



Album Artwork

One image, every store.

Cover art size and format requirements, design best practices, and the most common reasons artwork gets rejected on Anghami, Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, YouTube Music and TikTok.



3000px

SAFE SQUARE SIZE

1

FILE NEEDED

One square image, delivered once through WKS, reaches every platform below — but each one has its own minimum size, and a few have their own content rules about what can't appear in the image itself. The shared spec and design checklist are laid out once, then each platform's own section covers only what's different.

Last updated: September 2026. This guide is produced by WKS Music Distribution as an independent walkthrough of each platform's artwork requirements — it is not official documentation published by Anghami, Spotify, Apple, Amazon, YouTube, or TikTok. Spotify and Apple Music publish exact artwork specs in their own documentation; figures for the other platforms are commonly required by distributors rather than confirmed in a platform's own public spec, and are labeled as such where it appears. Requirements change over time, so verify anything critical against the platform's current documentation.



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BEFORE YOU START

What every cover image needs

- **Format: JPEG or PNG** — the format every platform in this guide accepts; avoid TIFF or PDF exports unless a specific platform calls for them.
- **Aspect ratio: exactly 1:1 (square)** — no letterboxing, no pillarboxing, no rectangular canvases. Every platform crops or rejects non-square art.
- **Size: 1400×1400 px minimum, 3000×3000 px or larger recommended** — 1400px is Apple Music's published floor and the de facto minimum across the industry; 3000px or bigger holds up on high-density phone and TV screens.
- **Color mode: RGB, not CMYK** — CMYK files (common in print workflows) render dull or shift color on screens and are a frequent rejection cause.
- **Never upscale** — stretching a small image to hit the minimum size produces a soft, blurry result that reviewers can spot; start with a source that's actually high-resolution.

SHARED STEPS

The artwork checklist every release follows

- 1 Design on a square canvas at your highest available resolution — 3000×3000 px or larger, so one file works everywhere without a second export.
- 2 Keep the image itself free of promotional content — no URLs, social handles, prices, contest language, or dates for future releases anywhere in the artwork.
- 3 Match the artist name and title in the image (if shown at all) exactly to your release metadata — mismatched spelling or punctuation is a common, avoidable rejection reason.
- 4 Export as JPEG or PNG in RGB color mode, at 100% quality, with no embedded color profile or orientation metadata left in the file.
- 5 Deliver the single artwork file to WKS — it's distributed as-is to every platform, resized as each one needs.

The sections below cover each platform individually — but only what's different from this shared spec, so you're not re-reading the same checklist six times.



Anghami

Anghami is explicit about one thing every other platform leaves implied: no branding baked into the image.

MIN SIZE

1400×1400

FORMAT

JPG / PNG

BRANDING

Not allowed

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- Anghami's own upload help center is explicit and official on one point: your cover image "must not include any ads, voiceovers, branding, or social media logos" — stated more directly than most other platforms phrase the same underlying rule.
- Anghami hasn't published an exact minimum pixel size for track and album covers specifically; 1400×1400 (its documented minimum for podcast cover images) is a reasonable stand-in for the floor, marked with an asterisk since it's carried over from an adjacent spec, not confirmed for music artwork directly.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Keep the shared 3000×3000px file and you'll clear Anghami's floor with room to spare.
- Double-check your design for anything that could read as a social handle or logo before delivery — Anghami calls this out more explicitly than most platforms in this guide.



Spotify publishes the most exact and permissive spec of any platform in this guide — and the widest accepted size range.

SIZE RANGE

640–10,000px

FORMAT

TIFF / PNG / JPG

COLOR

sRGB, 24-bit

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- Spotify's own documentation accepts a wide size range — 640px to 10,000px on each side — but explicitly asks for "the highest resolution available" rather than a fixed target, and says plainly: don't upscale a smaller image to get there.
- Spotify requires the file be encoded with an sRGB color profile applied directly, and doesn't support files with an embedded color profile or orientation metadata left in — flatten and strip that metadata before export.

GOOD TO KNOW

- TIFF is accepted here (unlike most other platforms), but JPG or PNG at your highest resolution is simpler and works identically across the rest of this guide.
- If your design tool exports an embedded ICC profile by default, use "Convert to Profile" or your export tool's "strip metadata" option before delivering to WKS.



Apple Music

Apple runs the strictest content review of any platform here — and is explicit that a lower floor still applies.

MIN SIZE

1400×1400

RECOMMENDED

3000×3000+

FORMAT

JPEG / PNG

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- Apple's own partner documentation sets 1400×1400px as the minimum and 3000×3000px or larger as the recommended size, at 100% JPEG or PNG quality — both numbers published directly, unlike several other platforms in this guide.
- Apple's content rules go further than most: artwork "must not be misleading" and can't prominently depict or reference an artist who doesn't perform on the release, and it explicitly bans advertising, competitor references, URLs, logos, or dates for future product releases.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Apple's review is commonly reported as the strictest of the major platforms — if your artwork clears Apple, it will almost certainly clear everywhere else in this guide too.
- Blurry, pixelated, mismatched, or rotated images are called out by name in Apple's own guidelines as rejection triggers, unless clearly intentional artistic choices.



Amazon Music

Amazon hasn't published its own release-artwork spec — distributors converge on numbers close to Spotify and Apple's.

MIN SIZE

1600×1600

RECOMMENDED

3000×3000

FORMAT

JPG / PNG

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- Amazon Music for Artists publishes image specs for profile and background photos, but not a dedicated public spec for track or album cover art — the 1600px minimum / 3000px recommended figures here are what distributors commonly require for Amazon specifically, not numbers from Amazon's own release-artwork documentation.
- Reported content rules match the rest of this guide: no URLs, social handles, or promotional pricing in the image, and the artwork must be a perfect square with no letterboxing or pillarboxing added around it.

GOOD TO KNOW

- The shared 3000×3000px file clears every commonly-cited Amazon figure with margin to spare.
- Amazon Music HD and Ultra HD display artwork full-screen on some devices (Fire TV, Echo Show) — a higher-resolution source holds up noticeably better in those contexts than the bare minimum.



YouTube Music

There's no separate YouTube Music cover art upload — it's pulled straight through from your distributor delivery.

COVER UPLOAD

None separate

ARTIST BANNER

5120×2880

BANNER FORMAT

JPG / PNG

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Extra prerequisites

- If you also maintain a YouTube artist channel, its separate profile banner image has its own official Google spec: at least 5120×2880px, landscape, 150dpi minimum — a completely different asset from your square cover art.

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- YouTube Music doesn't have its own direct cover art upload for artists — the same square file delivered to every other platform through WKS is the one that shows up here too, so there's nothing platform-specific to design for on the track or album cover itself.
- The one YouTube-specific image spec that is officially published (5120×2880px, landscape) applies only to the rectangular artist channel banner, not to song or album artwork.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Don't design a separate cover for YouTube Music — the shared file already covers it.
- If you're setting up or refreshing a YouTube Official Artist Channel, budget for that landscape banner as a distinct design task from your square cover art.



TikTok displays whatever square image your distributor delivers with the sound — no separate spec of its own.

COVER UPLOAD

None separate

FORMAT

Same as delivered

ASPECT

1:1 square

PLATFORM DIFFERENCES

Where it breaks from the shared steps

- TikTok doesn't publish a distinct cover art specification — the square image tied to your sound in the TikTok library is the same file your distributor delivered for every other platform.
- Because the artwork shows up small, in a scrolling feed, next to video content, simple and bold reads better here than fine detail that was designed for a full-screen album view.

GOOD TO KNOW

- No extra export needed — the shared 3000×3000px file is what TikTok displays.
- Preview your cover at a small size (roughly the size of a phone's video thumbnail) before finalizing — detail that reads clearly at full size can disappear entirely at feed scale.



WRAP UP

Thanks for reading

One well-made square image, delivered once through WKS, covers every platform — each service just resizes it to fit. Get the resolution, color mode, and content rules right at the source and you never have to think about it per platform again.

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DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

One upload, every store

Spotify, Apple Music, TikTok and 66 more, delivered from a single upload.



NEXT IN THIS SERIES

Guide 4 of 6 — Metadata Basics

Essential metadata fields, ISRC and UPC codes explained, and genre classification tips for better discoverability.