Quick Start on Composer

Composer is an effective use of independent pages, composing several different small jobs on a single press sheet, and optimizing the use of film or media, with an aim to lower cost and improve the efficiency. This brochure is designed to provide you with a brief introduction to the usage of this ganging module.

Preparation

As an independent processor node in job or workflow, Composer always stands alone, disconnected with any other node fore-and-aft. It accepts files processed after the node such as PDF Generator, Margin Adjustment, PDF Merger, and PDF Tools. Before you start ganging, you need to manually submit the pages to the node.

Steps to get readiness for the ganging:

1. Open or create a job.

2. Ensure that the job contains at least a PDF Generator and Composer node.

3. Choose source files, and submit them to PDF Generator.

4. Choose the page files that the PDF Generator has generated, and manually drag them to the Composer node as input files.

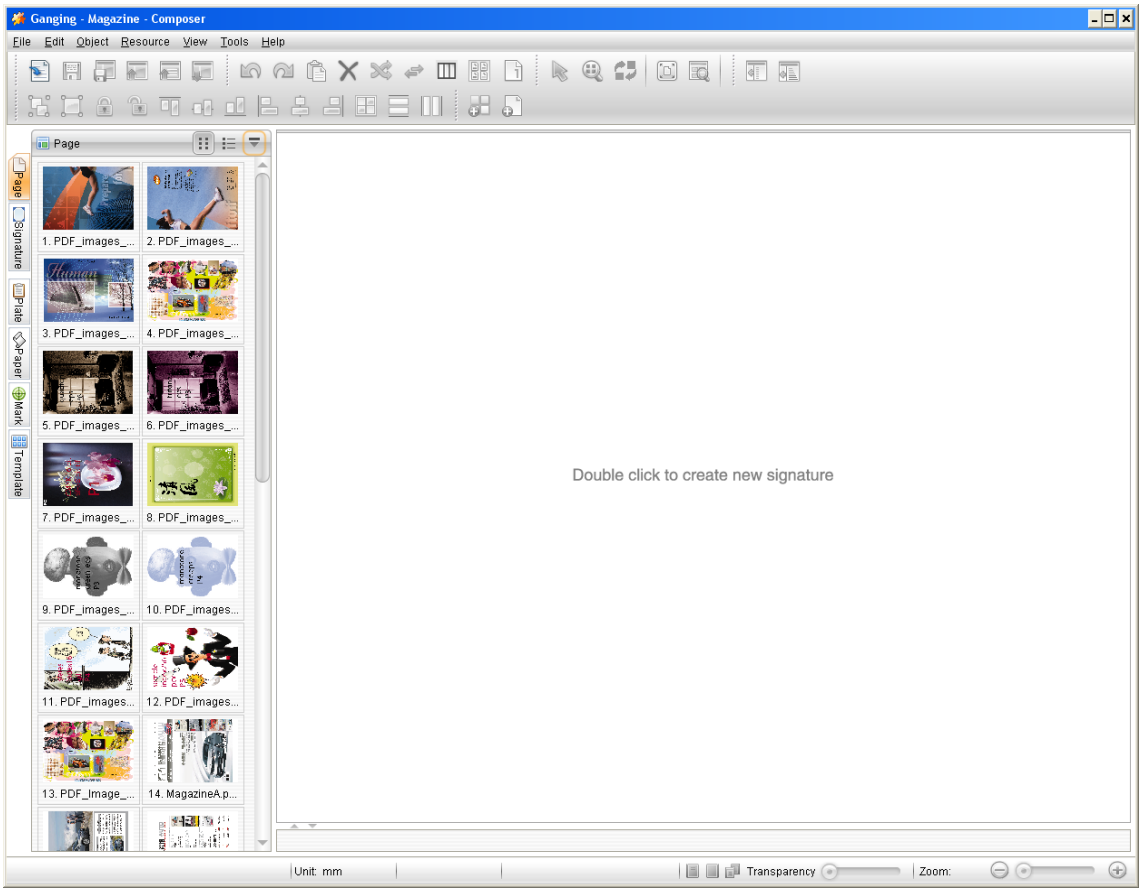

Figure 1

In case that you need to choose the input files from the nodes other than PDF Generator, e.g. Margin Adjustment, switch to these nodes and choose from their output file queues. Or you can also check the toolbar icon **Pages**, then choose from the listed page files.

After you submit the input pages, ElecRoc will automatically open the main operating window, as shown above (also can be opened by double-clicking the Composer node). The input pages you submitted are listed under the **Page** tab at the left of the window. By default, they are displayed in thumbnails. You can click the icon at the upper-right of the thumbnails to change to the list view.

Create Signature

1. Double-click anywhere in the right area, or choose from the main menu **File** > **New Signature** to open the **New Signature** window.

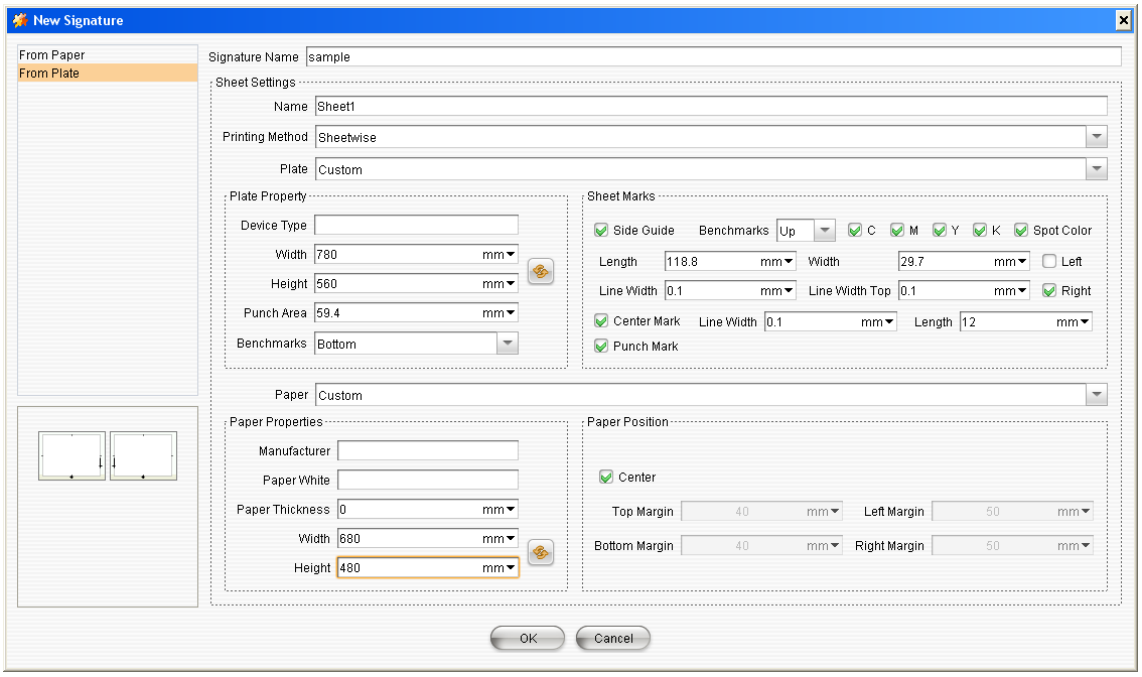

Figure 2

2. Input signature name in the **Signature Name** edit box.

3. Define the sheet.

    1) Input the sheet name in the **Sheet Settings****Name** edit box.

    2) Choose an option from the **From Paper** and **From Plate**, located at the upper-left corner. Here we take **From Plate** as example, i.e. to create a sheet based on a plate. Such sheet contains punch area, punch marks, center marks, and side guide marks.

    3) Choose a method from the **Printing Method** dropdown list.

    4) Specify the sheet size from the **Plate** dropdown list. You can customize this size.

    5) Specify the paper size from the **Paper** dropdown list. Here you can also

customize the size. The paper size is usually less than the plate size.

4. Click **OK**.

The new signature and its sheet then appear in the main window.

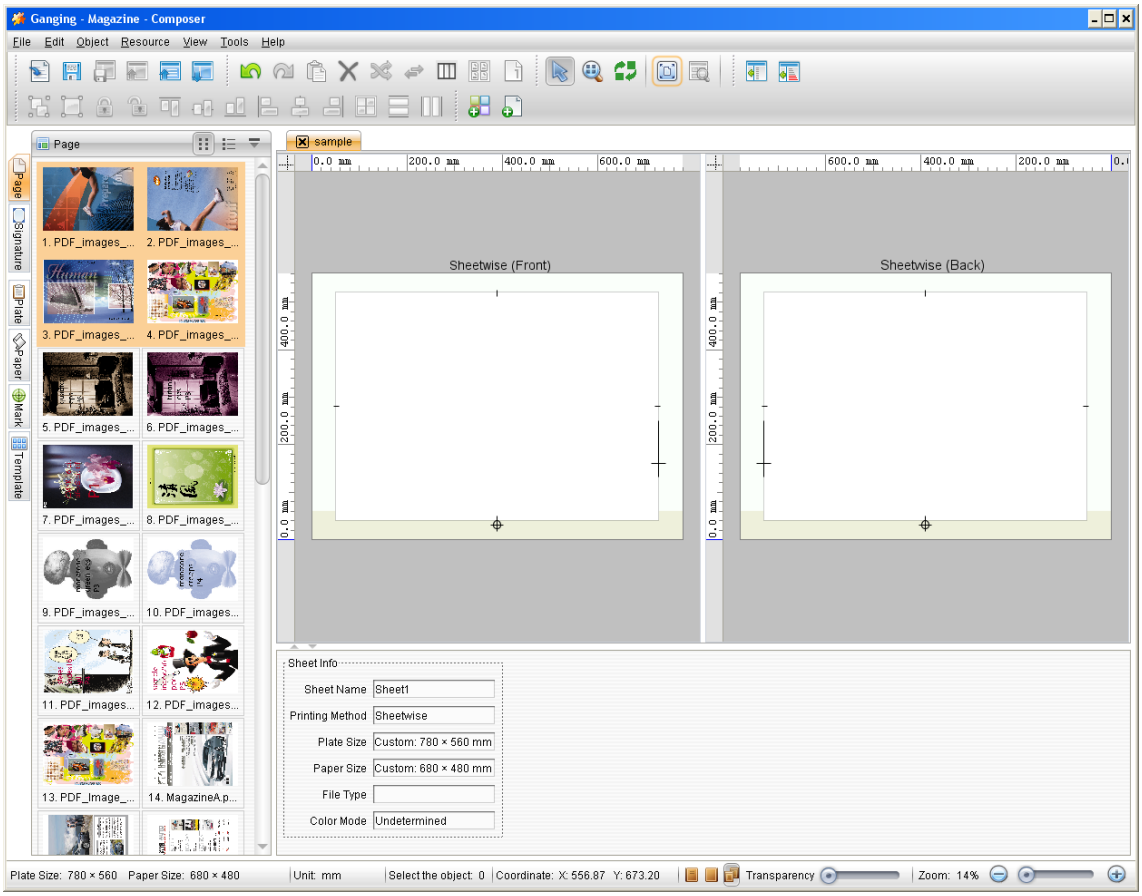

Figure 3

Add Pages

Switch to the **Page** tab, choose the pages to be ganged (with Ctrl or Shift key you can choose more than one page one time), and then press down the left mouse button, drag them to the blank area on the sheet.

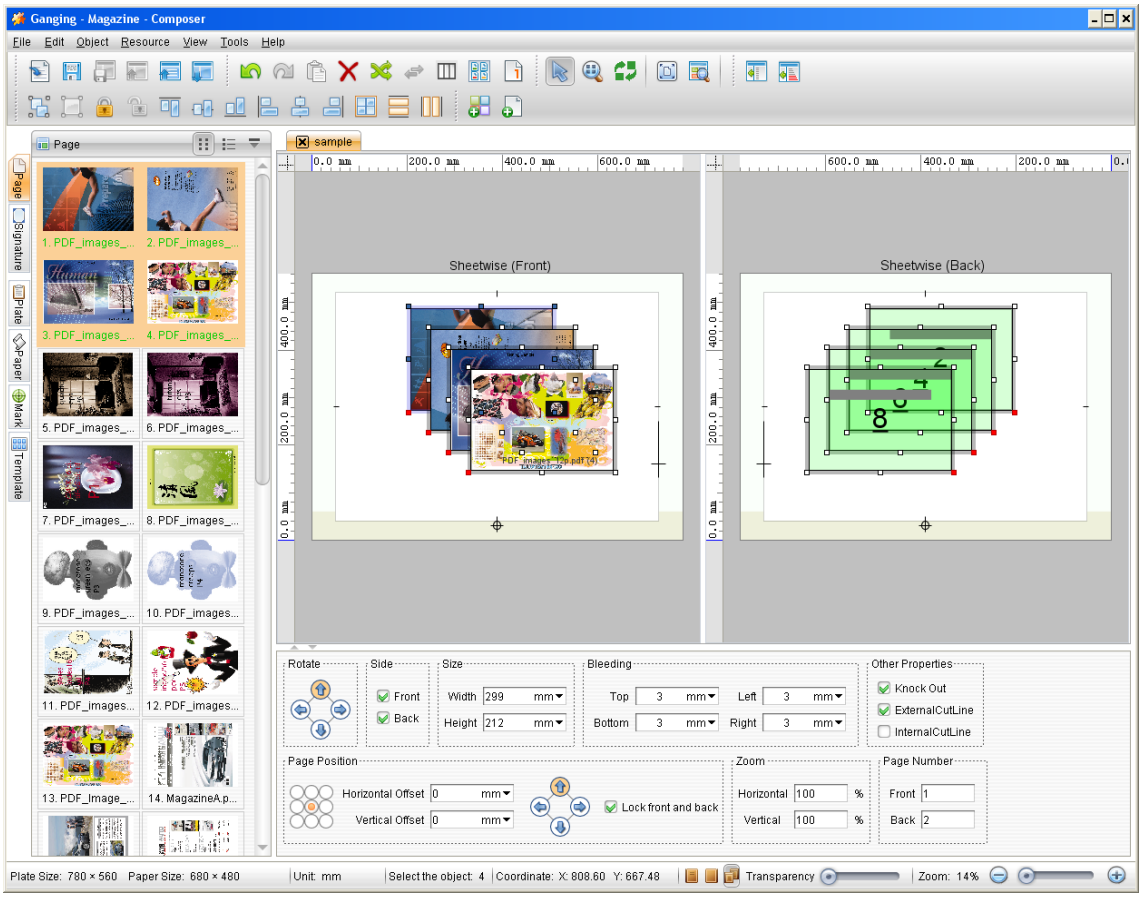

Figure 4

In the default ganging mode, i.e. manual ganging, after having been added to the sheet, the pages may scatter, or even overlap with each other. In such case, you may need to perform some ganging operations as follows:

1. Page positioning

Choose one or more pages (click in any blank area on the sheet to cancel the selection), and drag them to proper location and then release the mouse button. In this way, you can re-position the pages quickly.

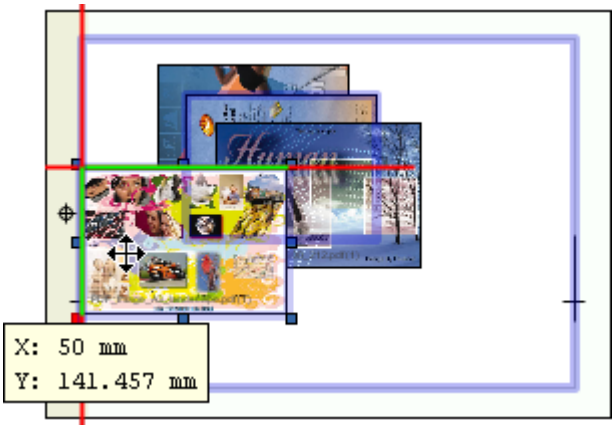

Figure 5

Note: *When moving the pages, ElecRoc can capture the pages to the borders of the plate and paper, i.e. when the pages approach the plate or paper border, they will be captured automatically to the border. If you don't need this capacity, you can disable it by un-checking the menu item* ***Tools*** *>* ***Capture plate and paper****.*

The page position can also be defined with the coordinates in the property panel (as the one **Template** of the two tabs is selected), located at the bottom of the window.

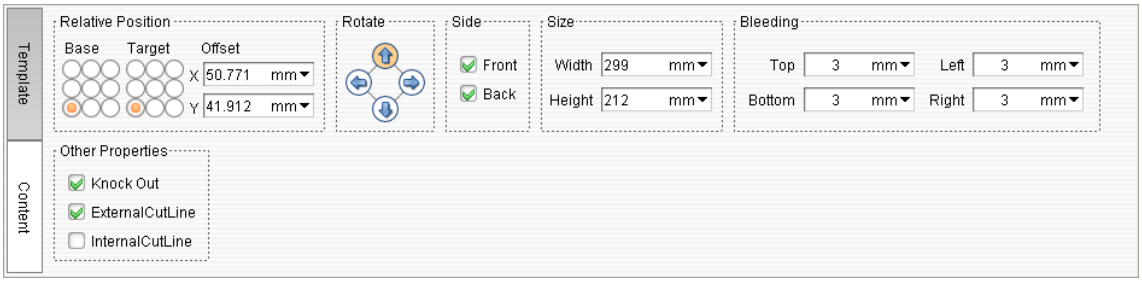

Figure 6

2. Rotate the pages

With the icons、、on the property panel, as shown above, or choose from the main menu **Object** > **Rotate**, you can rotate the pages by different degrees, if needed.

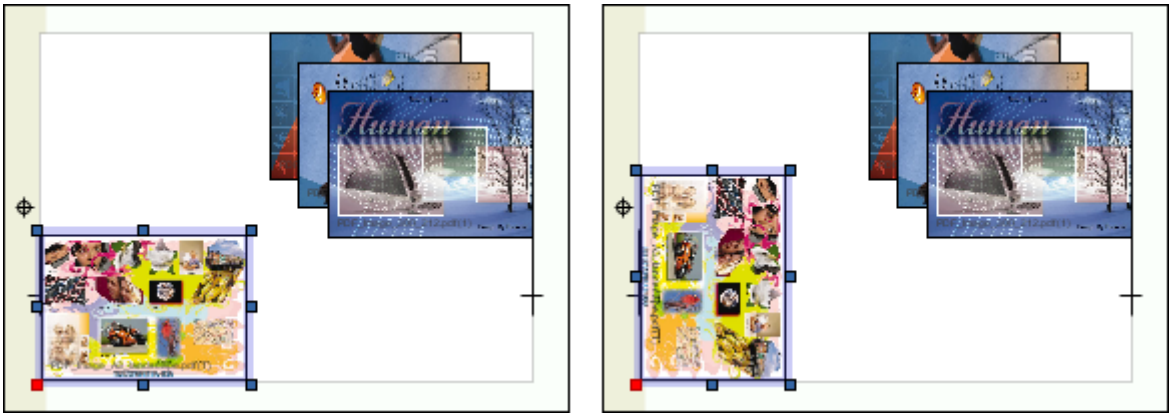

Figure 7

3. Align the pages

If you want to align the pages, you can press down the Ctrl key to choose multiple pages, and then click the toolbar icons, , , , , , , , or .

By default, the pages are aligned with the first chosen page, but you can also specify other reference page with which the pages are aligned. When you have chosen multiple pages, click one of them once again to make it the new reference page. The anchor points on its borders then turn dark cyan.

Figure 8

Note: *After you have aligned multiple pages with one page, you can further use the toolbar icon to team them into a group. And then, you can also use the toolbar icon to center the group on the sheet.*

4. Configure properties of page content

Choose a single page, and then choose the **Content** tab on the property panel. Here you can configure the properties related to the page content.

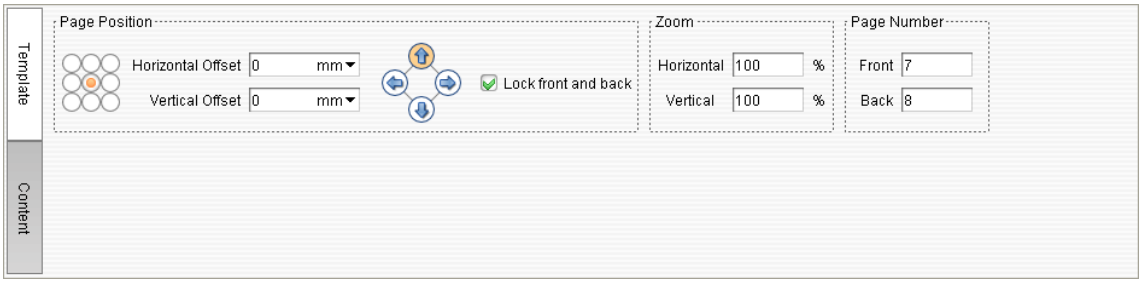

Figure 9

1) Position the content on the page. You can change the position through the nine-point diagram. By default it is centered, i.e. if the page size reduces, the edges of the content may be cut off; if the page size increases, blank spaces may be added to the edges.

Figure 10

2) Rotate the content. By default, the content is rotated along with the page, as shown in the middle. By clicking the rotation icons、、 under the **Content** tab, you can separately control the orientation of the content, which may be different from that of the page, as shown in the right.

Figure 11

3) Scale the content. You can input the scaling percentages in the **Horizontal** and **Vertical** boxes, or choose from the main menu **Object** > **Zoom** to open an independent setup window.

Figure 12

Add Marks

Choose the **Mark** tab at the left of the main window, and then choose a mark, drag it to proper position on the sheet.

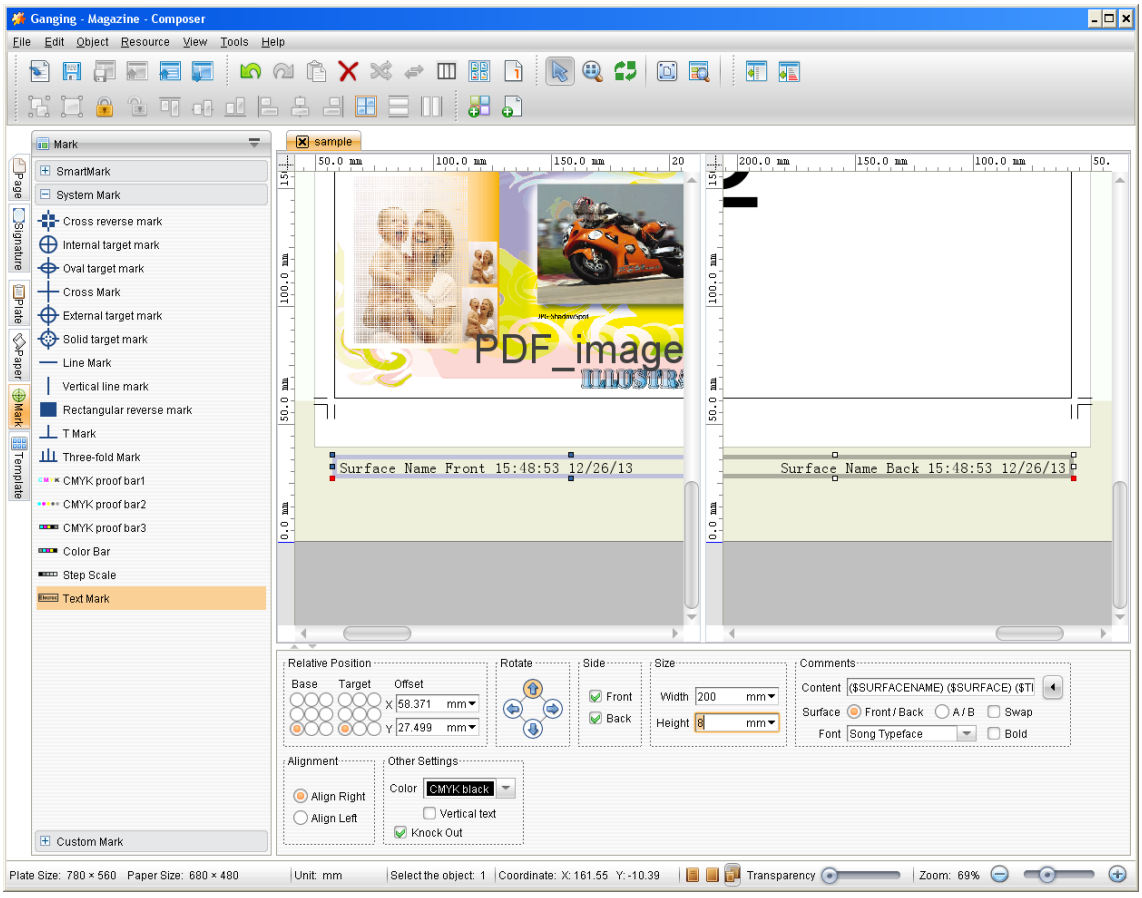

Figure 13

Mark properties, including position, direction, line width, line length, block size, can be re-defined through the parameters on the property panel.

Ganging on Back Side

When your sheet consists of both the front and back sides, if you add a page or mark to any side, both the **Front** and **Back** boxes under the **Template** tab of the property panel will be checked, and at this moment, a relevant blank page or mark will be created on the reverse side. Therefore, after the ganging on the front side is done, an identical layout consisting of blank pages and marks will appear on the back side.

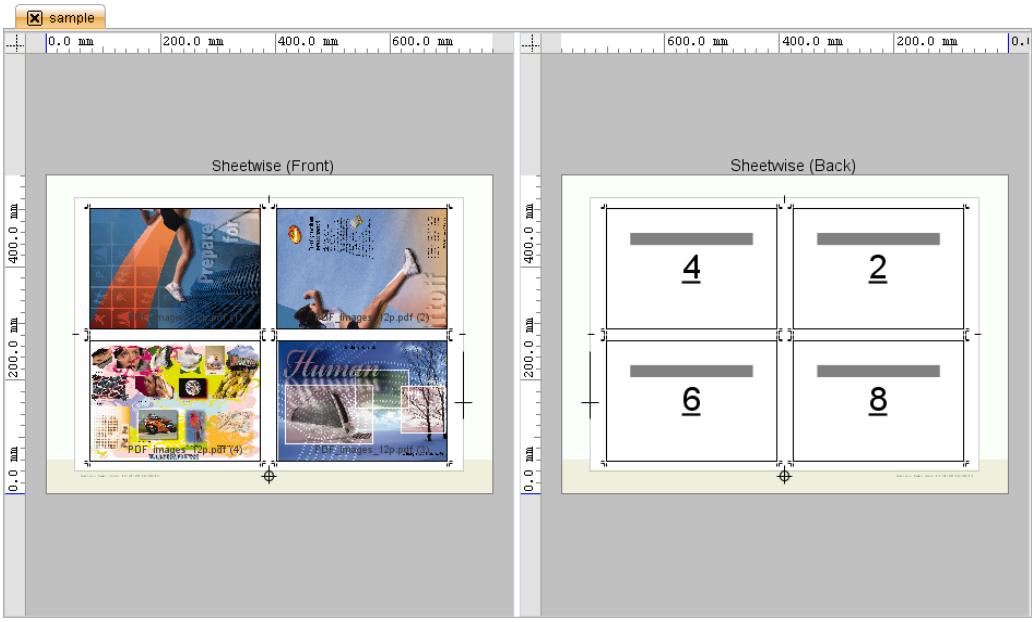

Figure 14

Switch to the **Page** tab, and drag other pages to these blank pages one by one.

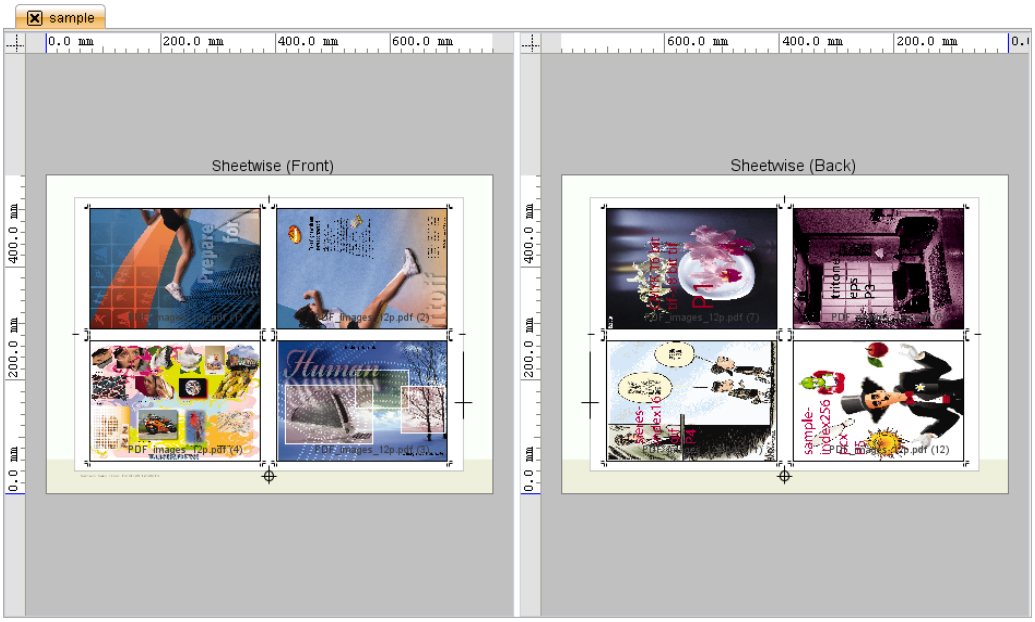

Figure 15

By this way, you can greatly improve the ganging efficiency on the back side. You can disable this relevance by un-checking the **Back** boxes of all the front-side pages or marks on the property panel. In this case, there would be no relevant blank page or mark appears on the back side.

Submit Signature

Click the toolbar icon to open the following dialog box. Check the signature sheet(s) you want to submit, and then click **OK**.

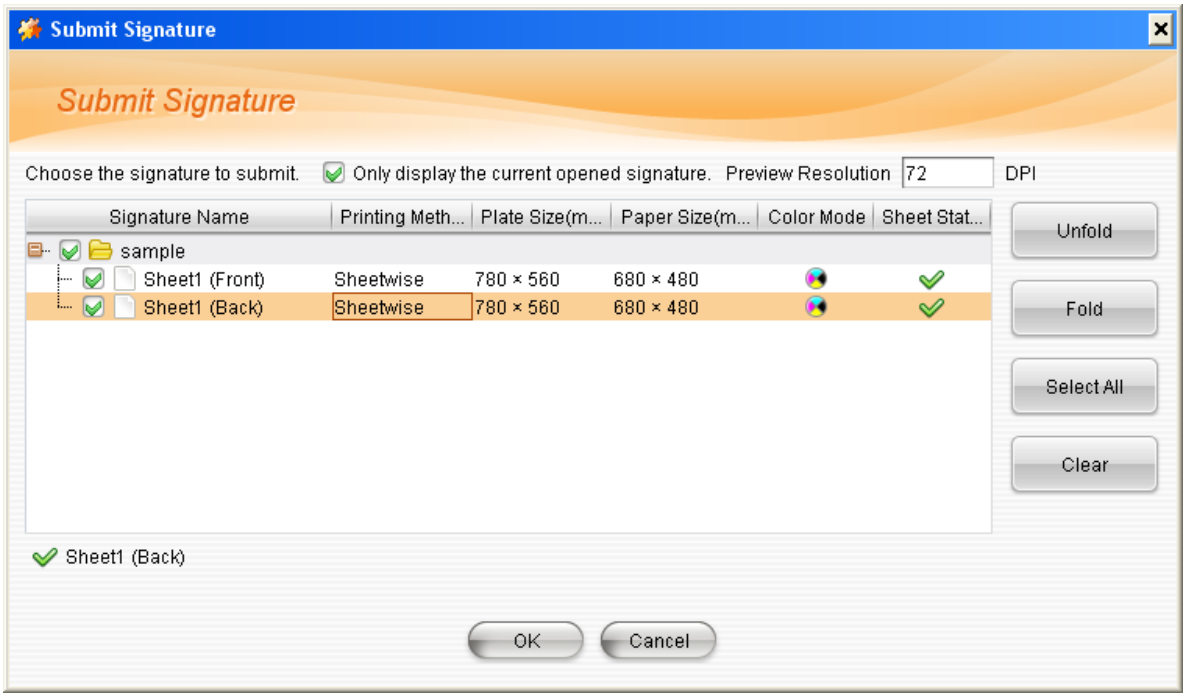

Figure 16

ElecRoc pops up message to inform that the operation is successfully. Close the message and switch to the job window, then you can see the generated surface(s) in the output file queue under the Composer node.

The ganged surface(s) can then be sent for further process by nodes like mono or color printer, pre-RIP Proof, Rasterizer (then can be further sent to post-RIP proof, 1 Bit TIFF Export), PDF Merger (merged file can be further processed as standard PDF file by PDF Export), and etc.