
Converting PageMaker Files

InDesign can open some PageMaker 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 PageMaker, 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

As you convert, or prepare to convert, publications from PageMaker to InDesign, keep the following in mind:

- ▶ **Pasteboard items.** Any objects on the pasteboard in a PageMaker publication are placed on the pasteboard of the first spread in the converted publication.
- ▶ **Master page items.** All master page items are assigned to a layer named "Master."
- ▶ **Ruler guides.** All ruler guides in the PageMaker publication are converted and are placed on a new layer named "Guides."
- ▶ **Non-printing objects.** If you've suppressed the printing of an object in PageMaker (to do this, you select the object and choose Non-Printing from the Element menu), InDesign converts the item and sets it to non-printing.
- ▶ **Book list.** The book list of the PageMaker publication is not copied to the InDesign version of the publication.

- **Leading.** PageMaker has three leading methods: Top of Caps, Proportional, and Baseline. InDesign's leading method is most similar to PageMaker's Baseline leading method. When you convert a PageMaker publication, you can expect text in paragraphs using the other PageMaker leading methods to shift up or down on the page (usually down).

In addition, the position of the first baseline of text in an InDesign text frame is determined by the Offset pop-up menu in the First Baseline section of the Text Frame Options dialog box. By default, InDesign applies the Ascent option—which can make text in converted PageMaker publications shift vertically. If you used PageMaker's Baseline leading method, choose Leading from the Offset pop-up menu to restore the position of your text baselines to their original position.

- **Font and type style conversion.** When, during the process of converting a PageMaker publication, InDesign encounters a font change or type style change, it tries to map the PageMaker formatting into its InDesign equivalent. This isn't always possible. When you apply the font "Minion" and type style "Bold" to text in a PageMaker publication, PageMaker applies Minion Semibold—and that's what InDesign applies. When you apply the type style "Bold" to Minion Bold or Minion Black however, InDesign displays an error message and applies Minion Bold. The conversion is actually better than we'd expected, given the differences in specifying fonts in the two programs—but you'll have to closely check converted publications against your original PageMaker versions.

InDesign does not support the PageMaker type style Shadow, and formats any text using that type style as plain text. InDesign converts text formatted using the Outline type style to text formatted with a hairline (.25 point) stroke and a fill of the color "Paper." You'll also notice that the position and thickness of the bar in text using the Underline or Strikethrough type styles changes slightly in the InDesign version of the publication.

- **Tracking.** InDesign removes all kerning applied by PageMaker's Expert Tracking command (the tracks "Very Loose," "Loose," "Normal," "Tight," and "Very Tight"). InDesign's "tracking" is the same as PageMaker's Range Kerning feature, not PageMaker's Expert Tracking feature.

- ▶ **Colors.** Colors defined using the HLS and Hexachrome color models are converted to RGB colors. Tints are converted to new colors in the Swatches panel.
- ▶ **OLE/Publish and Subscribe.** Files imported into PageMaker using (pre Mac OS X) Publish and Subscribe and Windows' OLE will be omitted.
- ▶ **Image control settings.** InDesign doesn't have a set of features corresponding to those found in PageMaker's Image Control dialog box, and any settings you've applied to images using these controls will be removed from the images in the converted version of the publication.
- ▶ **Fill patterns.** PageMaker features a variety of goofy fill patterns (making possible what Edward Tufte dubbed "chartjunk") that date from the early Stone Age of desktop publishing. These anachronisms are converted to solid fills.
- ▶ **Imported graphics.** Even if an image is embedded in a PageMaker publication, InDesign requires an up-to-date link to the original version of the graphic. If InDesign can't find the original graphic, it uses the screen preview image in the PageMaker publication (if any such image exists). If you've placed a PDF in the PageMaker file, InDesign may place the wrong page of that PDF in the InDesign version.

Additional Info For more information, see the [Switching from PageMaker to InDesign Conversion Guide](http://www.adobe.com/products/indesign/pdfs/PM-IDconvguide_Final.pdf):
http://www.adobe.com/products/indesign/pdfs/PM-IDconvguide_Final.pdf