

Imposition and Binding

Imposition is the process of arranging the pages of a publication so that when the sheets are printed and folded for binding, the pages will be in the proper sequence. Individual pages are arranged on a large sheet called a flat, which is used to produce plates for the printing process. Each plate prints a single form or impression, of the imposed pages. Two forms are printed back to back on a press sheet that is folded into a signature. The signature is bound with others. If necessary, and trimmed to create a publication.

Imposition may be done manually or electronically. Manual imposition is a labor intensive process when small pieces of film separations are precisely arranged and taped or stripped, into flats. Electronic imposition requires software, such as Adobe Press Wise, that arranges the digital documents into the proper formation.

Binding is the process of gathering folder signatures using one of several methods. In Saddle-Stitch binding, signatures are gathered to form a common spine and then stitched with staples. Perfect binding involves gathering groups of signatures, grinding the bound edge and gluing the signatures at the spine into a one piece paper cover.

When signatures are collated and folded for saddle-stitch binding, the inner pages may project outward slightly. The printed area moves slightly with respect to other pages. The more pages there are in a book the farther out the pages closest to the center of the book move with respect to the other pages. This phenomenon is known as creep or shingling. If creep is not compensated for during the imposition, graphics and text in a multiple page publication will appear to move away from the gutter when

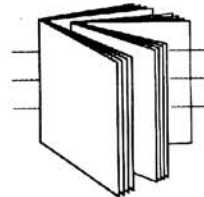
Front page of 16 page Signature

9	21	6	8
4	13	16	1
9	01	11	7
2	15	14	3

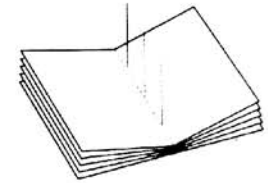


Folded Signature

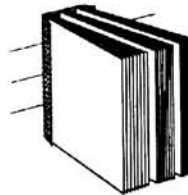
Back page of 16 page Signature flipped over page 2 is the back of page 1



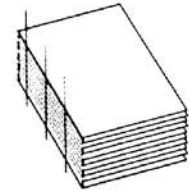
Inserted Signatures



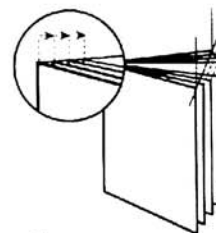
Saddle-Stitch Binding



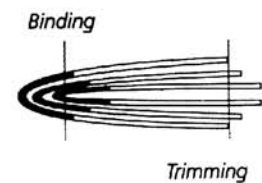
Gathered Signatures



Perfect Binding



Creep occurs when where the inter pages of a signature projects outwards.



Creep affects the printed area during binding and trimming.