

Adobe® InDesign™

At A Glance

Page-layout and design for the future of professional publishing

Adobe InDesign software is a new, state-of-the-art page layout program that delivers unprecedented creative freedom, productivity, and precision, while integrating seamlessly with Adobe's other leading design programs. Created for high-end graphic designers, production artists, and prepress professionals, Adobe InDesign removes the creative barriers presented by previously available publishing software, providing a powerful new set of tools that can shorten the distance between inspiration and reality.

This document touches on the top features in Adobe InDesign. For more detailed information about these and other InDesign features, see *Adobe InDesign New Product Overview*.

Tight integration among Adobe products for a seamless work environment

Award-winning Adobe user interface—Enjoy design tools that work together to provide a seamless creative environment. Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator®, and Adobe Photoshop® software looks, feels, and behaves similarly because of common tools, commands, palettes, and keyboard shortcuts.

Conversion of QuarkXPress® and Adobe PageMaker® documents—Preserve your investment in current design files: InDesign opens QuarkXPress 3.3–4.04 files, as well as PageMaker 6.5 files.

Support for Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF)—Save your publications as PDF files directly from InDesign. Set PDF options for image compression, font embedding, and color conversion.

Native Illustrator, Photoshop, and PDF file import—Place, or copy and paste Illustrator or Photoshop artwork into InDesign publications. Edit Illustrator artwork that you've pasted or dragged and dropped. You can also place pages from PDF files as linked graphics.

Shared Adobe technologies—Rely on leading-edge Adobe technologies for a streamlined workflow and predictable output. Shared Adobe technologies provide consistent font handling, color management, on-screen graphics display, and PDF support across InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, and Adobe Acrobat®.

Express your creative ideas with complete freedom

Nested text and graphics frames—Use objects—such as basic shapes, hand-drawn shapes, and converted text—as frames to hold text and graphics content. Create vivid layered designs by pasting a frame within a frame within a frame. Then freely subselect and manipulate those nested frames to get the look you want.

Gradient fills and strokes—Create radial or linear gradients to fill and stroke shapes or text. Adjust the angle of a linear gradient by eye with the handy gradient tool. Even edit text that has a gradient applied to it.

Bézier paths—Work with bézier path tools, such as Adobe's renowned pen tool, to create basic illustration elements on the fly. Combine multiple paths into compound paths to produce unusual shapes. Convert text to paths that can be filled with images, graphics, or text with eye-catching results.

Scaling and shearing of text and graphics frames—Select multiple text and graphics frames, and then scale and shear them to create novel effects. Text remains editable after applying these transformations.

Clipping paths—Preserve clipping paths when you import Photoshop, EPS, or TIFF files, or create clipping paths automatically in Adobe InDesign.

Unobtrusive software—Stay focused on your design work because InDesign removes arbitrary software barriers. For example, rotate or resize a graphic that's hanging off the pasteboard (other programs make you move it). Or print masked TIFF files efficiently because InDesign sends only the visible image data to the printer.



System Requirements***Power Macintosh†**

- PowerPC® 604 processor or greater (PowerPC G3® recommended)
- Mac OS Software version 8.5 or later
- 48 MB of installed with virtual memory on; 96 MB with virtual memory off (128 MB recommended)
- 120 MB of available hard-disk space for installation
- CD-ROM drive
- 832x624 monitor resolution (24-bit, high-resolution display recommended)
- Adobe PostScript® Level 2 or higher printer

Windows‡

- Intel® Pentium® II or faster processor (300 MHz or faster processor recommended)
- Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Workstation with Service Pack 4, Windows 98, or later operating system
- 48 MB of RAM installed (64 MB or more recommended)
- 75 MB of available hard-disk space for minimum installation
- CD-ROM drive
- Video card that supports 256-color at 800x600 monitor resolution (24-bit, high-resolution display recommended)
- For PostScript printers: Adobe PostScript Level 2 or higher required

* System requirements are subject to change prior to the product shipping.

† An Internet connection recommended

Estimated Street Price:
\$699

Expected Ship Date:
Summer 1999

Work faster and more productively

Multiple undo and redo—Explore. Play. See where your creative ideas lead, confident in the knowledge that you can undo—or redo—multiple steps in your InDesign publications.

Document-wide layers—Organize the objects in your publication on layers. Then hide, show, reorder, and lock layers as necessary to do your work. For example, hide layers to focus on part of a design. Use layers to set up multiple versions of a publication in a single file, such as different language versions of a brochure.

Multiple master pages—Set up multiple master pages in publications, making it easier to apply key design elements consistently. Even base one master page on another. Then any changes made to the “based-on” (or parent) master page will ripple through the “subordinate” (or child) master page for efficient updating.

Keyboard shortcut editor—Use the keyboard shortcut editor to customize your shortcuts. (By default, InDesign shortcuts match those in Photoshop and Illustrator wherever possible for a more streamlined workflow.) Or choose a set of compatible shortcuts for QuarkXPress included with InDesign.

Character styles—Specify a rich set of attributes for character styles, including font, size, leading, kerning, ligatures, position, baseline shift, color, overprinting, and more. Even specify a language, such as French or German, to be used for spell checking and hyphenation rules. Base related character styles on each other, or assign keyboard shortcuts to styles for easy application.

Multiple views of a publication—Instantly open two or more views of a publication for different perspectives on your design. For example, open two views of a page to kern text on it. In one view, zoom in on the text at 800%. In the other view, stay at actual size to see how your kerning choices affect the overall design.

Automatic layout adjustment—Quickly accommodate changes in page size, page orientation, margin sizes, and other settings by using the Layout Adjustment feature to automatically rearrange elements on your pages. This feature makes it efficient to try different designs or repurpose publications for other uses.

Support for large page and spread sizes—Design pages as small as 1 pica (1/6 in., 0.421 cm.) square or as large as 1296 picas (18 ft., 5.48 meters) square. Organize your pages in spreads containing up to 10 pages, then scroll through spreads in your publication to view them in relation to each other or to move objects.

Experience unparalleled precision and control

Typographical composition engines—Choose between two high-quality composition engines to automatically fine-tune the line breaks in your publication: the multi-line composer or the single-line composer. Both composers follow built-in rules to achieve optimal line breaks using your type settings. The unique, cutting-edge multi-line composer considers multiple lines at once, looking forward and backward in a paragraph to produce the best results. The single-line composer applies these rules one line at a time.

Extraordinary accuracy—Create designs with pinpoint precision. Adobe InDesign is engineered for accuracy that’s unmatched by other page layout programs, so it will easily support evolving standards of precision.

Extensive kerning controls—Choose among four different kerning options to achieve precise spacing between characters: manual kerning; range kerning for adjusting spaces across a line of characters; built-in pair kerning (available in certain fonts); and optical kerning for setting optimal character spacing visually.

Versatile zooming controls—Zoom out to a 5% view or in to a 4,000% view on any area of your spread with the Navigator palette. Or choose common zoom percentages from a pop-up menu in the InDesign window.

Flexible grids and guides—Set up document grids and baseline grids, specifying a snap-to distance to ensure that objects align with them precisely. Position any number of page-size or spread-size ruler guides with numerical efficiency. Then hide, show, lock, move, and copy those guides as needed. Assign guides to layers in the Layers palette, or store sets of them in a Library palette for future use.

Customizable view thresholds—Keep your workspace efficient: specify custom view thresholds, so that baseline grids, document grids, guides, and other tools appear only when you need them.