

Y. B.

kdpcover: L^AT_EX Package for Amazon Book Covers*

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1 Introduction

This class produces a book cover suitable for Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP). The author employs it for [a number of his books](#). A L^AT_EX document conforming to this class takes the following form:



```
1 \documentclass[pages=200,6x9]{kdpcover}
2 \begin{document}
3 \putSpine{kdpcover, a LaTeX class for KDP books}
4 \putVolume{1}
5 \putVersion{0.6.2}
6 \putPrice{\$0.00}
7 \putCopyright{\the\year}{Yegor Bugayenko}
8 \putTitle{kdpcover}
9 \putAuthor{Yegor Bugayenko}
10 \putTLDR{This book recounts
11   an interesting story!}
12 \putPicture{cactus.pdf}
13 \end{document}
```

The problem addressed by this class is the necessity of adjusting the size of the cover PDF in accordance with the number of pages within the book—the more voluminous the book, the broader its spine must be. The class performs the requisite calculations on the fly by means of the `qpdf` tool, which must therefore be installed. The `pdflatex` processor must furthermore be invoked with the `--shell-escape` option, so that L^AT_EX may execute `qpdf`.

*The sources are on GitHub at [yegor256/kdpcover](https://github.com/yegor256/kdpcover)

2 Class Options

pages By means of **pages**, the total number of pages within the book may be specified:

```
\documentclass[pages=120]{kdpcover}  
\begin{document}  
\end{document}
```

pdf The **pages** option is best avoided in favour of letting the class compute the size of the book from the PDF file (by means of the **qpdf** command-line tool, which must be installed):

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

6x9 This option sets the page dimensions to 6x9 inches. A custom size may likewise be defined as follows:

```
\documentclass[6x9]{kdpcover}  
\setlength\kdpysize{8.1in}  
\setlength\kdpxsize{12.7in}  
\begin{document}  
\end{document}
```

barless To eliminate the black bar at the centre of the page, the **barless** option suffices:

```
\documentclass[barless]{kdpcover}  
\begin{document}  
\end{document}
```

3 Commands

\putSpine The **\putSpine** command places a vertical black spine line containing two white elements: the text at the top and the logo at the bottom. The text should be sufficiently short to avoid contact with the logo. It is sound practice to record the volume number at the end of the text whenever more than one volume exists, e.g. “my book, vol. 1”. The use of small caps within the text alone is recommended.

\putVolume This command renders the volume figure. It is deliberately rendered at large size to ensure conspicuousness.

\putVersion This command prints the version and additionally appends the date of the latest Git commit in the current directory. Should the directory not constitute a Git repository, the date is omitted.

\putPrice This command prints the price, the inclusion of which is, in the author’s view, sound practice.

\putCopyright This command prints a brief copyright notice, comprising the year and the name of the author.

\putTitle This command prints the title of the book.

\putAuthor This command prints the author.

- `\putTLDR` This command prints the TL;DR paragraph, which summarises the central message of the entire book.
- `\putPicture` This command prints the front-cover picture. The file `cactus.pdf` may be employed.
- `\putBack` This command prints the text on the back of the book; the author generally recommends omitting it and leaving 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 \newcount\kdp@pages
4   \kdp@pages=100
5 \newlength\kdp@xsize
6   \setlength\kdp@xsize{6in}
7 \newlength\kdp@ysize
8   \setlength\kdp@ysize{9in}
9 \makeatother
```

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

```
10 \RequirePackage{iexec}
```

Then, we parse class options with the help of the `pgfopts` package:

```
11 \RequirePackage{pgfopts}
12 \makeatletter
13 \pgfkeys{
14   /kdp/.cd,
15   barless/.store in = \kdp@barless,
16   pdf/.code = {
17     \IfFileExists{#1}
18     {}
19     {\PackageError{kdpcover}{The "#1" file is absent}{}}%
20     \iexec[trace,quiet,stdout=kdpcover-pages-count.txt]
21     {qpdf --show-npages --no-warn #1 | tr -d '[:space:]'}
22     \openin1=kdpcover-pages-count.txt
23     \read1 to \temp
24     \closein1
25     \kdp@pages=\temp
26   },
27   6x9/.code = {
28     \setlength\kdp@xsize{6in}
29     \setlength\kdp@ysize{9in}
30   },
31   7x10/.code = {
32     \setlength\kdp@xsize{7in}
33     \setlength\kdp@ysize{10in}
34   },
35   8x10/.code = {
36     \setlength\kdp@xsize{8in}
```

```

37   \setlength\kdp@ysize{10in}
38 },
39 pages/.code = {
40   \kdp@pages=#1
41 }
42 }
43 \ProcessPgfPackageOptions{/kdp}
44 \makeatother

```

Then, we include a few useful packages:

```

45 \RequirePackage{anyfontsize}
46 \RequirePackage{tikz}
47 \RequirePackage{microtype}
48 \RequirePackage{xcolor}
49 \RequirePackage{graphicx}
50 \RequirePackage{calc}

```

Then, we set spacing using `setspace`:

```

51 \RequirePackage{setspace}
52 \setstretch{1.2}

```

Then, we 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.

```

53 \makeatletter
54 \newlength\kdp@height
55 \setlength\kdp@height{0.125in + \kdp@ysize + 0.125in}
56 \newlength\kdp@width
57 \setlength\kdp@width{
58   0.125in + \kdp@xsize
59   + 0.125in + \kdp@xsize
60   + 0.0025in * \kdp@pages}
61 \makeatother

```

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

```

62 \RequirePackage{geometry}
63 \makeatletter
64 \geometry{
65   paperwidth=\kdp@width,
66   paperheight=\kdp@height,
67   left=0pt,
68   right=0pt,
69   top=0pt,
70   bottom=0pt
71 }
72 \makeatother

```

Then, we set coordinates using `textpos`:

```

73 \PassOptionsToPackage{absolute}{textpos}
74 \RequirePackage{textpos}
75 \TPGrid{16}{16}

```

`\putSpine` Then, we define `\putSpine`:

```

76 \makeatletter
77 \newcommand\putSpine[2][kdpcover-signature]{%
78   \ifdefined\kdp@barless\else%

```

```

79   \begin{textblock}{2.4}[0.5,0](8,0)%
80   \begin{tikzpicture}%
81     \node [rectangle, inner sep=0em, fill=black,
82           minimum width=2.4\TPHorizModule,
83           minimum height=16\TPVertModule] at (0,0) {};
84   \end{tikzpicture}%
85   \end{textblock}%
86 \fi%
87 \begin{textblock}{1}[0.5,0](8,2)%
88   \begin{tikzpicture}%
89     \node [color=white, inner sep=0cm, outer sep=0cm,
90           rotate=270, minimum height=\TPHorizModule] at (0,0) {
91       \Large #2%
92     };
93   \end{tikzpicture}%
94 \end{textblock}%
95 \begin{textblock}{2.4}[0.5,1](8,14)%
96   \centerline{\includegraphics[width=0.32in]{#1}}%
97 \end{textblock}%
98 }
99 \makeatother

```

`\putPicture` Then, we define `\putPicture`:

```

100 \newcommand\putPicture[1]{%
101   \begin{textblock}{4}(10,2)%
102     \includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{#1}
103   \end{textblock}%
104 }

```

`\putVolume` Then, we define `\putVolume`:

```

105 \newcommand\putVolume[1]{%
106   \begin{textblock}{2}[1,1](15,14)%
107     \raggedleft%
108     \includegraphics[height=0.4in]{kdpcover-vol-#1}%
109   \end{textblock}%
110 }

```

`\putPrice` Then, we define `\putPrice`:

```

111 \newcommand\putPrice[1]{%
112   \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](1,2)%
113     \small #1%
114   \end{textblock}%
115 }

```

`\putBack` Then, we define `\putBack`:

```

116 \newcommand\putBack[1]{%
117   \begin{textblock}{5}[0,0](1,3)%
118     \small #1%
119   \end{textblock}%
120 }

```

`\putTitle` Then, we define `\putTitle`:

```

121 \newcommand\putTitle[1]{%

```

```

122 \begin{textblock}{5}(10,9)%
123 \fontsize{32}{32}\selectfont #1%
124 \end{textblock}%
125 }

\putAuthor Then, we define \putAuthor:
126 \newcommand\putAuthor[1]{%
127 \begin{textblock}{4}(10,10)%
128 \large by #1%
129 \end{textblock}%
130 }

\putTLDR Then, we define \putTLDR:
131 \newcommand\putTLDR[1]{%
132 \begin{textblock}{5}(10,11)%
133 TL;DR #1%
134 \end{textblock}%
135 }

\putVersion Then, we define \putVersion:
136 \newcommand\putVersion[1]{%
137 \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](10,14)%
138 #1%
139 \IfFileExists{.git}%
140 {\quad\iexec{git log -n 1 --pretty='format:\%ad' --date='format:\%e-\%b-\%Y'}}%
141 {}%
142 \end{textblock}%
143 }

\putCopyright Then, we define \putCopyright:
144 \newcommand\putCopyright[2]{%
145 \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](1,14)%
146 \small (c)~%
147 #1 #2%
148 \end{textblock}%
149 }

Finally, a few layout instructions:
150 \AtBeginDocument{%
151 \ttfamily%
152 \raggedright%
153 \setlength\parindent{0pt}%
154 \setlength\parskip{0pt}%
155 \interfootnotelinepenalty=10000%
156 }
157 \endinput

```

Change History

v0.2.0		documentation.	1
General: Initial version	3	The base class is now article . .	3
v0.5.0			
General: The docshots package is		v0.6.1	
used to render the		General: If the PDF file is absent,	
		an error is printed.	3

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.

Symbols	K	\ProcessPgfPackageOptions
\% 140	\kdp@barless 15 , 78 43
\6x9 1	\kdp@height .. 54 , 55 , 66	\putAuthor 1 , 126
	\kdp@pages 3 , 4 , 25 , 40 , 60	\putBack 1 , 116
A	\kdp@width ... 56 , 57 , 65	\putCopyright ... 1 , 144
\AtBeginDocument .. 150	\kdp@xsize 5 ,	\putPicture 1 , 100
	6 , 28 , 32 , 36 , 58 , 59	\putPrice 1 , 111
B	\kdp@ysize 7 , 8 , 29 , 33 , 37 , 55	\putSpine 1 , 76
\barless 1		\putTitle 1 , 121
\begin ... 79 , 80 , 87 ,	L	\putTLDR 1 , 131
88 , 95 , 101 , 106 ,	\Large 91	\putVersion 1 , 136
112 , 117 , 122 ,	\large 128	\putVolume 1 , 105
127 , 132 , 137 , 145	\LoadClass 1	
		Q
C		\quad 140
\centerline 96	M	
\closein 24	\makeatletter	R
	.. 2 , 12 , 53 , 63 , 76	\raggedleft 107
E	\makeatother	\raggedright 152
\end 84 , 85 , 93 ,	.. 9 , 44 , 61 , 72 , 99	\read 23
94 , 97 , 103 , 109 ,		\RequirePackage 10 ,
114 , 119 , 124 ,	N	11 , 45 , 46 , 47 , 48 ,
129 , 134 , 142 , 148	\newcount 3	49 , 50 , 51 , 62 , 74
\endinput 157	\newlength .. 5 , 7 , 54 , 56	
	\node 81 , 89	S
F		\selectfont 123
\fontsize 123	O	\setlength 6 , 8 ,
	\openin 22	28 , 29 , 32 , 33 , 36 ,
G		37 , 55 , 57 , 153 , 154
\geometry 64	P	\setstretch 52
	\PackageError 19	\small 113 , 118 , 146
I	\pages 1	
\iexec 20 , 140	\parindent 153	T
\ifdefined 78	\parskip 154	\temp 23 , 25
\IfFileExists .. 17 , 139	\PassOptionsToPackage	\textwidth 102
\includegraphics 73	\TPGrid 75
..... 96 , 102 , 108	\pdf 1	\TPHorizModule .. 82 , 90
\interfootnotelinepenalty	\pgfkeys 13	\TPVertModule 83
..... 155		\ttfamily 151