

Production Guidelines for Custom Dielines

In professional graphic production, a dieline acts as a critical structural framework that maps how an engineering piece will be mechanically cut, creased, and finished. It serves as an unprinted positioning placeholder embedded directly within your design software to ensure layout accuracy, geometry verification, and flawless alignment before the final toolmaking process.

While absolutely crucial for creating physical cutting dies and aligning proofs, the dieline paths are completely stripped from the final printed press sheets. For optimal layout verification and registration precision, we strongly advise integrating the dieline vectors right into the parent source graphic file rather than dispatching it as a detached artwork element.

Technical File Specifications

1. Stroke Weight

Set the dieline path to a clean vector stroke thickness of approximately 0.5 points (.007").

2. Spot Color Coding

Build the dieline using a dedicated, explicitly named spot color (e.g., "Dieline"). Never use standard process CMYK channels or registration black to define structural tool paths.

3. Overprint Attributes

Configure all dieline paths to overprint. This ensures your line vectors sit above background graphics rather than knocking out unprinted white spaces in the primary image layers.

4. Operational Line Styles

Properly identify tooling operations using standardized vector styling: apply solid paths for die cuts, dashed paths for fold/score targets, and dotted paths for fine perforations.

5. Bleed Allowances

All imagery and background fills intended to terminate at the boundary edge must bleed past the cut perimeter line by at least 1/8" (0.125") to prevent raw paper borders after finishing.

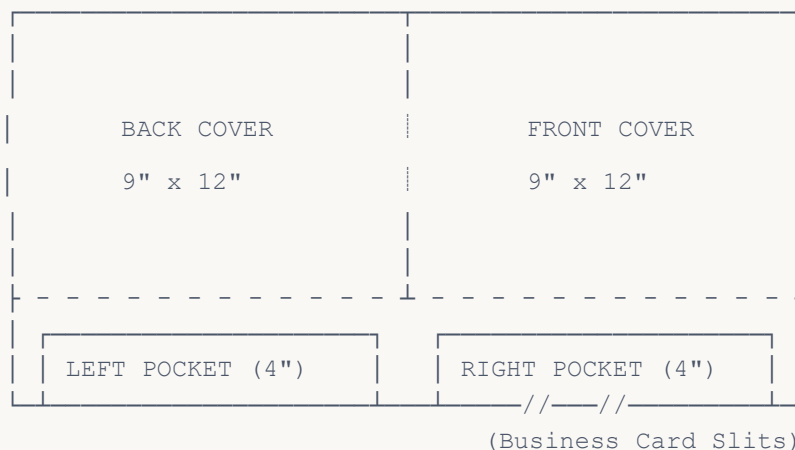
6. Layer Isolation

For software environments supporting stacked element grouping (such as Adobe InDesign or Illustrator), organize your dieline objects entirely within its own independent, top-level layer.

Visual Reference: Standard Pocket Folder Dieline

Below is a standard production layout blueprint for a classic 9" x 12" presentation folder with two 4" pockets. Notice how cutting boundaries are defined as solid lines, fold/crease scoring is clearly shown with dashed vectors, and business card slits are mapped on the inside right flap.

[DESIGN METRIC VIEWPORT: STANDARD 9x12 PRESENTATION FOLDER DIELINE]



Legend:

- Solid Outer Lines = Outer Die-Cut Paths
- ||| Dashed Vertical Line = Center Spine Fold Score
- - Dashed Horizontal Line = Pocket Fold-Up Flap Score
- // Angled Internal Slits = Card Holder Insets