Adobe® InDesign™

Frequently Asked Questions

Page-layout and design for the future of professional publishing

Q. What is Adobe InDesign?

A. Adobe InDesign is a new, state-of-the-art page-layout and design 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 current publishing software, providing a powerful new set of tools that can shorten the distance between inspiration and reality.

Q. When will Adobe InDesign ship?

A. Summer 1999.

Q. How much will Adobe InDesign cost?

A. The estimated street price for Adobe InDesign is $699(U.S.). Volume pricing will be available.

Q. What operating systems does Adobe InDesign run under?

A. InDesign runs under these operating systems:

- Mac OS 8.5
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Microsoft Windows NT® 4.0

Q. What are the system requirements for Adobe InDesign?

A. **Macintosh System Requirements**

- PowerPC® 604 or faster processor
- Mac OS Software version 8.5 or later
- 48 MB of installed RAM with virtual memory on; 96 MB of RAM with virtual memory off.
- Monitor resolution of 832x624 pixels
- CD-ROM drive
- 120 MB of free hard-disk space for installation
- Adobe PostScript® Level 2 (or higher) printer

Macintosh Recommendations

- PowerPC G3 processor
- 128 MB RAM installed
- High-resolution 24-bit screen display
- An Internet connection

A. **Windows System Requirements**

- Intel® Pentium® II or faster processor
- Microsoft Windows 98, Windows NT 4.0 Workstation with Service Pack 4, or later
- 48 MB of RAM installed
- 256-color (8-bit) display
- CD-ROM drive
- 75 MB of free hard-disk space for minimum installation
- For PostScript printers: Adobe PostScript Level 2 or later required

Adobe

Windows Recommendations
- 300 MHz or faster processor
- 64 MB or more of RAM installed
- High-resolution (24-bit or greater Super VGA) video display card
- Adobe PostScript Level 2 (or higher) printer
- An Internet connection

Q. Are there differences between the Macintosh and Windows versions of Adobe InDesign?
A. The Macintosh and Windows versions of Adobe InDesign were designed to be virtually identical, making it easier and more efficient for users to work in multiplatform environments. In addition, features such as smart font mapping make it more seamless to trade files back and forth. Differences between the Macintosh and Windows versions exist only where platform-specific differences require them.

Q. Where do I get more information about Adobe InDesign?
A. Visit the Adobe Web site at *www.adobe.com/prodindex/indesign* . Ongoing information about InDesign will be posted regularly, so be sure to visit the site regularly.

Q. Where can I buy Adobe InDesign?
A. When InDesign is released, it will be available through Adobe's worldwide distribution network of software retailers and mail-order outlets, as well as through Adobe value-added resellers and systems integrators. In addition, the Adobe Volume Licensing Plan provides attractive pricing for enterprises who want to make volume purchases of Adobe InDesign. Any special offers to Adobe customers will also be available directly from Adobe in certain countries.

Q. What are the main features of Adobe InDesign?
A. Here is a top-level view of the main features in Adobe InDesign. For more details, see the *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, copy and paste, or drag and drop Illustrator or Photoshop artwork into InDesign publications. Edit Illustrator artwork that you've pasted or dragged and dropped. 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 reknowned 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 files from Photoshop, 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.

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.

Q. Who is the audience for Adobe InDesign?

- Professional designers in magazines, design agencies, advertising groups, catalogs, and other creative ventures who need to enhance their creative options while streamlining the workflow process, with a minimum of re-training and a maximum of flexibility for specialized design requirements.

- Production artists, prepress professionals, service providers, and printers who need to control costs, meet deadlines, and ensure the highest quality output without sacrificing the creative precision needed by the designers whose work they help to produce.

Q. How is the software's architecture different from that available in other page-layout solutions?

A. Programming practices have evolved significantly in the years since the underlying architecture for either Adobe PageMaker or QuarkXPress was first established. The software industry has moved towards a modular, object-oriented approach to programming where code is easier to isolate, reuse, and extend, thus supporting more efficient development processes that can respond rapidly to emerging technologies.

Adobe InDesign epitomizes this approach to software development and, in fact, pushes farther than any other retail software program to date: Where most programs currently limit extensibility to a specific API, every aspect of Adobe InDesign is extensible by design. InDesign provides a core application that defines the object model and all the interfaces that determine how objects behave. This core application works with a collection of powerful plug-ins that provide all the type, color, printing, and other features available in the program. Basically, every aspect of the program is a plug-in, which means that changing or adding functionality can be as easy as swapping out a plug-in or two. In practical terms, this means that Adobe can develop a new feature or make a small but useful change to an existing one, and then make the plug-in available to customers. If a customer wants the new plug-in, they can get it, pop it into the Plug-ins folder, and have the new feature available without the installation or learning-curve hassles inherent in the current software upgrade process.

This radical extensibility also means that third-party developers have extraordinary freedom in developing custom vertical solutions for Adobe InDesign. They could extend InDesign by creating plug-ins that add database publishing, image manipulation, or new import/export capabilities. They could add new plug-ins for text composition, hyphenation and justification, color management, and more. They could even build an entirely new application on top of the core application to meet a particular publishing need.

Q. What plug-ins will be available when Adobe InDesign ships?
A. Adobe Systems is working with dozens of third-party developers to develop plug-ins for Adobe InDesign. For example, Extensis Corporation, Em Software, and A Lowly Apprentice Productions (ALAP) have all announced plans to develop plug-ins for InDesign. Extensis plans to support InDesign in upcoming releases of Preflight Pro, its award-winning preflight software, and Collect Pro, its inspection and collection utility. Em Software plans to produce its popular Xdata and Xcatalog products for InDesign to help auto- mate database publishing. ALAP plans to release a suite of InDesign plug-ins, including versions of ShadowCaster and XPert Tools—highly regarded QuarkXPress XTensions.

Q. How does Adobe InDesign compete with QuarkXPress?
A. With the release of InDesign, Adobe will make the single biggest change to the print publishing market since QuarkXPress was released in the 1980's. Adobe InDesign is more than just a new page-layout pro- gram—it's a key component in an integrated, business solution that includes Acrobat and its composite PDF workflow, PostScript, Illustrator, and Photoshop. Together these Adobe programs deliver the best solution for the future of professional publishing because of their tight integration, powerful productivity and design tools, and high-quality output. Graphics professionals gain a powerful, flexible publishing envi- ronment that frees them to focus on their creative and business processes rather than on technology.

Current page-layout programs are based on aging codebases that are difficult to modify quickly to incorpo- rate new technologies or to meet new requirements. As professional designers reach the limits of these tools, they are looking for robust, cost-effective, long-term solutions—ones which help them work faster and more intuitively, achieving a fine balance between their creative ideas and bottom-line profitability. Adobe Systems has built InDesign from the ground up on a new, state-of-the-art codebase that can address this next generation of publishing requirements.

As a leading innovator in the design, publishing, and printing industries, Adobe Systems is in a unique position to shape the evolution of publishing tools. The company has a clear understanding of and commit- ment to graphic designers, which shows in all aspects of the Adobe product line and customer support. To develop InDesign, Adobe worked with hundreds of top designers worldwide, identifying the core features and, more importantly, capturing the experience designers wish to have with their software. These insights are inherent in every aspect of the product's design from its fundamental architecture to its elegant feature implementation. Adobe InDesign sets a new standard for professional publishing tools—one in which designers can invest with confidence, knowing that it gives them extraordinary power now and can adapt smoothly to meet their future needs.

Q. What is Adobe doing to help with the transition from QuarkXPress to Adobe InDesign?
A. Adobe Systems understands that designers prefer to focus on design work, not on learning new tools. Here are three important ways that InDesign keeps the learning curve to a minimum:

• Adobe Integration. Anyone who knows Photoshop or Illustrator can hit the ground running with InDesign. These programs share common commands, palettes, tools, and keyboard shortcuts wherever possible. Cre- ating colors or layers, navigating in your files, drawing graphic elements, and other features all work the same way. These products also share core technologies to ensure a more reliable, consistent workflow.

• QuarkXPress shortcuts. InDesign includes a compatible set of keyboard shortcuts for QuarkXPress. Design- ers simply select these shortcuts with the Keyboard Shortcut Editor for a more seamless transition. Alterna- tively, they can create a custom set using a combination of Photoshop, Illustrator, and Quark shortcuts.

• QuarkXPress file conversion. InDesign can open QuarkXPress 3.3–4.04 files with the File > Open command. No separate converter is required. This file conversion will be as exact as possible, although fundamental differences in the composition engines and other features may mean that some file attributes are not pre- served. A main goal is to enable designers to convert templates and import content from legacy documents.

Adobe InDesign and Other Adobe Products

Q. Is Adobe discontinuing Adobe PageMaker?

A. Not at all. Adobe PageMaker continues to enjoy high demand among business customers, particularly on the Windows platform. These customers want more professional-looking output than entry-level desktop publishing tools can provide, and they view PageMaker as the natural next step. Adobe Systems plans to continue developing, marketing and supporting PageMaker as a page-layout program with professional-level features for business publishers.

Q. Is Adobe Systems planning to upgrade PageMaker any time soon?

A. To better support business publishers, Adobe Systems has released an enhanced version of PageMaker 6.5, called PageMaker 6.5 *Plus*, for Windows and the Macintosh. It provides:

• Three new plug-ins that enhance productivity and ease-of-use for Windows business publishers—a Picture Palette plug-in for browsing and managing clip art and stock photos; a Template plug-in for browsing and managing PageMaker templates; and a plug-in that creates a Microsoft Office-style, icon-based toolbar with shortcuts to commonly used PageMaker features (Windows only).

• 300 professionally designed PageMaker templates for common business documents, such as newsletters, direct mail, ads, and brochures. Templates are organized for novice, intermediate, and advanced users.

• Getting Started Guide and design tips developed by well-known graphic design expert, Robin Williams.

• 4,700 professionally designed stock illustrations in Adobe Illustrator format.

• 300 high-resolution, CMYK stock photographs (300 dpi, JPEG format).

• Converter software for Microsoft Publisher® 97 and 98 documents (Windows only).

• Adobe Photoshop LE 5.0 for image editing.

For more information, visit the Adobe Web site at *www.adobe.com/prodindex/pagemaker.*

Q. Is PageMaker 6.5 *Plus* available in all the same languages as PageMaker 6.5?

A. Not all of them. Currently, Adobe plans to release PageMaker 6.5 *Plus* in English, French, German, Swedish, and Japanese.

Q. Is InDesign just a revamped version of the PageMaker codebase?

A. No. Adobe InDesign does not use any of the PageMaker codebase. InDesign has been completely redesigned from the ground up using modern, modular coding practices that can adapt more easily to emerging technology standards and meet the exacting needs of professional designers.

Q. Can PageMaker files be converted to Adobe InDesign files?

A. Yes, InDesign opens PageMaker 6.5 files directly, so designers can bring their assets with you as they make the transition to InDesign.

Q. How does Adobe InDesign work with Adobe GoLive™?

A. Publishing today goes beyond the printed page and onto the World Wide Web. Designers frequently need to re-publish or 'repurpose' content from printed documents for the Web. InDesign provides a fast and convenient way to extract graphics and text as HTML, giving designers a quick basis from which to start in professional Web creation tools, such as Adobe GoLive software. GoLive is a key component in Adobe's Web publishing strategy, providing professional Web designers the powerful design capabilities they need to build and maintain sophisticated new-media Web sites. Tighter integration between InDesign and GoLive will be addressed in future versions of these products. For more information about Adobe GoLive, visit the Adobe Web site at *www.adobe.com/prodindex/golive*.

Q. How does Adobe InDesign work with Adobe Acrobat 4.0?

A. Adobe InDesign supports PDF 1.3, enabling files to be saved in PDF format directly without using Acrobat Distiller®. InDesign includes Acrobat 4.0-level options for image compression, font embedding, color conversion, and other settings necessary for high-end print publishing. In addition, InDesign supports appropriate settings for saving optimized PDF files for the Web. Customers can open PDF files in Acrobat 4.0 to review them using the new annotation features, to make modifications, or to apply additional settings before outputting a file on press or posting it on the Web. For more information about Adobe Acrobat, visit the Adobe Web site at *www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat.*

Q. How does Adobe InDesign integrate with Photoshop and Illustrator?

A. These products were designed to look, feel, and behave similarly, so designers can apply what they know about one product to learning another and move from product to product easily as they work. Yet the integration goes far deeper—InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator share core technologies to improve consistency and streamline work. These Adobe programs provide this integration by:

• managing the on-screen display of all elements using Adobe Graphics Manager (AGM).

• handling font rasterization, font encoding, and access to font data using CoolType.

• incorporating consistent, extensible color management through Rainbow Bridge and Adobe CMS (color management system).

• placing, exporting, and extracting information from PDF files with the PDF Library.

• displaying and handling EPS files using a Modular Parsing System.

Q. How does Adobe InDesign support PostScript?

A. Adobe InDesign can print to PostScript Level 2, or PostScript 3™ devices. It supports host-based or in-RIP color management and separations to PostScript devices that support in-RIP features.

Q. Why doesn't Adobe InDesign have certain features like Table of Contents or Indexing?

A. In designing a brand new page-layout program, Adobe Systems had to make some hard tradeoffs. We focused first on design-intensive documents—such as magazines, advertisements, brochures, and packaging—working closely with thousands of high-end customers to identify the key features needed for this type of design and layout. We chose to ship with this functionality first, and then add onto it, because the best way to build a world-class product and to help designers is to get people working with the software. InDesign includes a groundbreaking codebase and innovative features, such as the multi-line composer. Adobe and its third-party plug-in developers will move quickly to address other critical needs.

International Support

Q. In which languages will Adobe InDesign be available?

A. Adobe InDesign will initially be available in these languages: French, German, International English, Canadian English, Japanese, Swedish, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Norwegian, Finnish, and Danish. Information about these and other language versions, as well as all pricing and support policies for other countries, will be announced at a later date.

Q. Are language dictionaries included with Adobe InDesign?

A. Yes. Adobe InDesign ships with 21 Proximity dictionaries as part of its core offering. The dictionaries included with InDesign are: International English, French, French Canadian, Castilian Spanish, Catalan, Latin American Spanish, German, Reformed German, Swiss German, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Brazilian Portuguese, Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Norwegian (Bokmal and Nynorsk), U.S. English, U.S. English-Medical, and U.S. English-Legal.

Q. Do customers have to buy something extra to open documents created in one language in another language version of Adobe InDesign?

A. No. Designers can easily open and work with files produced in other Roman language versions of Adobe InDesign, or create different language versions of a file themselves. For example, they could open a file originally created in a French version of InDesign for additional design and production in an English version of the program. If a document containing Japanese fonts is opened, the glyphs will render properly as long as a Japanese operating system is being run, or a Japanese Language Kit is installed.

In addition, because of the built-in dictionaries, it's possible to associate a language with a character, a word, a paragraph, or a lengthy piece of text. Or specify a language as an attribute of a character or paragraph style. Adobe InDesign then automatically uses the appropriate language to handle spell checking and hyphenation. InDesign also supports installable hyphenation and spelling systems, giving control of the systems used for a particular language. For example, a user might want to use Proximity dictionaries for English text, Diekmann dictionaries for German text, and so on.

Q. What Japanese-specific features are available in Adobe InDesign?

A. If a Japanese operating system is running, or a Japanese language kit is installed, designers can enter, save, and edit Japanese text in any Roman language version of InDesign. However, there will be no Japanese-specific features available in Roman versions of InDesign.

Q. When will the Japanese version of InDesign be available?

A. Adobe is working on a Japanese version of InDesign. Details about when it will be available will be announced at a later date. The Japanese version will also be Chinese and Korean enabled.

Third-party Support

Q. Are there opportunities for third-party developers to build Adobe InDesign plug-ins?

A. Yes. Adobe InDesign provides an extraordinarily extensible code base, opening up rich opportunities for third-party developers to customize and extend its functionality. InDesign will ship with an SDK (software development kit) on its application CD-ROM. This SDK includes detailed documentation, tutorials, and code examples. Additional technical FAQs and self-paced learning modules will be available on the Adobe Web site. Registered InDesign plug-in developers will also receive additional support, product discounts, and co-marketing and other promotional opportunities.

Q. How do I get more information about Adobe's developer programs?

A. Adobe Systems will work closely with third-party developers who are interested in developing plug-ins for Adobe InDesign. For information about its developer support programs, refer to Adobe's website at *http://www.partners.adobe.com*.

Q. Will Adobe have special programs available for service providers? for certified Adobe trainers?

A. Yes. Adobe's partner programs—including service provider, training and developer support programs—will be available for InDesign. For further information, refer to: *http:/www.partners.adobe.com.*