kdpcover: LaTeX Package for Amazon Book Covers*

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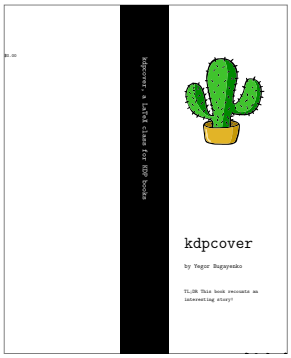
1 Introduction

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




```
\documentclass[pages=200,6x9]{kdpcover}
\begin{document}
\putSpine{kdpcover, a LaTeX class for KDP books}
\putVolume{1}
\putVersion{0.7.0}
\putPrice{\$0.00}
\putCopyright{\the\year}{Yegor Bugayenko}
\putTitle{kdpcover}
\putAuthor{Yegor Bugayenko}
\putTLDR{This book recounts
  an interesting story!}
\putPicture{cactus.pdf}
\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 LaTeX may execute `qpdf`.

*The sources are on GitHub at 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\kdpxsize{8.1in}
\setlength\kdpysize{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:

```
\LoadClass{article}
```

Then, we define a few internal commands:

```
\makeatletter
\newcount\kdp@pages
  \kdp@pages=100
\newlength\kdpxsize
  \setlength\kdpxsize{6in}
\newlength\kdpysize
  \setlength\kdpysize{9in}
\makeatother
```

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

```
\RequirePackage{iexec}
```

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

```
\RequirePackage{pgfopts}
\makeatletter
\pgfkeys{
  /kdp/.cd,
  barless/.store in = \kdp@barless,
  pdf/.code = {
    \IfFileExists{#1}
      {}
      {\PackageError{kdpcover}{The "#1" file is absent}{}}%
    \iexec[trace,quiet,stdout=kdpcover-pages-count.txt]
      {qpdf --show-npages --no-warn #1 | tr -d '[[:space:]]'}
    \openin1=kdpcover-pages-count.txt
    \read1 to \temp
    \closein1
    \kdp@pages=\temp
  },
  6x9/.code = {
    \setlength\kdpxsize{6in}
    \setlength\kdpysize{9in}
  },
  7x10/.code = {
    \setlength\kdpxsize{7in}
    \setlength\kdpysize{10in}
  },
  8x10/.code = {
    \setlength\kdpxsize{8in}
```

```
    \setlength\kdpysize{10in}
  },
  pages/.code = {
    \kdp@pages=#1
  }
}
\ProcessPgfPackageOptions{/kdp}
\makeatother
```

Then, we include a few useful packages:

```
\RequirePackage{anyfontsize}
\RequirePackage{tikz}
\RequirePackage{microtype}
\RequirePackage{xcolor}
\RequirePackage{graphicx}
\RequirePackage{calc}
```

Then, we set spacing using `setspace`:

```
\RequirePackage{setspace}
  \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.

```
\makeatletter
\newlength\kdp@height
\newlength\kdp@width
\makeatother
```

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

```
\RequirePackage{geometry}
\makeatletter
\AddToHook{begindocument/before}{%
  \setlength\kdp@height{0.125in + \kdpysize + 0.125in}%
  \setlength\kdp@width{
    0.125in + \kdpxsize
    + 0.125in + \kdpxsize
    + 0.0025in * \kdp@pages}%
  \geometry{
    paperwidth=\kdp@width,
    paperheight=\kdp@height,
    left=0pt,
    right=0pt,
    top=0pt,
    bottom=0pt
  }%
}
\makeatother
```

Then, we set coordinates using `textpos`:

```
\PassOptionsToPackage{absolute}{textpos}
\RequirePackage{textpos}
\TPGrid{16}{16}
```

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

```
\makeatletter
```

```
\newcommand\putSpine[2][kdpcover-signature]{%
  \ifdefined\kdp@barless\else%
    \begin{textblock}{2.4}[0.5,0](8,0)%
      \begin{tikzpicture}%
        \node [rectangle, inner sep=0em, fill=black,
        minimum width=2.4\TPHorizModule,
        minimum height=16\TPVertModule] at (0,0) {};
      \end{tikzpicture}%
    \end{textblock}%
  \fi%
  \begin{textblock}{1}[0.5,0](8,2)%
    \begin{tikzpicture}%
      \node [color=white, inner sep=0cm, outer sep=0cm,
        rotate=270, minimum height=\TPHorizModule] at (0,0) {
        \Large #2%
      };
    \end{tikzpicture}%
  \end{textblock}%
  \begin{textblock}{2.4}[0.5,1](8,14)%
    \centerline{\includegraphics[width=0.32in]{#1}}%
  \end{textblock}%
}
\makeatother
```

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

```
\newcommand\putPicture[1]{%
  \begin{textblock}{4}(10,2)%
    \includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{#1}
  \end{textblock}%
}
```

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

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

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

```
\newcommand\putPrice[1]{%
  \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](1,2)%
    \small #1%
  \end{textblock}%
}
```

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

```
\newcommand\putBack[1]{%
  \begin{textblock}{5}[0,0](1,3)%
    \small #1%
  \end{textblock}%
}
```

\putTitle Then, we define \putTitle:

```
\newcommand\putTitle[1]{%
  \begin{textblock}{5}(10,9)%
    \fontsize{32}{32}\selectfont #1%
  \end{textblock}%
}
```

\putAuthor Then, we define \putAuthor:

```
\newcommand\putAuthor[1]{%
  \begin{textblock}{4}(10,10)%
    \large by #1%
  \end{textblock}%
}
```

\putTLDR Then, we define \putTLDR:

```
\newcommand\putTLDR[1]{%
  \begin{textblock}{5}(10,11)%
    TL;DR #1%
  \end{textblock}%
}
```

\putVersion Then, we define \putVersion:

```
\newcommand\putVersion[1]{%
  \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](10,14)%
    #1%
    \IfFileExists{.git}
      {\quad\iexec{git log -n 1 --pretty='format:\%ad' --date='format:\%e-\%b-\%Y'}}
      {}%
  \end{textblock}%
}
```

\putCopyright Then, we define \putCopyright:

```
\newcommand\putCopyright[2]{%
  \begin{textblock}{4}[0,1](1,14)%
    \small (c)~%
    #1 #2%
  \end{textblock}%
}
```

Finally, a few layout instructions:

```
\AtBeginDocument{%
  \ttfamily%
  \raggedright%
  \setlength\parindent{0pt}%
  \setlength\parskip{0pt}%
  \interfootnotelinepenalty=10000%
}
\endinput
```

Change History

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

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