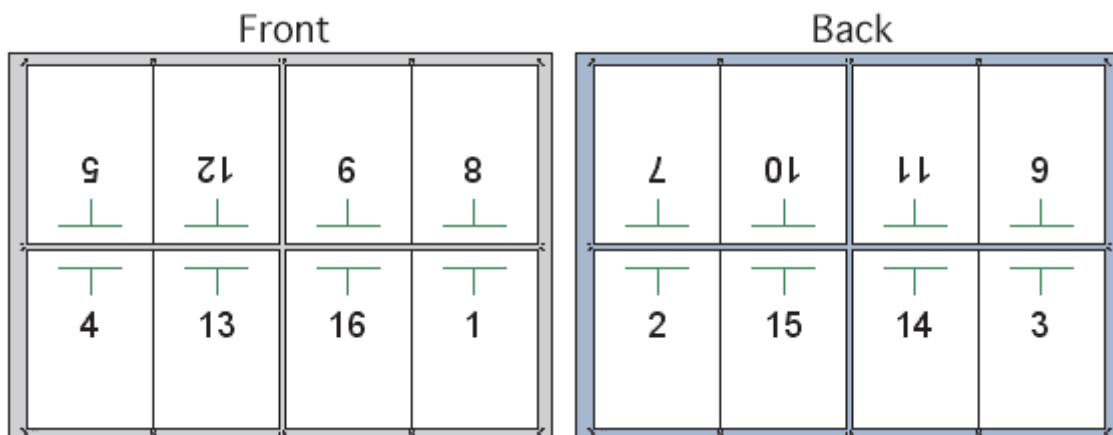# Imposition

Imposition is a term used in the printing industry. Print operators will print books using large sheets of paper, which will be folded later. This allows for faster printing, simplified binding and lower production costs. Imposition is the process of arranging pages correctly prior to printing so that they fold in the correct order. To someone unfamiliar with the imposition process, the pages may seem to be arranged randomly; but after printing, the paper is folded, bound and trimmed. If correctly imposed, the pages should all appear in the correct orientation and readable sequence.

In the example above, a 16-page book is prepared for printing. There are eight pages on the front of the sheet, and the corresponding eight pages on the back. After printing, the paper will be folded in half vertically (page two falls on page three). Then it will be folded again horizontally (page four meets page five). A third fold completes this process. The example below shows the final result prior to binding and trimming.

The artwork for multiple-page booklets should be supplied as spreads and in printers order (see some examples below). The artwork can be also supplied as a singe pages, and we can impose it in our DTP studio. In both cases, the pages in the artwork should be **marked with the correct page numbers.**