
Converting QuarkXPress Files

InDesign can open some QuarkXPress files. Select the file you want to convert, and then click the Open button. (To do this in Windows, choose the file type you want to open from the Files of Type pop-up menu, or choose All Documents.) InDesign converts the file and opens it as a new, untitled InDesign publication. However, before you convert a file, we strongly encourage you to open it in QuarkXPress, make sure the images are all linked properly and available on a local hard drive, and perform a Save As to save a clean copy of the file for conversion.

How well does this conversion process work? That depends on the publication you're trying to open, but you should never expect the conversion process to be perfect. There are simply too many differences in the capabilities of the different products.

InDesign also does a good job of converting text formatting, though line endings may change due to InDesign's different (we think superior) composition features. (The conversion process applies the Adobe Paragraph Composer to the text; if you want to match the original spacing, you can try changing this to Single Line Composer; we talk about how to do this in Chapter 4, "Type.") The following sections provide more detail on what you can expect to see when you convert publications from other page layout programs.

Conversion Issues

InDesign can open QuarkXPress 3.3-4.11 documents and templates, including multi-language QuarkXPress Passport files. This useful ability is subject to a number of terms and conditions, which we'll outline in this section. First, InDesign cannot open:

- ▶ QuarkXPress files from version 5, 6, 7, or 8. You can, of course, open a QuarkXPress 4.x document saved from version 5.x. If you need to open files from these later version, you need a plug-in called Q2ID from *markzware.com*.
- ▶ QuarkXPress documents (any version) created using XTensions that require you have the XTension to open the document (the infamous Pasteboard XT, for example)
- ▶ QuarkXPress book or library documents

Provided the document you want to convert does not fall into one of the above accursed categories, InDesign will convert the document setup, pages, and page items into their InDesign equivalents as best it can. However, as you might expect, there are still a number of details you need to be aware of.

- ▶ **Misplaced Objects.** Guides and page objects can shift on the page or pasteboard during the conversion process. It's usually no more than a point or two, but we have seen it happen.
- ▶ **Master Page items.** As we'll see later in this chapter, InDesign and QuarkXPress have very different philosophies when it comes to handling items on master pages. For the most part, InDesign converts QuarkXPress master pages and items as it should, but some master page items on document pages will get local overrides to match the QuarkXPress method. If you find this to be the case for a given document, you'll have to choose Remove All Local Overrides from the Pages panel menu for each affected document page.
- ▶ **Fancy borders.** InDesign converts most strokes (borders) without trouble, but it ignores the "fancy" border styles ("Yearbook," for example), replacing them with the Solid stroke type.
- ▶ **First Baselines.** InDesign and QuarkXPress use different methods to calculate the position of the first baseline of text in a text frame, so you can expect to see the position of the text in converted text frames move up or down on the page (depending on the settings in the First Baseline section of the Text tab of the Modify dialog box in QuarkXPress and the First Baseline section of the Text Frame Options dialog box in InDesign).
- ▶ **Special characters.** In QuarkXPress, the default size of the em space is the width of two zeros, though there is a preference to use a standard em space (where the em space equals the current size of the font). InDesign always uses the standard em space, so you may see minor differences in kerning, tracking, and so on. QuarkXPress "flex space" characters convert to standard word spaces. Some uppercase characters with accents display and print differently in InDesign than they do in QuarkXPress.
- ▶ **Superior type style.** InDesign does not have a "superior" formatting attribute. InDesign applies the superscript type style to text formatted using this attribute.
- ▶ **Kerning and Tracking Tables.** QuarkXPress lets you build custom kerning pairs and tracking tables, while InDesign does not (we're hoping this will appear in a future version). If your document uses these, text will reflow accordingly. If you really need custom kerning, we suggest using a font-editing program like FontLab to build the kerning pairs directly into the font.

- ▶ **Image Adjustments.** If you used Other Contrast or applied a halftone screen to a JPEG or TIFF image in XPress, InDesign simply ignores it.
- ▶ **Colors.** Any HSB, LAB, or Hexachrome colors are converted to RGB colors (InDesign does not support Hexachrome).
- ▶ **OLE/Publish and Subscribe.** InDesign has no ability to handle images imported using Publish and Subscribe (which doesn't even exist in Mac OS X anymore) and Windows OLE.
- ▶ **Gradients.** Most of QuarkXPress's special effect blend (gradient) types—such as Mid-Linear Blend and Diamond Blend—are ignored and replaced with a plain linear or radial gradient.
- ▶ **XTension Formatting.** Quark XTensions add functionality to QuarkXPress, but InDesign may not be able to replicate any formatting created or applied by an XTension—for example, custom underlines, special box types, and so on.

Additional Info For more information, see the [Adobe InDesign CS4 Conversion Guide](#):

http://www.adobe.com/products/indesign/pdfs/indcs4_qxp.pdf