

## Converting QuarkXPress and PageMaker files to InDesign

■ Preparation is the key to successful file conversion!

1. Put all linked images in a single folder
2. Disable any custom Quark XTensions that you have installed
3. Open the file in Quark/PageMaker, and relink any missing images
4. Activate any fonts that Quark/PageMaker says are missing
5. Choose *File > Save As* in Quark/PageMaker to make a “clean” copy of the file.

If you have a Quark file that will not open in InDesign, or appears to be damaged, try choosing *File > Open* in Quark, and then hold down the *Option* key while opening the Quark file. This forces Quark to “rebuild” the file and throw away information in the file from previous versions of Quark.

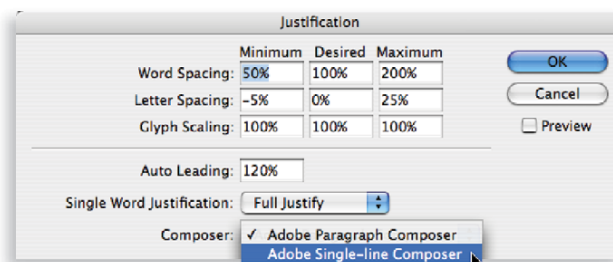
## Converting Quark Libraries

Both InDesign and Quark have similar Library palettes, but unfortunately a Quark Library cannot be directly converted to an InDesign library. Here is the easiest way to convert a library: Create a new Quark document, and drag all the items from your Quark library into this new document. Next, save this Quark file, and open it in InDesign. Finally, drag each page item into a new InDesign library.

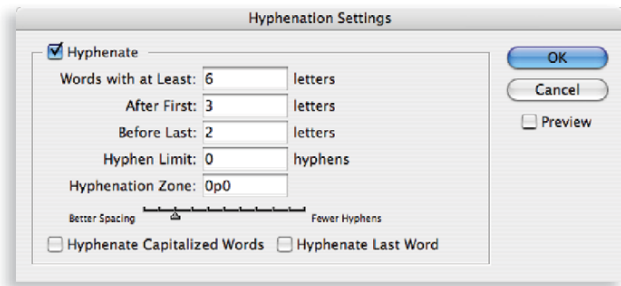
## What can go wrong

■ Text will often wrap at the end of lines differently in InDesign than in the original Quark or PageMaker files. This is due to the differences in hyphenation methods and dictionaries, letter spacing precision, and paragraph composition. In most cases, the new InDesign line break decisions will be superior to the original paragraph.

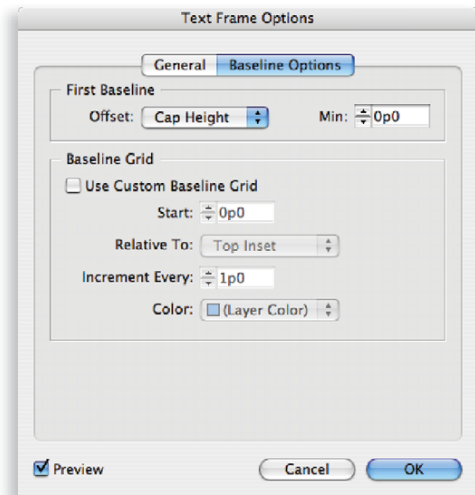
The biggest difference is that InDesign uses a “Paragraph Composer”. The Paragraph Composer makes line break decisions by taking into account the entire paragraph, while Quark and PageMaker make line break decisions one line at a time. To try to match Quark and PageMaker line breaks more closely, select the text and choose *Justification* from the Paragraph Control Palette menu. Then change the *Composer* to the *Adobe Single-Line Composer*.



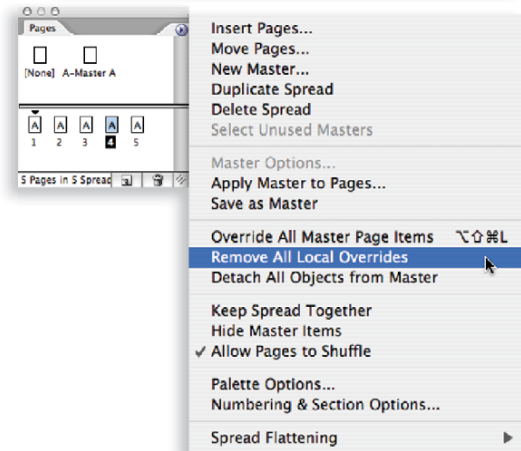
To adjust hyphenation settings for selected text, choose *Hyphenation* from the Paragraph Control Palette menu.



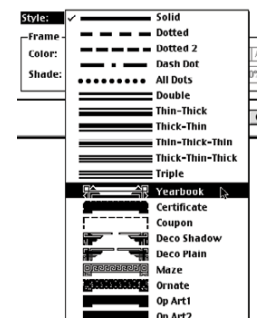
- Quark, PageMaker and InDesign all calculate how to position the first baseline of type relative to the top of the text frame differently. Each baseline of text in a converted Quark document will be shifted down slightly in the converted InDesign document. This is most noticeable for large headlines that are precisely positioned relative to other objects on the page. To make the converted text position match Quark precisely, select a text frame in InDesign, and choose *Object > Text Frame Options*. Then click on the *Baseline Options* tab, and change the *First Baseline Offset* to *Cap Height*.



- Quark Master Page items are transferred correctly, but appear on each document page as “local overrides,” which means that they can be selected and modified on each document page. To “lock” the items so they behave like normal InDesign master page items, turn to each spread and choose *Remove All Local Overrides* from the Pages palette menu.

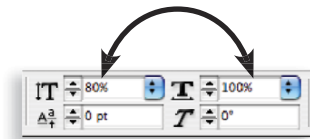


- Quark bitmap borders such as “Yearbook,” “Certificate” and “Coupon” will be converted to solid rules of equal thickness in InDesign.
- Quark “Mid-Linear,” “Rectangular,” “Diamond” and “Full Circular” blends are converted to Linear or Radial blends in InDesign.
- Sometimes the order of threaded text boxes will appear incorrectly in a Quark file that has been opened in InDesign. To check the text threading order in InDesign, choose *View > Show Text Threads*, and select a text frame with the Selection tool.



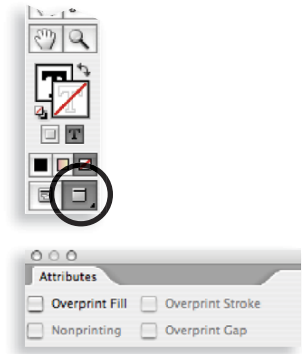
- Text that is horizontally scaled in Quark will sometimes convert incorrectly to vertically scaled type in InDesign. Since this results in type that is significantly wider, the end result is often that the text no longer fits within the InDesign text frame.

To fix this, select the text in InDesign, and swap the amounts in the *Vertical Scale* and *Horizontal Scale* fields in the Character Control Palette.



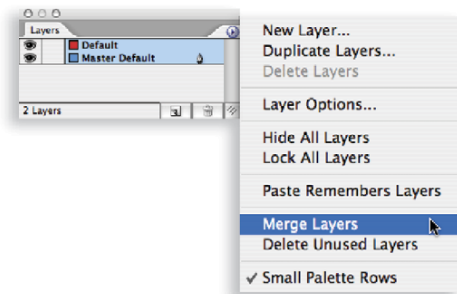
- Graphics that have been imported into QuarkXPress will sometimes be mistakenly set to “non-printing” in the converted InDesign file.

View each page of your document in Preview mode by clicking on the button in the bottom-right corner of the tool palette. Any non-printing items will not display in Preview mode.



To fix a non-printing item, choose *Window > Attributes* to display the Attributes palette. Select the item with the Selection tool and deselect the *Overprint Fill* option. Often, the *content* of the frame is set to Overprint, but not the frame itself. In this case, you will need to first select the contents of the frame with the Direct Selection tool.

- PageMaker layers will convert to InDesign layers. However, even if the PageMaker file only has a single layer, it will appear as two layers when converted to InDesign. To fix this, choose *Window > Layers* to display the Layers palette. Select both layers, and choose *Merge Layers* from the Layers palette menu.



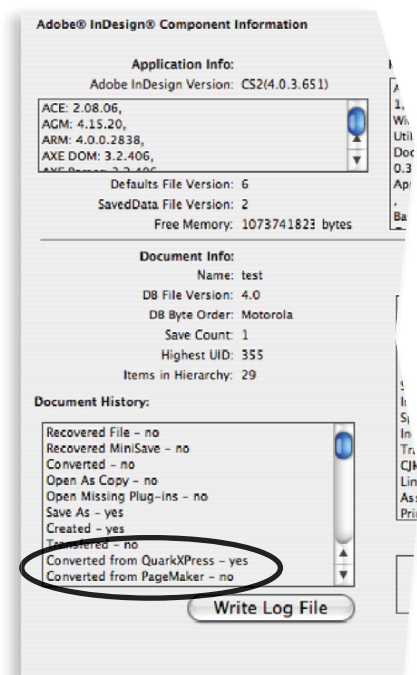
## The Component Information dialog box

InDesign’s *Component Information* dialog box can provide clues about converted documents. To view this, hold down the *Command* key while you choose *About InDesign* from the InDesign menu (Mac) or the *Ctrl* key while you choose *About InDesign* from the Help menu (Windows).

If the Markzware Q2ID plug-in is used to convert a QuarkXPress file to InDesign, the “Converted from QuarkXPress” note in this dialog box will display “no.”

## Help for troublesome files

If you are having trouble with an InDesign file that seems “flaky” after converting the file, try this. Choose *File > Export*, and export the file in the *InDesign Interchange* format. This will create an .inx file. This file includes instructions for InDesign about how to rebuild the file. Then open the .inx file, and InDesign will rebuild the file from the ground up, without the problems of the original.



## Q2ID conversion utility for InDesign

Allows InDesign to open QuarkXPress 5, 6, 6.5 files. Available for Mac and Windows. \$199. [www.markzware.com](http://www.markzware.com)

## QxdCleaner 1.3 script

Automates several cleanup tasks associated with converted Quark files. [www.jursz.com/skrypta\\_en.htm?QxdCleaner\\_](http://www.jursz.com/skrypta_en.htm?QxdCleaner_)

## Make all printable script

Applescript by Rick Johnson that will remove the “non-printing” attribute from all graphics in a file. [share.studio.adobe.com](http://share.studio.adobe.com)

## For further reading

*Converting QuarkXPress Templates* by Gabriel Powell. InDesign Magazine, Issue 4, March 2005, page 30. [www.indesignmag.com](http://www.indesignmag.com)

*Convert QuarkXPress Files* tutorial PDF, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

*Adobe InDesign Conversion Guide* PDF, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

*Switching from Adobe PageMaker to Adobe InDesign CS2* PDF  
[www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

*Open PageMaker files in InDesign*, Adobe tech note 324329,  
[www.adobe.com/support/techdocs/324329.html](http://www.adobe.com/support/techdocs/324329.html)

*Error or freeze when you open QuarkXPress 3.3x  
and 4.x documents*, Adobe tech note 323158,  
[www.adobe.com/support/techdocs/323158.html](http://www.adobe.com/support/techdocs/323158.html)



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