



Uploading To Ingramspark

IngramSpark updates its dashboard and upload process from time to time, so the exact layout you see may differ slightly from what's described here. The overall flow, however, remains consistent: set up your title, upload your files, enter your metadata, choose your distribution options, and approve your print proof. IngramSpark is more detailed than KDP, but once you understand the rhythm, it becomes straightforward.

A Quick Prompt to Get You Started

Ask yourself: *Do I want my print book available in bookstores and libraries, or only online?*

Your answer shapes how you use IngramSpark.

Create a New Title

When you log in, choose Add a New Title. You'll be asked whether you're uploading a Print Book, Ebook, or both. Most authors use IngramSpark primarily for print distribution.

You'll enter:

- Title and subtitle
- Author name
- Series information (optional)
- Trim size
- Binding type (paperback or hardback)
- Interior type (black & white or colour)

IngramSpark offers more trim sizes and formats than KDP, so choose carefully.

ISBN

Unlike KDP, IngramSpark does not provide free ISBNs. You must supply your own.

If you want to be the publisher of record and distribute widely, this is the right place to use your purchased ISBN.

Upload Your Interior File

Upload your print-ready PDF.

IngramSpark is strict about file quality, so ensure:

- correct trim size
- correct margins
- correct bleed
- embedded fonts
- no crop marks

If something is off, IngramSpark will flag it during the file review.

Upload Your Cover File

Upload your full wrap PDF (front, spine, back). Because IngramSpark uses different paper stock and printing tolerances than KDP, you must generate a separate cover file using their template.

Check for:

- correct spine width
- barcode placement (IngramSpark can add one if needed)
- no text too close to trim lines

This is the most common place authors need to revise.

Enter Your Metadata

This is where your earlier work pays off.

You'll enter:

- Categories
- Keywords
- Description
- Author bio (optional)
- Audience (general, children, academic, etc.)

IngramSpark distributes to bookstores and libraries, so accurate metadata matters.

Pricing and Wholesale Discount

This is the biggest difference from KDP.

You'll choose:

- List price
- Wholesale discount (typically 40–55%)
- Returnability (yes, no, or “destroy”)

Bookstores expect a standard discount and the option to return unsold copies.

If you want bookstore access, choose:

- 55% discount
- Returnable (destroy)

If you're not targeting bookstores, you can choose a lower discount and non-returnable.

Review and Approve

IngramSpark will run a file check.

If everything passes, you'll be asked to approve:

- the digital proof
- the pricing
- the distribution settings

You can also order a physical proof copy, which is strongly recommended before enabling distribution.

Enable Distribution

Once approved, your book enters Ingram's global catalogue.

This makes it available to:

- bookstores
- libraries
- online retailers
- academic suppliers

It may take several days to appear across all channels.

A Simple Exercise

Before uploading, create a one-page document titled “IngramSpark Settings.”

Include:

- trim size
- paper type
- binding
- wholesale discount
- returnability choice
- ISBN
- pricing

This keeps your decisions consistent and prevents last-minute confusion.

A Final Thought

Uploading to IngramSpark is more detailed than KDP, but it gives your book access to the wider book-selling world. Once you’ve navigated the setup once, the process becomes a powerful part of your publishing toolkit, a way to put your book on shelves far beyond Amazon.