

Adobe InDesign Review

TEARING UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Does Adobe InDesign have what it takes to take over market dominance?

Has anyone heard the one where Adobe InDesign takes over the market dominance and Quark becomes an old relic of the past? Anyone who has spent even a passing moment eavesdropping on designer's gossip has heard the beating drums touting InDesign's encroachment onto Quark's domain. Could the rumors finally be coming into fruition? Has InDesign *finally* broken through its self imposed glass ceiling?

Adobe has dominated most of the market with Illustrator and Photoshop. There is a clear advantage to have a layout program that easily interfaces with their other Adobe programs. InDesign has maintained their uniformed look and feel. This is very helpful for a designer's of all experience levels. The ability to quickly identify and recognize options, palettes and tools is a clear advantage that Adobe has embraced whole heartedly.

CREATIVITY UNLEASHED

Topping the list for new additions to the program is the long-awaited Story Editor. The story editor to InDesign goes far beyond PageMaker's. InDesign lets you control the story editor's display. Another cool feature is the ability to work with the story editor window open along side of the document window. A designer can see the changes they make in the story editor as they will appear in the actual page.

The already-powerful table editor now lets you create tables spanning multiple pages. Column headings defined on one page are automatically replicated on the others. A new context-sensitive Control palette, similar to the Measurements palette in QuarkXPress, provides a single location for controlling text formatting and

other options. However, unlike Quark, InDesign has incorporated the under credited but immensely appreciated undo option. Can anyone really live without the undo? Kudos to InDesign for realizing the small things add so much.

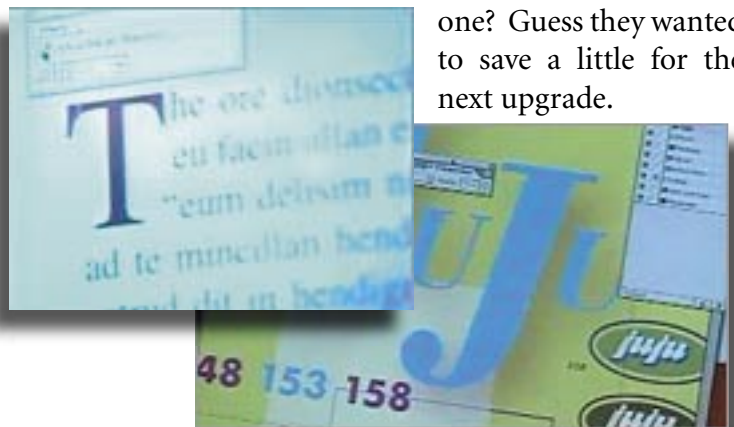
Other great features are how quickly elaborate drop caps and other paragraph lead-ins can be created. For example, a designer can create a style that automatically formats the first character in one font, and the next three characters in another font, and then add an underscore to the whole thing. Additionally, drop shadows are a simple click away rather than running back to Illustrator or Photoshop. There are so many great options available through InDesign.

EASE & CONVENIENCE

InDesign also has an ability to export documents in a variety of formats. A client may request a PDF or EPS version of the document. In addition, InDesign provides you with the ability to export HTML. Exporting files to HTML sounds like a nice convenience however, in application it just isn't practical. This is the least of the features to consider. Leave the exporting to the experts like Dreamweaver.

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Don't be mistaken InDesign is not perfect. Adobe has not provided backward capability. Currently, you cannot save InDesign CS files in format that InDesign 2.0 files can read. This can cause major issues for freelancers working with others that do not have the same version. QuarkXPress provides the ability to save files back at least one version. How did Adobe miss this one? Guess they wanted to save a little for the next upgrade.



For More Info: Adobe 800-833-6687 www.adobe.com