

The Seaboard Advantage

At Seaboard Bindery, we have the knowledge, experience and production capabilities to help you turn great ideas into attractive pieces. Even the “simple” projects need advance planning to turn out properly. Involve us early in your project to be sure the final product meets both your demands and those of your clients.

Services offered:

- Perfect Binding
- Mechanical Binding
- Saddle Stitching
- Die Cutting
- Folding
- Film Laminating
- Index Tabbing
- Design & Planning
- And More!

The Rough Guide to Impositions

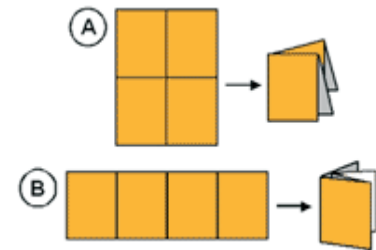
All book products begin as impositions of several pages on a single press sheet. These sheets are then folded into signatures, which are then gathered, bound and finished trimmed. Laying out impositions can be tricky, especially when dealing with difficult stocks or multiple crossovers. Remember, at Seaboard Bindery, we’re always available to help you with imposition planning. Let’s take a look at a few imposition basics:

Weigh Your Options

Stock weight plays a large role in determining the number of pages that can be laid out on a sheet. Heavier stocks can become problematic to fold with a high degree of accuracy if folded too many times. Here’s an easy guideline: if using 100-lb. stock, coated or uncoated, plan for a maximum signature size of 16 pages. Stocks of 50-, 60-, and sometimes even 70 lbs. can be used in 32-page signatures the majority of the time. To ensure the highest production quality, check with your binder.

Don't Get Crossed Up

Crossover text and images are common in book projects, but can be tricky to line up. If your books contain multiple crossovers, your impositions should be designed to take advantage of parallel folding. This is particularly important for crossovers that require critical alignment, such as pictures and maps. If your project does not contain crossovers - or none that are critical - right-angle folding is ideal. Right-angle folds allow your finisher to perforate the signature, removing excess air and compressing it prior to binding.



Critical crossover elements on eight- and 16-page forms will line up better if they’re designed for parallel folding (B) rather than right-angle folding (A), as the crossover elements are printed on the same side of the form for parallel folding.

Go with the Grain

The grain direction of the press sheet will indicate not only how many impositions can be placed on a single sheet, but how the project should best be folded and bound. To avoid cracking, wrinkling and loss of product strength, the final fold (or the spine of a book) should be parallel to the paper grain.

In addition, binding machine characteristics can dictate the imposition. For example, 12 page signatures can be laid out any number of ways, but since the machines gather from the spine, the last fold in the signature must be in the spine direction.