

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!

Understanding Impositions

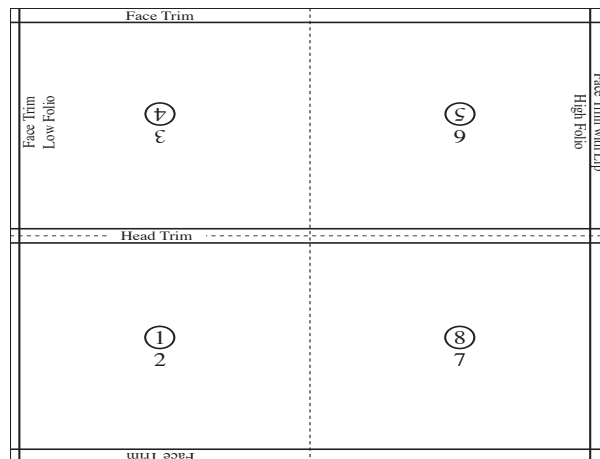
Before they're folded and bound with a cover to form a book, signatures begin life as impositions - multiple pages printed on press sheets that, when folded appropriately, make up a section of a book. The most common impositions include four, eight, 16 and 32 pages per printed sheet, and there are other frequently used impositions as well. Regardless of how a book is bound - perfect, mechanical, or saddle stitched - impositions are used during the production process.

Not All Impositions are Created Equal

The most basic difference between saddle stitch and perfect bind/ mechanical bind impositions is that saddle stitch signatures insert into each other and perfect bound signatures stack on top of each other. Perfect bind and mechanical bind impositions are identical in most cases. Many times, depending on the complexity and size of the job, perfect bound and mechanical bound books can be collated as single sheets, particularly when tabs or other non-standard items are included.

Imposition Planning Tips

Include a lap on saddle stitching impositions - A lap, also known as a lip, is an overhang on one side of the signature to allow for easy mechanical feeding. Saddle stitched books will have a 1/8" face trim on the low folio side and 3/8" trim on the high folio side. The 1/4" difference is called a lap, used to feed the signatures during inserting. When a lap is not possible, vacuum is used to open the signatures.



Imposition layouts for perfect binding and mechanical binding are nearly identical, as shown in the typical 16- page imposition above.

Mechanical binding tip - For thicker mechanically bound books, oversize the covers by 1/16". The larger wire used on higher-bulking books tends to bend the signatures around the wire slightly. We oversize the covers slightly to obscure the face curvature.



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Perfect binding tip - On perfect binding cover impositions, be sure to include an extra 1/8" margin at the head and foot for "glue trap", which prevents excess glue from seeping onto equipment and other books during binding.

Standard trims - Typical trims for perfect bound and mechanical bound signatures are 1/8" at the head, foot and face. On a perfect bound book 1/8" will be milled from the spine and roughened to receive the glue. Mechanical bound books will have 1/8" trimmed from the spine to make the book ready for punching and binding. Standard saddle stitch trims are described above. Trims can be varied to account for different press sheet sizes.