

CREATING YOUR SHUTTERFLY 8x8 or 12x12 PHOTO BOOK

After spending some time working with a Shutterfly representative, I have put together information that should help you create some fabulous Shutterfly photo books! This is an ongoing process and from our discussions, I have learned that there are plans to implement even more cool things that will make us digital scrappers happy!

[Create your account with Shutterfly.](#)

Upload your photos to Shutterfly which will create an album for you. The default name will be the date but you can change it. You will later add these photos to the book that you create but it's just easier to get them all there at the beginning and ready for you.

When you start your book project, there will be tabs at the top -- Style, Page, Cover and Preview.

Style- determines what the area of your pages that might not be covered by photos/layout will look like (such as if you are adding photos only or photos and text)

Page - This is the one that determines whether your images will fill the page full bleed - meaning all the way to the edges. Make sure that you have added the images to your project so that they appear under the blank pages in the photo tray. As you use them, they will get a check mark on them. You can hide the ones you have already used.

The pages are preset so that users can just drop in photos when they aren't doing full page layouts like digital scrappers will use. You need to make the change to a "full page" to get rid of the presets. Above the pages, you will see a line of rectangles. Click on the 2nd set to get to the inside pages (page 2 and 3). The first page is your inside title page and it does not have a full bleed option at this time.

Click on the left page to select it. Then look over to the left side of the screen and click on the Layouts tab. Select the number 1. Once you are on this screen, scroll down to the 7th image on the right side. This is the full bleed option. Then double click on it and it should fill the page you had selected with a full page gray square.

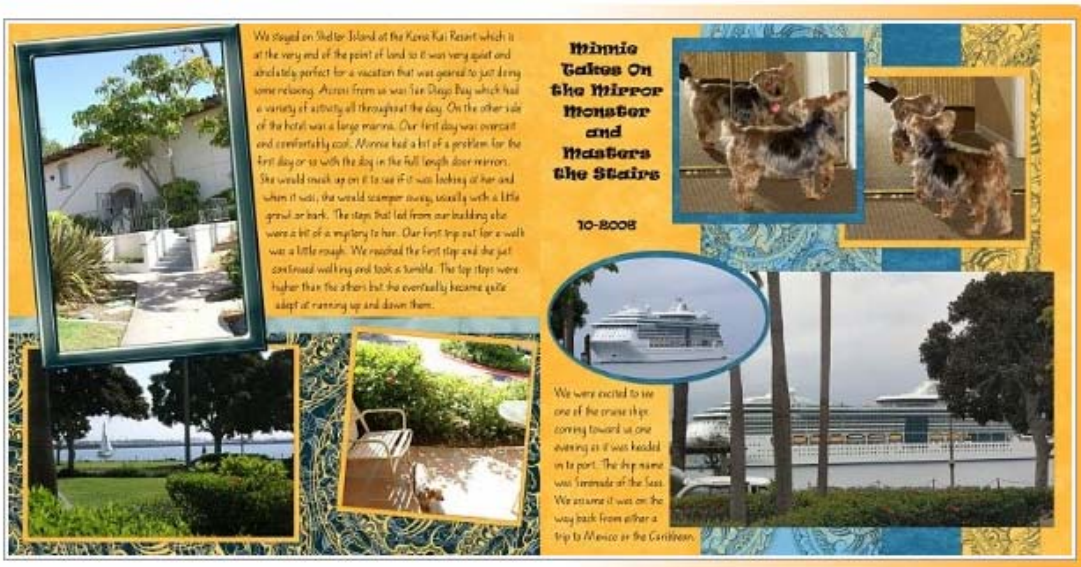
Once you have selected the full page option and you have confirmed that it works, if you want your entire book to be this same design, look back to the left side of the screen and under the layout choices, click "apply to all pages". Otherwise you will need to choose the layout for each individual page.

Assuming now that you have already uploaded your photos, go through the process to select the photos you want included in your book and they will be added to your photo choices that will appear under the blank pages in the photo tray. The photos may only show a portion of the image. Click on the image you want and just drag it up to the blank page above. You should now see the full image.

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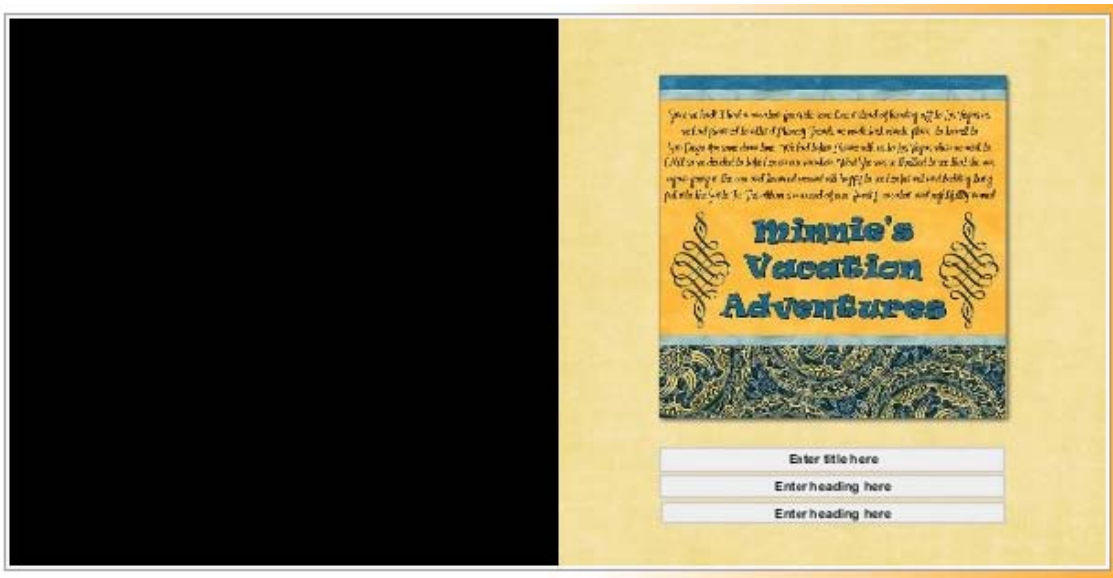
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It is advised that you allow a quarter inch area on each side that is free of essential design, photo or journaling to ensure that nothing vitally important to the layout is trimmed during the printing process or loss in the binding. Leave your layout sized at the full size though otherwise you will find that it tries to stretch to fill the area. Allow for trimming of up to ¼ inch on each side during the binding process. You can create a full sized blank canvas that you fill with a coordinating color or background and then place your layout that has been resized to ¼ inch smaller on all sides and this will assure that you have no edges lost in the binding or trimming process. Save this new file and upload it to ShutterFly for inclusion in your book.



Pages 2 and 3

The very first page of the book (the title or dedication page) doesn't have a full bleed option. Test to see which option fits your photo or layout the best.



Title Page - Full Bleed Not Yet Available

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Preview- Use this option to see how things will look in the printed form. If you need to make any adjustments in positioning, make the changes in your original image and reupload it and add it to the page. Preview again.

****Note: There is a known bug in the image edit process. If at any time, something happens to your image where it zooms out and you can't get it to go back, just remove that image and reinsert it into the page. They are working on correcting this.***** I do not know whether this bug is fixed at this time or not.

Now for those who want a full bleed cover.

Working with the dimensions given to me by the Shutterfly Product Marketing, John and I came up with a great workaround. The solution has been checked and approved so we can now share this information with you to help you get that full page cover look that we all would like to have!

Cover-Again, you will need to select the front and then the back cover and then select the full page option from the left. Select the background color. You will be covering this up with your image but I would select a background color just in case there is anything that doesn't line up perfectly just as insurance. Select your spine color. I would select the same color as your cover background. Add your title to the spine. ShutterFly now offers the option of creating a custom spine as well as the covers.

Now for the tricky part of getting a full bleed cover and this requires a bit of advanced preparation on your part.

Look for a moment at any hardbound book and notice that the cover extends over the sides of the edges, top and bottom. This turn area is critical and must be accounted for. The actual visible area of the cover (front and back) is 11.5" by 12" for the 12x12 book. The 8x8 book visible cover area is 7.5"x8". Crop or create your layout to this size specification for that area to show up on the cover. Now, if you were to create an image this size and try to upload it as the cover, the software is going to do some weird things with it. It is going to try to fill in that area that I mentioned that is the extended area that wraps around the book edges. You will probably find that suddenly your image gets much larger. This would be the way it would print then. Not exactly what you want of course.

To work around this, you will need to add your completed front/back cover to a canvas that takes in account the overlap area.

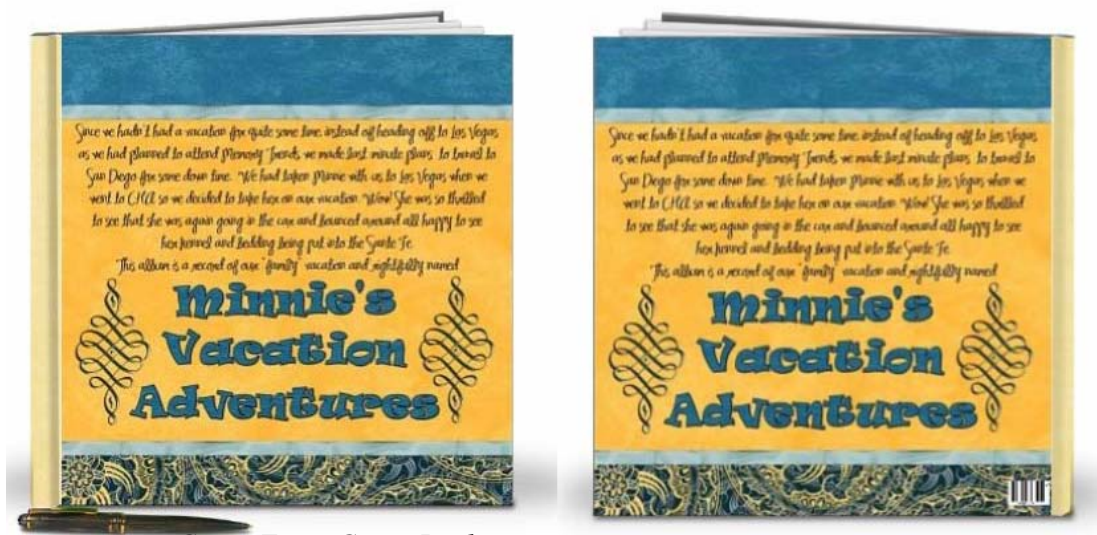
Create a blank canvas that is 12.35"w x 13.7"h for the 12x12 book. For the 8x8 book, create a blank canvas that is 8.35"w x 9.7"h. Add either the background that is used in your layout to this canvas or a coordinating color. This color/pattern will show on your turned edges of your book and an edge of it will show on the inside covers as well.

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Add your 11.5"x12" (12x12 book) or 7.5"x8" (8x8 book) layout image to the canvas you created. If you want to ensure that your image is centered on the front cover and on the back cover, you need to do a little extra something for it to work.

Before you flatten your canvas and layout into a single image, you will need to align the layout image vertically to make sure it is centered. Then for the front, you will need to align left the layout image to move it to the left side of the background canvas. You can then save this image as your cover front.



Cover Front Cover Back

Do the same thing with the background canvas and your layout image to create the back cover but this time, you will need to align right to make sure the back cover is next to the spine with no gaps and centered. Save the flattened image as cover back.

This should move your covers over to butt up against the spine joint. The spine background will fill in any remaining area. Your turns on the top, bottom and side edges should then be covered with your canvas background. Allow for just a bit of shifting in the printing process but with this method, you should have centered full bleed front and back cover images.

ShutterFly now provides psd templates to assist you in creating your custom covers. [They can be downloaded here.](#)

Complete instructions and very easy to use PNG templates to use for the Shutterfly Photo Books can be found in the store at Scrapbook-Elements. Templates have been tested with fabulous results. Both personal use and professional use versions are available. Click here for the personal use version.

Have fun creating and enjoy!

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