

# Imposing documents using PrintUI

This document is intended for template designers. More information about PrintUI API calls can be found in the *Imposition* section of the *PrintUI InDesign Server APIs* documentation that can be found at <https://printui.com/developer>.

**Important Note:** The *Imposition Layer* used to create the *Imposition Template* is an optional layer that must be added during the template initialization. Optional layers are not available when running the *PrintUI Management panel* in versions of *InDesign* prior to *CS6 (InDesign 8.0.x)*.

A companion ZIP file containing sample design and imposition templates for creating a two-sided business card with full bleed can also be downloaded from <https://printui.com/developer>.

## Preparing documents for Imposition

Preparing files for imposition in PrintUI requires multiple steps.

There are many different types of documents that might need to be imposed for output, and the first step in the design process is to decide exactly what sort of imposition you need. For example you might be working on a business card or postcard which you want to print n-up on a large sheet, or perhaps you are creating a booklet that needs to be imposed for saddle-stitching. PrintUI can handle either, and the basic process is the same for any type of imposition: create one template that a user will edit, and a second, larger page-size template with placeholders to tell the server how to arrange the imposed file. The user never needs to see or be aware that the second template exists.

The next step is to create what will be called the *Design Template*, for lack of a better term. This is the regular document template that your users will see and edit, created one-up like any other InDesign file. Be sure to include any bleeds, if you need them. This can be a single page, as for a business card, two pages, for a two sided card, or many pages for something like a brochure. You could also do several pages of individual business cards or post cards and impose them for gang-printing.

The final step is to create the *Imposition Template* itself.

## The Imposition Template

The key to imposing in PrintUI is the *Imposition Template*, a second document you create that represents the larger sheet with positioned placeholders for your imposed design template.

To make the imposition template you create a new InDesign file at the size of the press sheet. During the initialization phase for this template you must choose the *Imposition Layer* checkbox in the list of optional layers.

Any object that you put on the imposition layer is considered a placeholder for a page from your design template, and the page will be automatically centered in that placeholder during processing. From this it should be clear that the placeholders should be designed to fit the pages you will be imposing. Placeholder frames may be rotated for head-to-head or foot-to-foot layouts if you like.

If your imposed file will have several pages you may find it convenient to put marks or other information on the master page, but the placeholder frames should be placed on the live document page(s). **ONLY** placeholders should be put onto the Imposition layer. Your imposition template may be a single page, in the case of n-up type impositions, or may need several pages in the case of a stitched or bound brochure (see below).

## Specifying the page order using parameters

There are two optional parameters that are used in the requestimposition API call for processing the template, *fill* and *booklet*, and the use of these determines how your design template is placed into the imposition template. While they are called optional, failure to use one or the other will result in only one placeholder being filled on each output page. It is possible to specify both *fill* and *booklet* in a single call, but the result will be the same as if you used only the *booklet* parameter. A third parameter, *keepjobs* is used for debugging purposes and prevents the job from being deleted after processing.

- The **fill** parameter will cause each placeholder on the page of your imposition template to be filled with a single page from the design template, and a new page will be added to the imposed document until all pages from the design template have been included. No special treatment of the placeholder frames is required in the imposition template to use the fill parameter.
- The **booklet** parameter lets you specify which page of the design template will be placed into each placeholder frame in the imposition template. In order to accomplish this it is required that you rename each placeholder in the Layers panel with the number of the page from the design template that should go into the placeholder.

Despite its name, the *booklet* parameter is also used when creating non-booklet impositions that have more than one design template page per imposed page, such as folded cards with multiple panels or work-and-turn impositions for two sided work where it makes sense to create only one set of plates. It is even possible to use the same imposition template to do either work-and-turn or sheetwise impositions if the frames are named to handle the different pages. Passing the *booklet* parameter will populate for work-and-turn, the *fill* parameter will ignore the frame names and produce separate n-up pages for each side.

You may download a ZIP file containing sample design and imposition templates for creating a two-sided business card with full bleed at <https://printui.com/developer>. This template illustrates the naming of imposition frames to specify a page from the design template to be placed in each frame, and the same template can be used to create either a work-and-turn or a sheetwise imposition from the same design template, depending on which parameter is specified during processing.