IngramSpark Publisher Compensation Formula Cheat Sheet

Understand what you keep per sale using your current title settings.

Before you start

Platform rates, print costs, and available settings can change. Use the current values shown for your title.

What this sheet does

It explains the base planning math behind IngramSpark publisher compensation, and sets it next to the current Amazon KDP print and ebook math — without mixing the models together.

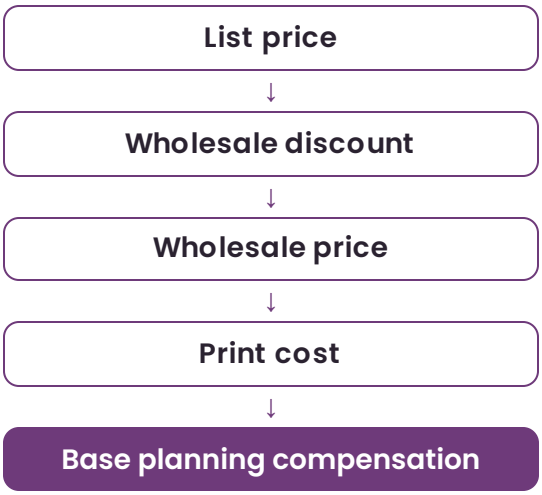
What's inside

Page	Topic
2	IngramSpark base planning math, with IngramSpark's published example
3	KDP print book math (tiered royalty rate)
4	KDP ebook math (two royalty options and their conditions)
5	Compare the platforms without mixing formulas
6	Your own numbers worksheet and checklist

This sheet does not estimate print costs for you. Always use the print cost shown for your exact title and specification.

The publisher compensation planning math

IngramSpark pays **publisher compensation**. The planning math below shows how it is built.



Base planning relationship

Wholesale price = List price × (1 − wholesale discount)

Base planning compensation = Wholesale price − current print cost

IngramSpark's current pricing materials also list a Global Distribution Fee. Because current documentation does not present every compensation example the same way, confirm the final publisher compensation shown for your title and market in IngramSpark.

IngramSpark's published example — not a recommended discount

List price	$20.00
Wholesale discount (example only)	53%
Wholesale price = $20.00 × (1 - 0.53)	$9.40
Print cost (example only)	$3.66
Result in IngramSpark's example = $9.40 - $3.66	**$5.74**

This is IngramSpark's own published example of the base relationship. It does not model every current charge.

Discount options and minimums can vary and change. Check your IngramSpark title setup — there is no single correct discount for every book.

AMAZON KDP · PRINT

KDP print book math

KDP print books earn a **royalty**, and the rate is tiered — it is not one flat rate.

Formula

KDP print royalty = (Royalty rate × list price) − printing cost

How the rate is chosen

KDP applies either a 50% or a 60% rate on paperbacks sold on Amazon marketplaces, depending on list price and marketplace. On Amazon.com the rate is 50% at or below $9.98 and 60% at or above $9.99. Other marketplaces use their own thresholds.

Watch the threshold

One cent of list price near the threshold can move the whole rate by ten percentage points.

Printing cost

Printing cost = fixed cost + (page count × per-page cost). It depends on trim size, page count, ink type, paper type and the marketplace where the book was ordered. Look it up in KDP for your book.

Your KDP print numbers

List price	$ _____
Applicable royalty rate	_____ %
Current print cost	$ _____
Estimated KDP print compensation	$ _____

Use the royalty rate and print cost that apply to your exact book and marketplace.

KDP ebook math

Ebooks have two royalty options. There is no one-line formula that fits every sale.

Decision box

Check your current KDP royalty option before calculating. Which option applies depends on eligibility and on the marketplace where the sale happens.

35% option

35% × (list price − applicable VAT)

No delivery cost is deducted. Applies in any territory.

70% option

70% × (list price − applicable VAT − delivery costs)

Only for sales in Amazon's listed Available Sales Territories.

The 70% option is never simply 70% of list price

- VAT and delivery costs come out first.
- Delivery cost = file size in MB × a per-MB rate set by marketplace (for example $0.15 per MB on Amazon.com).
- The list price must sit inside KDP's price band for that marketplace (Amazon.com: $2.99–$12.99 from 7 July 2026).
- It must be at least 20% below the Amazon list price of any physical edition.
- Mostly public-domain books, price-matched sales below the minimum, and sales outside the listed territories earn 35%.
- In Brazil, Japan, Mexico and India, 70% requires KDP Select.

Check the current KDP pages for any marketplace other than Amazon.com instead of converting US figures.

SIDE BY SIDE

Compare without mixing formulas

Important

These platforms do not use the same compensation formula. Don't plug one platform's numbers into another's model.

IngramSpark	KDP print	KDP ebook
List price	List price	List price
Wholesale discount (from your title setup)	Applicable royalty rate (tier by price and marketplace)	Applicable ebook royalty option and its conditions
Wholesale price	—	Applicable VAT
Print cost (for your title)	Print cost (for your book and marketplace)	Delivery cost (70% option only)
Base planning compensation = wholesale price - current print cost (final: the figure IngramSpark shows)	**Royalty** = rate × list price - print cost	**Royalty** = rate × (list - VAT [- delivery])

Why the numbers can't be swapped

IngramSpark starts from a wholesale price you choose through the discount. KDP print starts from a royalty rate KDP picks from your list price. KDP ebooks remove tax and, sometimes, delivery before the rate applies.

Tip

Compare what you keep per copy only after you have worked out each platform with its own current inputs — and, for IngramSpark, the current publisher compensation it shows.

WORKSHEET

Your own numbers

Platform	☐ IngramSpark ☐ KDP print ☐ KDP ebook
List price	$ _____
Wholesale discount, if applicable	_____ %
Applicable royalty rate, if applicable	_____ %
Current print/delivery cost	$ _____
Other current required input	$ _____
Base planning estimate (your own math)	$ _____
Current publisher compensation / royalty shown by platform	$ _____

Notes

_____

_____

_____

Checklist

- ☐ I used current platform settings
- ☐ I used the current print/delivery cost
- ☐ I did not assume an old default rate
- ☐ I checked the marketplace/title conditions
- ☐ I used the figure the platform shows as the final number, not my estimate
- ☐ I understand this is an estimate, not guaranteed earnings