

The Easy Way To Make Your Own Wedding Album or Photo Book

“Why pay a professional when you can DIY”

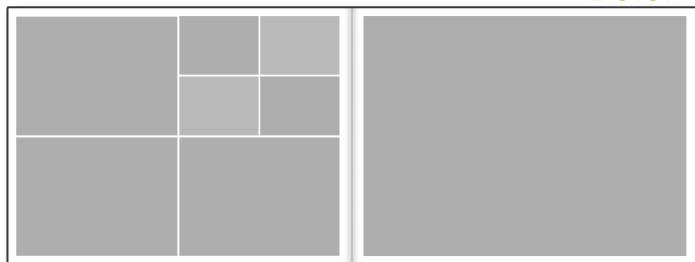


Love the look of a professional album but don't love the price?
No worries...we're here to help!

My Bridal Pix has put together a step by step guide to help you make the wedding album of your dreams! With today's software and technology, making photo books and professional quality albums is a simple process! Why leave someone else to put together your most treasured images when you can personalize them so much more yourself and save hundreds of dollars in the process! Simply drag and drop your images into our FREE ready made **EZ Build Book** or **Designer Book** templates.

Before

After



Whether you are looking to make a guest book, boudoir book, wedding album, parent or honeymoon book, My Bridal Pix has the online tools to make it a simple process! All it takes is a little time to organize your images and you'll be on your way to creating a wonderful keepsake that you and your family will cherish for years to come.

Lets Get Started!



Step 1-Organize Your Images

- Set aside time to review all your images together. Put on some romantic music, pour a glass of your favorite beverage...relax and what ever you do, don't freak out over all the pictures you have to sort through! We'll get you through this we promise! Follow the simple steps below and you'll be sorting through your photos like a pro!
- Make file folders on your computer desktop for the following categories.
 1. Getting Ready
 2. Bride and Groom Portraits
 3. Family
 4. Bridal Party
 5. Ceremony
 6. Reception
 7. Details
 8. Rejects
- During the first pass thru of your photo's, quickly drag and drop images into the above file folders. Do not spend a lot of time reviewing the images, as you will have the opportunity to review photo's in more detail later. If you come across any unflattering photo's, immediately put them in the rejects folder.
- Now lets fine-tune your folders above into sub folders to help organize each folder even more. This can be customized to whatever your needs are, but the following is a basic guideline.



1. Getting Ready

- Bride getting ready
- Groom getting ready

2. Bride and Groom Portraits

- Bride
- Groom
- Together



1. Family

- Brides parents
- Grooms parents
- Brides grandparents
- Grooms grandparents
- Brides family portraits
- Grooms family portraits

2. Bridal Party

- Bride with attendants
- Groom with groomsmen
- Bridal party together

3. Ceremony

- Attendants walking down the isle
- Bride walking down the isle
- First glance
- Close up's
- Long group shots
- Officiate with B&G
- The KISS
- Exit

4. Reception

- Entrance
- Dancing
- Guest table shots
- Speeches
- Garter & bouquet toss
- Cake

5. Details

- Flowers
- Getting ready- shoes, cufflinks, etc
- Cocktail hour
- Table décor
- Miscellaneous

6. Rejects

- Your goal is to get to 250 images in total. You are going to want 10 – 15 images in each file folder to choose from. At this point you may want to make prints up of these 250 images. There are many online sites as well as your local photo imaging store that can print these out for you. It will make your final selection and laying out the flow of your album so much easier.

Step 2 – Choose Your Images

- It's time for the final cut! If you had the opportunity to print out your 250 images, you will want to sort them into the piles following the sub folders we created above. Use post it notes or write carefully on the back of each image that really stand out. Enlarge your favorites on the computer, and pay attention to image details, background, lighting, etc . Hopefully your photographer edited your best images for you, but if not, you will need to do a little touch up work yourself, or pay someone to do it for you. Make sure your photographer gives you Hi-Resolution images-300 DPI, this is the quality you will need to print.
- Depending upon the pages in your album you are going to have to make the final cut between 40- 150 images. Good album design calls for no more than 6 images per spread, however this is an average and some spreads may have more or less images.

Album Page/Image Ratio

20 Page Album – 40-60 images
30 Page Album – 70-90 images
40 Page Album – 100-120 images
50 Page Album – 130-150 images



TIP: Our software works in spreads not pages so each spread is counted as 2 pages. A 20 page album is 10 spreads a 30 page is 15 spreads , etc...

Step 3 – Layout Images in Chronological Order

- Layout 40 - 150 images in chronological order. You may want to print out images as this helps to visualize the story and you'll begin to see which images will work well together. Make sure that each category has it's own section in your album. You do not want the album to have pictures of the ceremony and the reception on the same spread. Pay special attention to the images that would look best as a cover image or as panoramic spreads. Our "**EZ Build Books**" section of the software allows you to pick and choose templates based on the number of images you want up on a spread. You will now need to go back into your files, and create the final cut folders for each of the sub categories.
- Once you make your final selection of images, figure out the approximate spreads you will need. This will allow you to price out the cost of your album. Our minimum album size is 20 pages/10 spreads. Additional 2 page/1 spread pricing can be found on the product pricing page of our website.

Step 4- Decide On Your Album Specification

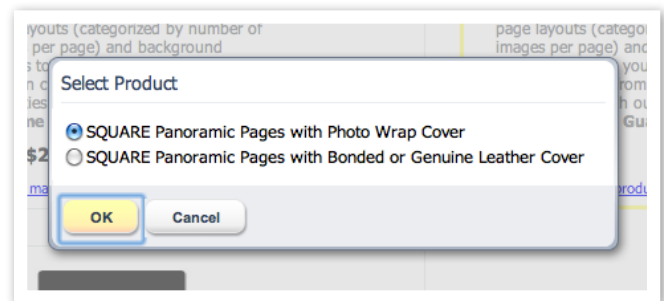
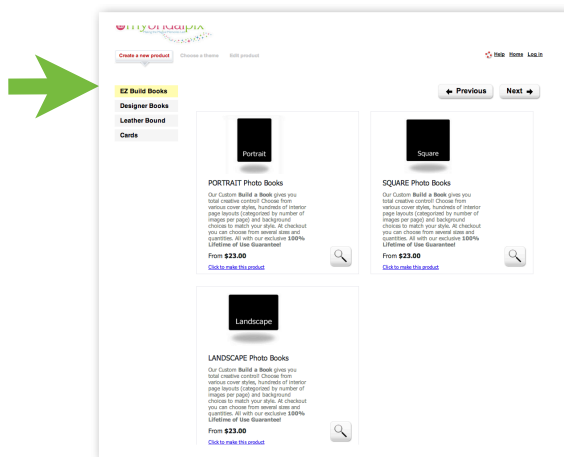
- Choose the format of your album -Square, Landscape or Portrait.
- Choose your size/sizes - when you finish building your book the software allows you to order multiple book sizes as long as you order in the same format. For instance, a 12x12 album and a 8x8 can be purchased with the same square design layout.
- Choose your cover- standard covers are Image Photo Wrap and Bonded Leather or upgrade to our buttery soft premium Italian Leather.
- Have a general idea of the number of pages - pages can be added and deleted in software.

Step 5- Login To Our Software

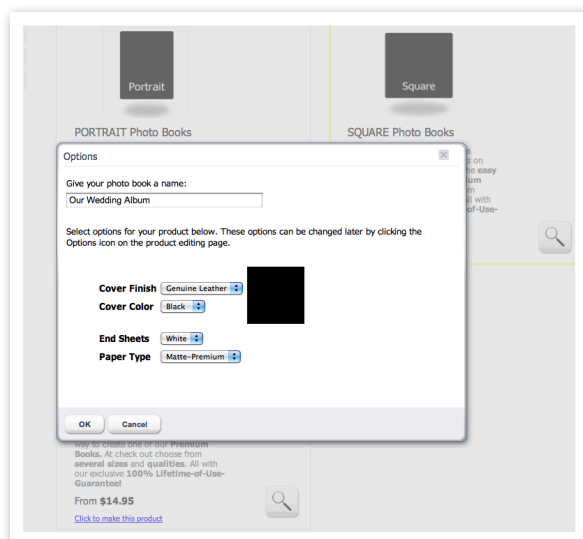
- First register or login into our software. Login is required so that we may save your work and you will have the flexibility to come back to your account any time to make updates to your projects and work at your leisure. Our software is web based, which means that your work is automatically saved so you do not need to worry about losing your work. It's saved as you go, and any updates to the software happen automatically with no work on your part! Just so you know, your privacy is the utmost importance, and your email address will never be shared with a 3rd party.

Step 6- Get To Know Our Software

- Like anything else, it's easy once you know it, so spend some time clicking the buttons and getting to know the software. First you need to decide if you want to build your own book layout or choose a pre designed designer template. **EZ Build Books** section, offers you cover styles, with layouts, and backgrounds you can mix and match to make your own unique album, or choose themes from our **Designer Books** collection which offer you the ease of pre designed layouts. When you choose to create a product you will see a page like this, with a brief product description. First choose your book format- Square-Landscape or Portrait. This allows the software to choose the right templates to build your album. You then have a choice of a covers (bonded leather, genuine leather or photo wrap).



- You will then have the chance to name your book, pick your cover options. Please see notes below for additional information covers, paper type and end sheets. as these are based on the book style that you choose at checkout.



TIP: Photo wrap covers come with the color choice of Matte or Gloss finish. Matte finish has a softer look and shows less finger prints than the gloss. Leather & Bonded leather choices are white, black brown & red.

TIP: Paper type will be premium 100# text for photo books and premium archival quality photographic paper for the Pure Mount and Flush Mount Books. You will have a this choice at the end of the program. So it will only say premium for now.

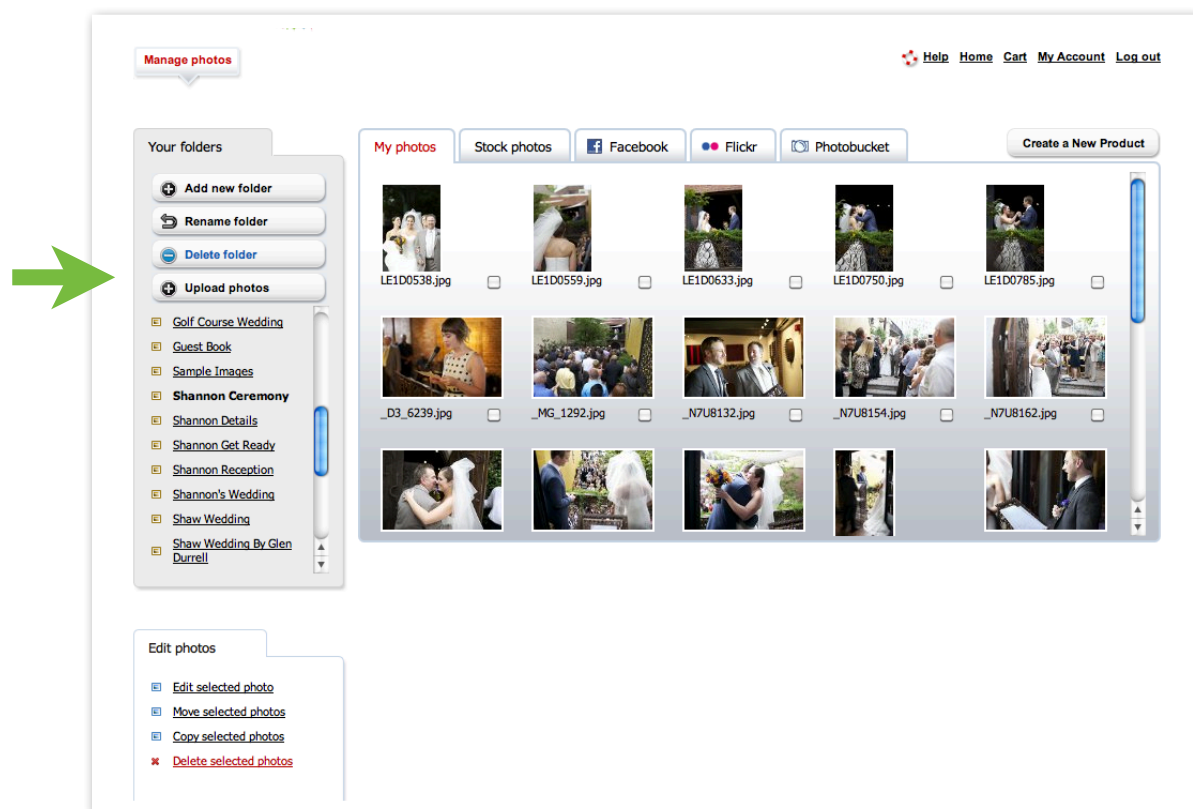
TIP: At this time, all Flush Mount Books come with black end sheets and Classic Photo Books have white end sheets even though you are only given a choice of white in the software.

Step 7- Choose Your Theme

- Our template designs are the same type of templates professional photographers use, but you don't need to know Photoshop to use them! We suggest to play around between **EZ Build Book** templates and **Designer Book** templates to see which ones best match the style of your wedding or event. Once you choose a style, you will have the option to add pages or change the templates for that style to suit your needs. Please note the **EZ Build Books** will work best for larger page count albums as **Designer Books** are limited to 10 to 20 designed spreads but they can be used multiple times to accommodate larger page count albums. Please also note that **EZ BOOKS** first 10 spreads are laid out in a random order so you will most likely need to arrange them by selecting new layouts and backgrounds from the respective tabs. Simply drag and drop the new selection to change. Our album templates are clean, simple and timeless and there are hundreds to choose from. If you choose to make your own layouts in Photoshop or In Design, (please refer to [How to Upload Your Own Designs](#), in the site map of our website) just upload your spreads as .jpeg files and choose the theme "Your Own Designs" in the **Designer Book** section.

Step 8-Upload Images

- After you choose your theme, you will be asked to upload your photo's. You can upload images directly from your computer, Flickr, Photobucket or Facebook. Be patient with your upload as your files may be very large, and depending upon your internet speed, this may take a few minutes. The software will let you know the expected time for upload. If it's slow, you can always consider uploading your images over night.



- Upload images into specific folders as well as all images in one folder. As you can see in the photo above, we have separate files for getting ready, ceremony, details, reception, etc. This will allow you to manage your images by category as you build your album, instead of having all 40 – 150 images in one folder. As you build your album the software will allow you to add the photo's as you need them. You can even select auto fill each time you choose a folder to

- Once you upload images you're ready to build your album! If you choose the **EZ Build Books** option, the software will appear like the image below. You will choose a cover and the software will have a 10 page spread(or 20 pages) initially laid out for you. Please note; there is no special order to the initial layout. You can, however, customize the layout of templates as needed. Off to the right you will see a tab for **layouts** and **backgrounds** which allows you to change current selections. You simply drag and drop the new layout or background onto the current template. Within the layouts tab, you have a choice of the number of images per layout, so you can choose a template based on the number of images you are working with for that spread. You photo's will be off to the right, under the photo's tab. It's just a matter of choosing the photo's you want and drag and dropping them into the placeholders on the layout templates to the left. Click on the magic wand to edit your images. To add pages to your book simply click "Add Page" in the tool bar and just drag and drop the layout you want into those new pages. You also have the choice to add text boxes and art elements where you wish. These function tabs are on the right above photos.

mybridalpix
Making the Magical Moments Last

Create a new product Choose a theme **Edit book**

Help Home Cart My Account **Layouts**

Start Over Add Page Delete Page Arrange Snap to Grid Price Options Prev Page Next Page Share Preview Order

Folder: Shannon's Wedding
Get photos Auto fill

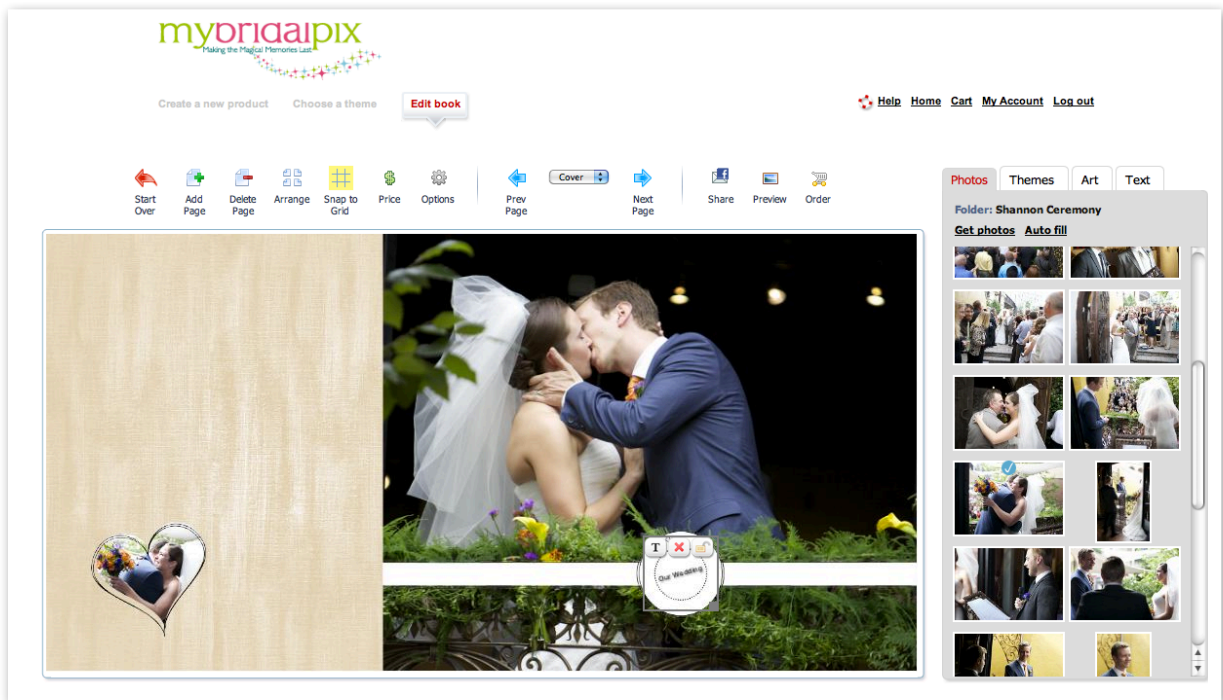
Category: 05 Images Page

Category: Basic
Sub-category: Ivory

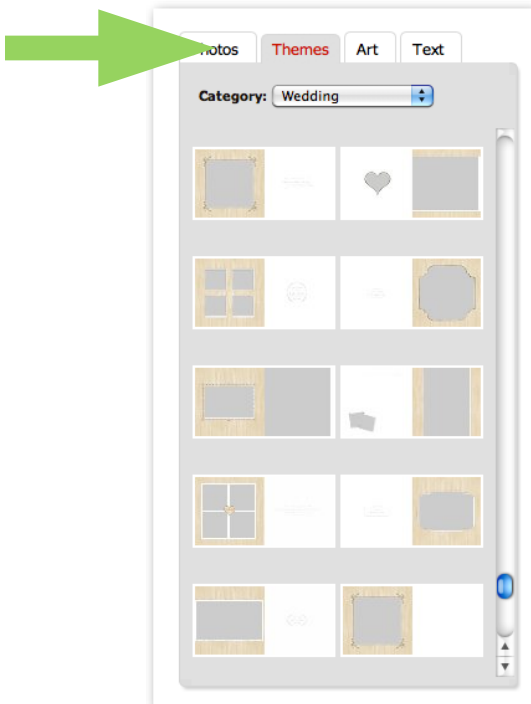
(Photos courtesy of Jeremy Quant Photography)

TIP: When you drag and drop your images into the placeholder on the template, you will need to click on the magic wand to adjust the position of it, in the frame. If you receive a yellow YIELD sign, then your image is not a high enough resolution to fit in that space or you have an over-flowing text box.

- If you choose the **Designer Books** templates, the software will initially layout a 10 page spread. The difference between **EZ Build Books** and **Designer Books** is that there is no longer a layout and background tab, but a “Theme” tab for the **Designer Books** from which you can choose your layouts and the layouts and backgrounds are one template. The theme tab will feature all layouts in that category. Designer templates are limited to 10 to 20 spreads for each design but can be mixed and matched. and duplicated to create more pages if needed. If you wish to change the spread layout, simply drag and drop the new layout onto the page from the “Theme” tab on the right. To add pages, it’s the same process as above, simply click, “Add Page” in the tool bar, then drag the layout that you want onto the current page selection. Text boxes can be added but most of the designer books have text built into the design already. Some templates allow you to change the text and others do not.



(Photos courtesy of Jeremy Quant Photography)

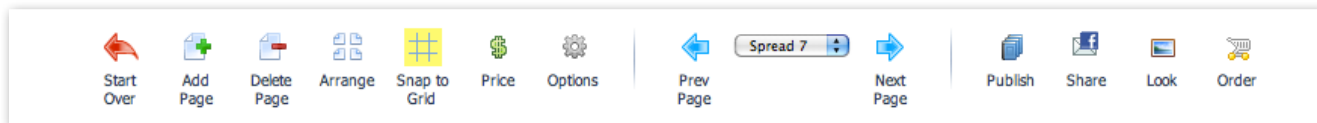


TIP: This is an example of a Guest Book template in the Designer Book section. As you can see there are 10 spreads to choose from, however, they can be mixed and matched. All other guest book templates will also appear under this theme template. All themes within a category can be mixed and matched.

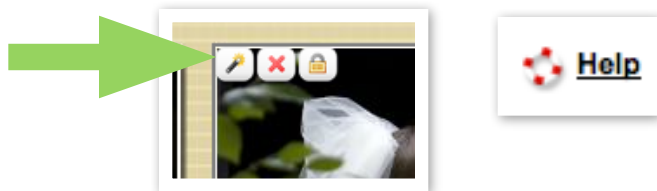
TIP: Please also note the "Art" and "Text" tabs. You can add your own text boxes and art elements anywhere on your spreads. To delete an added text box or art element, just click the red X in the little pop up screen.

Step 9- Editing Your Book

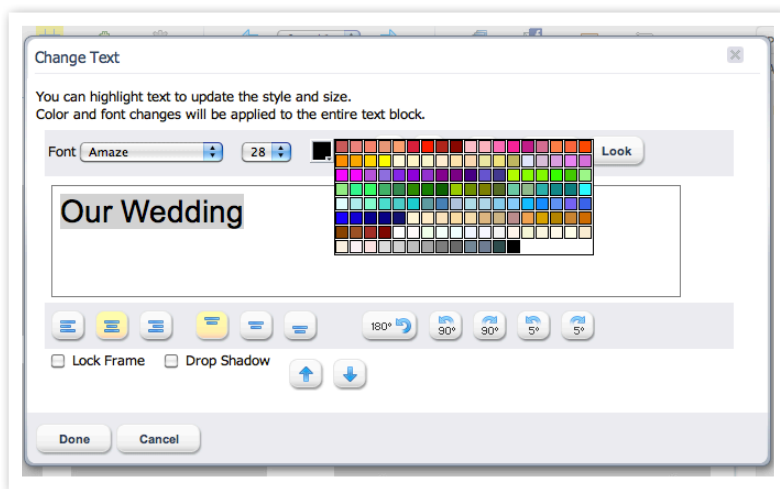
- Our tool bar gives you the option to add, delete or rearrange spreads, keep track of your costs, view per spread, preview the layout, share on Facebook, email and place your order online using our secure server.



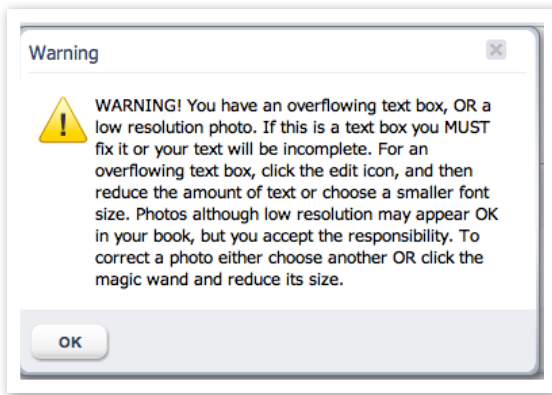
- The software allows you to edit your images. You can flip, crop, sharpen, add stroke lines around images, blur, change opacity and color to gray scale or sepia tones. There are all sorts of special effects to explore. The edit tool can be found if you click on the magic wand that appears in the corner of every placed image. The red X will delete the image and the lock icon allows you to reposition the image placeholder. If you do not like the photo placeholder as it is, you can simply move it to where you want it or delete it all together. Once you do choose a new position, be sure to lock again so that it does not shift during the design process. There is also a *HELP* icon at the top of the program that will offer some quick tips for the section of the software you are in.



- If you choose to add text to your spread, you can do this by clicking on the *TEXT* tab. You will have the choice of transparent text boxes, translucent, opaque. Just drag and drop the text box onto the spread. Text boxes can be moved to wherever you need them as long as the *LOCK ICON* is open. To make the text box larger just drag the bottom right hand corner. Click on the " T " to add whatever text you like. In the text pop up, (see image) you will have different options for your text. Make sure to hit apply before you click done. You can also preview as well. The X will delete the text box. When you are happy with your text box just make sure you click on the *LOCK ICON* so that it does not shift during the design process. Text boxes do not print with guidelines or if there is no text in the box but if you are unsure how it will look, you can preview the book before you order. I you receive a yellow *YIELD* warning sign, you may have an overflowing text box so double check and make sure your box contains all of your text so that it does not cut off. The Look Icon will show you exactly how your book will print.

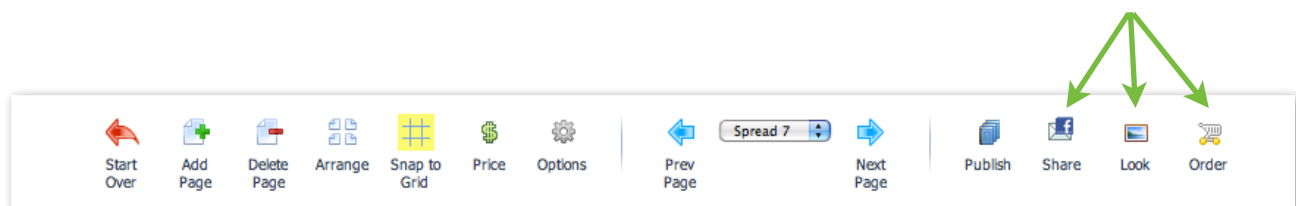


- If you receive a yellow *YIELD* warning sign, you may have an overflowing text box or a low resolution image so please make sure that your box contains all of your text so that it does not cut off or you may have to change your image to a larger file size for better quality reproduction.



Step 10- Preview, Share & Order

- Congratulations you are almost done! One of the greatest features of our software is being able to preview & share you book before you order. If you click on the *Preview* or *Look* icon in the tool bar, you will see a digital flip book version of your album. This gives you the opportunity to check out every last detail of your layout before you place your order. We suggest sending your digital book to share with others so that they can proof the book as well. Another set of eyes is always helpful when proofing. If you click the *Share* Icon in the tool bar, you can upload your album to Facebook or email it. Each book has it own unique URL so share as you like wherever you like! If you are building the book for a client or friend, you can choose the option to email with the ability to edit images. This gives the recipient the chance to make their own edits to the book. We like it when customers share with us so we can inspire others to see what they can create too. So drop us an email with your link too and you may be lucky enough to be featured on our blog or Facebook Fan Page!
- Ordering your book is a simple process, as our software will walk you through the process.



Enjoy your book!

Our books are meticulously handmade in the USA by skilled craftsmen, utilizing quality materials, and state-of-the-art printing processes. We know you will positively love your book for years to come...we promise! We have the experience and the confidence to offer you a **Lifetime of Use Guarantee!**