



Supplying Artwork for Cutter Guides

Cutter Guides are an expensive item to buy and time consuming to the production cycle of the printed product. At Spectrum Print Direct we have a large selection of existing cutter guides and we can advise you if these are suitable for your job. A charge is made for existing guides but it is still a saving on producing a guide from scratch. We can supply you with a printed sample from existing guides for you to build your job around.

You may require a unique job, so artwork will be needed to produce the guide from. The safest way is to produce a separate PDF file for the guide. If you prefer to create the guide onto the job itself you should name it as a bespoke spot colour called CUTTER GUIDE and all the elements set to OVERPRINT. This overprint setting ensures that none of the lines will KNOCKOUT the printed job.

The standard elements of a CUTTER GUIDE are usually set at 0.5pt lines. Solid lines denoting a cut and dotted lines denoting a fold (crease). This difference is important as a sharp raised metal rule produces a cut and a blunt slightly recessed metal rule a crease. The resulting cutter guide is then pressed against the printed sheet to produce cuts and creases according to the rule specification.

When cutting and creasing a job you should always try to cut from the front of the job, this will create a better finish. For this reason the cutter guide needs to be designed to run on the outside or face of the job.

The folder overleaf is oversize A4 with a 100mm pocket. The pocket is designed with a gusset (sometimes called capacity) to take numerous A4 leaves which are inserted into it. If you refer to the diagram you will see 5mm capacity placed on the spine, foot and side of the pocket. These capacities, which must be at least 3.5mm wide, will create the depth in the folder.

AREA A

This area contains the glue tab which will be used to stick to pocket to the folder using adhesive. This tab must be set to 15mm and have no printing on it as this helps with the adhesion. The flap is angled so it is not visible on the finished product.

AREA B

You can see that the pocket has been set back from the spine by 3mm this ensures that when folded up there will be no buckling of the folder.

BUSINESS CARDS

The creation of business card slits is quite simple. First create a square to the dimensions of your cards, then draw an 11mm line set at 45 degrees at the two corners 3mm in from both corners, place this on the folder and then remove the square you first created.

**THIS SHOWS A FOLDER WHICH COMES OUT OF A SHEET SIZE OF SRA2
GRIPPED AT THE HEAD**

