

TKG PUBLISHING · A COMPANION WORKSHEET

THE SELF-PUBLISHING BUDGET WORKSHEET

Set a hard number. Commit to it.

Then leave a little extra for the surprises.

Money, in the self-publishing industry, can feel like an imaginary thing. It isn't. It exists here—you can earn it, and you will have to spend it. So let's demystify it.

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Every page is a click away—use the bookmarks or tap a line below.

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HOW TO USE THIS WORKSHEET

Here's the honest truth: prices change, and quickly. This worksheet will go out of date sooner rather than later—but it will still tell you *what to check*. That means you have homework to do. **Research prices before committing to anything.**

Here is the plan:

1. **Start on the next page—*Your Budget*.** It's blank on purpose. Each line has a reference range pulled from the blog post so you're not guessing in the dark.
2. **Fill in a number for every line, then total it.** Set a hard number and commit to that. Don't allocate right up to the exact number—leave some extra cash for unexpected costs.
3. **Use the worked examples that follow to sanity-check yourself.** Three real-shaped budgets across different genres and page counts, from a lean debut to a big fantasy.
4. **Flip to *Pricing at a Glance at the back*** whenever you need a quick number.

Budget in a way that makes sense for your book and your projected sales. A debut might call for a leaner budget; a book you want to *wow* people might call for more. There is no single right answer—just don't dig a hole you can't climb out of. If you do, there can be no other books.

Your art is worth it. Let's get that thing published.

YOUR BUDGET

Fill in a number for each line. The middle column is your reference range—not a rule.

Category	What it's for · reference range	Your \$
ISBN(s)	Own your own—this is vital. Single \$125 · 10-pack \$295 (\$29.50 each).	
Editing	Takes your book from jumbled words to a real thing people can read. Copyedit ~\$0.02–\$0.05/word.	
Typesetting	DIY in LaTeX \$0 · Fiverr \$50–\$500 · Pro \$475–\$1,275.	
Cover Design	DIY in Canva \$0–\$50 · Fiverr \$30–\$500 · Pro \$500–\$1,250.	
Copyright	\$65 now, with a proposed hike to \$85. Check the current price.	
Domain (per yr)	Own. Your. Domain. \$10–\$15 for a .com that isn't in hot demand.	
Proof Copies	Iterate until it's right. ~\$4–\$8 each × your number of rounds.	
Tools & Software	Canva Pro \$15/mo · Vellum / Atticus one-time (price-check).	
Initial Print Run	Author copies for direct sales (optional). Your count × print cost.	
Buffer	Leave extra for the unexpected costs that <i>will</i> show up.	
TOTAL	Your hard number—commit to it.	

EXAMPLE — THE LEAN DEBUT

Literary / book-club fiction · 216 pages (~55k words) · a book shaped like Seven Minutes. Do-it-yourself where it counts.

Category	The choice	Amount
ISBN(s)	Bowker 10-pack—owns them for future works and deluxe editions	\$295
Editing	Copyedit, ~55k words @ ~\$0.02/word	\$1,100
Typesetting	Done yourself in LaTeX	\$0
Cover Design	Designed yourself in Canva	\$0
Copyright	Electronic registration	\$65
Domain (per yr)	A .com, one year	\$12
Proof Copies	3 rounds, ~\$4 each + shipping	\$45
Tools & Software	Canva Pro, 2 months @ \$15	\$30
Initial Print Run	25 author copies for direct/signed sales	\$110
Buffer	~10% for surprises	\$175
TOTAL	A lean, mostly-DIY debut	~\$1,832

Assumes you typeset and design yourself—the two areas that save you the most if you’re making more than one book. Your editor’s rate will move this the most.

EXAMPLE — THE MID-LIST ROMANCE

Romance · 300 pages (~75k words) · testing the waters with a single title.

Category	The choice	Amount
ISBN(s)	A single Bowker ISBN—not sure yet if there’s a sequel	\$125
Editing	Copyedit, ~75k words @ ~\$0.03/word	\$2,250
Typesetting	Done yourself in LaTeX	\$0
Cover Design	Premade romance cover, title dropped in	\$250
Copyright	Electronic registration	\$65
Domain (per yr)	A .com, one year	\$12
Proof Copies	3 rounds, ~\$5 each + shipping	\$55
Tools & Software	Free tools only	\$0
Initial Print Run	30 author copies for events and direct sales	\$170
Buffer	~10% for surprises	\$290
TOTAL	A solid single-title budget	~\$3,217

A single ISBN keeps the up-front cost down—fair if you’re not sure you’ll publish again. If you catch the bug, the 10-pack is cheaper per book in the long run.

EXAMPLE — THE EPIC

Fantasy / sci-fi · 400 pages (~100k words) · a book you want to wow people. Hired help where it matters.

Category	The choice	Amount
ISBN(s)	Bowker 10-pack—a series is coming	\$295
Editing	Line + copy edit, ~100k words @ ~\$0.035/word	\$3,500
Typesetting	Fiverr specialist (maps, chapter art, front matter)	\$400
Cover Design	Reedsy pro with custom illustration	\$1,100
Copyright	Electronic registration	\$65
Domain (per yr)	A .com, one year	\$15
Proof Copies	4 rounds, ~\$7 each + shipping	\$80
Tools & Software	Canva Pro, 3 months (marketing art)	\$45
Initial Print Run	40 author copies for launch and direct sales	\$310
Buffer	~12% for surprises	\$760
TOTAL	A wow-them, hire-the-pros budget	~\$6,570

The big movers here are editing and a custom cover. A longer book costs more at every turn—more words to edit, more pages to print. Budget for it up front.

PRICING AT A GLANCE

Quick numbers for filling in the blanks. Always confirm the current price—this is a moving target.

ISBNs · BOWKER (MYIDENTIFIERS)

Quantity	Price	Per ISBN
1	\$125	\$125.00
10	\$295	\$29.50
100	\$575	\$5.75
1,000	\$1,500	\$1.50

WHAT A SINGLE COPY COSTS TO PRINT (US, B&W, 6×9)

Format	100 pages	200 pages	300 pages
KDP paperback	\$2.30	\$3.40	\$4.60
IngramSpark paperback	\$2.79	\$4.25	\$5.71

KDP charges a flat print cost with no bulk discount. IngramSpark discounts author copies by quantity—but it only prints cheaper than KDP once you're ordering roughly 1,500+ at a time.

EDITING RATES · PER WORD (EFA 2026)

Type	Per word	80k-word novel
Developmental	\$0.040–\$0.078	\$3,200–\$6,240
Line editing	\$0.027–\$0.060	\$2,160–\$4,800
Copyediting	\$0.020–\$0.050	\$1,600–\$4,000
Proofreading	\$0.010–\$0.045	\$800–\$3,600
Odessa Taylor *	\$0.008	\$640

Most indies buy a copyedit + a proofread, not all four passes. * The editor I use—a full edit at a rate well below market. odessataylor.journoportfolio.com

DESIGN & FORMATTING

Service	DIY / budget	Professional
Cover design	\$0 (Canva) – \$500 (Fiverr)	\$500–\$1,250+ (Reedsy)
Typesetting	\$0 (LaTeX) – \$500 (Fiverr)	\$475–\$1,275 (Reedsy)

EVERYTHING ELSE

Item	Cost
Copyright registration	\$65 (proposed \$85—check current)
Domain name (per year)	\$10–\$15 for a typical .com
Canva Pro	\$15 / month