

Spot UV A Canva Guide

We know that setting up your files for special finishes like spot UV 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 spot UV 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 spot UV, we need three PDF files:

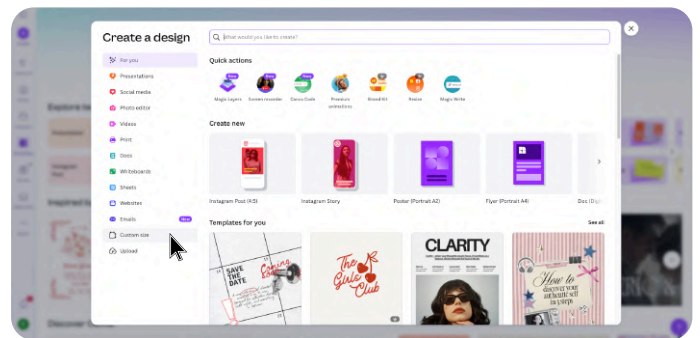
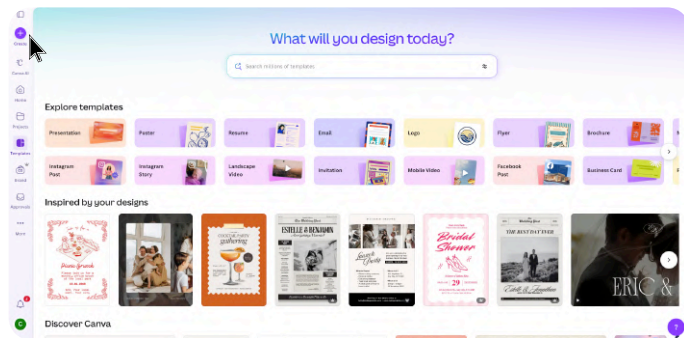
- **Full_artwork file** – a complete version of your design showing both the print and spot UV elements together.
- **Spot-UV_only file** – a version with all printed elements removed, showing only the spot UV areas in solid black on a white background.
- **Non_spot-UV file** – a version with all spot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

What is Spot UV?

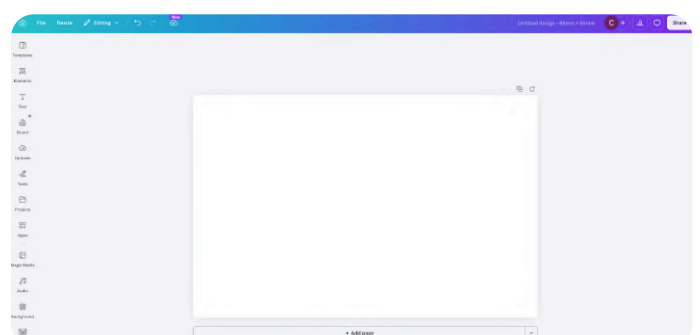
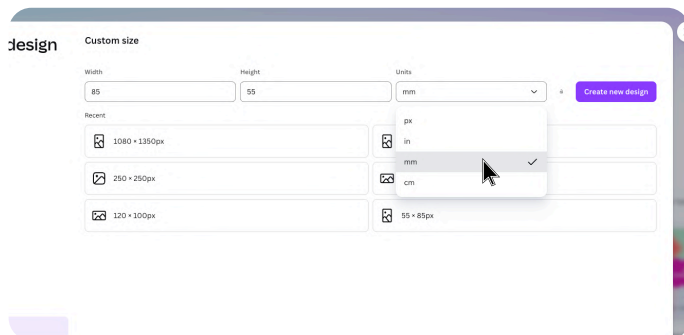
Spot UV printing is a unique finishing touch that adds a glossy, raised coating to specific parts of a printed design. The term "UV" comes from the ultraviolet light used to instantly cure and set the coating, creating a sleek, high-shine effect. It's a simple yet impactful way to make elements like logos, text, or patterns pop. You'll often see this technique on Business Cards, Brochures, or packaging, giving them a professional and polished look.

Step 1 Create a page

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



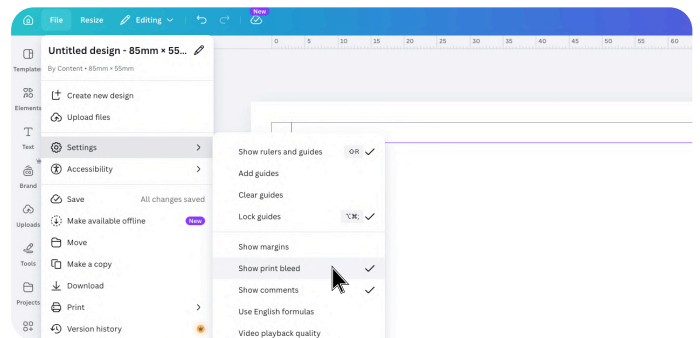
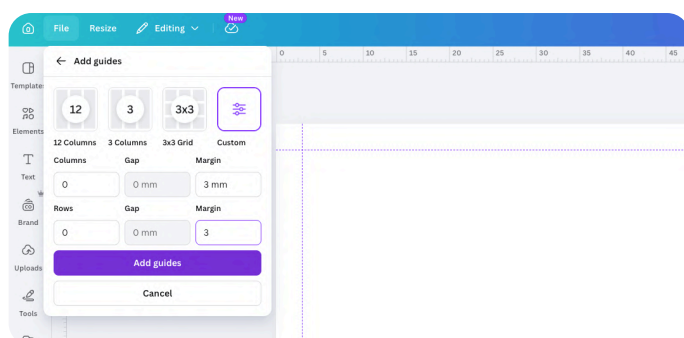
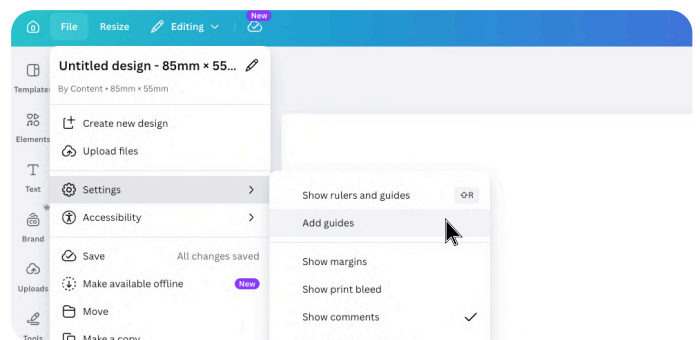
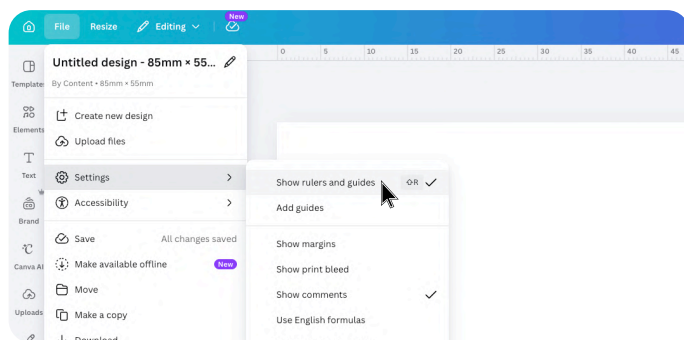
You can create any size you want from here. In this case, we're going to set up the page as 85 x 55 mm. Change the units to mm and enter your dimensions in the width and height fields. In the example below, the width is 85 mm and the height is 55 mm - this will create a landscape Business Card. Swap them if you want a portrait layout.



Add safe zone and bleed to the page

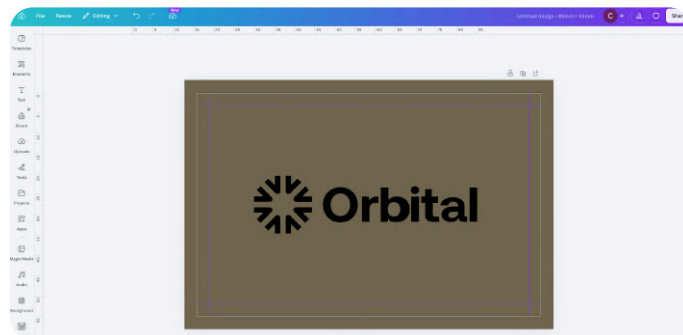
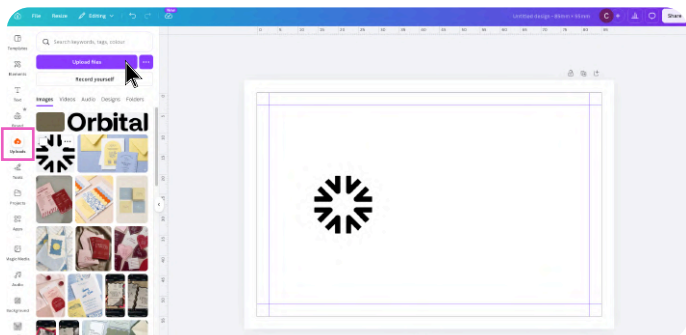
To show the safe area, we need to add margins 3mm in from the edge of the page. This helps keep important elements such as text and graphics a safe distance from the trim edge, reducing the risk of them being cropped during finishing. To do this click File > Show rulers & guides. Then click File > Add guides > Custom, and enter 3 mm in both margin boxes and set the rest to 0.

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 imported our elements (background colour, text, and logo) as SVG files so we are able to edit them. Simply click Uploads > Upload files and select the files you want to import.



Notice how we have filled the background colour in the bleed area 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.

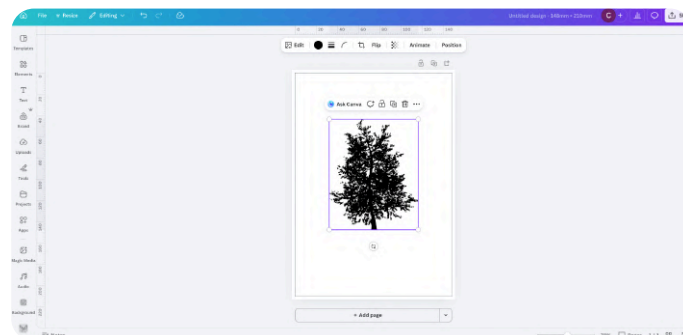
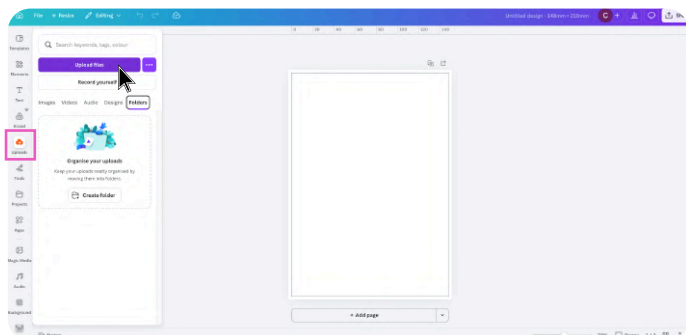
! IMPORTANT NOTE

Ensure any spot UV elements are at least 3 mm away from the outside edge of where your design will be cut or where it will be folded. If spot UV is applied to edges or folds, the coating can chip or peel during the trimming or folding process.

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.

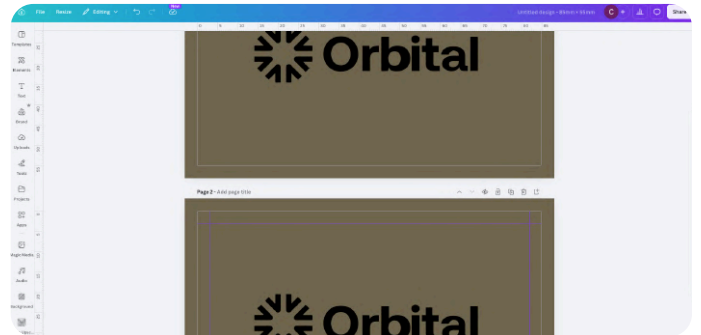
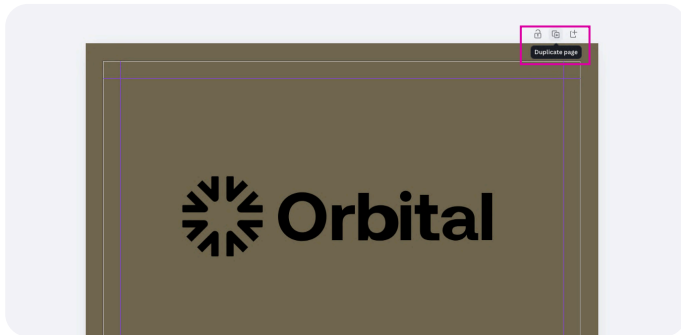
Here we have found a tree illustration which is an SVG file (a standard file used for 2D graphics). You can also bring in PDF, JPEG, PNG files as well. These will need to be solid black.



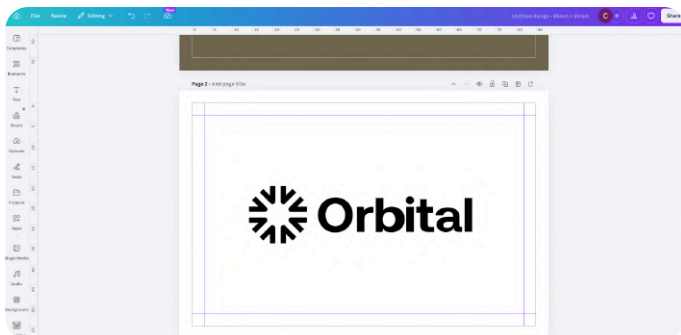
You can create your own shapes or illustrations using drawing apps like Procreate, save them with a transparent background as a PNG and bring them in as well, as long as they are black.

Step 3 Create a Spot UV only page

Now that we have created a design, we need to create a 'spot UV only' page from your 'full artwork' page with all non-spot UV 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-spot UV) parts from the artwork.



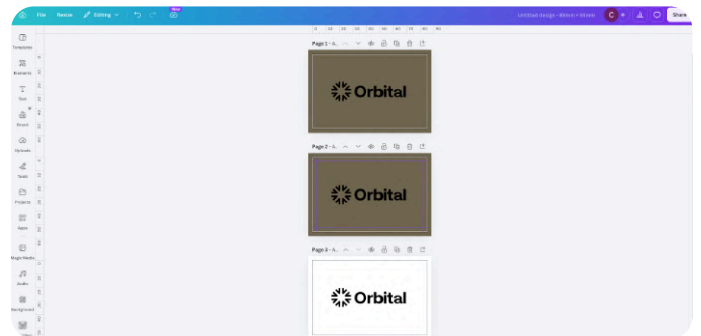
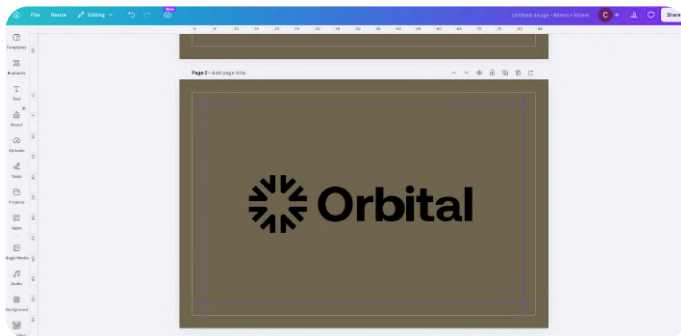
Ensure all spot UV parts are set to black (Hex code: #000000).



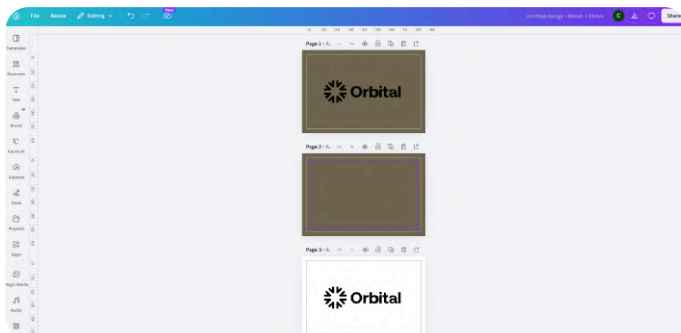
Step 4 Create a print only page

Make another duplicate of the first page, as before.

In this example we are not removing anything as we want to add the spot UV on top of the black print.

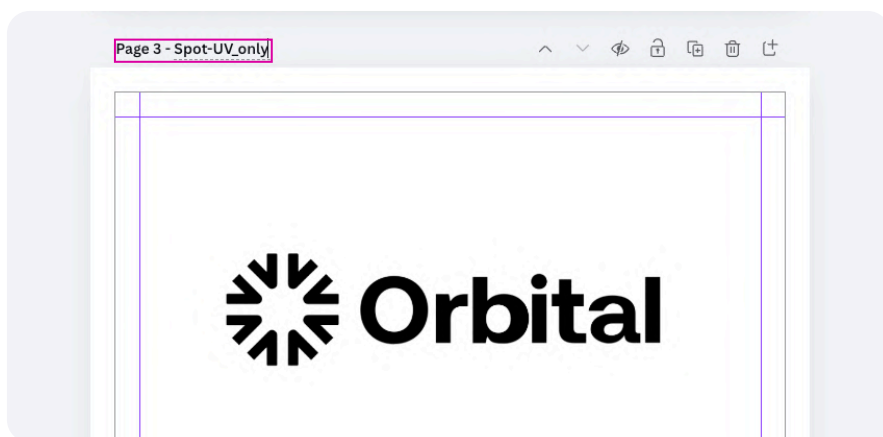
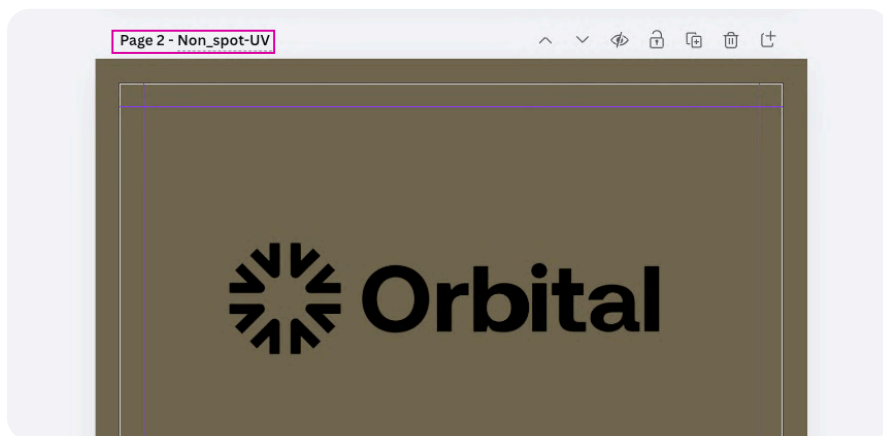
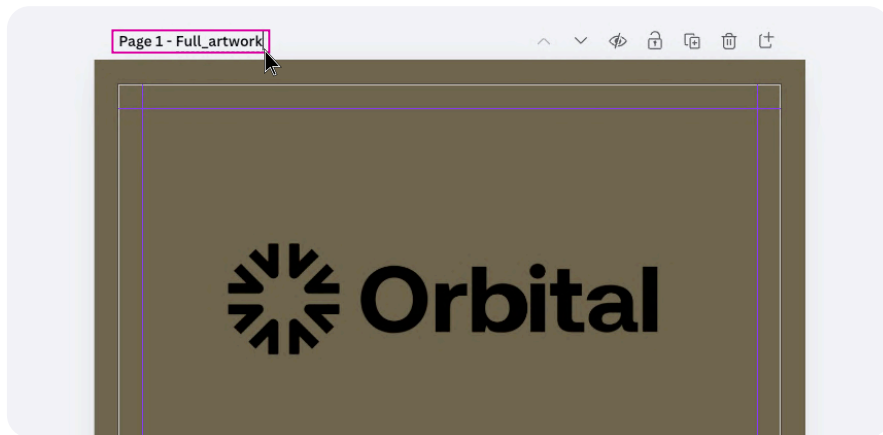


If you don't want any colour underneath your spot UV, simply remove it from the print-only page. In the example below, the spot UV will be applied directly to the background colour and will not have black printed underneath it.



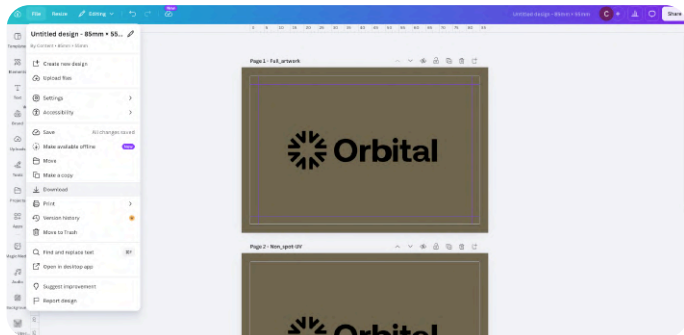
Step 5 Name your pages

Name the pages by clicking on the page title in the top-left corner. Name them Full_artwork, Non_spot-UV, and Spot-UV_only.

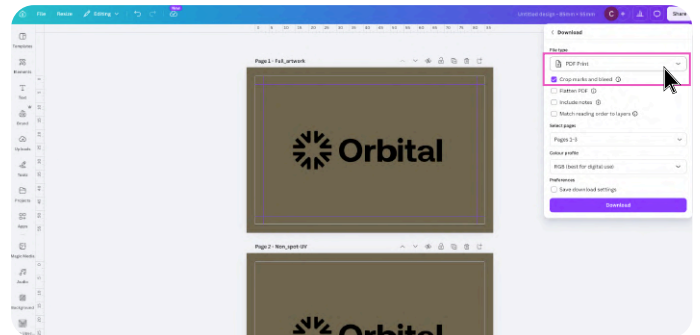


Step 6 Save your artwork

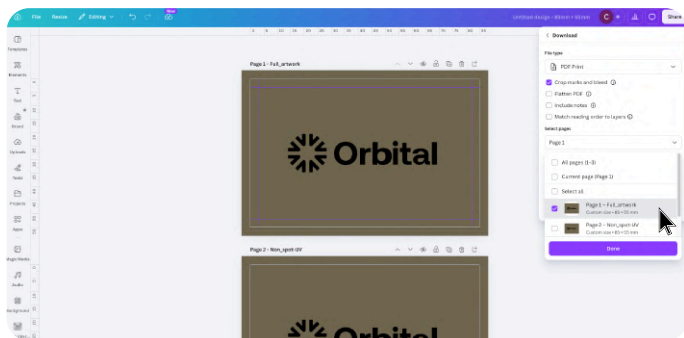
Save your artwork as a PDF by clicking File > Download.



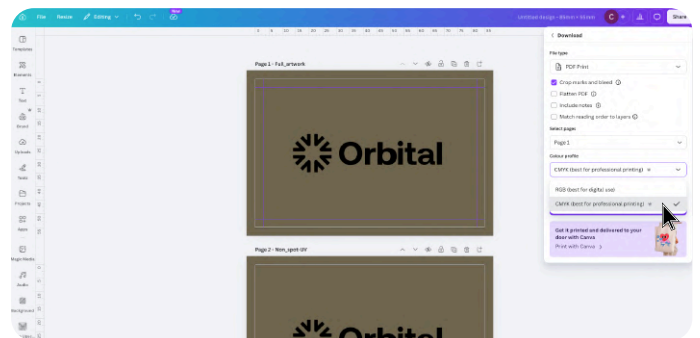
In 'File type', select PDF Print, tick the option for 'Crop marks and bleed'.



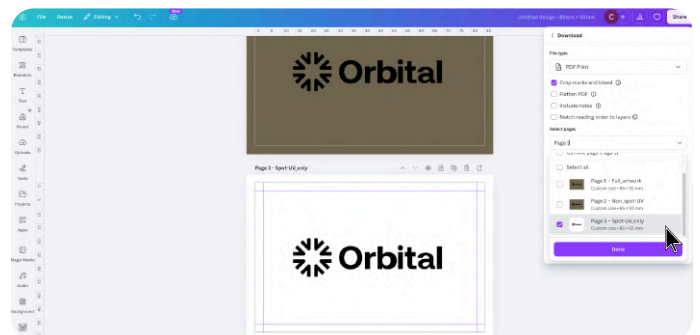
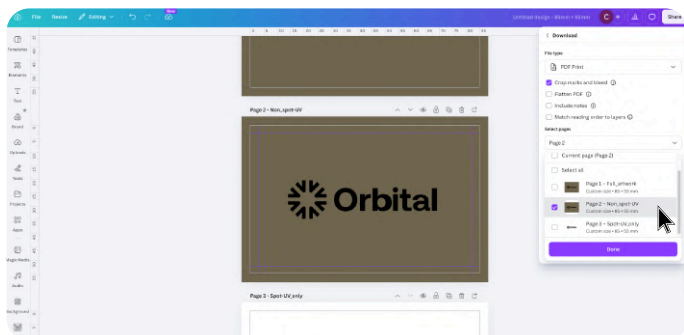
In 'Select pages' deselect 'All pages' and select page 1 only.



Under '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 three separate PDFs 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.