Book-Craft

TURN ANY BOOK INTO A WORK OF ART

User Guide

Turn any image or word into a book folding pattern

How Book-Craft works

For **MMCF** and **Embossed**, creating a design takes four steps, shown as tabs at the top of the page:

- **1. Upload** — upload an image (or type a word) and enter your book's size.
- **2. Style** — choose how the book will be folded and preview it in 3D.
- **3. Edit** — fine-tune the pattern. This step is optional.
- **4. Download** — get your PDF instructions and start folding.

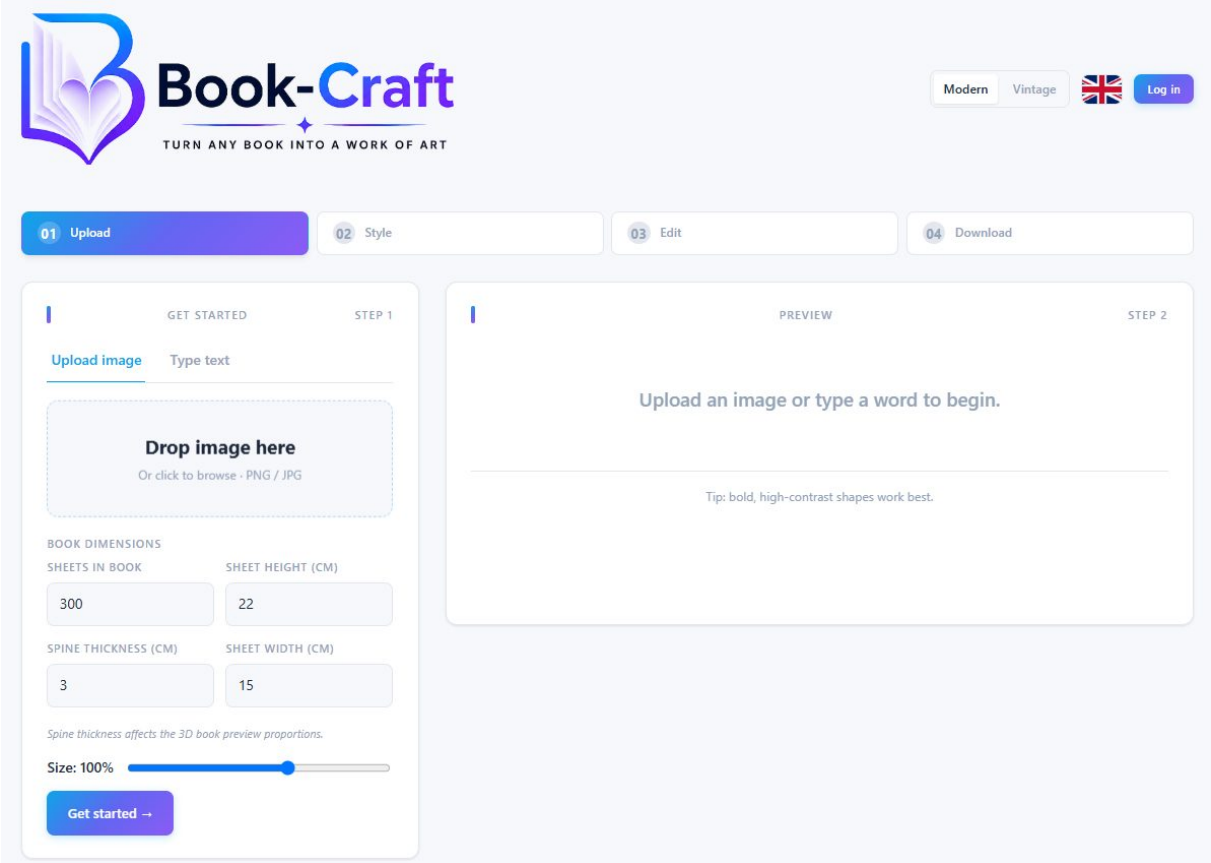
Stripe Edge takes only two steps: **1. Upload** and **2. Style**. You generate, preview and download the strips directly in Step 2.

There are three folding styles:

MMCF	Measure, Mark, Cut & Fold. Pages are cut and folded so the shape stands out on the page edges.
Embossed	A shadow-relief effect. Pages are cut and folded 180°, and the depth of each area depends on how dark it is in your image.
Stripe Edge	Your photo is printed as thin strips that you stick to the edge of each page. The picture appears on the book's fore edge when it's closed or fanned. Lenticular mode hides two images — one seen from each side.

Tip: Exploring and previewing is free without an account. To download PDFs and save designs, create a free account with **Log in** (top right). No payment details are needed.

Step 1 — Upload



The start screen: Step 1 on the left, the preview area on the right.

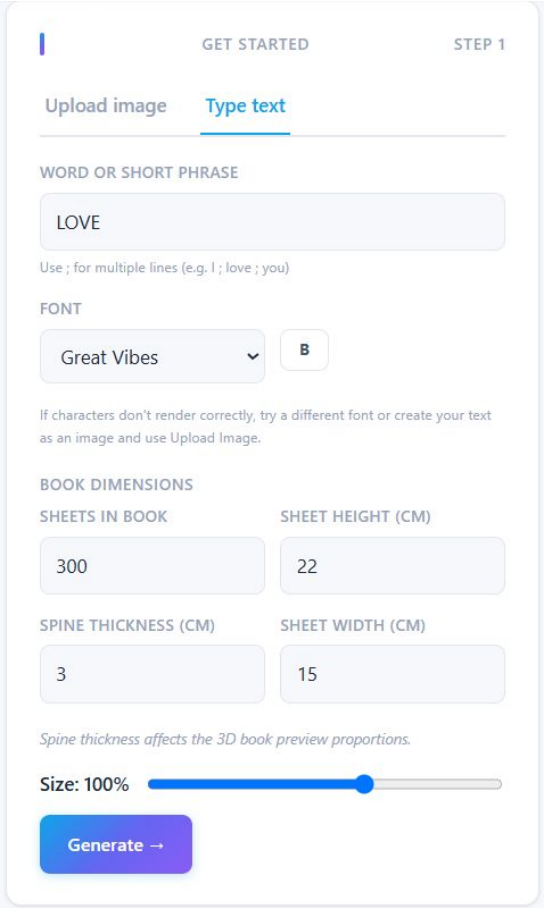
Choose **Upload image** to use your own picture, or **Type text** to fold a word or name. Drop an image onto the box or click it to browse (PNG or JPG).

Book dimensions

Sheets in book	The number of paper sheets (leaves). One sheet = 2 page numbers, so a 400-page book has 200 sheets.
Sheet height (cm)	The height of a page.
Spine thickness (cm)	Used for the 3D preview proportions.
Sheet width (cm)	The width of a page.
Size	Shrinks the design inside the page area if you want more empty margin around it.

Tip: Bold, high-contrast shapes give the best results. We recommend a book with at least 200 sheets and a height of 20 cm or more; thicker books give more detail.

Typing a word instead

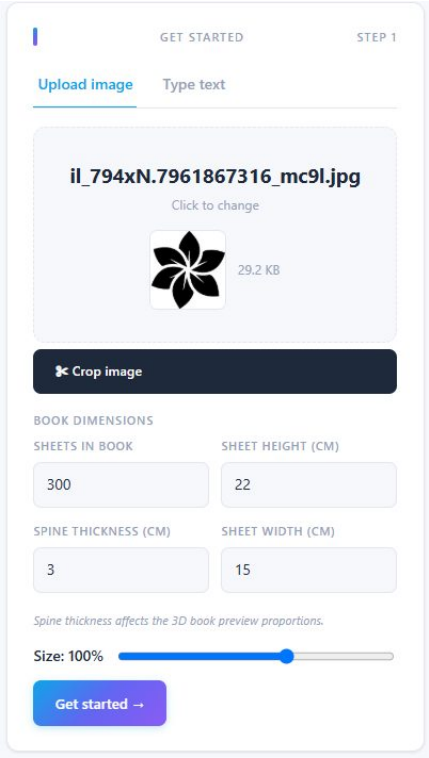


The Type text tab.

Word or short phrase	The text to fold. Use **;** to split it over several lines, for example *I ; love ; you*.
Font	Choose a font. The **B** button makes the text bold, which gives thicker, easier folds.
Generate	Creates the pattern and moves you to Step 2.

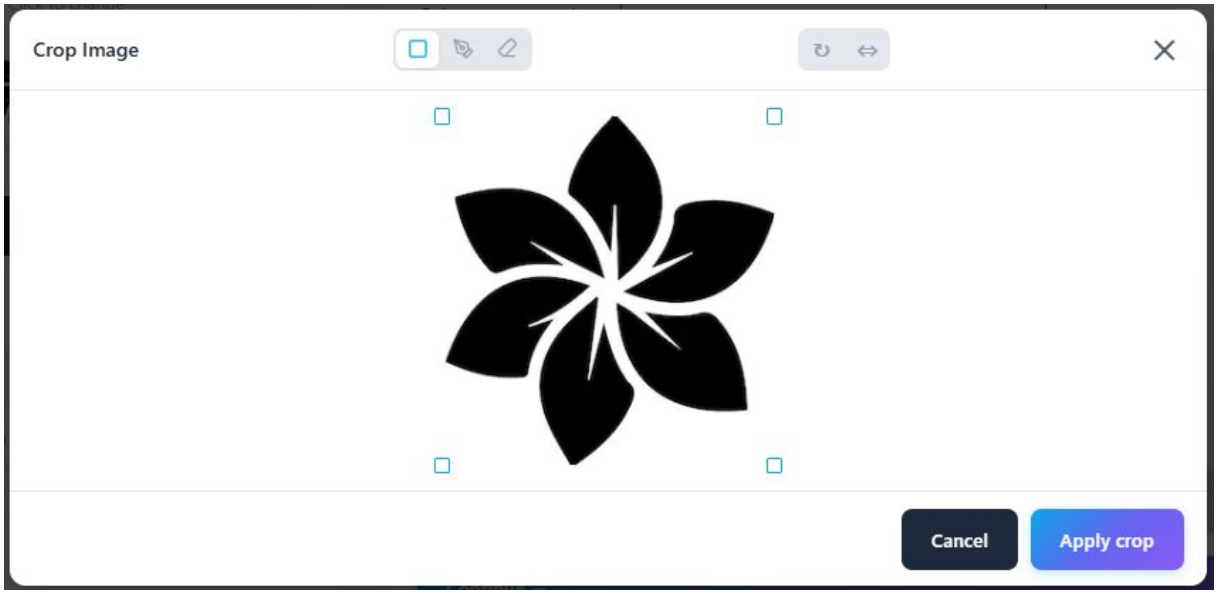
If some characters don't show correctly, try a different font, or write the text as an image and use **Upload image** instead.

Checking and cropping your image



After choosing an image you'll see its name, a thumbnail and the file size.

Click **Crop image** to trim empty space around your shape. A tighter crop means the design fills more of the book.

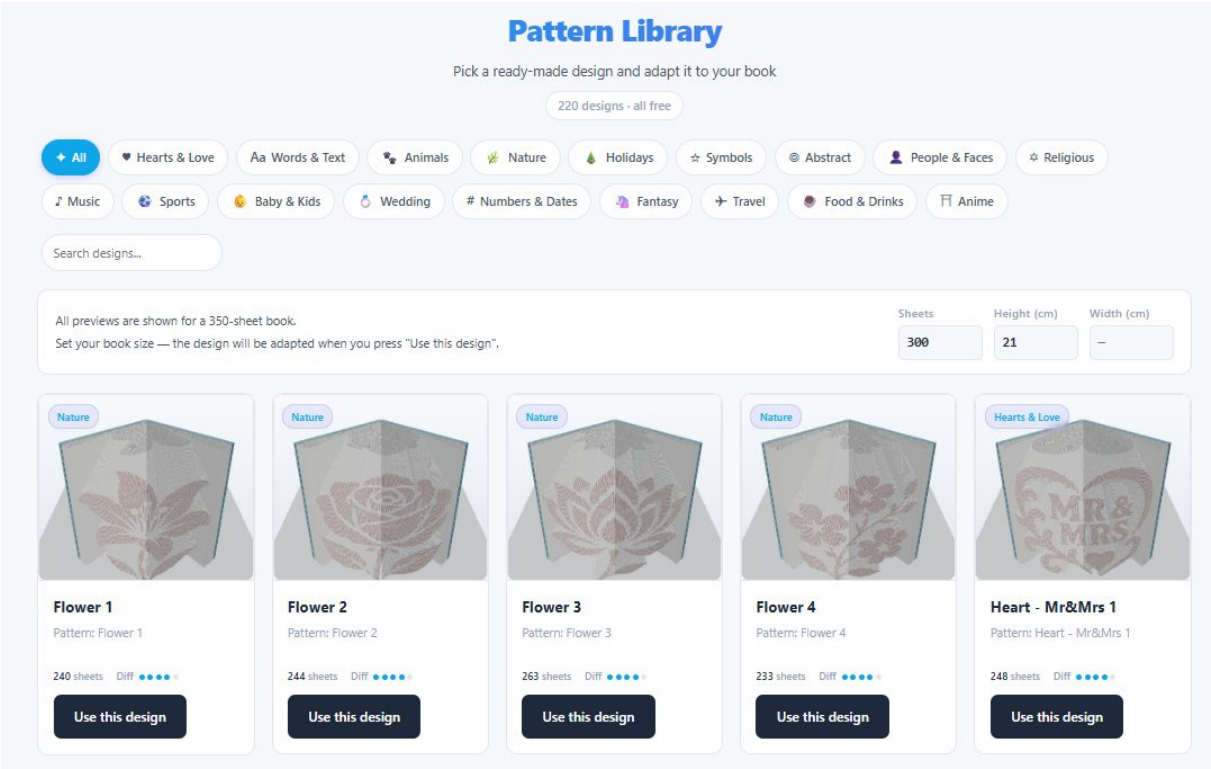


The crop window. Drag the corner handles, then click Apply crop.

Instead of a rectangle, you can also **draw your own crop shape**: use the drawing tool to outline exactly the part of the image you want, and everything outside it is removed. The eraser touches up mistakes, and other buttons rotate or flip the image. When you're happy, click **Get started**.

Or start from the Pattern Library

Don't have an image? The Pattern Library has ready-made designs, all free. Filter by category or search, set your book's sheets and height, then click **Use this design**. The design is adapted to your book size automatically.

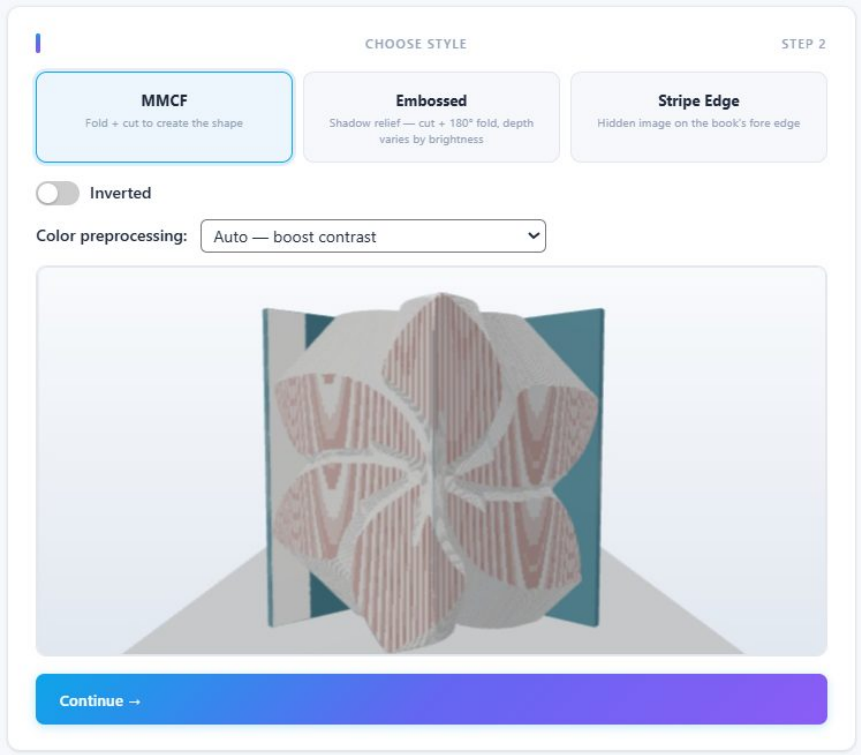


The Pattern Library.

Step 2 — Choose a style

Pick one of the three styles at the top. The 3D preview updates so you can see how the finished book will look — drag to rotate it.

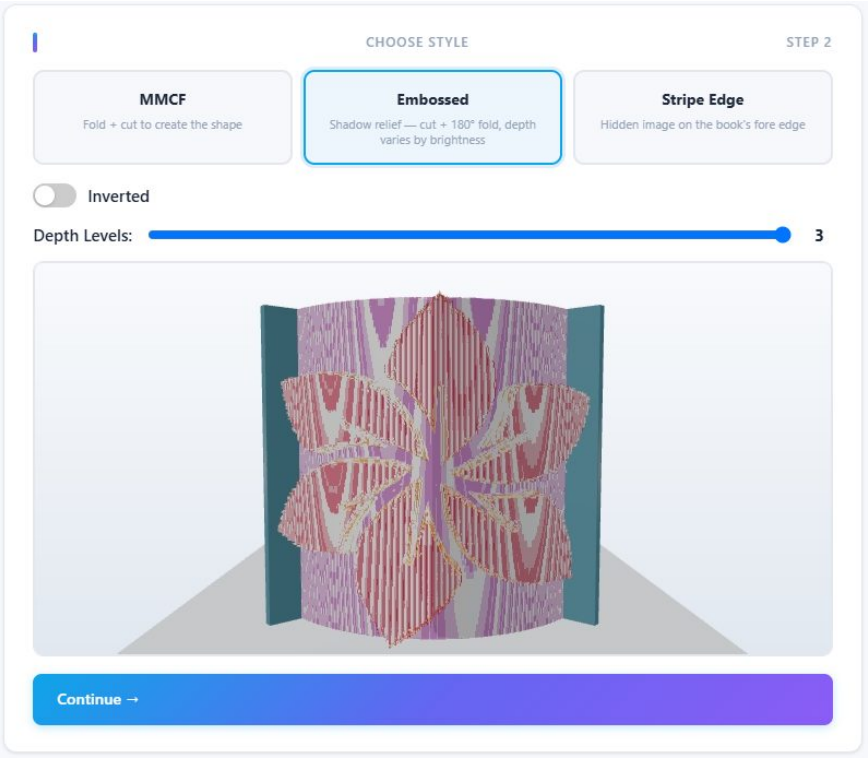
MMCF



MMCF style with its 3D preview.

Inverted	Folds the background instead of the shape, so the shape stays flat and the area around it is folded.
Color preprocessing	How your image is cleaned up before the pattern is made. **Auto** boosts contrast and suits most images. **Fill outlines** is for hollow or outline letters. **Hi-res** processes at high resolution for fine detail. **Line art** turns a photo into clean lines. **Outline (Skeleton)** makes thin ridges at the fold boundaries.

Embossed

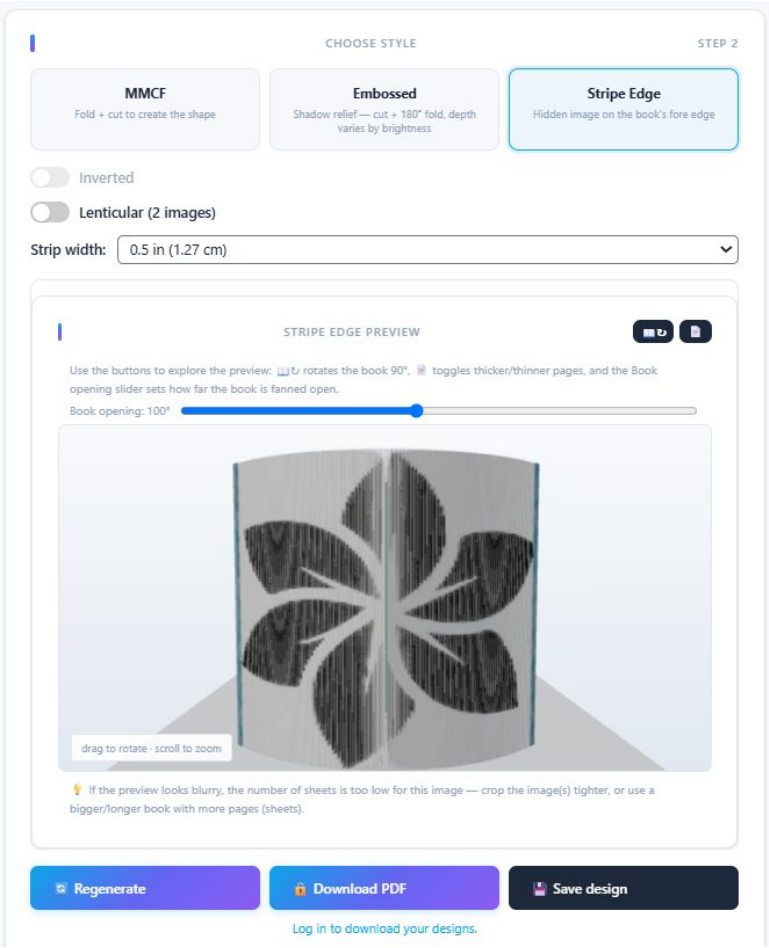


Embossed style.

Inverted	Swaps which areas are raised and which are recessed.
Depth Levels	How many depth layers the relief has. More levels give a richer 3D effect but take longer to fold.

When you're happy with the preview, click **Continue** to go to the editor.

Stripe Edge



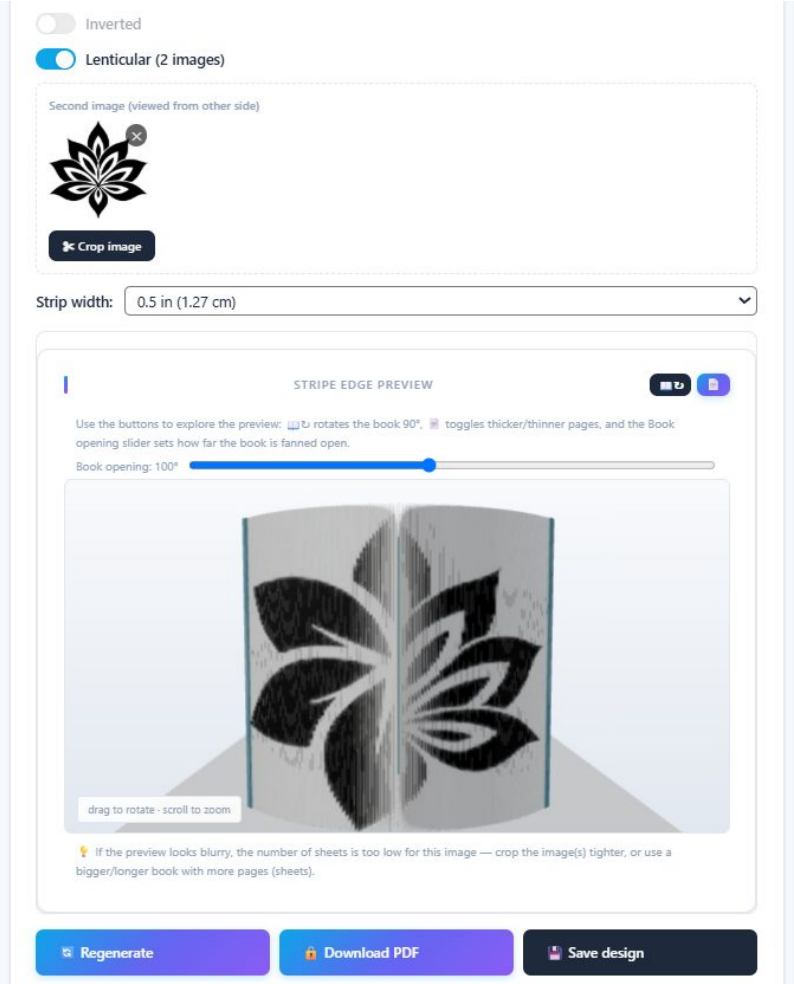
Stripe Edge style with its preview and buttons.

Strip width	How wide each printed strip is. It should match how far the strips will show on the page edges.
Lenticular (2 images)	Hides a second picture that is seen when the book is fanned the other way.
Rotate button	Turns the book 90° in the preview.
Pages button	Switches between thicker and thinner pages in the preview.
Book opening	How far the book is fanned open in the preview.
Regenerate	Rebuilds the strips after you change a setting.
Download PDF	Downloads the printable strips with instructions (requires a free account).
Save design	Saves the design to your account.

Tip: If the preview looks blurry, the book has too few sheets for the image. Crop the image tighter, or use a longer book with more sheets.

Stripe Edge is complete at this step — there is no Edit or Download step. Click **Download PDF** here to get your strips.

Stripe Edge — Lenticular



Lenticular mode with a second image.

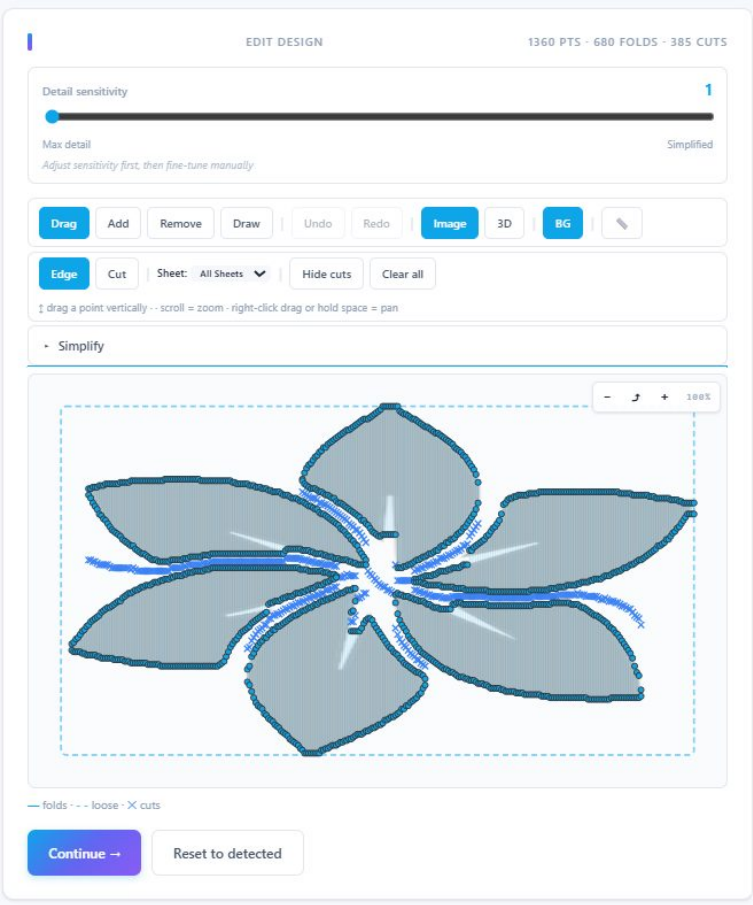
Turn on **Lenticular (2 images)** and upload a second picture. You can crop it the same way as the first. Each picture is seen from a different side when the pages are fanned. Click **Regenerate** to update the preview.

Step 3 — Edit the pattern

The editor lets you perfect every fold before you download. The counter at the top shows how many folds and cuts the pattern has.

> **Tip:** Editing is optional. If you're already happy with the 3D preview, just click **Continue** to skip straight to Step 4.

MMCF editor

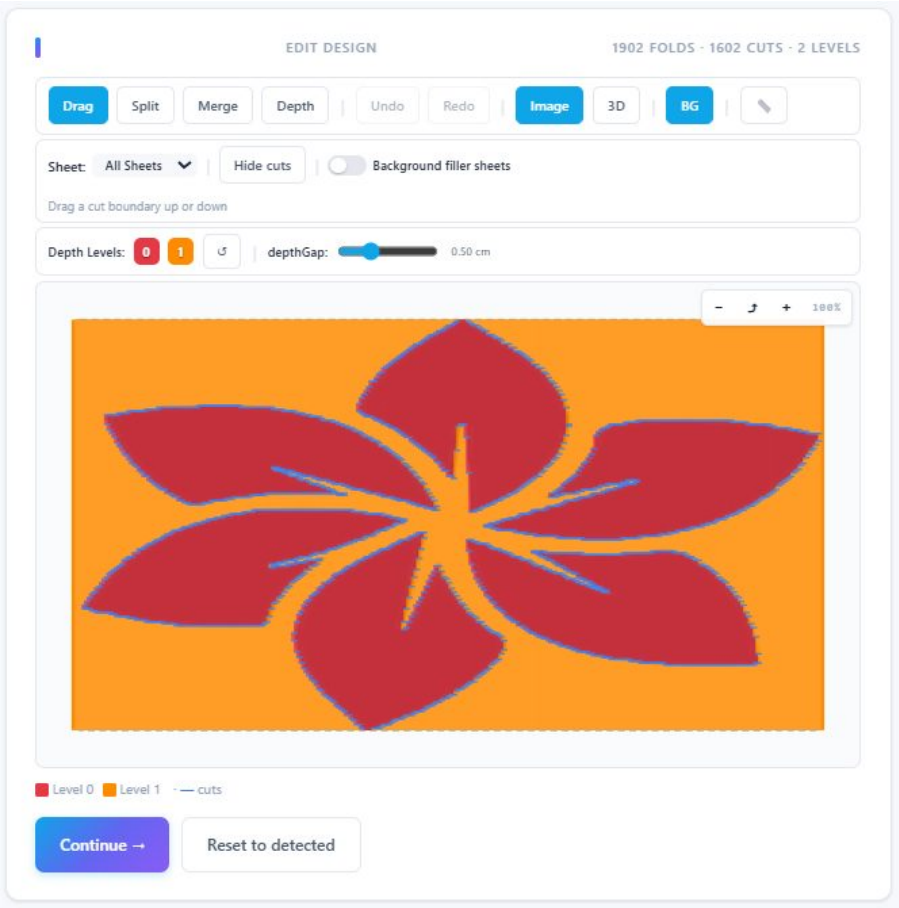


The MMCF editor. Solid lines are folds, dashed lines are loose folds, and X marks are cuts.

Detail sensitivity	Slide toward **Max detail** for more folds or toward **Simplified** for an easier pattern. Adjust this first, then fine-tune by hand.
Edge / Cut	Choose what the tools below work on: **Edge** edits the fold lines, **Cut** edits the cut points.
Drag	Drag a point up or down.
Add	Click to add a point on the nearest sheet.
Remove	Click and drag to erase points.
Draw	Press and drag to sketch. Back-and-forth strokes create paired folds.
Undo / Redo	Step back or forward through your changes.
Image / 3D	Switch between the flat pattern view and a 3D preview.
BG	Show or hide your original picture behind the pattern.
Ruler	Click two points to measure the distance between them.
Sheet	Highlights one sheet and dims the others, so it's easy to find a specific sheet number. Your edits still apply to all sheets.
Hide cuts / Clear all	Hide the cut marks, or remove all edges and cut points to start over.
Simplify	Makes the pattern easier to fold by thinning crowded areas.
Reset to detected	Undoes all manual edits and returns to the automatic pattern.

Scroll to zoom. Right-click and drag, or hold Space and drag, to move around.

Embossed editor

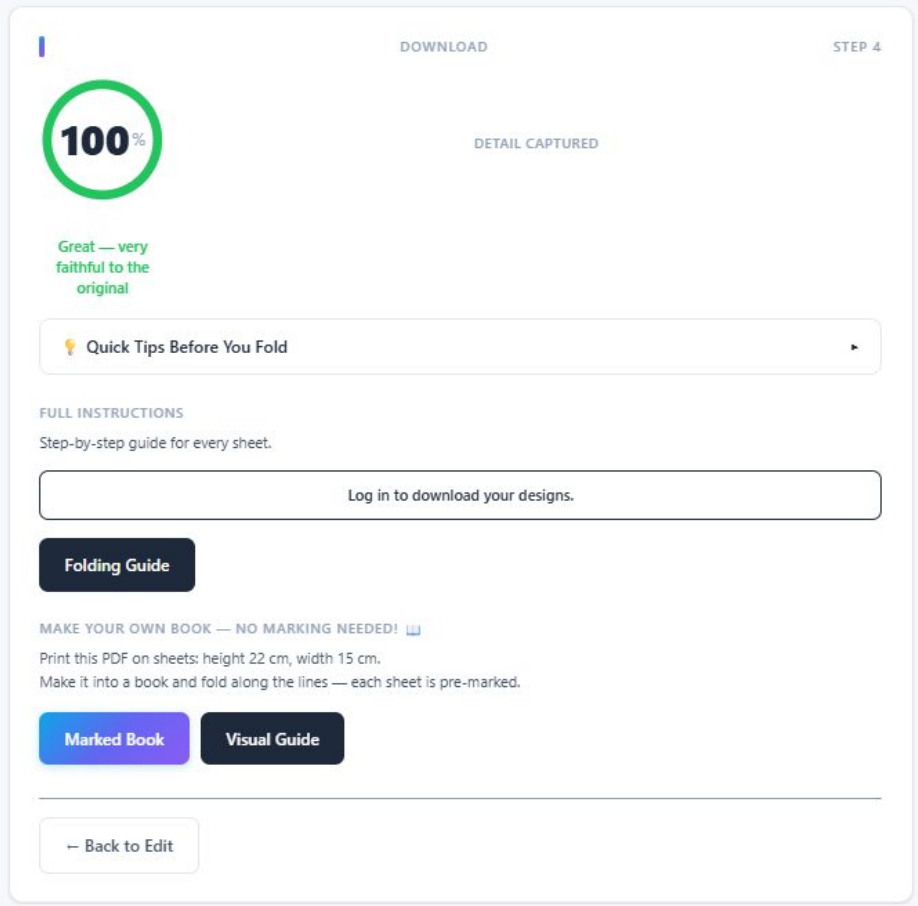


The Embossed editor. Each colour is a depth level.

Drag	Drag a cut boundary up or down.
Split	Click a strip to split it in two.
Merge	Click a cut to merge the strips on either side.
Depth	Click a strip to change its depth level.
Background filler sheets	When turned on, every second sheet becomes a plain **filler** sheet: it is folded at one depth along its whole height, with no cuts. The design is made only on the sheets in between. This halves the cutting work and gives a smooth, even background. You can choose the depth of the filler sheets.
Depth Levels	The colour of each level. Click them to change the level order; the arrow resets it.
depthGap	How far apart the depth levels are, in cm.

When you're done, click **Continue**.

Step 4 — Download



The download step.

Detail captured	How faithfully the pattern matches your original image. Higher is closer to the original.
Quick Tips Before You Fold	Open this for short advice before you start.
Folding Guide	A step-by-step PDF with instructions for every sheet.
Marked Book	A PDF you print on paper the size of your book's pages. Bind it into a book and fold along the lines — every sheet is already marked, so no measuring is needed.
Visual Guide	A picture-based guide to the folding.
Back to Edit	Return to the editor to make more changes.

Tip: Downloading requires a free account. If you see **Log in to download your designs**, click Log in at the top right first.

See the finished book in 3D

Below the download buttons there's a 3D preview of the finished book. Drag to rotate it, and use these controls:

Rotate button	Turns the book 90° in the preview.
Pages button	Switches between thicker and thinner pages in the preview.
Book opening	How far the book is fanned open in the preview.

Good to know

Which book should I use?	Any paperback works. Use at least 200 sheets (400 pages) and a height of 20 cm or more. Old books from thrift stores are great.
How long does it take?	Usually 4–8 hours, depending on the design. Most of the time goes into marking and cutting; the folding is the quick part.
Made a mistake?	Carefully unfold the sheet and fold it again. The PDF guide shows sheet numbers so you can find your place.
Can I print the pattern?	Yes. Download the PDF and print it. Each sheet has clear fold marks and sheet numbers.
Is it really free?	Yes. Every feature and the whole pattern library are free. You only need a free account to download.