

Tips on how to design a Standard Photo Book

It is always a good practice to create a user account, so you can save your project and return to it later.

Click on “Order Now” button to view the various available products.

Select the type of book you want to order, for example - Hard Cover, Softcover or Spiral Bound.

Select the size of book.

Click on the “Begin Creation – Customize a premade layout” black button to start your book design.

You will be routed to the book design page and asked to upload photos. Select the location of the photos you want to use either from your device or social media. Select all photos you will be using and click on the upload button. You can always add photos later. This can take some time depending on your internet connection speed.

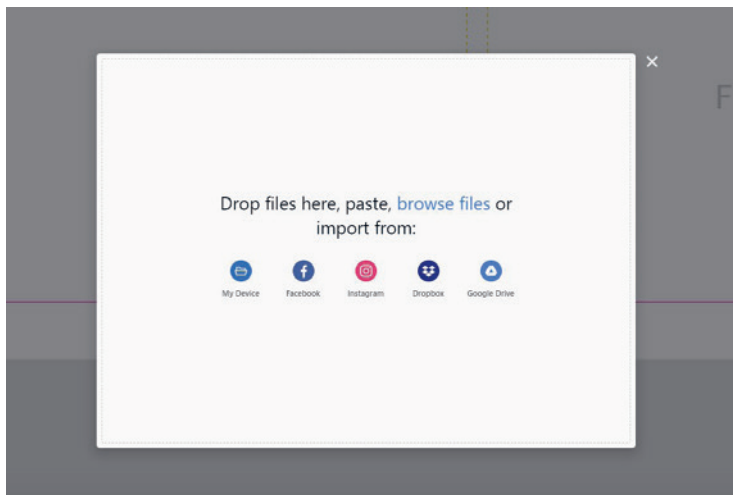


Fig 1

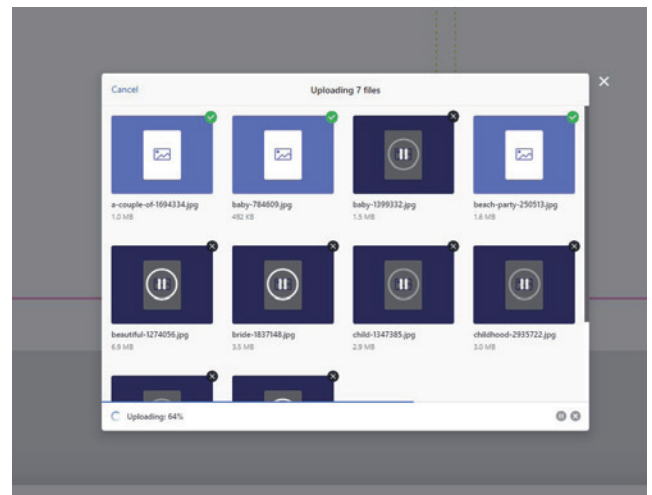


Fig 2

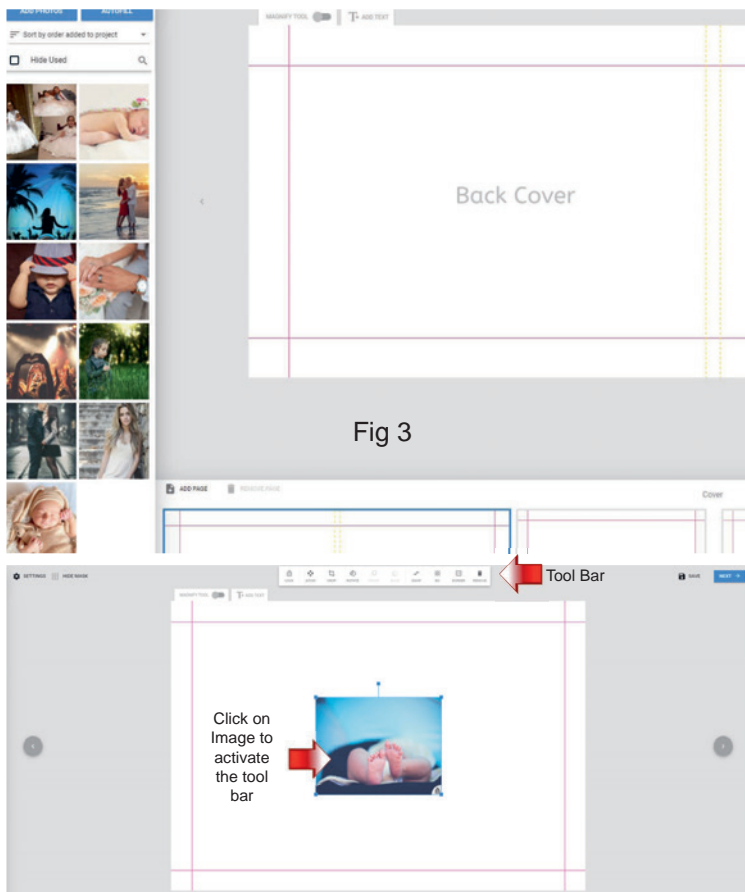


Fig 4

Once photos are uploaded, they will reside on the left pane (see Fig3). From here you can select the photos by simply clicking on the photo with your mouse left button and drag it on the page.

All pages are blank, and you can place your photos anywhere you like, you can rotate photos, zoom, crop, add text, borders etc. Check the tool bar at the top for various options, see Fig 4.

You may also select pre-defined layouts to help you place the photos on the page. Layouts can be modified once photos are placed in frames. You can move, rotate, crop etc. Make sure you click on the unlock button on the left-hand side of the tool bar. Photos can be clicked and dragged into the layout boxes and will automatically be sized to fit the frame box. Photos can also be resized to your liking by simply click and drag the small blue boxes at the corners of each photo frame.

We recommend using layouts as these are set to fit the page and you will be sure that no part of the photo is trimmed off and photos are spaced evenly and aligned properly.

How to design the Book Cover (Hard Cover)

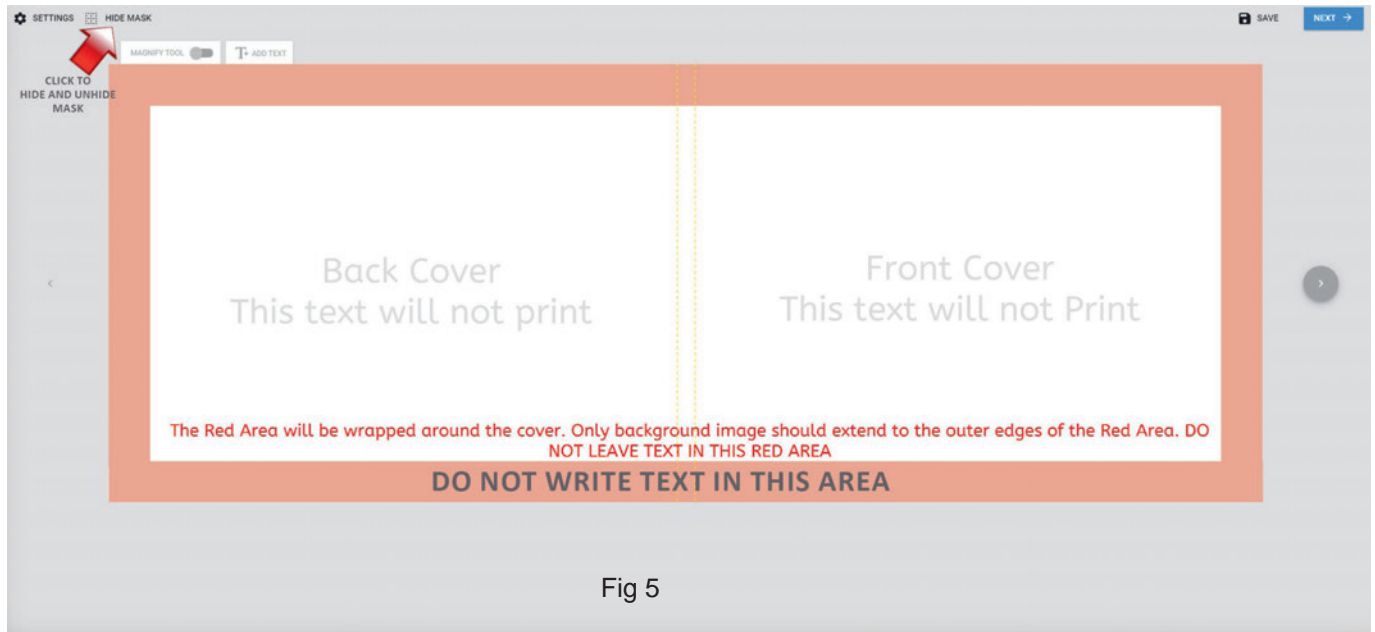


Fig 5

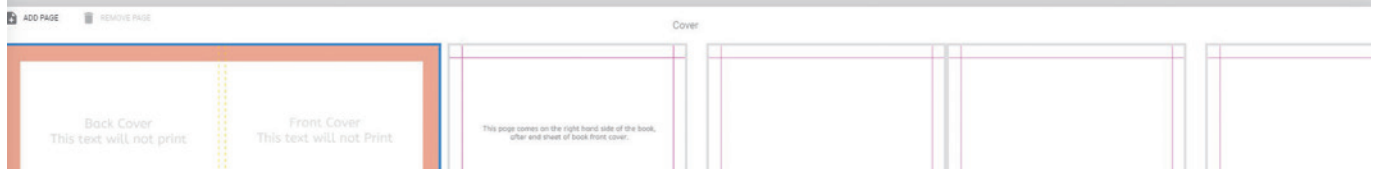


Fig 5 shows the empty cover page. The Red Border (MASK) is the area that the cover sheet will be wrapped around the back of the cover board. The mask is there to help you set and align your photos and text at the right places. Therefore, if you have an important part of your photo that you need to have showing then it is important you do not place it in the red area. It is very IMPORTANT not to write text in the red Mask area as this will be wrapped to the back of the cover board.

You can hide and show mask as you will by clicking on the Hide Mask Button at the top left corner of the screen.



Figures 6 & 7 are examples of a wrong layout. Fig 6 shows the layout with Mask hidden, while Fig 7 shows layout with mask.

Although the placing of the photos in Fig 7 may look good, it is actually wrong.

When Mask is hidden (fig 6) you can see that :

1. The photos do not cover the whole white area.
2. Photo edges overlapping slightly the red area.
3. Photo sizes are uneven.

This will end up with white lines showing on the cover.

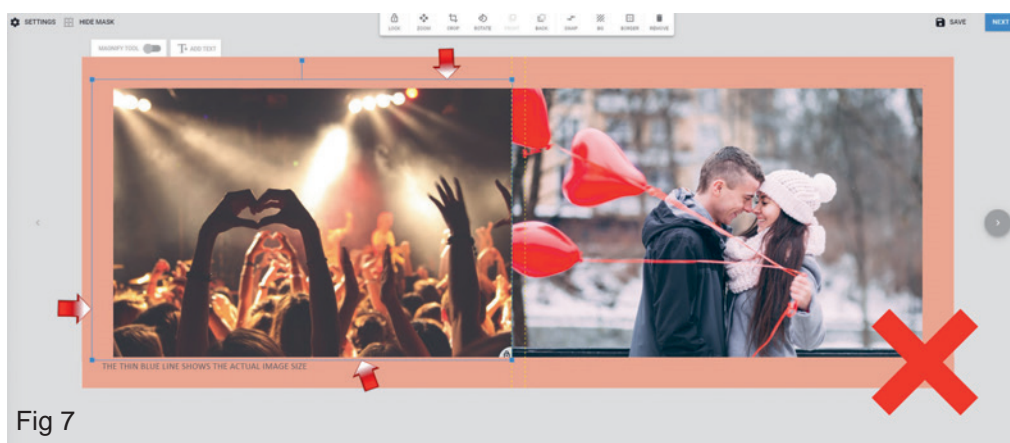
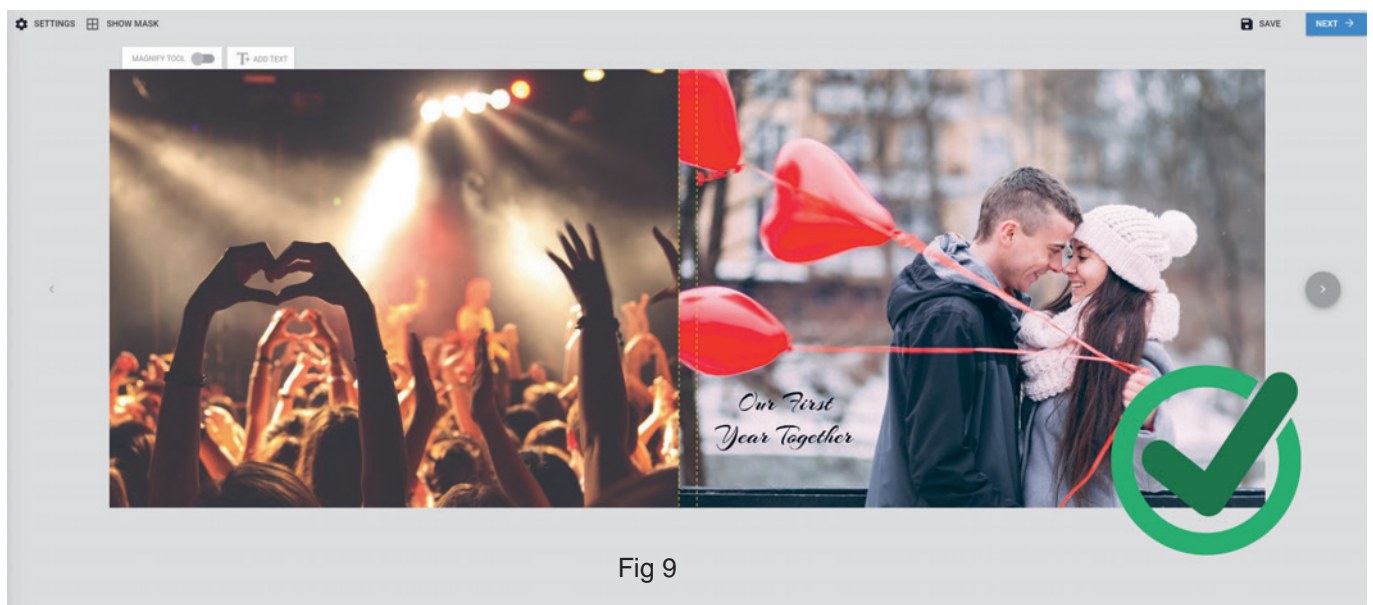
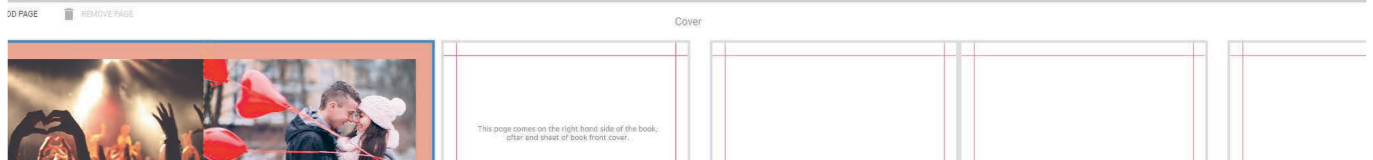
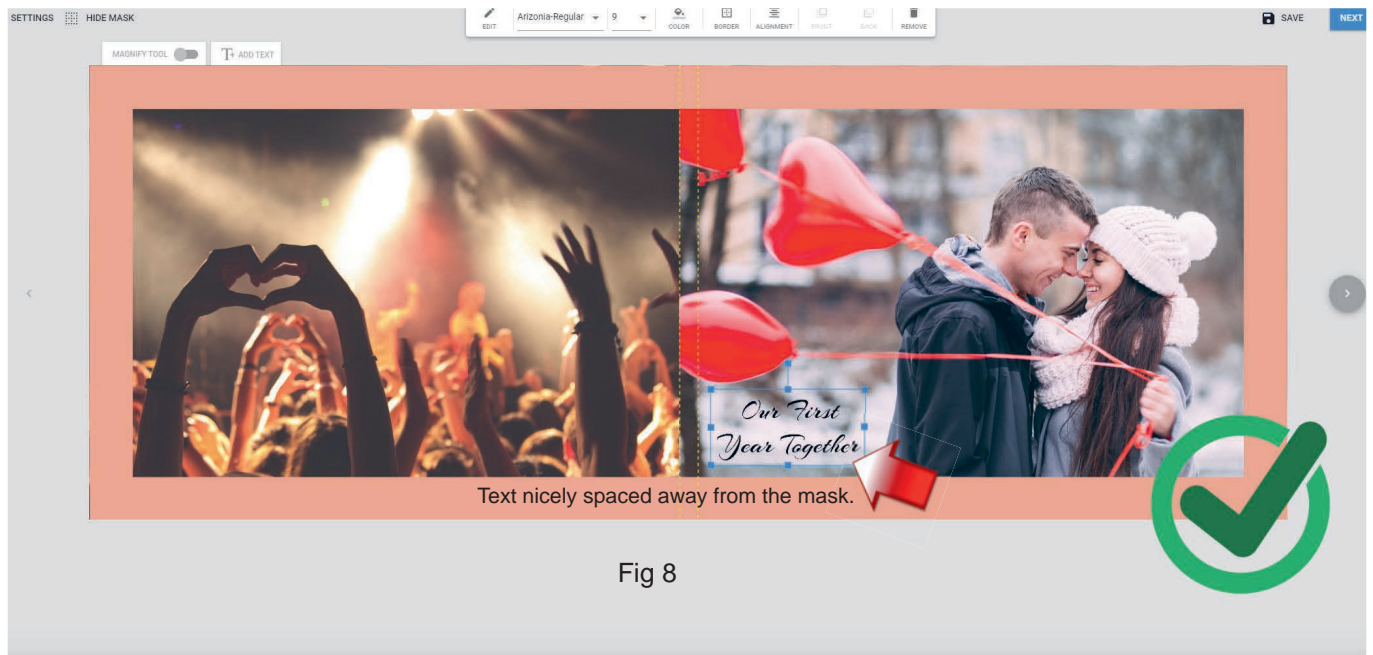


Fig 7



Figures 8 & 9 shows a well design layout with Mask and hidden Mask. Text is also added to the layout.

NOTE:

1. Text is set with adequate space away from the Mask.
2. Photos are covering the whole white area.
3. The subject has enough space away from the mask avoiding heads being cut off at the wrap.



Figures 10, 11 & 12 show wrong placement of text.

Fig 10 & 11 show partial text in the red Mask area.

Fig 12 shows text placed too tight to Mask.

Different design of the Book Cover (Hard Cover) with smaller Photos and background image.

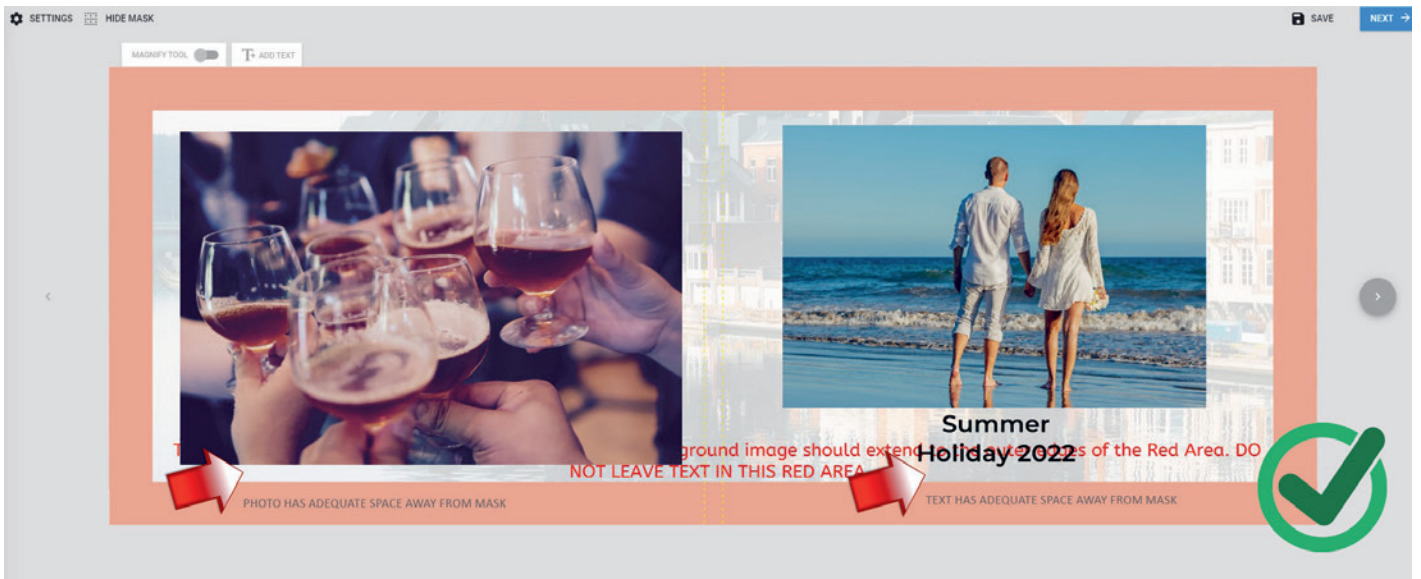


Fig 13

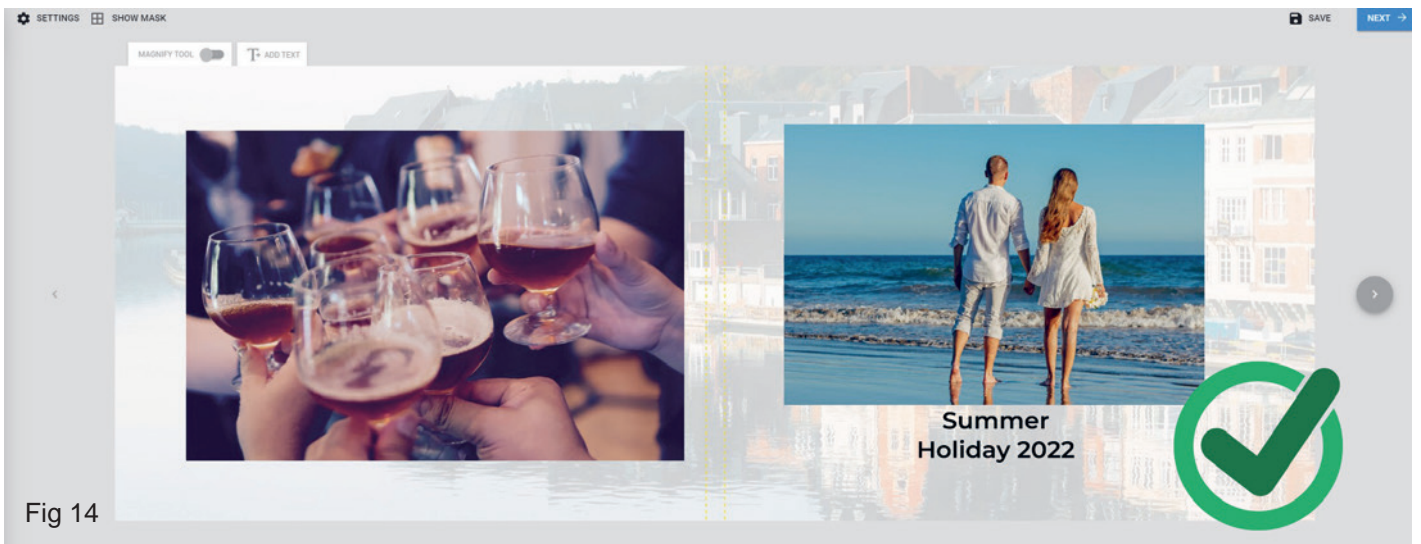
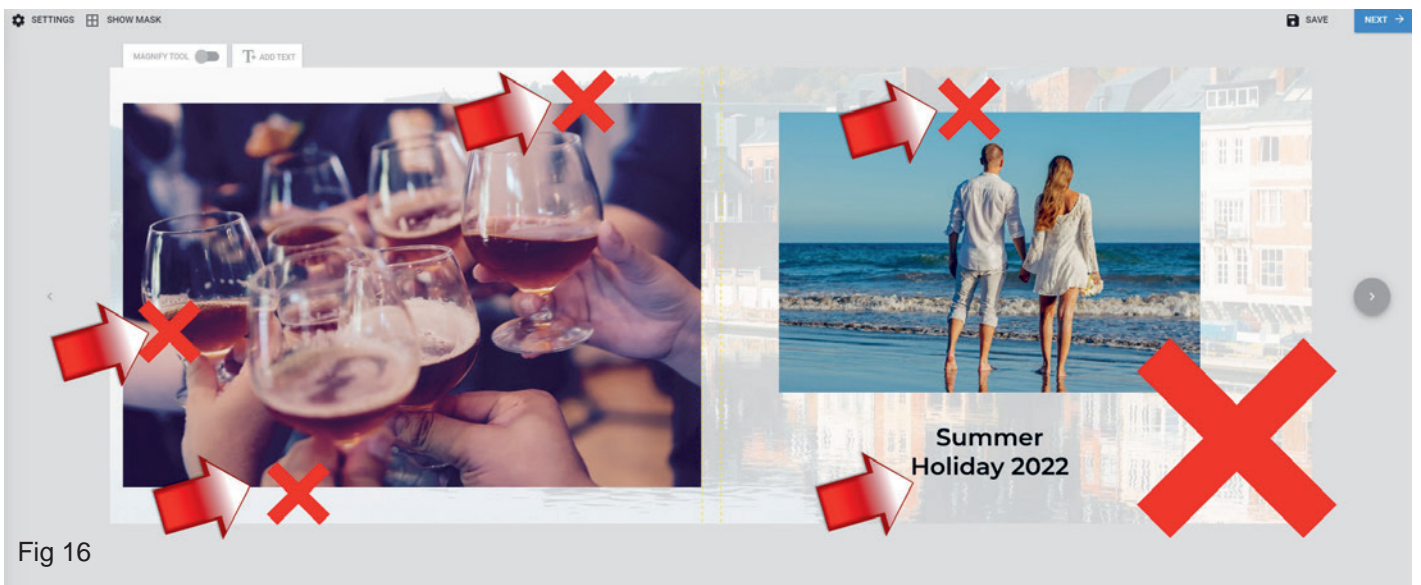
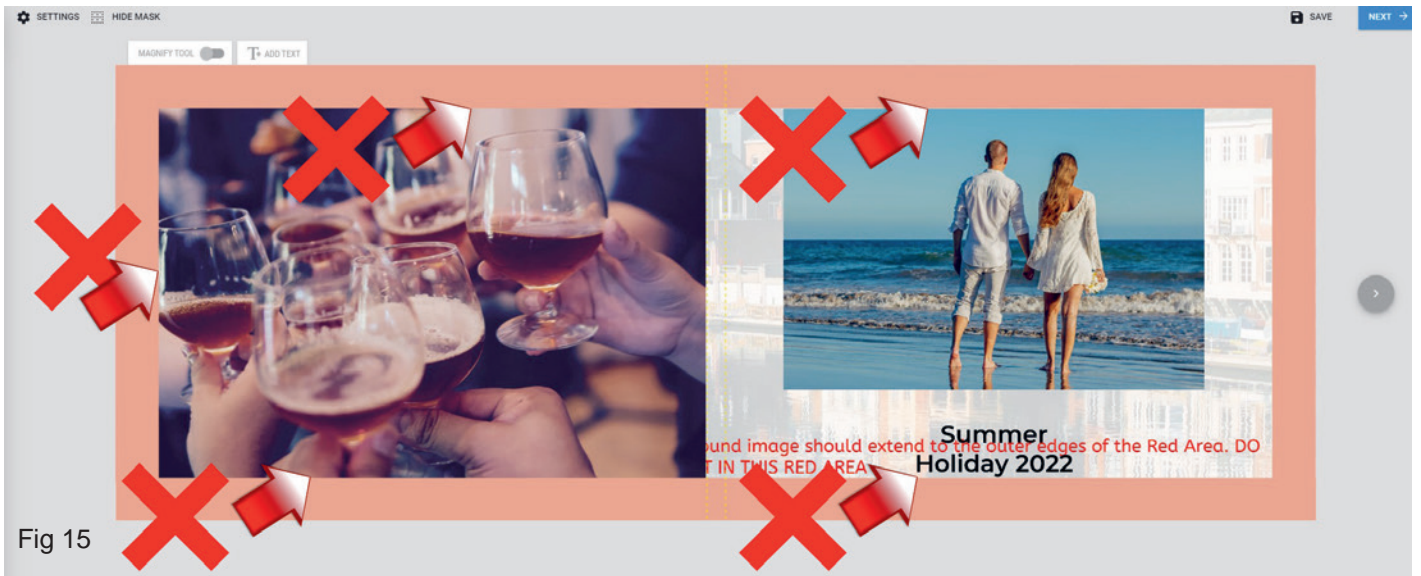


Fig 14

Figures 13 & 14 are the same layout with hidden and showing Mask.

Note how photos are sized and spaced away from the Mask. Same applies to text.



Figures 15 & 16 are wrong layouts. Fig 16 is the same layout as Fig 15 but with Hidden Mask.

1. Text is placed too tight to the Mask
2. Photos are too big and touching the mask. Always leave space away from mask.

Text and photos with too little space or no space away from mask will look unpleasant.

How to design the Inner Pages

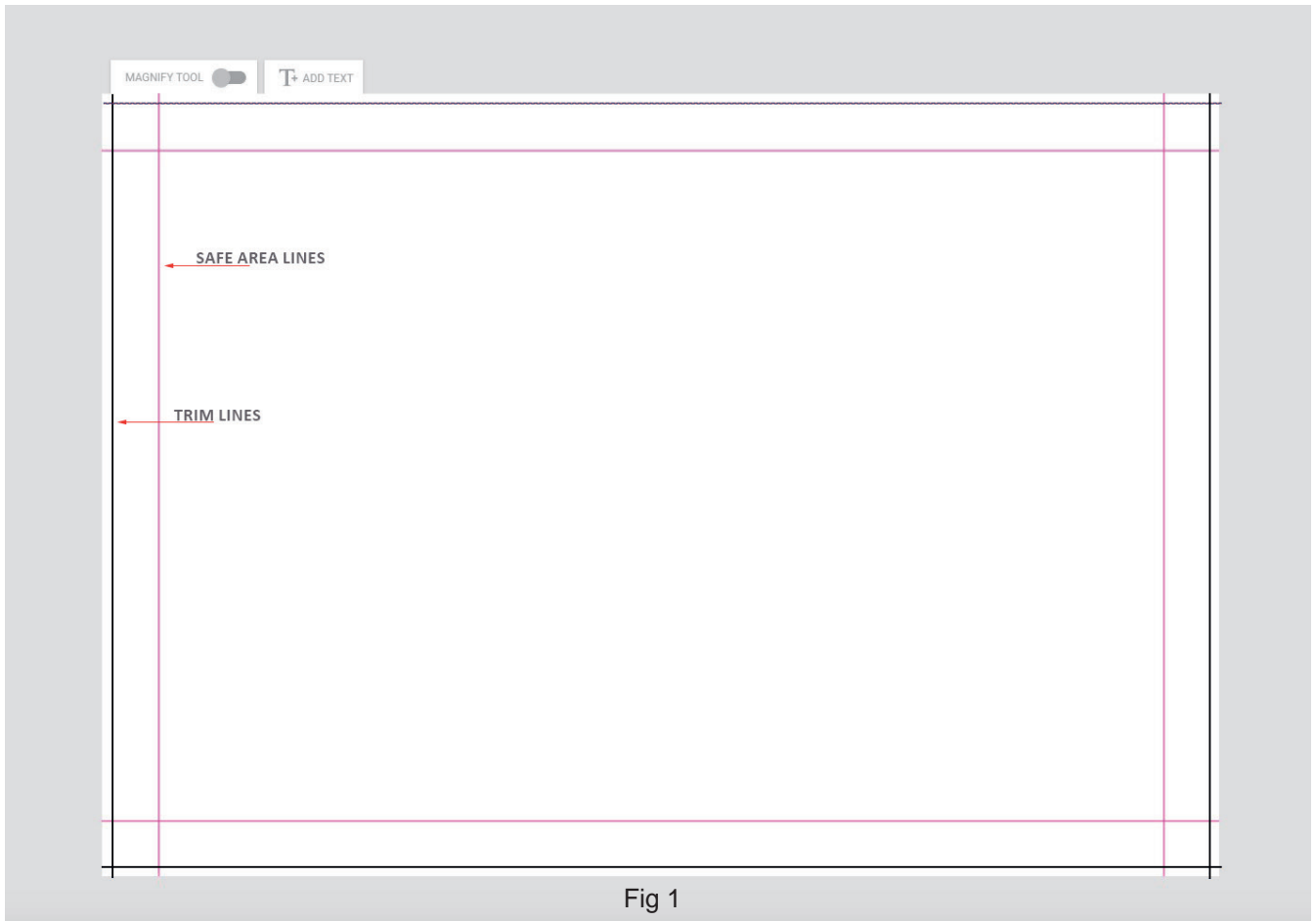


Figure 1 is the blank page for your design. The Pink lines are guidelines (will not print) to help you place your images safely without being either trimmed off or very near the trimmed edge which will look unpleasant.

The Black Lines in the above image are the trim lines. To keep the screen simple, these trim marks are not shown on your online page. We are showing these for information purposes only as all pages will be trimmed. It is a very small part of the photo which will be trimmed around 3mm.

If you intend to place an image to cover the whole page area from edge to edge without any white borders, it is important that your image covers the whole white area. Leave no white space visible. This ensures that when the page is trimmed no thin white lines are left which will look very unpleasant.

The same thing applies if you want to put a background image which covers the whole page.

If, however you intend to leave a white border, then it is important that you do not place the image outside the Pink Guidelines, see examples below. Keeping your images within the Pink Safe Area Lines will ensure adequate white border away enough from the trimmed edge of the page. Placing your images outside the Pink Safe Lines can end up very near the edge of the page leaving a very narrow space away from the edge of the page.

As a rule of thumb, either cover the whole page area or keep inside the pink Lines.



Photo is covering the whole white area which will print from edge to edge. Note that subject is within the Pink lines, keeping adequate space from the edge of the page.

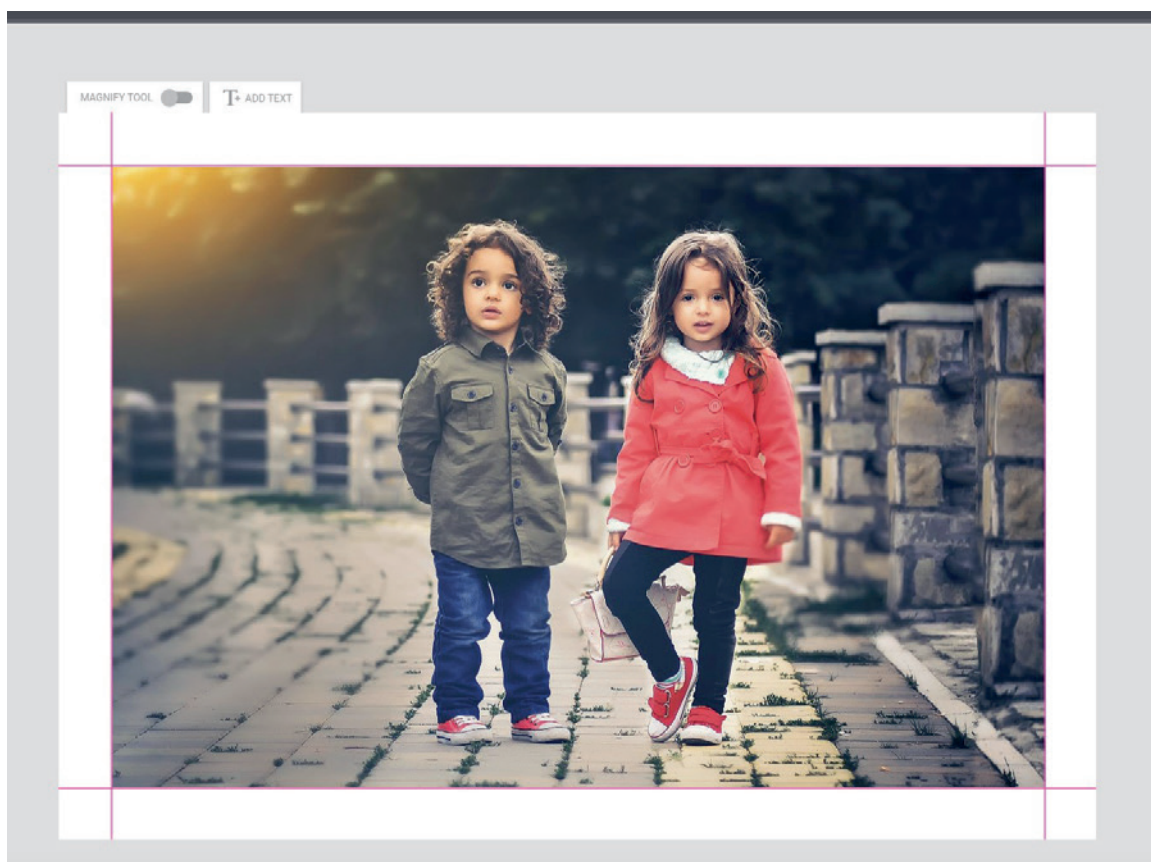


Photo is placed within the Pink lines which will leave a nice even white border from the edge of the page.

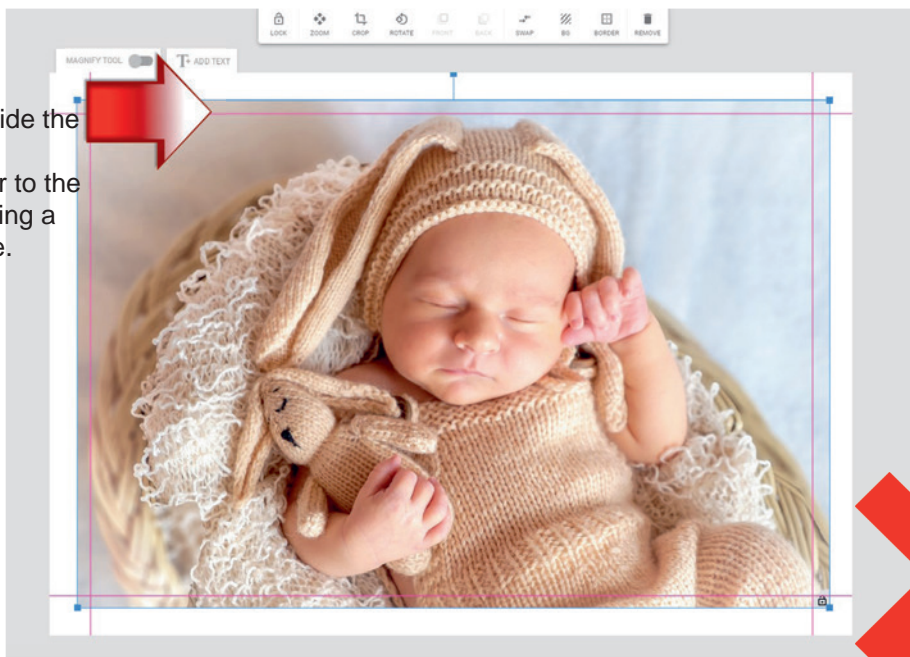
Head outside the pink line.
Will print near the edge of page.



Photo placed outside the
pink line.
Will print very near to the
edge of page leaving a
very thin white line.

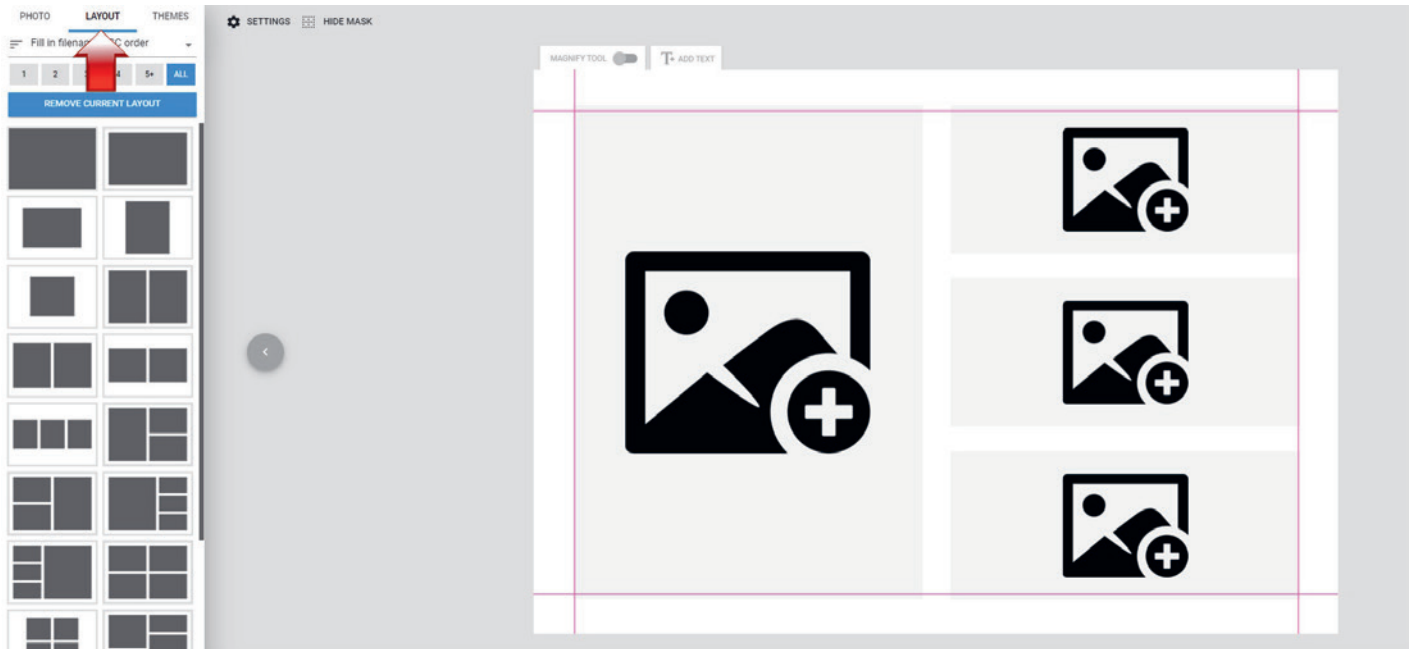


Photo placed outside the
pink line.
Will print very near to the
edge of page leaving a
very thin white line.

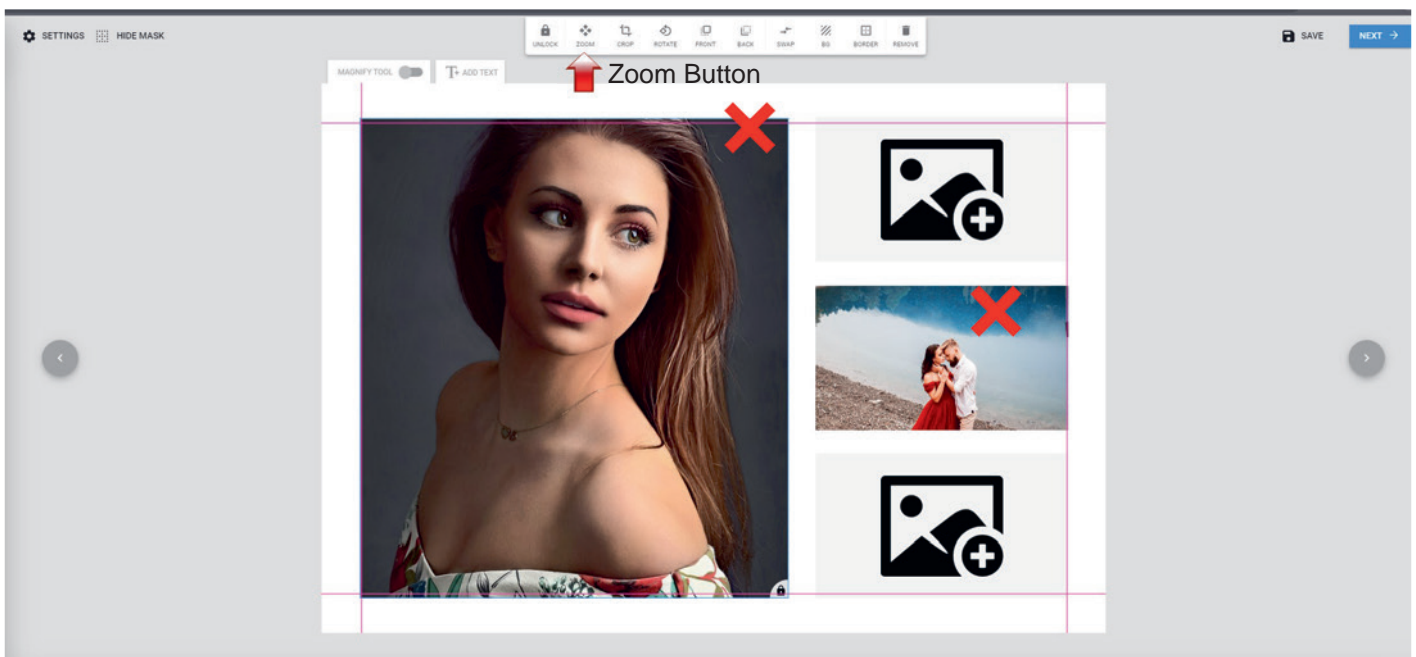


How to design the Inner Pages using LAYOUTS

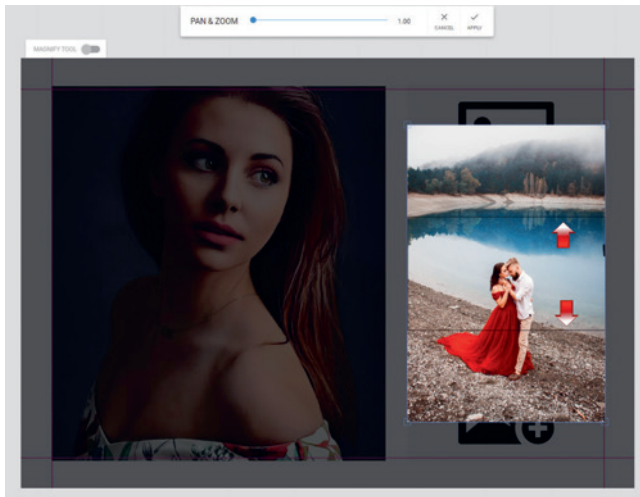
Using LAYOUTS in the Layouts tab is easier to design your book and ensures that your images are set evenly with adequate border, evenly spaced and lined up. To place a layout, select the page you want to edit and click on any of the layout you prefer. It will be automatically placed in your page. Layout photo boxes are locked by default but can be unlocked and moved around. Images can be cropped to change the aspect ratio from say rectangle to square and then zoom the image back in to fit as required. Be careful to align the photo boxes to look neat. **IMPORTANT.** You may notice that when you apply a layout, the layout will extend slightly outside the Red Safe Lines. This is no problem as the layouts are always within the safe area of the page.



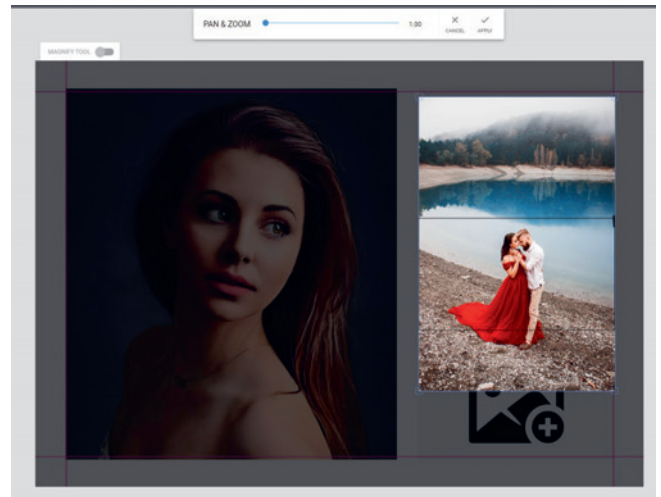
Placing photos is very easy. Just click and hold mouse button and drag photo to any of the Image place holders. The photos will automatically fit in the box. Since some of the boxes may not have the same size of the photo the subject may not be placed right and may have, for example a person's head may be cut off. This can be corrected by using the zoom Tool. See example below: The left image head is cut off and the image on the right has too much space at the top. This is due to photos were not of correct orientation or size.



You can correct this by using the ZOOM tool. Click on the image you want to correct and then click on the ZOOM Button at the top. With the zoom tool you can drag the image up or down or left to right to place the image correctly.



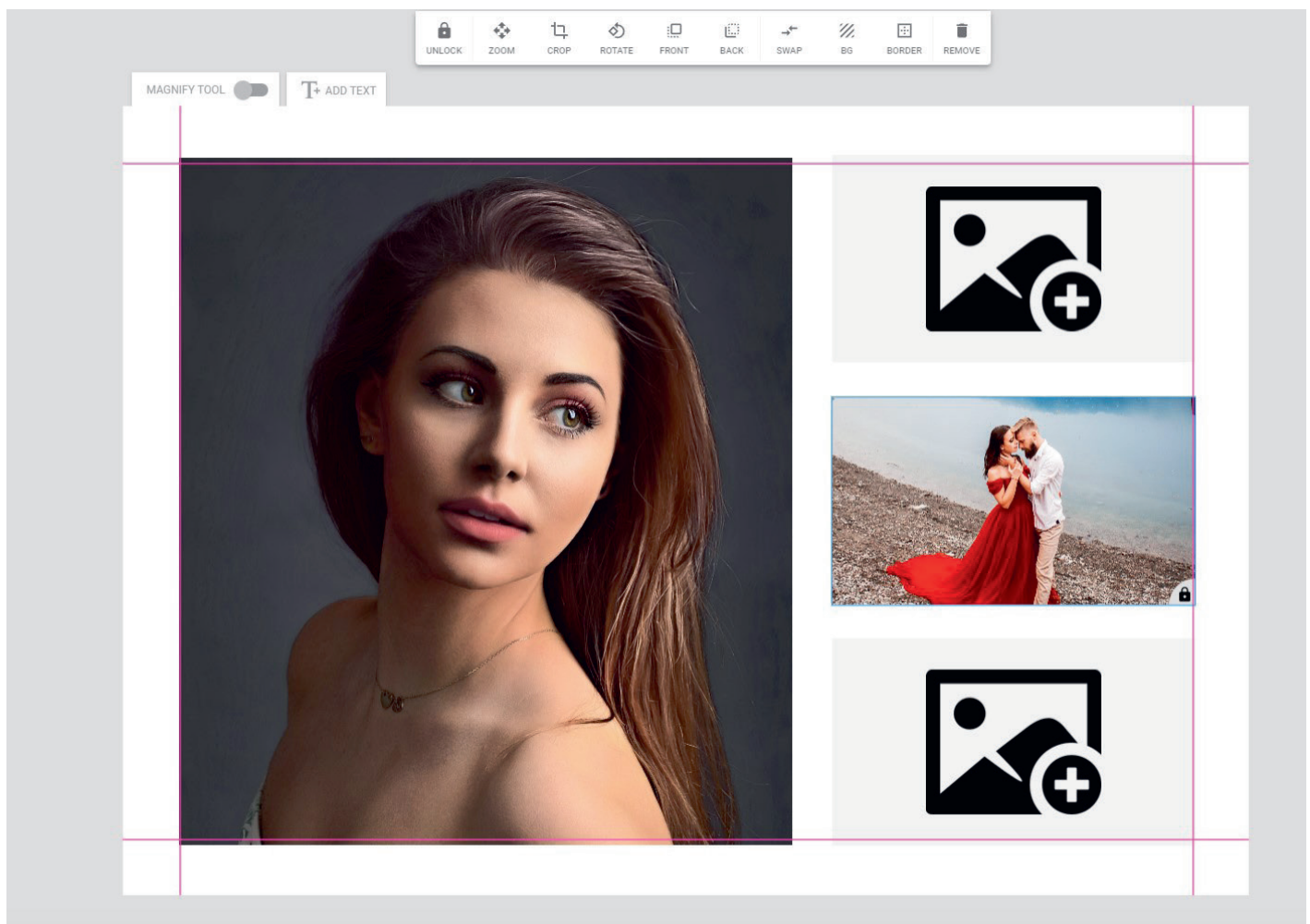
Example 1



Example 2

Example one shows the photo not placed correctly. Note the Black Lines, these are guides to help you set the photo in place. Click and drag image to correct placement.

Below is the correct placement of images.



Should you require any more information or help,
please do not hesitate to call us on 27447701 or send us an email at sales@ilabphoto.com.