PR 486: INTRO TO DIGITAL DESIGN TOOLS

TEXT WRAPS & STYLES

TEXT WRAPS

Text wraps are a powerful tool in InDesign. They allow you to put images or embedded Photoshop or Illustrator objects inside a text block and let the text wrap around the objects.

There are four text wrap modes in InDesign, which can be found in the Text Wrap panel, or in the top tool panel if you're using the Selection arrow:

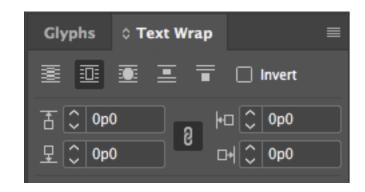


TEXT WRAP MODES

- No Text Wrap : As the name implies, does not wrap the text around an object.
- ▶ Wrap Around Bounding Box : Wraps text around the bounding box of the object. (Remember, the bounding box doesn't have to be the same size as the object.)
- ► Wrap Around Object Shape : Wraps text around the object itself.
- Jump Object ■: Puts the object on its own line, text goes around the top and bottom.

TEXT WRAP PANEL

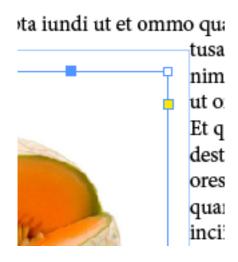
You can adjust your text wrap using the Text Wrap panel:



Instead of manually adjusting your bounding box (you could do this if you really wanted to), you could add distance between your object/box by using the panel above. You can have different measurements for each side, or apply a measurement evenly.

TEXT WRAP

When you apply space around your text wrap (called runaround), you'll see an extra box surrounding your object):



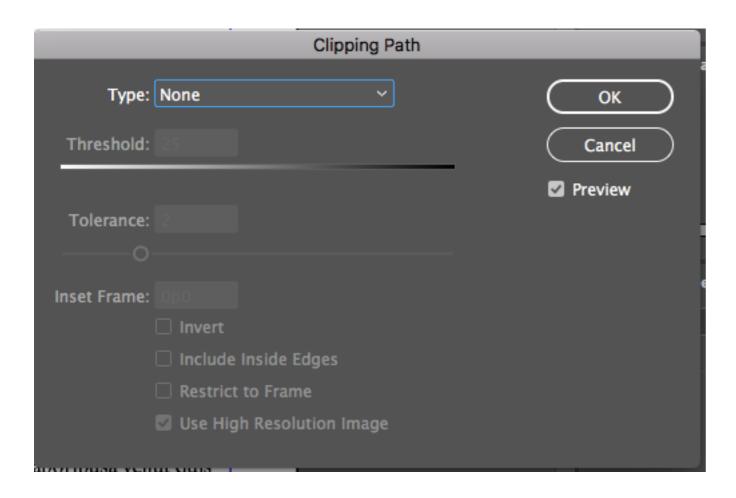
You can use the pen tool to adjust this path if you like. The pen tool works the same way as it does in Illustrator, and you can add or remove points. You can use the direct selection tool to edit your path.

There are times that adjusting your text wrap path using the pen tool isn't ideal. For instance, if your object doesn't have a transparent background, some text might wind up hiding behind the object by accident.

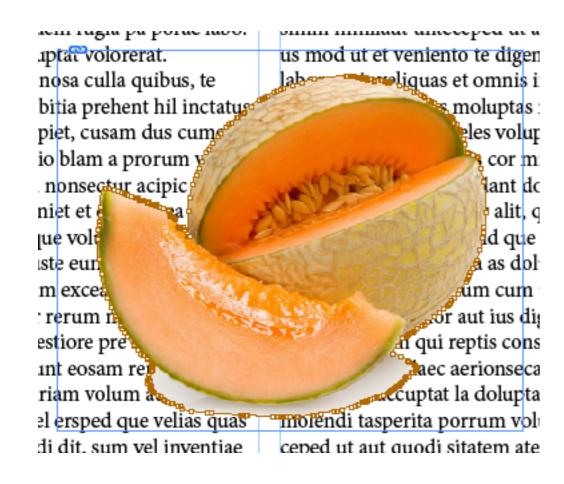
To get around this problem, you can use some settings to let InDesign create a clipping path around your object. This works best with images that are on a solid-colored background.

To start, make sure you've selected your object with the Selection tool, then go to Object > Clipping Path.

Once you select Clipping Path, you'll see this box:

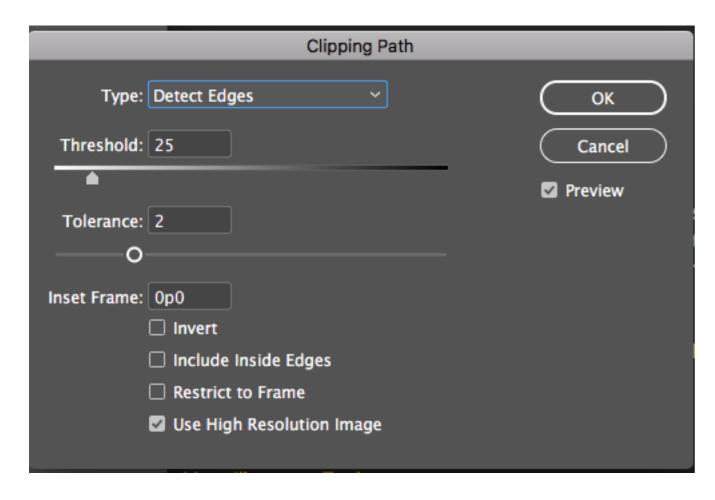


Under Type, select "Detect Edges." This will try to detect the edges of your object. (Again, this is why an object on a simple background is best.)



The orange points are the edges being detected by InDesign.

You can adjust the path that InDesign has created by playing with the Threshold and Tolerance settings.



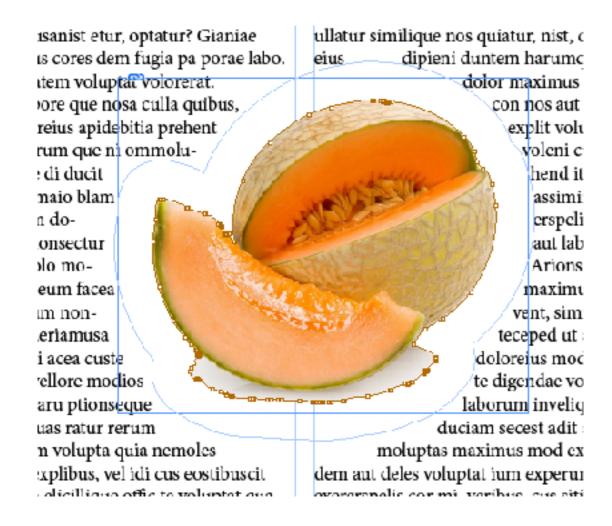
A higher Threshold means less of the image is being selected.

A higher tolerance results in a smoother path with fewer points. A low value means a very precise path.

In general, you'll probably want to leave "Include Inside Edges" unchecked, unless you want transparency **inside** your image.

Once you're satisfied with the clipping path, hit OK. You'll notice your text isn't wrapping around your path yet. Go to the Text Wrap panel with your object selected and choose "Wrap Text Around Object."

Make sure the Contour Options are set to "Same as Clipping" and add a runaround value, and you've got text wrap around a complex object:

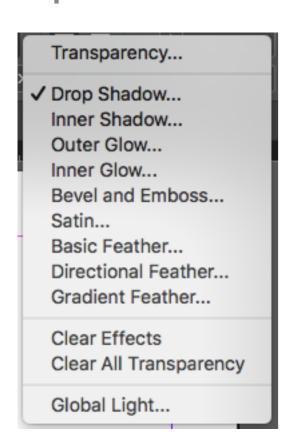


You don't have to create your clipping path within InDesign. If you are more comfortable creating paths in Photoshop, you can create your path in Photoshop and then import your object into InDesign.

Under the Text Wrap panel, choose "Photoshop Path" under Contour Options, and it should load your path from Photoshop.

BASIC EFFECTS

You can apply effects to boxes – for example, drop shadows – in InDesign. To do this, make sure you've selected your object and go to Object > Effects. You'll see plenty of options:



Many of these are the same effects you can apply to layers in Photoshop.

TEXT STYLES

As you create multi-page documents, it can be a pain to go through and change certain pieces of text the same way over and over again. For instance, you might have titles or subtitles throughout your document, and don't want to keep changing the font size and style manually.

This is where Paragraph Styles and Character Styles come in handy.

TEXT STYLES

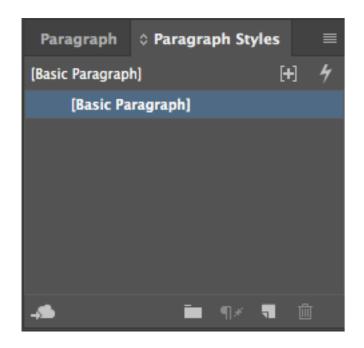
Paragraph Styles apply to an entire paragraph.

Character Styles can apply to single lines or text, or a selection within a paragraph, or even a single word.

They both have separate panels, but the way of creating these styles is similar.

Remember, that a paragraph style affects an entire paragraph. To set a style, click within a paragraph in your document.

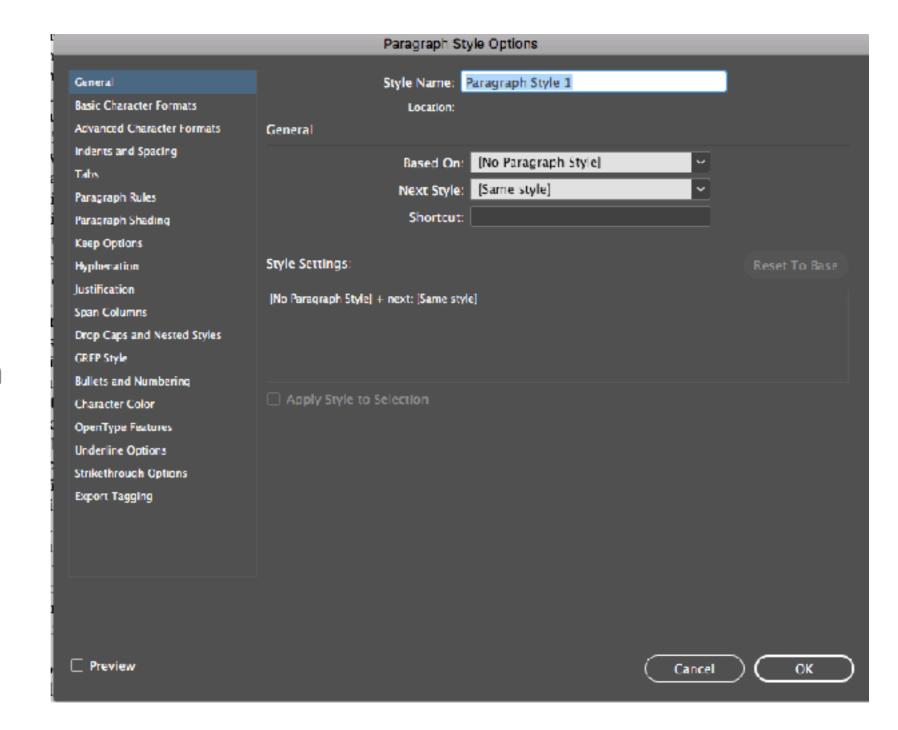
If you look at your Paragraph Styles panel, you'll likely see something called [Basic Paragraph]:



To create a new style, click the sheet of paper at the bottom of the Paragraph Styles panel:

It will appear in the Paragraph Style panel as "Paragraph Style 1." Double click to edit.

The panel to edit a paragraph style has all sorts of options. Basic Character Formats is where you can set font and size. Color is under Character Color. You can even set insets, paragraph rules (lines above or below a paragraph), drop caps, or special tabs.



Once you've set your style to your liking, hit OK. You'll now see it available in your Paragraph Styles panel. (It will also probably apply to the paragraph you selected when you created the style.)

To apply the style, just put your cursor inside the paragraph you want to style and click the style once in the Paragraph Styles panel.

Once you've created a style, you can still edit it. Double-click the style in the Paragraph Styles panel and edit it. Once you're done, hit OK and all instances of the style will automatically change.

CHARACTER STYLES

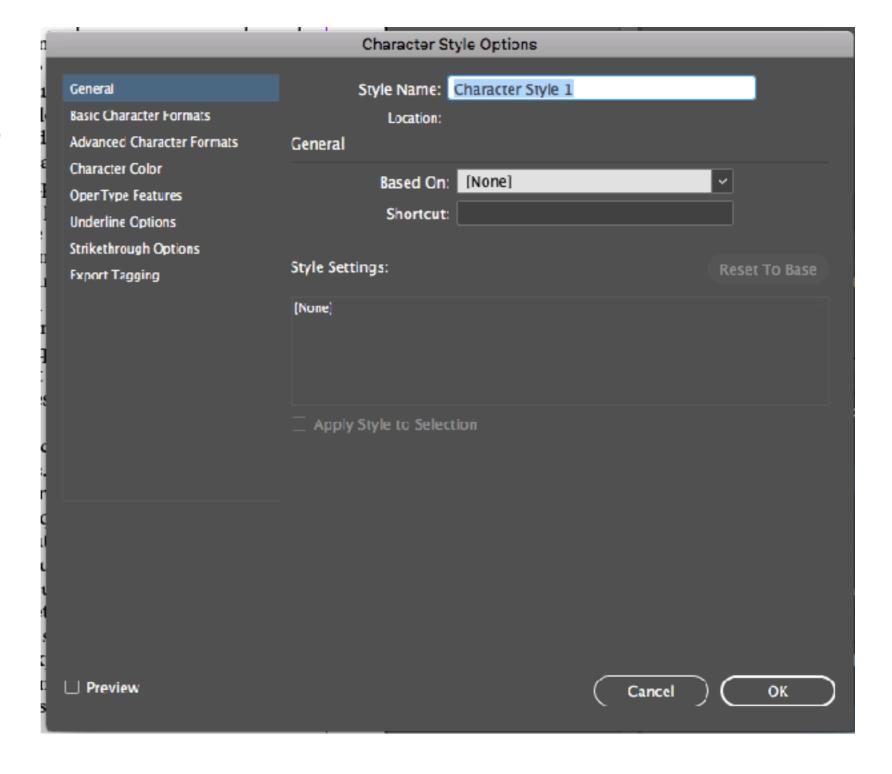
Character styles are meant to be applied to small blocks of text within a paragraph. This is helpful if you need to change the style of a single word or group of words without applying the style to the entire paragraph.

To create a character style, make sure the Character Styles panel is open. Highlight some words in your text and then hit the folded paper at the bottom of the Character Styles panel.

It will appear as "Character Style 1," and double-click to edit.

CHARACTER STYLES

The panel to edit a character style is less extensive than the one for paragraph styles. Most of these styles have to do with the appearance of the text itself, like the font, font size, or color.



CHARACTER STYLES

Once you've set your style to your liking, hit OK. You'll now see it available in your Character Styles panel. (It will also probably apply to the text you selected when you created the style.)

Just like with paragraph styles, you apply your character style by selecting some text and then clicking the style once in the Character Styles panel.

You would also edit the character style the same way you would a paragraph style, by clicking it twice in the Character styles panel. Once you're done, hit OK and all instances of the style will automatically change.