

JAKROO

Design File Preparation Guide

A complete guide to preparing, optimizing, and submitting custom sports apparel design files in Adobe Illustrator using Jakroo Design Templates.

Choosing What to Design

If you're designing a full kit, you don't need to design every product.

Start with 1-2 base pieces – a jersey and shorts, or a race suit – and submit those. Our team will build out the rest of your collection to match to other products like gloves and arm warmers. This saves you time and gets you to a cohesive kit much faster. Don't worry you can still give us instructions of what you want and request edits if the matching items are not quite what you were looking for.

Design 1-2 base pieces:

We'll take care of the rest.

Design 1 race suit



1 jersey + 1 pair of shorts

OR



Not sure where to start?

Reach out via support chat or email designlab@jakroousa.com – we're happy to help.

Pre-Design Checklist

Run through this before opening Adobe Illustrator.

COLORS

- **Download and install the JAKROO Color Palette**
Available at [jakroo.com/templates](https://www.jakroo.com/templates)
- **Decide on your color palette**
- **If you have brand color values, have them ready**
JAKROO swatches or Pantone Solid Coated C

ASSETS

- **Collect your logos and graphics**
Vector preferred; raster at 150 DPI minimum at final size. No screenshots or web-pulled images
- **Install and download fonts you plan to use**
- **Note any required copy, graphic element placement & scale**
Names, numbers, flags, sponsor logos

DESIGN INTENT

- **Reference images or mood board ready**
- **Placement and scale notes for key elements and sponsor logos**

Setting Up the Template

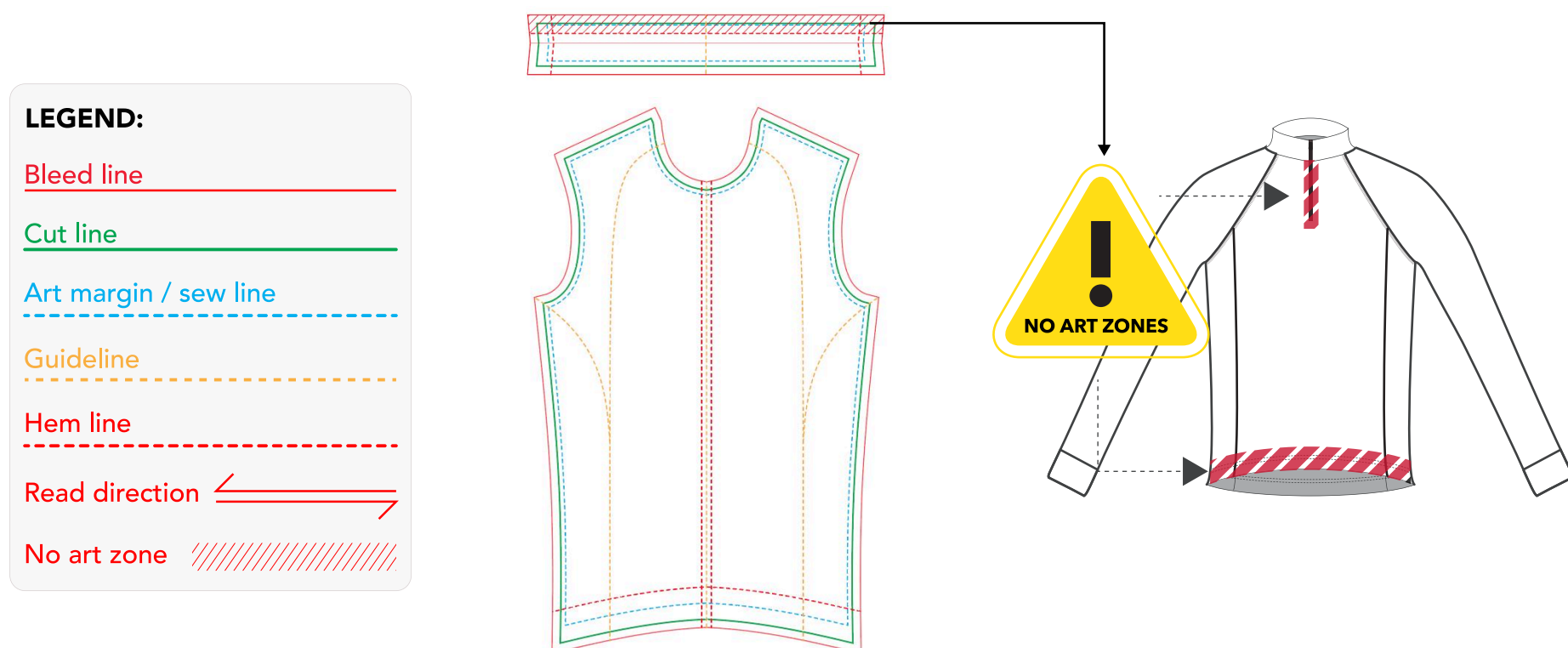
All Jakroo templates are built for Adobe Illustrator. We strongly recommend working exclusively in Illustrator – other programs may not handle the template correctly. When you open your template, keep all default settings as-is, then install the JAKROO swatch file and start designing.

A few things to know:

- Work in RGB color mode – our team handles the CMYK conversion before production
- Save frequently in .ai or .eps format. Other formats won't preview correctly in the 3D model
- Don't move or delete the template layers

Bleed Lines, Art Margins, Cautionary Zones & more...

- Bleed lines: are red lines on templates. They show how far your background color or image should extend at least 0.5" of the garment.
- Cut lines: where the garment gets cut. More of an FYI.
- Art margin: Logos and text should stay at least .25" inside of them.
- Guideline: Use these lines to guide you when placing your artwork.
- Read direction : Use these directional lines to guide you when placing your artwork (especially text).
- Hem line : Typically, thread is stitched along this line. Please avoid placing artwork on this line.
- No art zones: are areas near zippers and elastic that may get distorted, folded, or sewn during production. Avoid artwork in these zones.



WARNING Jakroo is not responsible for artwork lost or distorted in cautionary areas.

Colors

Jakroo uses a custom color palette available for download on jakroo.com/templates – it consists of hundreds of colors calibrated to print consistently across our fabrics and look accurate on screen. Using these swatches is the best way to get results that match your expectations.

We also support most Pantone Solid Coated colors. Keep in mind that sublimated fabric absorbs light differently than glossy paper, so colors may appear slightly more muted. Check with your account manager before building around a specific Pantone C color.

COLORS TO AVOID

- RGB, HEX, or CMYK values – these won't print as they appear on screen
- Any transparency, opacity, or blend modes (darken, screen, overlay, etc.)
- Drop shadows, glows, or blur effects
- Complex gradients

HOW TO INSTALL THE JAKROO COLOR CHART FILE

1. Download the Jakroo color chart from jakroo.com/templates > Download Jakroo colors
2. In Illustrator, open the Swatches panel (Window > Swatches)
3. Click the panel menu icon and select Open Swatch Library > Other Library
4. Locate the .ase file and click Open
5. Click any color in the library to add it to your working swatches

TIP

Physical swatch samples of all JAKROO colors are available on request and a free of charge. Email your account manager to get yours or request one at: jakroo.com > scroll to footer > SUPPORT > Color Chart



If you are at all concerned with how JAKROO's Colors will look in person, you can have a sublimated fabric color swatch mailed to you free of charge.

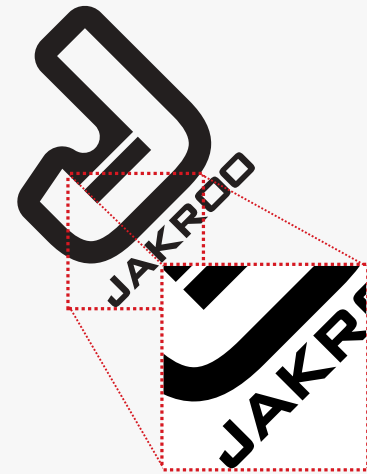
Vector vs. Raster

◆ Vector – Preferred format for logos & graphic elements

SVG, AI, or PDF

Stays crisp at any size. Can be recolored and edited by our team. If sourcing logos from a sponsor, request vector files – most companies have them.

Formats: .ai, .eps, .pdf

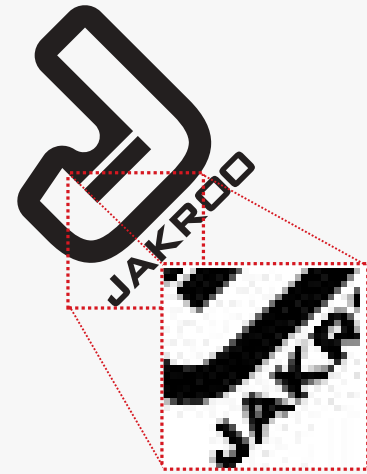


Raster – Use with caution

JPEG, PNG, TIFF

Made of pixels – can blur when scaled. Cannot always be recolored nor edited by our team.

Acceptable only if: 150 DPI minimum at final size, with a transparent background (PNG or TIFF preferred).



NOTE Saving a raster image with a vector extension (.ai, .eps) does not make it vector.

HOW TO VERIFY YOUR FILE IS ACTUALLY VECTOR

- Zoom in past 400% – crisp edges = vector, pixelation = raster
- In Illustrator, use Outline View (Cmd/Ctrl+Y) to check for vector paths
- Not sure? Email customdesign@jakroousa.com before building your design around it

AI-Generated Images & Copyright

AI-GENERATED IMAGES

AI-generated images (Midjourney, ChatGPT, Gemini, Firefly, etc.) are raster by default and often exported at 72 DPI – far below what we need for print.

If you want to use AI-generated artwork, look for a tool that exports SVG or vector files. Our team is not responsible for AI-generated images that print incorrectly.

TIP Always check resolution, file dimensions, and background transparency before building your design around an AI asset. Questions? Email customdesign@jakroousa.com.

COPYRIGHT & TRADEMARK

You are responsible for having permission to use any logos, graphics, or imagery in your design. Jakroo will ask for proof of approval for any third-party brand or company logo.

There are some graphics we cannot print regardless of permission – including competitor sportswear brands, sports team emblems, and TV, film, or music IP.

NOTE All submitted artwork is reviewed before production. We reserve the right to request changes or decline an order if content doesn't meet our guidelines.

Minimum Sizes & Special Effects

Our fabric is porous, which means small or highly detailed graphics can lose sharpness in print. Keep it simple if you're going small.

MINIMUM GRAPHIC SIZES

Icons	1.5" minimum
Logos with text	2×3" minimum (credit card size)
Complex logos	4" minimum

STROKES & OUTLINES

Any stroke (outline around a graphic or text) must be at least 1.5pt thick. Thinner strokes may disappear or bleed in print.

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Avoid entirely: Drop shadows, glowing edges, Gaussian blur

Use sparingly: Gradients, textures, photographic elements

NOTE If your design includes small or detailed graphics, order a test print before your full run. Our team may need to scale artwork up – what looks right on screen may come out larger than expected.

Saving Your Final Design

BEFORE YOU SAVE YOUR FINAL DESIGN FILE

- 1 Outline all text**
Type > Create Outlines, or Shift+Cmd+O (Mac) / Shift+Ctrl+O (Windows)
- 2 Embed all images**
Window > Links > select image > Embed Image
- 3 Toggle 'Art Margins' and 'Cut Lines' layer visibility off in Illustrator layer panel**
While it will not affect the printed garment, leaving these layers visible will cause the preview to show unwanted guidelines.
- 4 Save as .ai or .pdf**
Other formats won't preview correctly in the 3D model

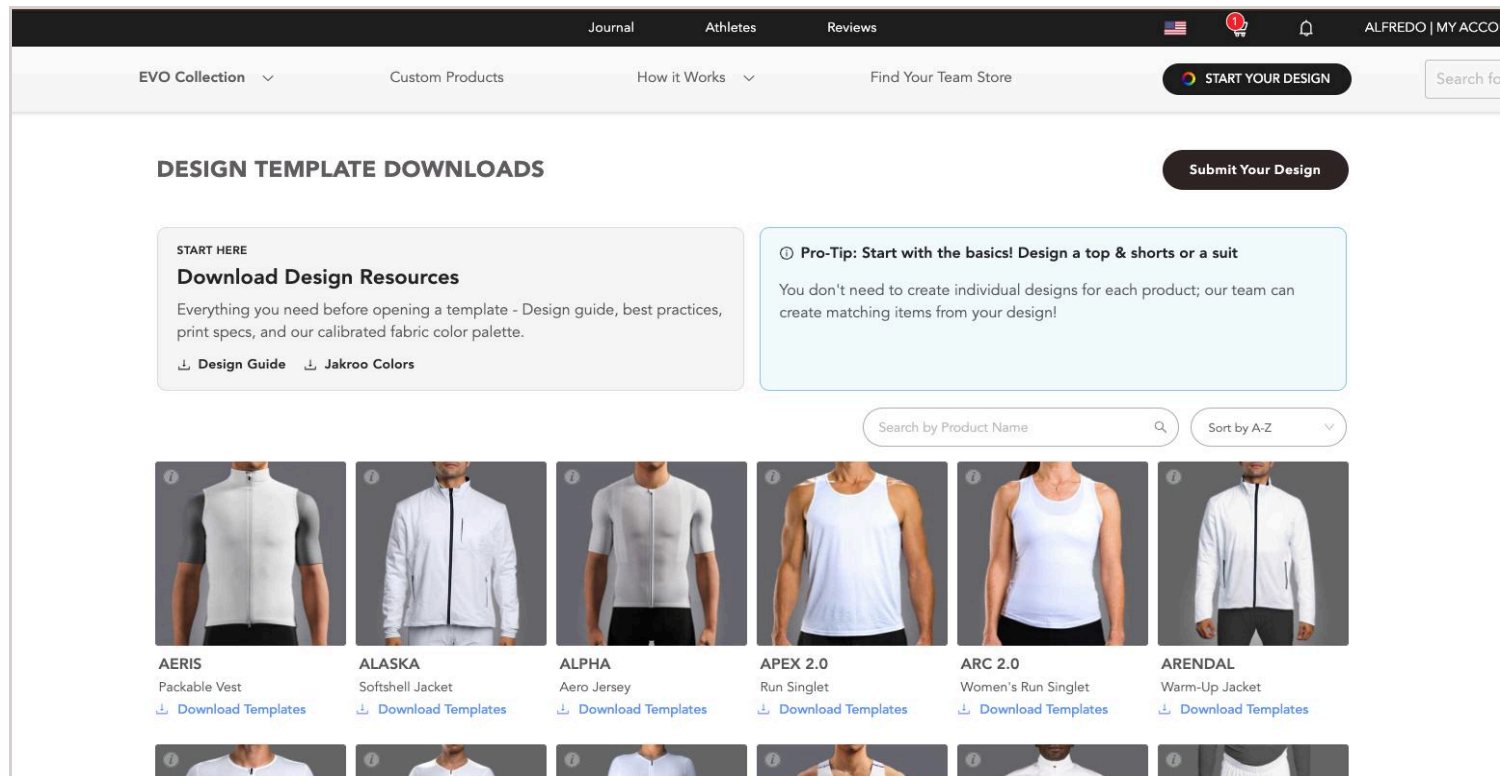
PRE-SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- Text outlined
- All logos are vector or meet raster requirements
- All colors map to JAKROO120 or approved Pantone C swatches
- Graphics meet minimum size requirements
- All strokes at 1.5pt or thicker
- Foreground art stays within art margin lines
- Background art extends 0.5" beyond bleed lines
- Art Margins and Cut Lines layers are toggled off

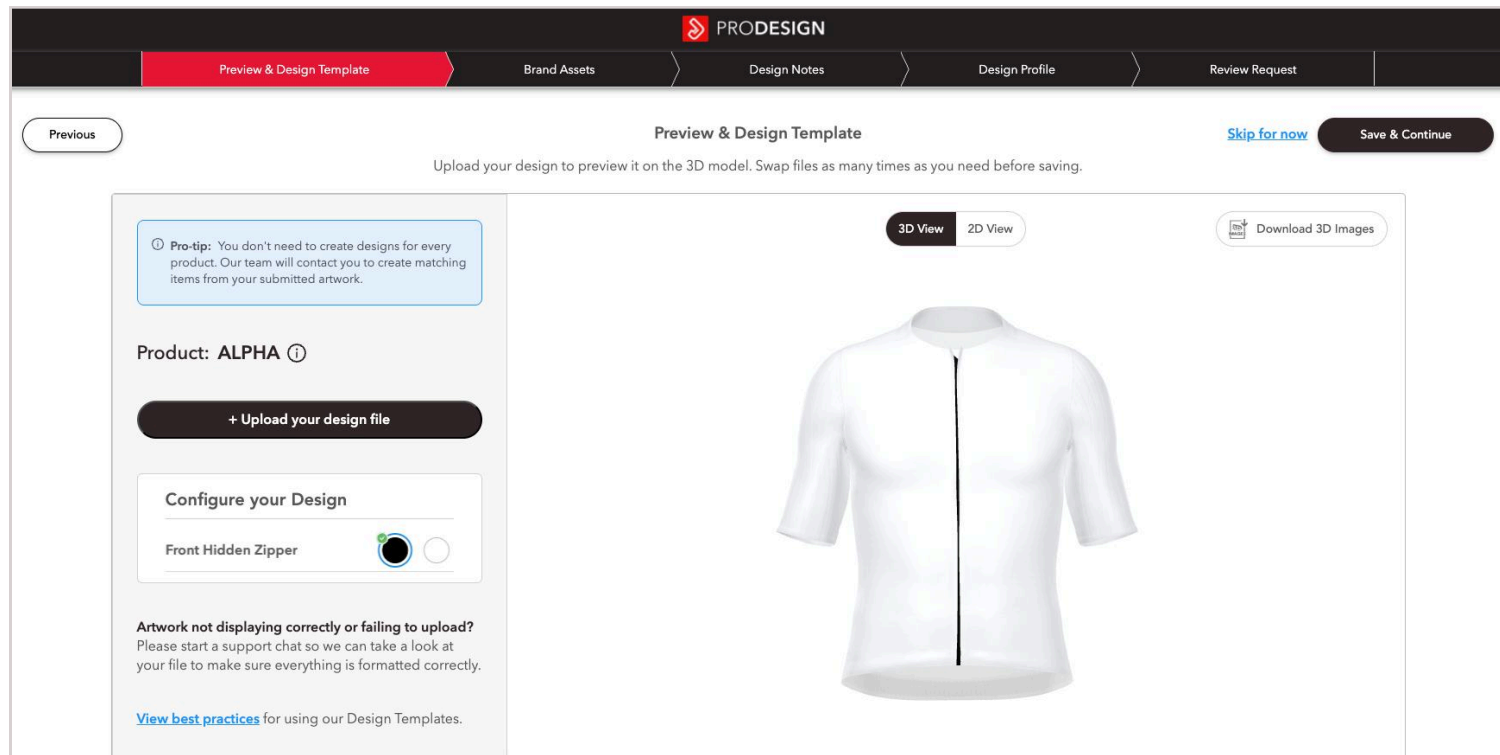
Previewing & Submitting Your Design

SUBMITTING

Go to jakroo.com/templates and click "Submit Your Design." You can select up to 4 additional products for our team to match to your design.



Preview your artwork on the 3D model before submitting it to our design team. Feel free to make changes and preview again as many times as you need until you're satisfied.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

After you submit, our design team will promptly begin working on your final production-ready mockup. You can expect it to be ready within 2 to 4 days in the Approval Center, where you will have the opportunity to approve it, request edits, or inquire about matching items.

Test Prints

A test print lets you catch issues – sizing, color, detail loss – before committing to a full order. It's a small investment that can save a lot of frustration.

We provide two options for test prints:

- 1. Physical Test Prints:** We will mail you a large-format fabric test print featuring one or more of your designs. This option takes 10 days to arrive and costs \$11, plus shipping.
- 2. Photo Test Prints:** You will receive a high-resolution photo of your test print. This option is quicker, taking just 3 days, and also costs \$11.

Order a Photo Test Print if your design includes any of the following:

- Small or complex graphics
- Raster images
- AI-generated artwork
- Gradients, textures, or photographic elements
- Strokes/outlines thinner than 2pt

Order a Physical Test Print if:

- Make sure printed colors match your expectations, especially those outside the JAKROO palette.
- Using low contrast between colors. e.g. background and foreground are similar shades



To order a test print, simply reach out to your account manager or mention it in your submission form. Designers may spot potential issues in your design and might suggest or require a test print before moving forward.

Not sure if your design needs a test print?

When in doubt, print it. Our team can help you decide – email designlab@jakroousa.com or start a support chat.

Questions?

We're here to help.

Email

Email your account manager or write to designlab@jakroousa.com

For design questions, template assistance, color swatch requests, file verification, vector inquiries, and production guidance, please reach out.

Phone or support chat

1.800.485.7067

Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 6 PM Central Time.