Toombler™

User Manual

Free PDF Flipbook Creator

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1. What is Toombler?

Toombler turns PDF files you already store in the cloud, as well as Google Docs and Google Slides, into interactive page-flip flipbooks — the kind that look and feel like real books. There is no software to install and nothing to upload. Your file stays where you put it: in your own Google Drive (Docs and Slides included), Dropbox or OneDrive, under your own control.

Toombler is completely free, and your flipbooks carry no advertising. The only addition is a short “Made with Toombler” page on the inside cover.

Where your PDF can live

- **Google Drive** — share links from drive.google.com
- **Dropbox** — share links from dropbox.com
- **OneDrive** — personal links (1drv.ms) and work or school links (SharePoint)
- **Google Docs and Google Slides** — the link of the document itself; Toombler fetches it as a PDF, so every edit shows up without exporting

> *Toombler stores the share link, never the file. Delete the PDF at its source and the flipbook stops working — there is no second copy anywhere.*

Common use cases

- Product catalogues and brochures
- Annual reports and whitepapers
- Magazines and newsletters
- Portfolios and presentations
- E-books and manuals
- Event programmes and menus
- Real estate and property brochures

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2. Getting Started — Step by Step

Step 1 — Share your PDF

Put your PDF in Google Drive, Dropbox or OneDrive if it isn't there already — or use a Google Doc or Google Slides presentation as it is — then create a share link that anyone can open:

- **Google Drive** — right-click the file, Share → Anyone with the link → Viewer.
- **Dropbox** — Share → Copy link, with access set to “Anyone with this link”.
- **OneDrive** — Share → Copy link, and set it to “Anyone with the link” rather than specific people.
- **Google Docs or Slides** — Share → General access: Anyone with the link → Viewer, then copy the address of the document.

> *The link must be open to anyone who has it. Files shared with named people only, or restricted to your organisation, cannot be loaded — Toombler signs in as nobody.*

Step 2 — Sign in at toombler.com

Go to toombler.com and sign in with either a Google or a Microsoft account. Toombler reads only the account identifier from that sign-in. It has no access to your files: it never asks for a storage permission, and it cannot see anything in your Drive, Dropbox or OneDrive beyond the one file whose link you paste in yourself.

Step 3 — Create your flipbook

In your dashboard, paste the share link into the URL field, give your flipbook a title, and click Add flipbook. Toombler checks that the link really is public and really is a PDF (or a Google Doc or Slides presentation), then creates the flipbook straight away.

> *If validation fails, check that you copied the whole link and that sharing is set to anyone-with-the-link. Folder links don't work — share the PDF itself.*

Step 4 — Copy your embed code

Click Embed code on any flipbook card in your dashboard. Choose your preferred embed format and copy the code.

Step 5 — Embed it on your website

Paste the embed code into your website, CMS, or platform. The flipbook loads automatically.

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3. Dashboard Features

The Toombler dashboard at toombler.com/app gives you full control over all your flipbooks.

Rename inline

Click the pencil icon next to any title to rename it in place — no page reload needed.

View counter

Each card shows a live view count — how many times the flipbook has been opened by visitors.

QR code

Generate a print-ready QR code for any flipbook. Download as PNG and use in print, at events, or on posters.

Expiry date

Set a date after which the flipbook displays an “expired” message. Useful for time-limited promotions or document versions.

PIN protection

Lock any flipbook with a numeric PIN of 4 to 8 digits. Visitors must enter the PIN before viewing. After 10 wrong attempts the viewer is locked for 15 minutes.

Public gallery toggle

Show or hide your flipbook on the public gallery at toombler.com/gallery. Gallery cards show a live preview and an “Open flipbook” button.

Re-link

If your share link changes — after re-uploading the file, or when you move it to a different provider — use Re-link to update it without losing your embed code, your settings, or your view count. You can re-link a Drive flipbook to Dropbox or OneDrive and back again.

Settings panel

Click Settings on any card to expand all embed options — navigation, sound, autoplay, background, zoom, and more. Changes are saved per flipbook.

Search & filter

Use the search bar at the top of the dashboard to filter your flipbooks by title.

Pagination

If you have many flipbooks, they are paginated — 20 per page.

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4. Embed Types

Toombler supports five ways to embed your flipbook. All methods use the same underlying viewer and support all URL parameters described in section 5.

iframe (recommended)

Paste directly into any HTML page. Works everywhere — WordPress, Squarespace, Webflow, Wix, Shopify, Ghost, and custom sites.

```
<iframe src="https://toombler.com/embed?id=YOUR_ID" width="760" height="540"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen loading="lazy" title="My Flipbook"
style="border:none;border-radius:10px"></iframe>
```

JS Snippet

A lightweight script that auto-resizes the flipbook to fit its container. Ideal for Squarespace, Webflow, or any site where you control the HTML.

```
<div data-toombler-id="YOUR_ID" style="width:100%;max-width:760px"></div>
<script src="https://toombler.com/embed.js" async></script>
```

Web Component

Use as a custom HTML element in React, Vue, Angular, or any modern framework.

```
<toombler-flipbook id="YOUR_ID" width="760" height="540"></toombler-flipbook>
<script src="https://toombler.com/embed.js" type="module"></script>
```

oEmbed URL

Paste a Toombler viewer URL directly into WordPress, Ghost, or any oEmbed-compatible platform. The platform auto-embeds the flipbook.

```
https://toombler.com/viewer?id=YOUR_ID
```

Direct viewer link

Share a standalone page for your flipbook. Visitors can open it directly in their browser.

```
https://toombler.com/viewer?id=YOUR_ID
```


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5. Embed Options & URL Parameters

All embed methods accept URL parameters that control the flipbook's behaviour. The dashboard Settings panel generates these automatically, but you can also add or edit them by hand in the embed URL.

Example — iframe with sound enabled, thumbnails shown, starting on page 3:

```
https://toombler.com/embed?id=YOUR_ID&sound=1&thumbs=1&start=3
```

Parameter	Default	Description
`nav=0/1`	1 (on)	Show/hide previous & next navigation arrows
`counter=0/1`	1 (on)	Show/hide page counter (“Pages 2-3 of 12”)
`sound=0/1`	0 (off)	Realistic paper-flip sound effect
`flipsound=1/2`	1	Which of the two page-turn sounds to use
`autoplay=0/1`	0 (off)	Automatically advance pages
`autospeed=N`	3	Seconds between autoplay page turns (1–30)
`dl=0/1`	1 (on)	Show download PDF button in viewer
`fs=0/1`	0 (off)	Show fullscreen button in viewer
`zoom=0/1`	1 (on)	Allow pinch/scroll zoom in viewer
`drag=0/1`	1 (on)	Allow corner-drag page turning (mouse)
`corners=0/1`	1 (on)	Show hover curl animation on page corners
`thumbs=0/1`	0 (off)	Show thumbnail strip along the bottom
`bg=dark/light/transparent`	dark	Viewer background colour
`start=N`	1	Open on page N instead of the first page
`closed=0/1`	1 (on)	Start with cover closed; book opens on first flip
`hardcover=0/1`	1 (on)	Rigid front and back cover
`spine=0/1`	0 (off)	Show a shadow on the book spine (centre)
`duration=N`	650	Page-flip animation duration in milliseconds
`bookmark=0/1`	1 (on)	Remember each visitor's last-read page (localStorage)
`brand=0/1`	1 (on)	Show “Powered by Toombler” badge on the viewer
`mscroll=0/1`	0 (off)	On mobile: scroll the page instead of flipping

- *Parameters are combined with & in the URL. Use the dashboard Settings panel to configure options visually — it writes every option into the embed code, so the defaults above only apply to a hand-written embed URL.*

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6. WordPress Plugin

The official Toombler WordPress plugin makes it easy to embed flipbooks in any WordPress site — no coding required. It supports three embedding methods: the Gutenberg block, the shortcode, and native oEmbed.

- **Gutenberg block** — drag the Toombler Flipbook block into any page and get a live preview inside the editor.
- **Shortcode** — works with the Classic Editor, Elementor, Divi, WPBakery, and any page builder that supports shortcodes.
- **Fully responsive** — the flipbook scales to any container, on desktop, tablet and mobile.
- **Zero page weight** — no scripts load on the front end. Just one responsive iframe.
- **PIN & expiry support** — managed in your Toombler dashboard, honoured by the plugin.
- **Completely free** — free and open source (GPL). A free Toombler account is all you need.

Installation

Option A — WordPress Plugin Directory (recommended)

- Log in to your WordPress admin panel.
- Go to Plugins → Add New Plugin.
- Search for “Toombler Flipbook”.
- Click Install Now, then Activate.

Option B — Manual upload

- Download the plugin ZIP from toombler.com/wordpress-plugin.
- In WordPress admin, go to Plugins → Add New Plugin → Upload Plugin.
- Choose the downloaded ZIP file and click Install Now.
- Click Activate Plugin.

Finding your Flipbook ID

Your Flipbook ID is the unique identifier that links the WordPress embed to your flipbook. You can find it in the Toombler dashboard:

- Open your Toombler dashboard at toombler.com/app.
- Click the Settings button on any flipbook card.
- Open Configure & Embed.
- Copy the value after id= in the embed URL — that is your Flipbook ID.

> *The Flipbook ID never changes, even if you re-link the file or rename the flipbook. For a Google Drive flipbook it is the Drive file ID; for other providers it is a UUID like 3f7a1c2e-5d8b-4e9f-a012-b3c4d5e6f789.*

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6.1 WordPress — Embedding Methods

Method 1 — oEmbed (simplest)

The oEmbed method requires no shortcode or block — just paste the flipbook URL into the WordPress editor and it auto-embeds.

- In the block editor, add a new block and choose Embeds → Toombler, or paste the URL directly into a paragraph block and press Enter.
- WordPress fetches the embed and renders a live flipbook preview.

Paste your flipbook viewer URL:

```
https://toombler.com/viewer?id=YOUR_FLIPBOOK_ID
```

Method 2 — Shortcode

Add the Toombler shortcode anywhere in a post or page — including Classic Editor, Elementor, Divi, and WPBakery.

Basic shortcode:

```
[toombler id="YOUR_FLIPBOOK_ID"]
```

With optional parameters:

```
[toombler id="YOUR_FLIPBOOK_ID" width="760" height="540" nav="1" sound="1"
brand="1" fs="0" dl="1" bg="dark"]
```


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Shortcode parameter reference

Parameter	Default	Description
`id`	required	Your Flipbook ID from the Toombler dashboard
`width`	760	Embed width in pixels
`height`	540	Embed height in pixels
`nav`	1	Show navigation arrows — 1 yes, 0 no
`sound`	1	Page-flip sound — 1 yes, 0 no
`brand`	1	Show “Powered by Toombler” badge — 1 yes, 0 no
`fs`	0	Fullscreen button — 1 yes, 0 no
`dl`	1	Download button — 1 yes, 0 no
`bg`	dark	Background: dark, light, or transparent
`thumbs`	0	Thumbnail strip — 1 yes, 0 no
`autoplay`	0	Auto-play mode — 1 yes, 0 no
`start`	1	Open on a specific page number

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6.2 WordPress — Block, HTML and Requirements

Method 3 — Gutenberg Block

After installing the plugin, a Toombler Flipbook block appears in the block inserter (+ button). This is the most visual embedding method — you see a live preview of the flipbook directly inside the editor.

- In the block editor, click + to open the block inserter.
- Search for “Toombler” and click the Toombler Flipbook block.
- Paste your Flipbook ID in the sidebar panel.
- Adjust width, height, and other options in the block sidebar.
- You will see a live preview of the flipbook immediately in the editor.

No plugin? Use Custom HTML

If you prefer not to install a plugin, you can embed a flipbook using WordPress's built-in Custom HTML block. Just paste the iframe embed code from your Toombler dashboard:

```
<iframe src="https://toombler.com/embed?id=YOUR_FLIPBOOK_ID" width="760"
height="540" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen loading="lazy"
style="border:none;border-radius:10px"></iframe>
```

> *The Custom HTML method works in any WordPress theme and does not require the plugin. It is ideal for a one-off embed.*

Plugin requirements

WordPress	5.8 or higher (tested up to 7.1)
PHP	7.4 or higher
License	GPL (free and open source)
Account	Free Toombler account (toombler.com)

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7. Book Open & Close Animation

By default (closed=1), your flipbook starts with the cover closed — showing only the front page on the right side, like a real closed book. When the reader turns the first page, the cover opens with a realistic flip animation. At the end of the book, the back cover closes the same way.

This creates a complete book metaphor: the reader picks up the book, opens it, flips through, and closes it again.

Even page count requirement

For the book to close properly, the total number of pages must be even (front cover + inner spreads + back cover). If your PDF has an odd number of pages, Toombler automatically adds a branded back-cover page showing a small thumbnail of your first page and the Toombler logo.

- *Set closed=0 to skip the cover animation and open directly on the first content spread.*

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8. Viewer Controls & Keyboard Shortcuts

The full-screen viewer at toombler.com/viewer supports keyboard shortcuts for power users.

Key	Action
→ / ↓	Next page / spread
← / ↑	Previous page / spread
Space	Next page / spread
F	Toggle fullscreen
N	Toggle night mode (dims pages for comfortable reading)
P	Toggle auto-play
D	Download the original PDF
T	Toggle table of contents panel
?	Show keyboard shortcut reference
+ / –	Zoom in / zoom out
0	Reset zoom to fit
Esc	Close a panel, or leave fullscreen

Mouse / touch controls

- Click or tap the page edge or navigation arrows to flip
- Click and drag a page corner to flip manually
- Hover over a page corner to see the curl animation
- Pinch to zoom on touch screens (when zoom=1)
- Scroll to zoom in/out on desktop

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9. PIN Protection

Protect any flipbook with a numeric PIN to restrict access. Visitors see a lock screen before the flipbook loads and must enter the correct PIN to continue.

- PIN length: 4 to 8 digits.
- PINs are stored as PBKDF2-HMAC-SHA256 hashes (100,000 iterations, with a random salt per flipbook). Toombler never stores your PIN in plain text and cannot recover it — if you forget it, set a new one.
- After 10 wrong attempts from the same address, that flipbook locks for 15 minutes.
- PIN protection applies to all embed methods: iframe, JS snippet, viewer URL, and more.
- Remove or change the PIN at any time from the dashboard settings panel.

> *PINs are ideal for internal documents, client previews, or early-access content that you want to share with a limited audience without creating accounts.*

What a PIN does not do

A PIN protects the flipbook, not the file. The share link at your storage provider stays exactly as public as you made it, so anyone holding that link can still open the PDF there. For genuinely confidential material, restrict the file at the source instead.

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10. Expiry Dates

Set an expiry date on any flipbook. After that date, the viewer shows an “expired” message and the flipbook is no longer viewable. The flipbook is still in your dashboard — clear the expiry date to make it available again.

Common use cases: time-limited promotions, seasonal catalogues, event programmes, and draft documents with review deadlines.

- *As with a PIN, an expiry date stops the flipbook, not the file. Unshare the PDF at the source if it must become genuinely unreachable.*

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11. Table of Contents (PDF Bookmarks)

If your PDF contains bookmarks (also called an outline or navigation panel), Toombler automatically extracts them and displays a Contents panel in the viewer. Clicking an entry jumps directly to that page.

How to add bookmarks to your PDF

- **Microsoft Word:** use Heading styles (Heading 1, Heading 2, and so on) and export to PDF — Word creates bookmarks from headings automatically.
- **Adobe Acrobat:** View → Navigation Panels → Bookmarks → Add bookmark.
- **InDesign:** File → Export → Interactive PDF → Include Bookmarks.
- **LibreOffice:** use headings and export as PDF with bookmarks enabled.
- **Google Docs:** export to PDF — outline headings become bookmarks automatically.

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12. Public Gallery

Toggle Show in public gallery on any flipbook card to list it on toombler.com/gallery. The gallery shows a live flipbook preview for each card, along with the title and an “Open flipbook” link.

The public gallery is a good way to share your work without needing your own website. You can use the gallery URL as a portfolio page, or link to individual flipbooks from social media or email.

- *PIN-protected flipbooks can appear in the gallery — visitors are asked for the PIN before viewing. Only publish work you have the right to publish; see section 16.*

Once a day, Toombler checks whether the source file of every listed flipbook can still be reached. If it cannot — the file was deleted, moved, or set back to private — the flipbook is removed from the gallery after three failed checks in a row. Your flipbook keeps working through its own link and embed code; only the listing goes. You will see a red *update link* button on the card in your dashboard. Fix the link and switch the gallery toggle back on to be listed again.

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13. Night Mode & Accessibility

The viewer includes a Night mode (moon button, or the N key) that dims the pages for comfortable reading in low light. Night mode applies a slight sepia filter to reduce blue light.

Accessibility features

- All viewer buttons have aria-labels for screen reader compatibility
- Keyboard navigation fully supported (no mouse required)
- Page counter announces current position (“Pages 3–4 of 12”)
- High-contrast mode supported via OS settings

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14. Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My flipbook shows a blank page or a “Couldn't load” error.

A: Make sure the file is shared so that anyone with the link can view it — in Drive, Docs, Slides, Dropbox or OneDrive alike. Files shared with named people only, or restricted to an organisation, cannot be loaded. Also check that you copied the whole link.

Q: The flipbook loads but some pages are blank.

A: This can happen with very large PDFs or PDFs with complex graphics. Try reducing the file size by flattening layers or lowering image quality before uploading.

Q: Can I remove the “Made with Toombler” page?

A: Not currently. That one page on the inside cover is how new users find Toombler, which keeps it free for everyone. It loads nothing from third parties, and nothing else is added to the viewer.

Q: Can visitors download my PDF?

A: If the Download button is enabled (dl=1, the default), visitors can download the original PDF. Set dl=0 in the embed URL or in the dashboard settings to hide the button. Note that your share link is public either way, so a determined visitor could still reach the file at its source.

Q: How do I update my PDF content?

A: Replace the file at its source, keeping the same share link. The flipbook picks up the new content automatically — nothing to change in Toombler.

Q: My share link changed. Will my embed code break?

A: No. Use the Re-link button in your dashboard to point the flipbook at the new link. Your embed code, settings and view count are preserved. You can also re-link to a different provider entirely.

Q: Which provider loads fastest?

A: Dropbox, marginally. Dropbox allows the reader's browser to fetch the PDF directly, while Google Drive and OneDrive do not, so those two are relayed through Toombler. The difference is small; file size matters far more.

Q: Is there a page limit?

A: No hard limit, but very large PDFs (500+ pages, or files over 50 MB) load slowly. Consider splitting long documents into chapters.

Q: Does Toombler work on mobile?

A: Yes. The viewer is fully responsive; on mobile, swipe to turn pages. Enable mscroll=1 if the flipbook sits in a scrollable page and you want visitors to scroll rather than flip by accident.

Q: Can I use Toombler without a Google account?

A: Yes — the dashboard accepts Google or Microsoft sign-in. Visitors who view an embedded flipbook need no account at all.

Q: Is Toombler GDPR compliant?

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A: The flipbook viewer loads no analytics or advertising script and sets no cookies of its own; visits are counted by Cloudflare Web Analytics, which is cookieless. Google AdSense runs only on Toombler's own guide pages, never in your flipbook, so there is nothing of Toombler's to add to your cookie notice. See toombler.com/privacy for full details.

Q: The embed is too small or too large on my page.

A: Adjust the width and height attributes of the iframe, or use the JS snippet, which auto-resizes to fit its container (set the container width in CSS).

Q: How do I share a flipbook on social media?

A: Use the Share button in the viewer to copy a direct link. Toombler pages include Open Graph tags, so the link preview shows your thumbnail image.

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15. Privacy & Data

Toombler is designed to be privacy-minimal. Here is exactly what is stored and what is not.

What Toombler stores (per account)

- An opaque account identifier from Google or Microsoft — not your email address and not your name
- Flipbook title and the share link you pasted
- Embed settings per flipbook
- View count per flipbook (a simple integer counter)
- A PIN hash, if you set a PIN (PBKDF2, salted — never the PIN itself)
- Login date, once per user per day, for internal statistics

What Toombler never stores

- Your email address or name — these stay in your browser session only
- The content of your PDF — your file never leaves your own storage
- IP addresses of your readers
- Any passwords (sign-in is handled entirely by Google or Microsoft)
- Cookies for tracking across sites

How your PDF reaches the reader

Toombler holds the link, not the file. Where the provider allows it, the reader's browser fetches the PDF straight from the source and nothing passes through Toombler at all. Google Drive and OneDrive block cross-origin requests, so for those the bytes are relayed through Toombler and streamed on. To keep a flipbook fast, a copy may sit in Cloudflare's edge cache for up to a day; it is dropped as soon as the flipbook expires, is deleted or its sharing is switched off, and nothing is ever written to disk on our side.

Third-party services used

Google Identity Services	Sign-in
Microsoft Identity Platform	Sign-in
Cloudflare Web Analytics	Cookieless visit counts
Google AdSense	Ads on Toombler's own guide pages — never in the flipbook
Cloudflare	Hosting, CDN, and DDoS protection

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16. Copyright & Your Content

Toombler does not host your documents. It stores a link to a file that lives in your own Google Drive (Google Docs and Slides included), Dropbox or OneDrive, and renders that file for readers. You remain the publisher of everything you put into a flipbook.

Your responsibility

- Only create flipbooks from material you own, or have permission to publish.
- Publishing a flipbook publicly — on your site or in the Toombler gallery — is an act of publication. Licences that allow private use often do not allow this.
- Stock images, fonts and third-party content inside your PDF carry their own licence terms.

Reporting infringing content

If you believe a flipbook infringes your rights, email abuse@toombler.com with the flipbook URL and a description of the work. Toombler can remove the flipbook so it no longer renders. Because Toombler does not hold the file, only its owner can take down the document itself at its source.

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