



How to create a cutter guide

If your print job has a special shape, such as a folder or brochure with a pocket, pop-up card, Maltese Cross leaflet or a die cut mailer, you will need to supply us with a cutter guide. It is important that this is set up properly so that the final job is cut and folded correctly.

You can supply it as a separate PDF or incorporated into the actual design. Either way, it is best to make the edges of the cutter line a solid spot colour at 0.5pts and any folds as a dotted line also at 0.5pts and in the spot colour (see the example below). We advise you rename the spot colour Cutter Guide. In addition to this, you would need to make sure the guide overprints the artwork below so the artwork below is not knocked out when printing.

If possible it is always best to have one straight edge on your design, which is used to hold the shape in the material during processing; where this is not possible, small ties (small breaks in the knife) will need to be created to do this, which may result in small imperfections in the final shape (ask us for samples to show what this looks like).

The die-cutting is usually done from the front as this gives a much cleaner edge. Therefore, it is best to always design your cutter when looking at the design from the front.

We have a library of templates for various cutter guides that have been used previously that may have the shape you need.

Should you require any help with creating your cutter guide, just contact us and we will be able to advise you.

