a choice to generate your file in PDF, TIFF, PNG, or JPEG.



Undo: If you make a mistake, select this command to undo the previous move. Keep selecting Undo to remove previous steps.

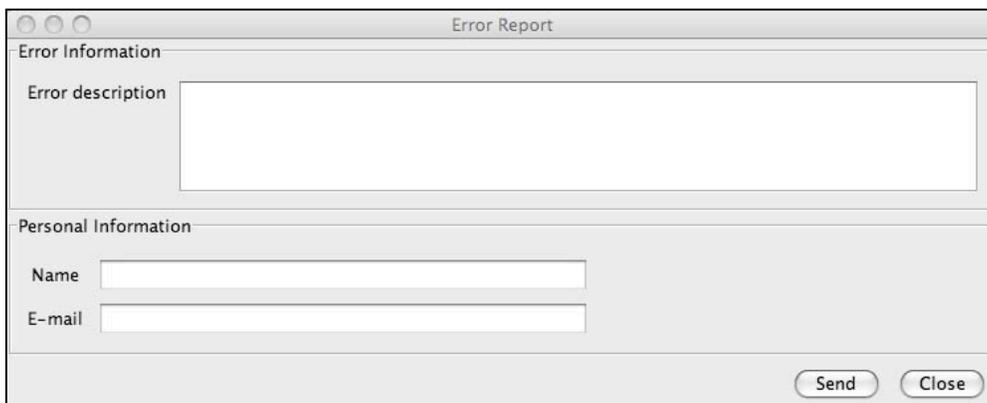
Help

Help: Select this to download the latest *User Guide*.

Update: Checks for the latest program updates. Check the box in the window to automatically check on startup.

License: This reveals your license information – either standard or deluxe version.

Report an Error: This is used whenever you would experience an error



in execution see *image*.

Fill this out and be as descriptive as possible. This goes directly to our development team and contains pertinent information about

your program and your computer's encoding. If there is a conflict, our team will fix the issue and email you with a new update.

About: This provides information about the version you have, penalties for unauthorized distribution or reproduction, and third party libraries.

The Galleries

We have an abundant and growing collection of image and template galleries, all included with the deluxe package. Let's review each one.

Templates • Backgrounds • Patterns • Bars & Boxes • Flourishes • Grunge

Templates

As of this writing, we have about 49 templates. These are all designed by a professional book cover designer and converted into our special .bct format. The entire templates library is located through the deluxe member's page, as a separate page containing all the template images and download links. When you download the templates from the member's page, they will be zipped folders. Unzip, or uncompress the folders, and the .bct file is inside. Select **Menu>Open Template**, and choose your desired template. Depending on the size, it may take a



minute or so to open. You may also see a fonts pop up window asking to replace certain fonts. This happens if your system fonts are not the same as the template fonts. Select a desired font and click OK. You can always change them later. Our templates are permitted for modifying and unlimited usage in your book cover designs.

Note – Currently BookCoverPro does not support double-clicking on a template file to open. You will need to launch BookCoverPro, then select **Menu>Open Template** to open. We hope to have this support in the next update.

Backgrounds

We have about 150 different images that are ideal for backgrounds and for embellishments on your cover design. All of these images are royalty free and permitted for use in your book cover design and promotional design through

PrintMarketingPro. All of our images are 300 dpi and at least large enough to fit on a standard 6x9 cover. Some images will cover a back/spine/front spread.



This gallery is included in both standard and deluxe versions of BookCoverPro.

To use, go to the member's page and click on **View/Download Images**. This will take you to a separate page containing links and images to all the files. These are zipped files, so they will need to be uncompressed before using. To import an image, select the Image button in the BookCoverPro toolbar, then browse to choose a desired image. Depending on the size, allow a little time to load.

Eclectic Galleries



Earlier this year, and because we listen and respond to our customers' wishes, we added four new galleries -- available to our deluxe users:

Patterns • Bars & Boxes • Flourishes • Grunge

These have proven to be a huge hit as they provide a new dimension to traditional cover design.

Slideshow tutorials and screenshots for each one of these galleries can be viewed

by going to

<http://www.bookcoverpro.com/eclectic.html>

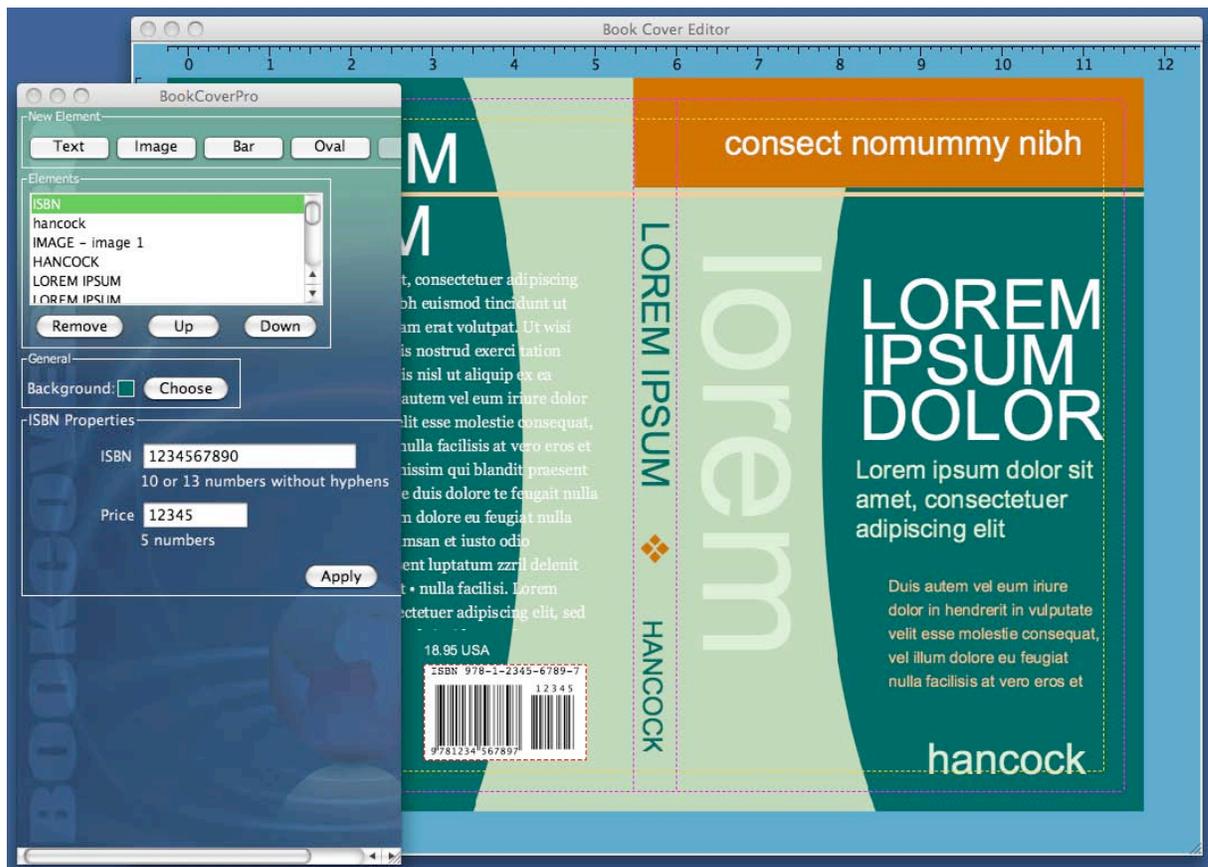
and clicking on the desired gallery. Each gallery is set up in the same manner as the background images; simply download your image of choice, unzip, and import to your book cover by selecting the **Image** button.

The Goodies

Working with Templates

Our templates are very popular – not only for our volume publishers and self publishers, but also with graphic designers. Contrary to popular assumption, no two covers will ever look the same with our templates – because there are too many variables to consider. These are meant to simply provide a jump start to your design. Whether you want a pre-loaded canvas from which to work, or are in a time crunch, templates will get the creative juices flowing. Let's get started!

1. Download a template from the member's area where it says **View/Download BookCoverPro Templates.**
2. Unzip, or uncompress your template using Winzip, Stuffit Expander, etc.
3. Launch BookCoverPro.
4. Select **Menu>Open Template.** Browse and select the .bct template file.



Depending on size, allow a minute or so to open on your screen.

During the opening process, a pop-up window may appear indicating that a font is not available. This means that your computer's fonts differ from the fonts on the template. Simply select a font from your file, and click OK. The fonts can be changed at any time as you edit the template.

Most templates are created as standard 5.5x11 or 6x9, 300 dpi, RGB mode files, with a .5 spine width.

To change the size or any other specs of your template, go to **Cover>Properties** and modify as desired.

You can add, remove, or move layers as needed.

To import an image, select the **Images** button.

Replace the ISBN barcode with your own information by selecting the **ISBN** button.

The images in every template can be used in other BookCoverPro template or custom cover. Here's how: Either download the images from our members page where it says **Download the separate images from our templates**; or, with any template file, change the extension ".bct" to ".zip", then unzip the file. This turns the template into a folder that contains all the image files.

BCP's New features: Explained

Our newest version released July 31 includes several new features that we think you will enjoy.

- A progress bar that shows during an execution (saving, importing, opening, etc.)
- Support to rotate images -- 90/180/arbitrary
- CMYK to RGB/RGB to CMYK platform switching – now the color mode can be changed anytime during the process of design
- Ability to create colored circles/ovals of color
- Grouping elements together to move and remove in unison:
How to (Same for Mac & Windows): Control-click multiple elements in the

preview canvas, move. You can also move them up/down or remove in the toolbar elements box.

- Copying elements (using control-c control-v)
How to (Same for Mac & Windows): Click an element on the preview canvas, Control-C to copy, Control-V to paste.
- Customize and automatically generate an eBook cover (eCover) image (see **Export to E-Book**)

And Modifications / Bug fixes:

- Corrected issue with barcode image cutting off bottom numbers
- PDF conversion bug fixed
- Spine width in cm correction

Helpful Tips

To move an element (text, images, bar, barcode)

Click anywhere inside the element on your preview screen, (or click on the element in the **Elements** box), and drag to the desired location.

To resize an element

Click just inside the lower right corner of your element; drag out or in. Select the **Aspect/Ratio Lock** to maintain relative size as you resize.

To adjust the layer order of elements

Select an element and click on the **Up** or **Down** button.

To remove an element

Select that element in the box and click the **Remove** button.

Resources

Here are a few of our favorite resources:

- Free font downloads: <http://www.1001freefonts.com/>
- Low cost, high resolution stock photos and images: <http://www.istockphoto.com/>
- Need a helping hand with your cover design? We provide customized book cover design done by our very own professional team, and at a competitive cost. Designed for you in BookCoverPro. Contact us at: info@bookcoverpro.com

Quick Reference:

Height: The vertical book dimension

Total Width: The horizontal book dimension (FRONT + BACK). Do not include the spine width this measurement. If working with a book jacket with flaps, include the flap width (FRONT + BACK + BOTH FLAPS).

Spine: Enter your actual spine width (in decimals) in Size. If width is not known, Enter your total page count in Pages. BookCoverPro will generate the spine width according to industry standards.

For example: A 6 x 9 book would have 9 in the Height field, and 12 in the Total Width field (6+6).

Set your measurement in either inches (IN) or centimeters (CM).

Flaps: The desired size of your flaps if designing a book jacket or hard cover with wraparounds. Include this size of both flaps into the Total width as well.

Printer Trim Size: The bleed area around the cover. Usually set at about .25 or .125, depending on your printer's specifications.

Color Mode: Choose either RGB (Red-Green-Blue) or CMYK (Cyan-Magenta-Yellow-Black) color scheme. Most printers prefer a CMYK scheme; however check with your printer to make sure.

Resolution: Select either 300 dpi or 600 dpi.

To move an image or element: Click anywhere inside the element on your preview screen, (or click on the element in the Elements box), and drag to the desired location.

To resize an image or element: Click just inside the lower right corner of your element; drag out or in. Select the Aspect/Ratio Lock to maintain relative size as you resize.

To adjust the layer order of elements: select an element and click on the Up or Down button.

To remove an element: select that element in the box and click the Remove button.

Alignment sets your text as flush left, flush right, centered, or justified (flush left and right).

Orientation sets the text in horizontal or vertical format.

Tracking is the space between letters;

Leading is the space between lines.

How to move very thin bars, or lines:

Single-click inside the line so the dotted line around is green, then you can move it without resizing.

How to apply tags for certain styles:

[b]text in bold[/b]

[i]text in italic[/i]

[indent 20]text indented 20 points (or any range)

[typesize 20]some text of size 20 (or any size)[/typesize]

You can also apply two tags to one text, for example: [b][i]text in bold and italic[/i][b] Or, overlap two tags: [b] text in bold [i]and italic[/b]but this text is just italic. [/i]

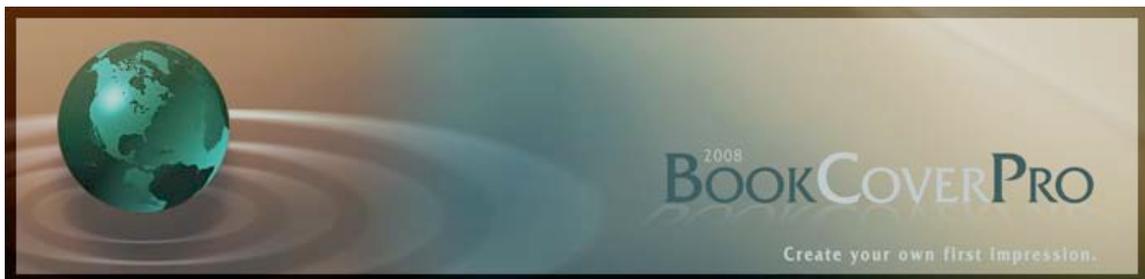
Country Codes for ISBN price:

5= USD

More country codes can be found on the member's page.

Our FAQ's are found on the member's page.

Questions? Feel free to contact us anytime at info@bookcoverpro.com



© 2008 BookCoverPro. All rights reserved.