kdpcover: LaTeX 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 LaTeX document look like:


```
1  \documentclass[pages=200,6x9]{kdpcover}
2  \begin{document}
3  \putSpine{kdpcover, a LaTeX class for KDP books}
4  \putVolume{1}
5  \putVersion{0.5.1}
6  \putPrice{\$0.00}
7  \putCopyright{\the\year}{Yegor Bugayenko}
8  \putTitle{kdpcover}
9  \putAuthor{Yegor Bugayenko}
10 \putTLDR{This book will tell you
11    an interesting story!}
12 \putPicture{cactus.pdf}
13 \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 LaTeX 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}`

---

*The sources are in GitHub at yegor256/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):

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

6x9 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\kdpxsize{8.1in}
\setlength\kdpysize{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.

\putTitle This one prints the title of the book

\putAuthor This one prints the author.

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

\putPicture 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 load our parent class:

```
1 \LoadClass{article}
```

Then, we define a few internal commands:

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

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

```
9 \RequirePackage{iexec}
```

Then, we parse class options:

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

Then, we include a few useful packages:

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

Then, we set spacing using `setspace`:

```
36 \RequirePackage{setspace}
37   \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.

```
38 \makeatletter
39   \newlength\kdp@height
```

```
40  \setlength\kdp@height{0.125in + \kdp@ysize + 0.125in}
41  \newlength\kdp@width
42  \setlength\kdp@width{
43    0.125in + \kdp@xsize
44    + 0.0025in * \kdp@pages
45    + \kdp@xsize + 0.125in}
46  \makeatother
```

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

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

Then, we set coordinates using textpos:

```
52  \RequirePackage[absolute]{textpos}
53  \TPGrid{16}{16}
```

\putSpine   Then, we define \putSpine:

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

\putPicture   Then, we define \putPicture:

```
76  \newcommand\putPicture[1]{%
77    \begin{textblock}{4}(10,2)%
78      \includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{#1}
79    \end{textblock}%
80  }
```

\putVolume   Then, we define \putVolume:

```
81  \newcommand\putVolume[1]{%
82    \begin{textblock}{2}[1,1](15,14)%
83      \raggedleft
```

4

```
84      \includegraphics[height=0.4in]{kdpcover-vol-#1}
85    \end{textblock}%
86 }
```

\putPrice   Then, we define \putPrice:

```
87 \newcommand\putPrice[1]{%
88    \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](1,2)%
89      \small #1
90    \end{textblock}%
91 }
```

\putBack   Then, we define \putBack:

```
92 \newcommand\putBack[1]{%
93    \begin{textblock}{5}[0,0](1,3)%
94      \small #1
95    \end{textblock}%
96 }
```

\putTitle   Then, we define \putTitle:

```
97 \newcommand\putTitle[1]{%
98    \begin{textblock}{5}(10,9)%
99      \fontsize{32}{32}\selectfont #1
100    \end{textblock}%
101 }
```

\putAuthor   Then, we define \putAuthor:

```
102 \newcommand\putAuthor[1]{%
103    \begin{textblock}{4}(10,10)%
104      \large by #1
105    \end{textblock}%
106 }
```

\putTLDR   Then, we define \putTLDR:

```
107 \newcommand\putTLDR[1]{%
108    \begin{textblock}{5}(10,11)%
109      TL;DR #1
110    \end{textblock}%
111 }
```

\putVersion   Then, we define \putVersion:

```
112 \newcommand\putVersion[1]{%
113    \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](10,14)%
114      #1
115      \IfFileExists{.git}
116        {\quad\iexec{git log -n 1 --pretty='format:\%ad' --date='format:\%e-\%b-\%Y'}}
117        {}
118    \end{textblock}%
119 }
```

\putCopyright   Then, we define \putCopyright:

```
120 \newcommand\putCopyright[2]{%
121    \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](1,14)%
122      \small (c)
```

```
123      #1 #2
124    \end{textblock}%
125 }
```

Finally, a few layout instructions:

```
126 \AtBeginDocument{%
127    \ttfamily%
128    \raggedright%
129    \setlength\parindent{0pt}%
130    \setlength\parskip{0pt}%
131    \interfootnotelinepenalty=10000%
132 }
```

Change History

Index

Numbers written in italic refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.