

FOILING A CANVA GUIDE

We know that setting up your files for special finishes like digital foil printing can feel a little daunting. The good news is that it's actually simpler than you might think.

To help you get it right, we've put together a quick guide on how to set up digital foil using Canva. Follow the steps below to make sure your artwork comes off the press looking sharp, shiny, and exactly as intended.

WHAT FILES DO WE NEED?

To print digital foil, we need three PDF files:

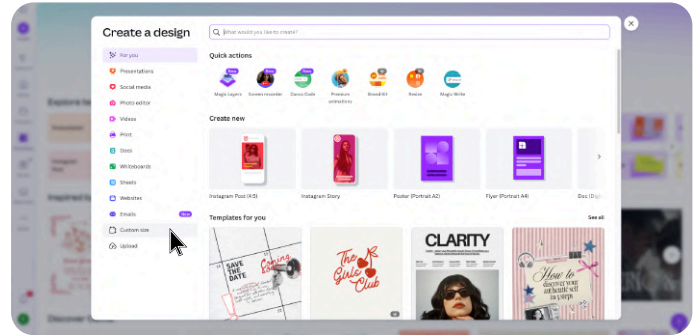
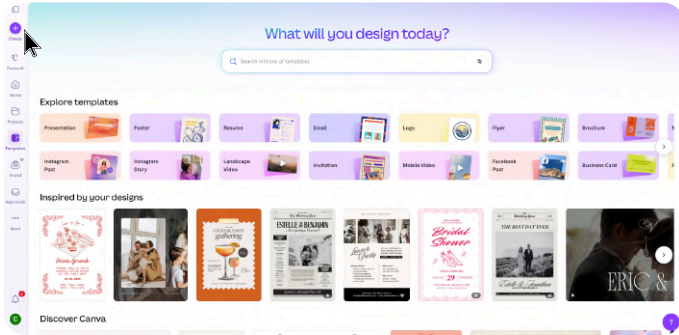
- **Full_artwork file** – a complete version of your design showing both the print and foil elements together.
- **Foil_only file** – a version with all printed elements removed, showing only the foil areas in solid black on a white background.
- **Non_foiled file** – a version with all foil elements removed, showing just the printed parts of your artwork.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

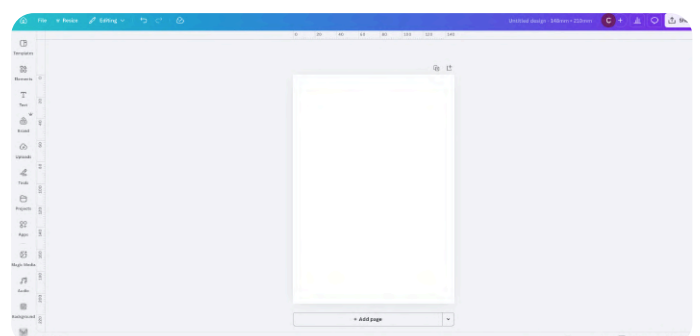
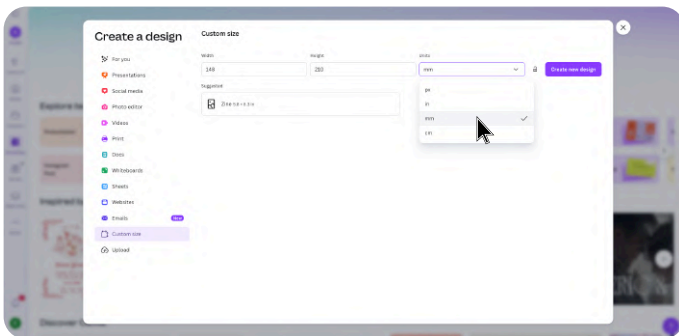
First, we print your CMYK artwork, laminate the sheets, then run them back through the printer to lay down the foil areas in black ink. From there, the sheets go through our foil machine, which bonds the foil to the black ink – that's exactly why your foil elements need to be 100% black and kept in a separate file from your CMYK artwork. The foil won't bond to any other colour.

STEP 1 CREATE A PAGE

Click create and choose 'custom size' from the menu on the left

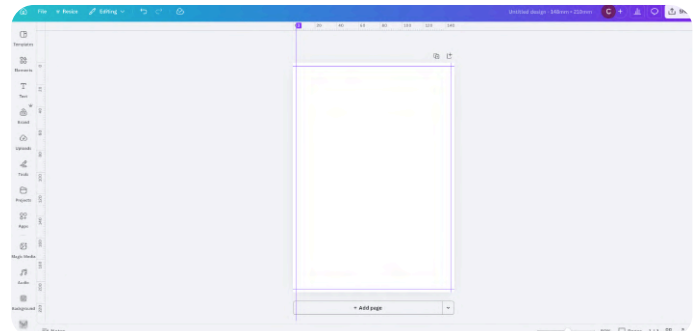
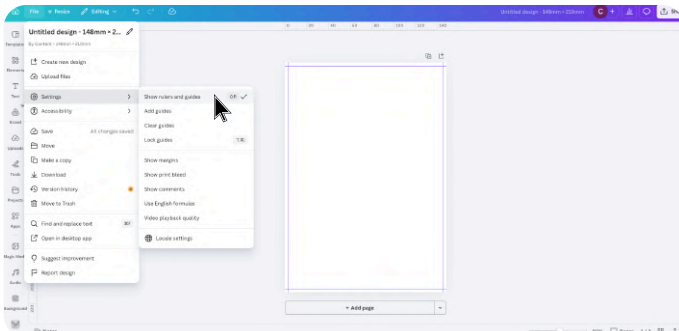


You can create any size you want from here. In this case, we're going to set up the page as A5 (148mm x 210mm). Change the units to mm and enter your dimensions in the width and height fields. In the example below, the width is 148mm and the height is 210mm - this will create A5 portrait. Swap them around if you want landscape.

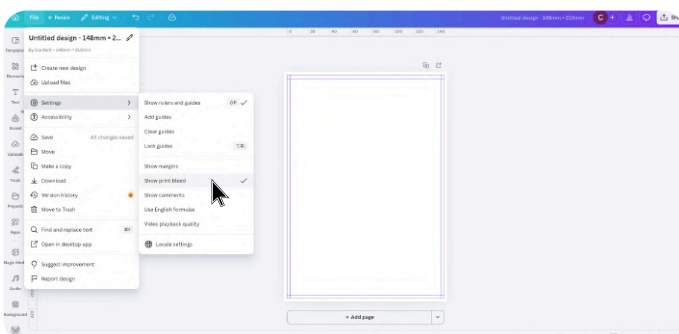


ADD SAFE ZONE AND BLEED TO THE PAGE

Add a guide 3mm in from the edge of your page. To do this, click File > Settings and enable Show Rulers & Guides, then drag a ruler guide in from the top and sides, 3mm in from each edge. This gives you your safe area - avoid placing any important elements within this zone, as anything too close to the edge risks being trimmed off.

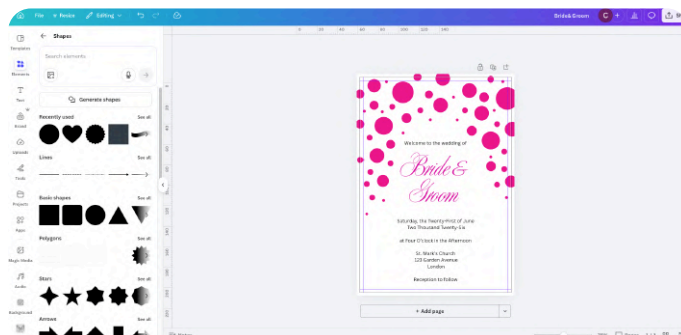
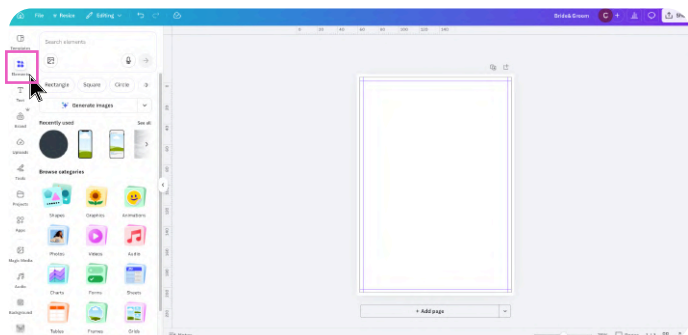


Show the bleed by clicking file > settings > show print bleed. Bleed is required on all artwork created for print.



STEP 2 START DESIGNING

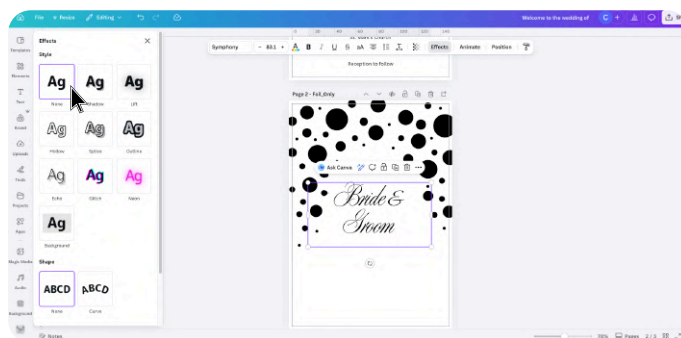
Let's start with the full artwork page first. Create the design you want - you can do this in multiple ways. In the example below, we have created a simple design using Canva's shape library to make the spots and added text. We have made the parts we want to foil a different colour so they stand out on the full artwork version.



Notice how we have taken the spots into the bleed zone as well, this is essential if you want edge to edge print with no white gaps showing. The bleed will be trimmed off after printing.

IMPORTANT NOTE

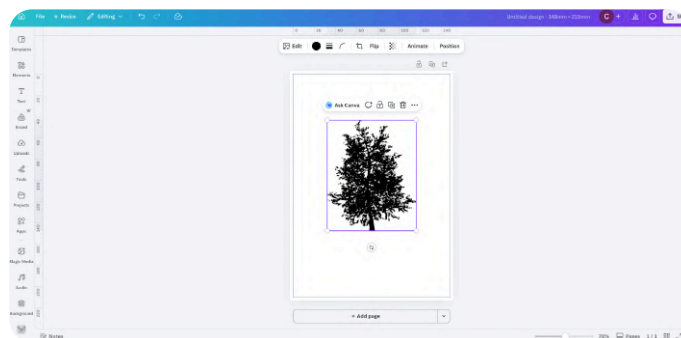
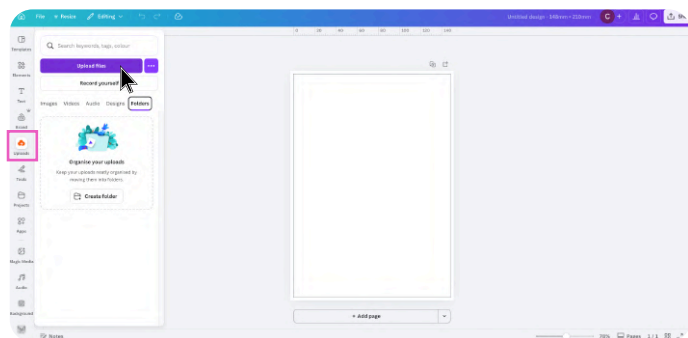
When adding text in Canva, ensure there is no drop shadow on it. To check this, click on the text box, click on the 'effects' option on the top menu bar and underneath 'style' ensure 'NONE' is selected. If this is enabled it may be picked up during the foil process and result in a 'halo' around the text.



USING CUSTOM SHAPES, GRAPHICS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

You can also bring other shapes, graphics or illustrations into Canva as well if you have something particular you like. Canva allows you to upload PDF, PNG, JPEG, EPS and Ai (Adobe Illustrator) files as well.

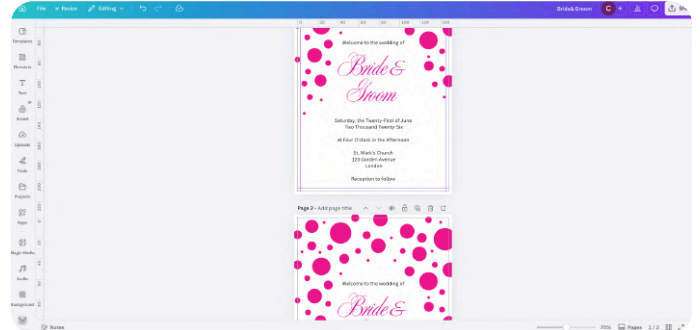
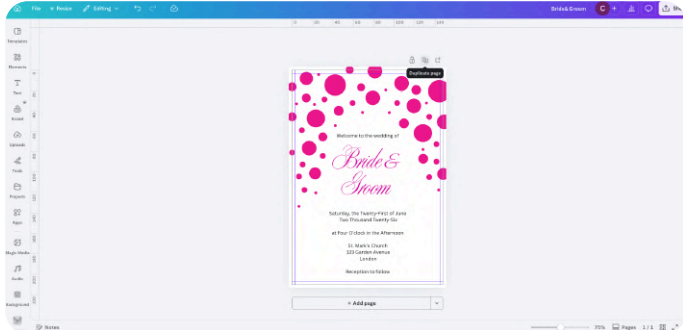
Here we have found a tree illustration which is an SVG file (a standard file used for 2D graphics). You can also bring in PDF, JPEG, PNG files as well. These will need to be solid black.



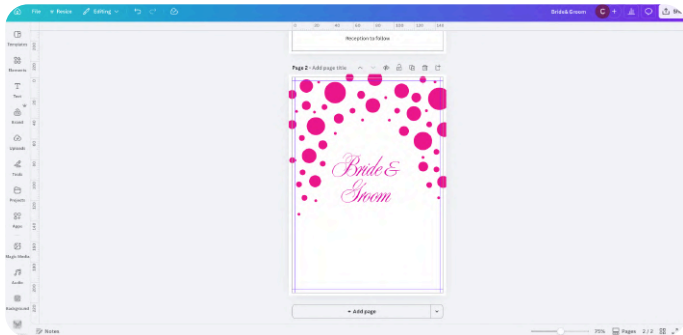
You can create your own shapes or illustrations using drawing apps like procreate, save them with a transparent background as a PNG and bring them in as well, as long as they are black.

STEP 3 CREATE A FOIL ONLY PAGE

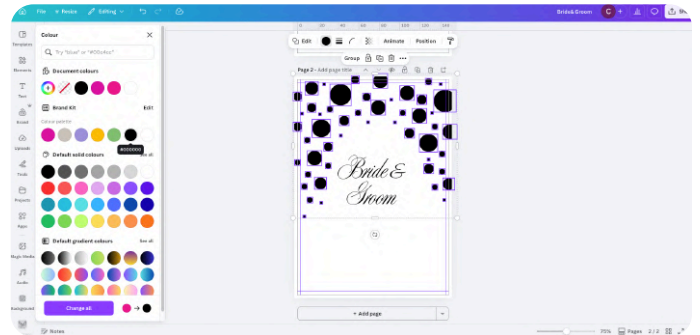
Now that we have created a design, we need to create a 'foil only' page from your 'full artwork page' page which has everything but the foil elements removed. This is really easy to do, simply click on the 'duplicate page' icon in the top right corner of your current page. You will then have an exact copy of the first page.



Remove the print (non foiled) parts from the artwork

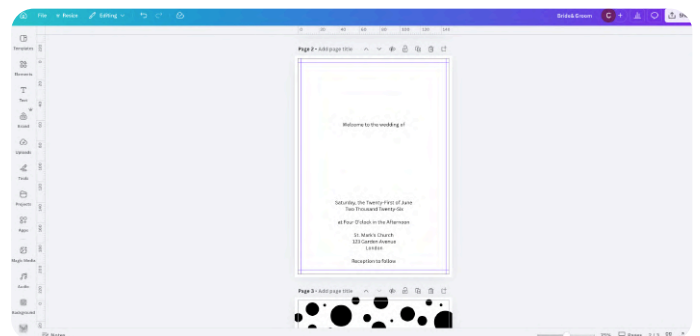
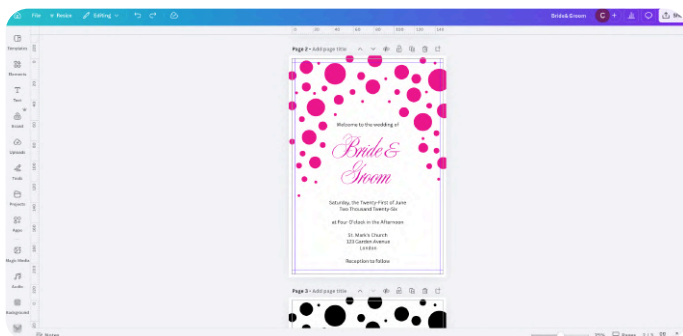


Change all of the foiled parts to black (#000000)



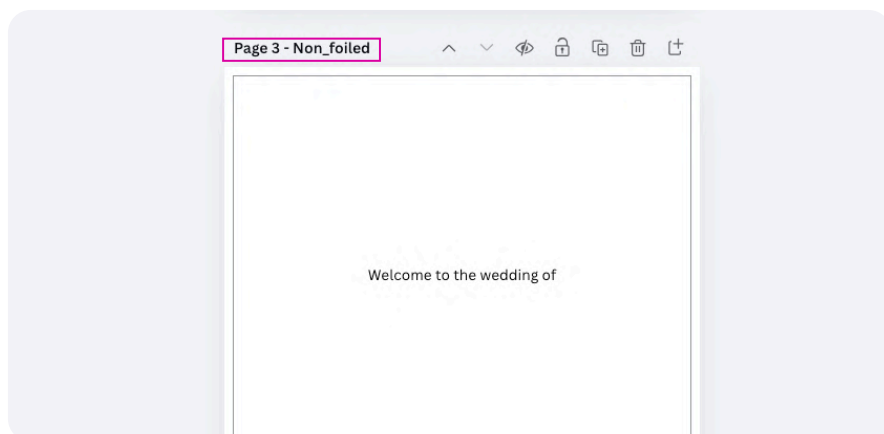
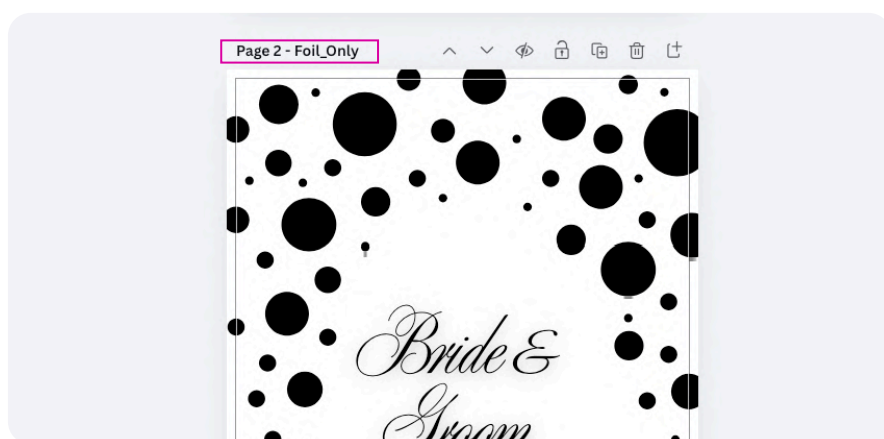
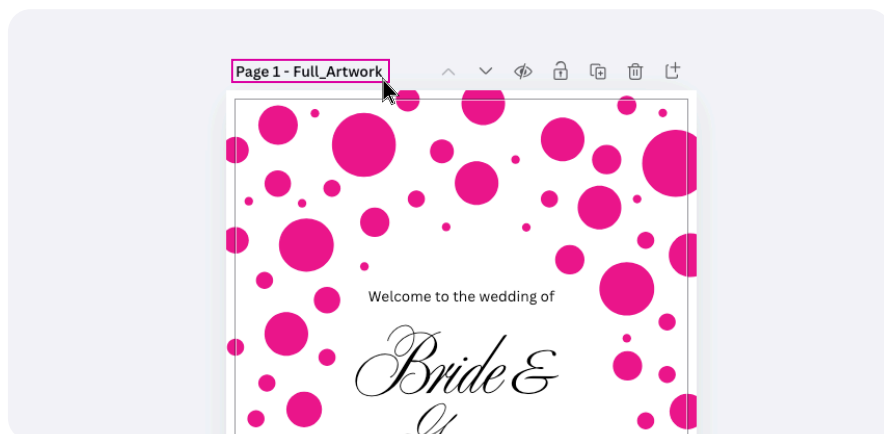
STEP 4 CREATE A PRINT ONLY PAGE

Make another duplicate of the first page like before.
On this page we remove the foil elements from the page leaving only the print.



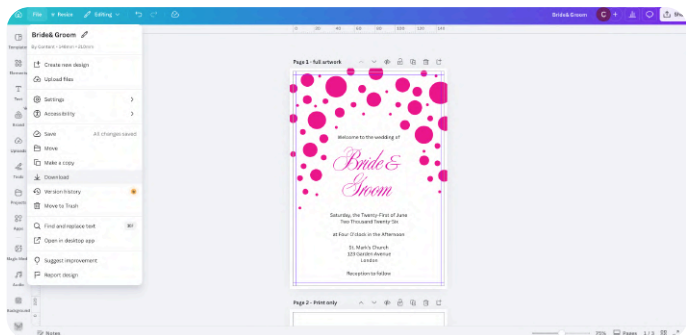
STEP 5 NAME YOUR PAGES

Name the pages by clicking on the page title in the top left corner, name them Full_artwork, Foil_only, Non_foiled and this will be the names of your PDF files when saved.

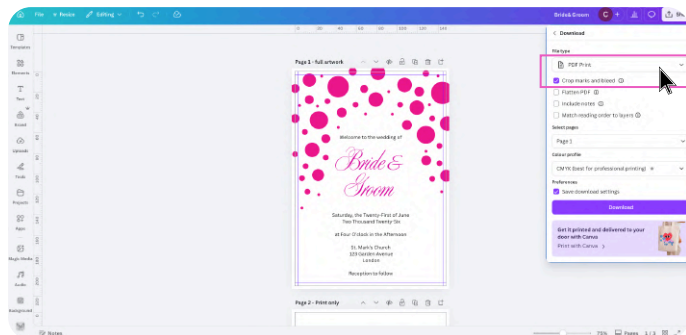


STEP 6 SAVE YOUR ARTWORK

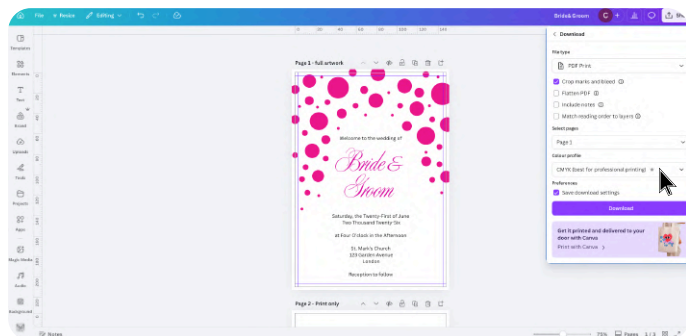
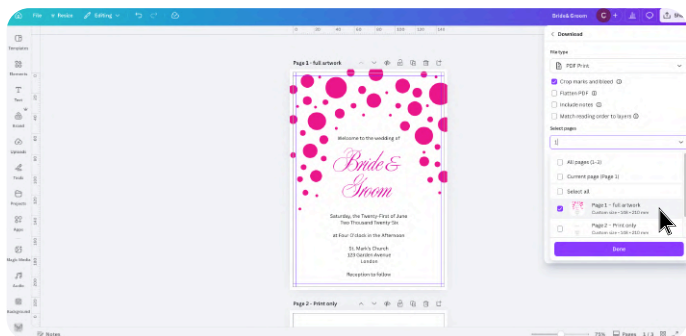
Save your artwork as a PDF by clicking file > download.



In 'File type' select PDF print, tick the option for 'crop marks and bleed'.

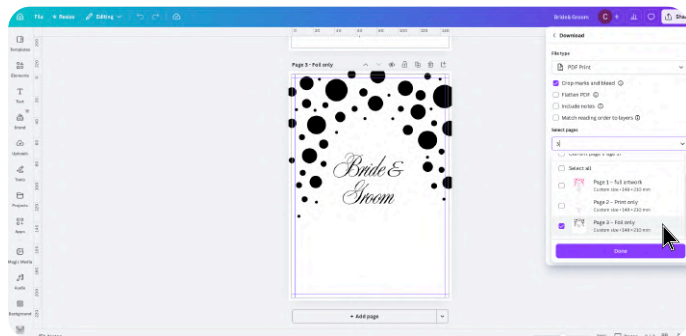
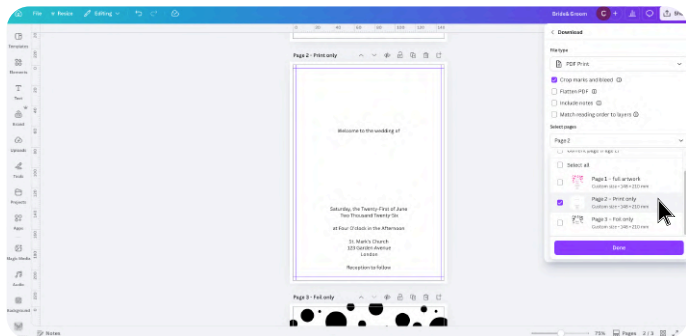


In 'select pages' deselect 'all pages' and select page 1 only.



In the 'colour profile' ensure CMYK (best for professional printing) is selected. This is a premium feature, so it's not available on the free plan.

You will need to do the same for all of the other pages as well. Untick page 1 and tick page 2, etc., so you end up with 3 separate PDF's named correctly.



And that's it, you're all set to go!

Head over to <https://www.printed.com/support> for further help and support.