

Multi Page Importer

**Import multiple PDF pages
or multiple InDesign® document pages
into an InDesign document**

Multi Page Importer 2.5

for Adobe® InDesign® CS3 and CS4

Copyright ©2010 Scott Zanelli, Lonely Tree Software.

This manual is part of the Multi Page Importer bundle.

Multi Page Importer is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of the License, or (at your option) any later version.

Multi Page Importer is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. Please see the GNU General Public License included in this bundle for more details.

You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License in this Multi Page Importer bundle; if not, write to:

Free Software Foundation, Inc.,
51 Franklin St., Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02110-1301 USA

Any comments/bug reports can be sent to:

lonelytreesw@gmail.com

Adobe and InDesign are owned and copyrighted by Adobe Systems, Inc. All right reserved.



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Script Operation	4
Page Selection	5
Sizing Options	6
Positioning Options	7
Placement Options	8
History.....	10

Introduction

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this JavaScript is to allow PDF pages or another InDesign® document's pages to be placed into an Adobe® InDesign CS3 or CS4 document while allowing the user to choose from several positioning, sizing and cropping options.

Even though this version of the script is named with "Importer", the files are actually placed. Importing usually means that the imported item can be edited. Since InDesign cannot edit a PDF or external InDesign page, they are placed, just like the menu command that is used if one were to do it manually. These two terms are used interchangeably throughout this manual.

Version Compatibility

This script will not work in InDesign CS2 or earlier because these versions do not support the import of InDesign pages or the use of the new ScriptUI interface classes. If you are using CS2 or earlier, you must upgrade to at least the CS3 version before being able to use this script. There is an older version that will work in CS2, but it only places PDF files. It is called PDFplacer and is still available at IndesignSecrets.com as well as on the Adobe Exchange site.

Possible Issues

The Multi Page Importer script does not require a document to be opened in order to run. If there is no document open and a PDF is being placed, the script will attempt to extract the page size from the PDF file's trim or media box entries. If this cannot be done, the script will default to using a 8.5" x 11" page size. To use the script with a PDF where the page size cannot be determined, simply open a new InDesign document at the correct size and try again. (Every PDF actually has a media box, but there are certain creators of PDF files that keep this entry in non-standard locations. In the name of efficiency, I have chosen not to scan the entire PDF looking for the non-standard media box entry.)

When importing a large InDesign document when no document is open, there will be a slight delay while InDesign opens the document being imported. The script opens this document in the background in order to get the file size for creating a new document to import it into. If this becomes a hassle, simply have a new document open to the correct size before using the script to import large InDesign document.

Updates of Interest

Starting with Acrobat 9, internal PDF elements are compressed. Due to this compression, this script is unable to determine the PDF's page size and number of pages. Instead of giving an error when this happens (as the last version did), the script now defaults to an 8.5" x 11" page size and imports all the pages of the PDF.

The requirement of having the 'Verdana' font installed has been removed. As a result, certain dialog elements were replaced with dropdowns and "eye candy" elements removed.

The option of not using a Prefs file has been included in the latest version (2.5) of this script. This is to support users that work on a machine with restricted permissions that disallow a prefs file to be written. If you require this functionality, please contact me directly at the email address on the title page and I will send you information on how to activate and set the defaults.

Installation

If you are working on a restricted system (i.e. Your user account doesn't have admin privileges), there is the possibility that the preference file will not be able to be updated. To prevent getting permission errors after the script is finished importing pages or to eliminate the possibility that changes made to check boxes, offsets or percentages do not carry over the next time the script is launched, it is now recommended to install the script in your user folder/directory.

The easiest way to install the scripts is to launch InDesign, open the scripts panel, right-click (PC and Mac) or control-click (Mac) on the "User" folder in the script pallet and choose 'Reveal in Explorer' (PC) or 'Reveal in Finder' (Mac). Copy or move the script into the directory/folder that is opened.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following people:

David Blatner for testing the interface and functionality on Mac OS X and for hosting this and a few other of my scripts on InDesignSecrets.com.

Andreas Vogel for finding a bug where if the user entered a starting page bigger then the ending page, the script would crash instead of redisplaying the dialog and allowing the user to fix it.

Dave Saunders. I used a snippet of code from his blog that allowed folder navigation in the open file dialog on the Mac platform when filtering the types of files (http://jsid.blogspot.com/2006_03_01_archive.html). You can read his blog at <http://jsid.blogspot.com>

Script Operation

Script Operation

After launching the script, the Multi Page Importer dialog box is shown (see Figure 1). This dialog box allows several options to be set prior to the pages being placed into a document. The following sections describe each option.

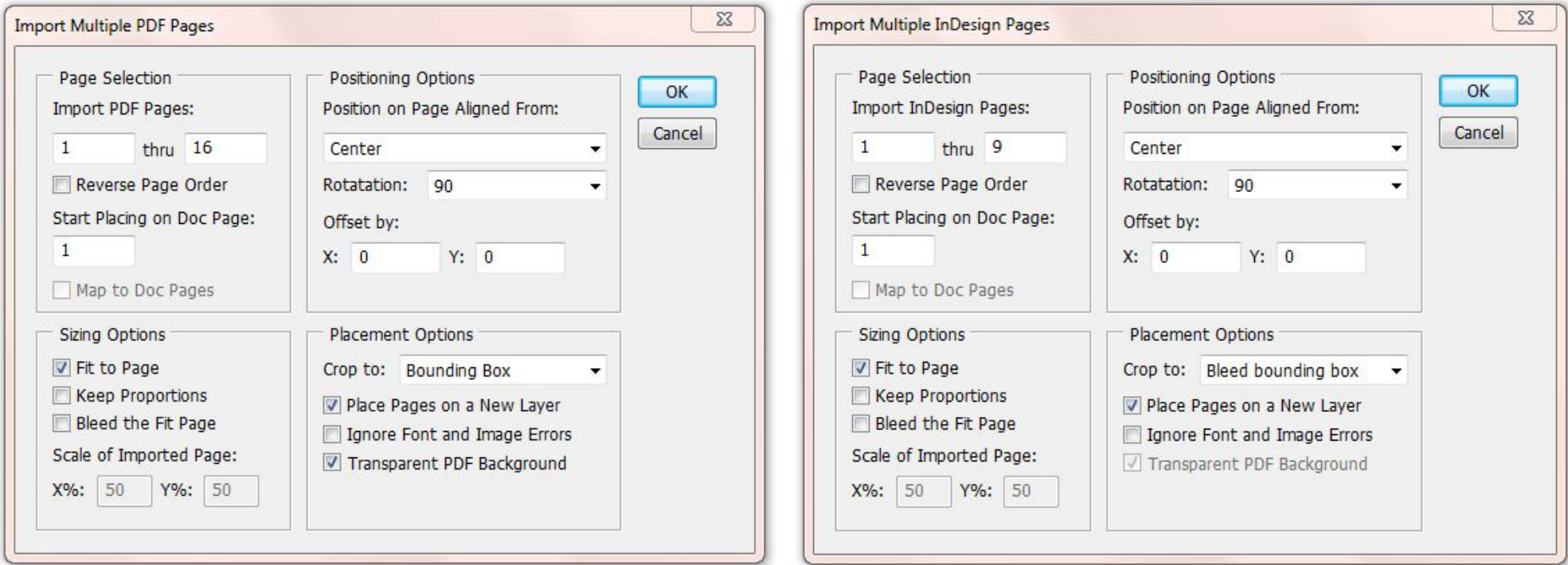


Figure 1. The dialog boxes for the Multi Page Importer script when placing PDFs (left) and InDesign (right) pages. The only difference is that the Transparent option is grayed out and the 'Crop to' options are different when importing InDesign documents.

Page Selection

The Page Selection section allows the user to choose which PDF/InDesign® pages will be placed and on what document page they will start to be placed on. PDF/InDesign pages are added one per document page. These page numbers do not represent the actual name of the pages from the documents and therefore should be entered as absolute page numbers (i.e. 1, not A1). If the page count of a PDF cannot be determined (Acrobat 9+), all pages will be imported and the start and end pages cannot be entered.

Import PDF Pages:
Cannot determine PDF page count: all pages will be imported.

Import PDF/InDesign Pages

These two text boxes allow the start and finish pages to be entered for the PDF/InDesign file being placed. Initially, the right-hand box contains the number of total pages in the PDF/InDesign file. Pages will be added starting from and including the page in the left-hand box up to and including the page in the right-hand box.

Reverse Page Order

When this checkbox is checked on, the pages from the file are placed in reverse order. Thus the entered End Page will be placed on the page entered in the ‘Start Placing on Doc Page’ box and pages will be placed in descending order until the entered Start Page is reached.

This option can only be used if ‘Map to Doc Pages’ is not checked on and the number of pages in the document being placed can be determined.

Start Placing on Doc Page

This box is used to enter the document page where the pages will start to be placed. If there are not enough pages in the document to place all the pages, additional pages are automatically added.

Map to Doc Pages

Checking this checkbox on will show the Map Pages dialog box (see Figure 2). For each page between the pages entered in the ‘Import PDF/InDesign Pages’ entry boxes, a mapping selection will be shown. The page number to the left of the “->” symbol (“55” in the left-most mapping section of Figure 2) is the page number from the file being placed. The dropdown menu contains all the pages in the document where the file is being placed. To map pages, select a document page for each file page being placed and click OK. There is also the option to skip any pages being placed by selecting ‘skip’ from the dropdown list.

Please note: Only one file page can be placed on a document page. If any file pages are mapped to the same page, an error will be displayed and the duplicate page highlighted in red.

Also note that the page numbers are all absolute pages numbers, not actual section page names.

This option can only be used if ‘Reverse Page Order’ is not checked on, when there is more than one page in the document the pages are being placed into, and the case a PDF is being imported, the PDF’s page count can be determined.

Sizing Options

This section allows the user to either scale the placed pages to fit onto the document page, control the proportions and bleed of this scaling or to enter percentages to scale the imported page by.

Fit to Page

Selecting this check box will scale the placed page up or down to fit the document page size.

Keep Proportions

If this check box is selected, the X and Y (percentage) scale of the placed page are kept the same and if unchecked, the pages will be squeezed or expanded independently to fill the page. This option only works in conjunction with the ‘Fit to Page’ option. If ‘Fit to Page’ is not checked on, the ‘Keep Proportions’ check box is grayed out and is ignored.

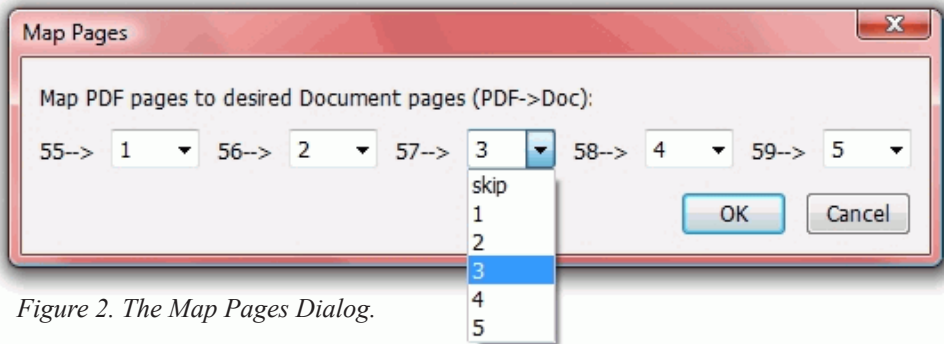
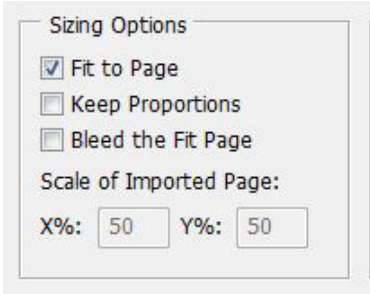


Figure 2. The Map Pages Dialog.



Sizing Options (continued)

Bleed the Fit Page

When this option is checked, the size of the placed page is increased to extend to the bleed size of the document. The bleed size is read from the document and if it is set to zero, this option will have no effect.

If the script creates a new document, it uses the default bleed size of the InDesign® application. Please see the InDesign documentation on how to set default application and document bleed sizes.

This option is grayed out and ignored if the 'Fit to Page' option is not checked.

Scale of Imported Page

The X and Y (percentage) scale boxes allow the imported page to be scaled between 1% and 400% (both percentages can be different). The scaling option is only available when 'Fit to Page' is not checked on and is otherwise grayed out and ignored.

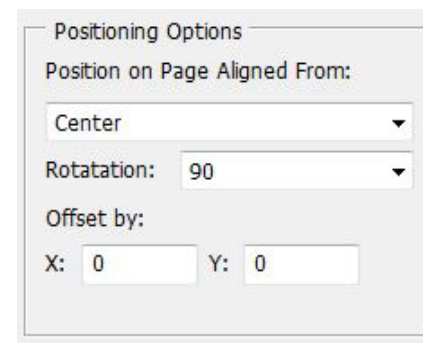
Positioning Options

This section allows the imported pages' placement on the document pages to be customized.

Position on Page Aligned From

This option allows precise positioning of the pages as they are placed into the document. The dropdown menu contains twelve choices for how the pages are to be placed. The selected position is the “zero point” on the document page where the corresponding spot of the placed page will be positioned and scaled from. For example, selecting the 'Top Left' will place the page into the top left of the document page and will use the top left of the placed page as the zero point for any offset or scaling.

The last three items of the 'Position...' dropdown are 'Relative to Spine' options. The “zero point” is determined by the chosen position and the side of the placed page constituting the spine. The page is then offset and scaled from this zero point using the values in the 'Offset by' section (which can be zero) and the 'Sizing Options' section. For example, an imported page is being placed on a left-hand document page using 'Top, relative to spine' positioning. The zero point is then located at the top right of the imported page and any scaling of offsets will be calculated from this top right position. This option will only work correctly in a document with facing pages: non-facing page documents will result in all imported pages being placed and offset/scaled from the right side of the pages.

A screenshot of a 'Positioning Options' dialog box. It contains three main sections: 'Position on Page Aligned From:' with a dropdown menu showing 'Center'; 'Rotation:' with a dropdown menu showing '90'; and 'Offset by:' with two input fields, 'X:' and 'Y:', both containing the value '0'.

Rotation

Selecting a rotation value will rotate the placed page by the chosen amount. Pages can be rotated 0, 90, 180 or 270 (counter-clockwise) degrees. The placed and rotated page will still use the chosen 'Position on Page Aligned From' position as the “zero point” for any offsets.

Positioning Options (continued)

Offset by

The offset values entered in the X and Y boxes will move the imported page by the specified amounts (values can be either positive or negative). Positive values move the page to the right or down, negative values move up and left. If the 'Relative to Spine' option is selected, a positive X value moves the placed page away from the spine, negative X values towards the spine. The units for these offset values are the same as the document units.

Be aware that there is no limit placed on the offsets, so one could offset the imported page off the document page or pasteboard. There is no limit placed because the offsets are saved in the preference file. A situation could occur where the last document's units were in points and the offsets were 24 points. The next document opened then has units of inches. The former 24 points are now seen as 24 inches and thus the page will be placed far off the page and the user may interpret this as the script never placing the imported page at all (this actually occurred during testing).

Placement Options

The placement options section allows the user to choose how the placed pages are cropped, if the pages are to be placed on a new layer (highly recommended), whether font and image errors are ignored when placing pages, and whether PDFs are placed with a transparent background.

Crop to

The 'Crop to' pop-up menu allows the choice of how the imported pages are cropped when they are placed.

When importing PDFs, select one of these five choices: Art, Crop, Trim, Bleed or Media. Not every PDF file will have all five crop type entries. If the script gives a PDF Placement Error, it means that the PDF file being placed does not have the crop type chosen in the 'Crop to' pop-up menu. This can be corrected by either choosing a different crop type or opening the PDF in Acrobat and performing a Save As...

If InDesign pages are being imported, the pop-up menu will have three cropping options: Page Bounding Box, Bleed Bounding Box and Slug Bounding Box. Select the appropriate crop type as needed.

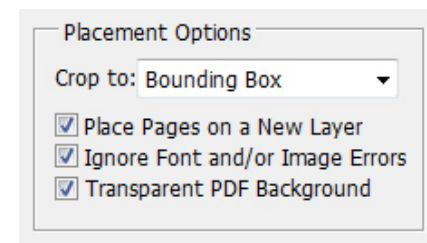
Place on a New Layer

With this check box selected, the pages are placed on a new layer, which is named with the name of the file being placed and a random number under 10000. The random number is used to help prevent duplicate layer names if the same document is placed more than once. With this option unchecked, the pages are placed on the currently active layer.

Ignore Font and Image Errors

Selecting this check box suppresses any missing font or missing image errors that are given when pages are being imported. The error dialogs may briefly flash before being dismissed automatically. Be aware that there will be no notification that there are missing items if this option is enabled (missing images for InDesign pages will be displayed in the Links window with the "missing" icon to indicate they should be relinked before being output).

USE THIS OPTION AT YOUR OWN RISK. It does prevent having to click the OK button on the warning dialogs, but its use can cause undesired final output if the operator doesn't check for missing fonts or images before outputting the resulting document.



Placement Options (continued)Transparent PDF Background

This check box is only available if PDF pages are being imported. Selecting this check box places the PDF page into the document with a transparent background. This allows any background elements existing in the document where the pages are being imported into to show through the “empty” areas of the PDF page. If unchecked, the PDF pages are imported with their default opaque white background.

History

History

- 2.5 Removed Verdana font requirement, new dialog elements to help Mac and PC dialogs look more similar, can now handle Acrobat 9 PDFs without giving an error and exiting (workaround is to import all pages of the PDF). (31 MAR 2010)
- 2.2.1 Page rotation added. (12 MAR 2009)
- 2.2 Map pages to existing doc pages and reverse the page order options added. Never released. (05 MAR 2009)
- 2.1 Updated for CS4 compatibility. Never released. (04 MAR 2009)
- 2.0 This new script is based on my PDF Placer 1.0 script and adds support to also place pages from a separate InDesign document. This new version fixes a small bug in the older PDFplacer where if the user entered a start page number higher than the end page number, the script would error and crash. Some new features include ‘relative to spine’ placement, showing only InDesign and PDF files in the open file dialog and the ability to enter the X and Y scaling for a placed page. (27 JUN 2008)

PDF Placer History

- 1.0 Initial project released. (11 JAN 2008)
- 0.6 Added support for Media Box being located in the root node of the page tree. (11 JAN 2008)
- 0.5 Debugging and testing version. Myriad interpretations of the PDF specs were accommodated for. Thanks to all vendors who don’t follow the PDF specification. You know who you are you hacks. (10 JAN 2008)
- 0.4 Began reading PDF specs to figure out how to extract page count, page sizes and rotation without having to “scan” the entire PDF document. A stand-alone script was created to implement and test this. It was then incorporated into the main script. With being able to determine page size, the script no longer requires a document to be opened. The script will make a new document to add the PDF pages to it. (06 JAN 2008)
- 0.3 Added ability to choose what document page to start adding PDF pages to and to also choose what PDF pages to add to the document. If the document doesn’t have enough pages to accommodate the added pages, more are added.
- 0.2 Created dialog for choosing positioning, offsets and transparent backgrounds. (04 JAN 2008)
- 0.1 Concept version. Placed PDFs in open document. (03 JAN 2008)

To quote Edsger W. Dijkstra:

“Program testing can be used to show the presence of bugs, but never to show their absence!”

“We must not put mistakes into programs because of sloppiness, we have to do it systematically and with care.”

