

Adobe InDesign

Controlling line breaks with the hyphenation penalty slider

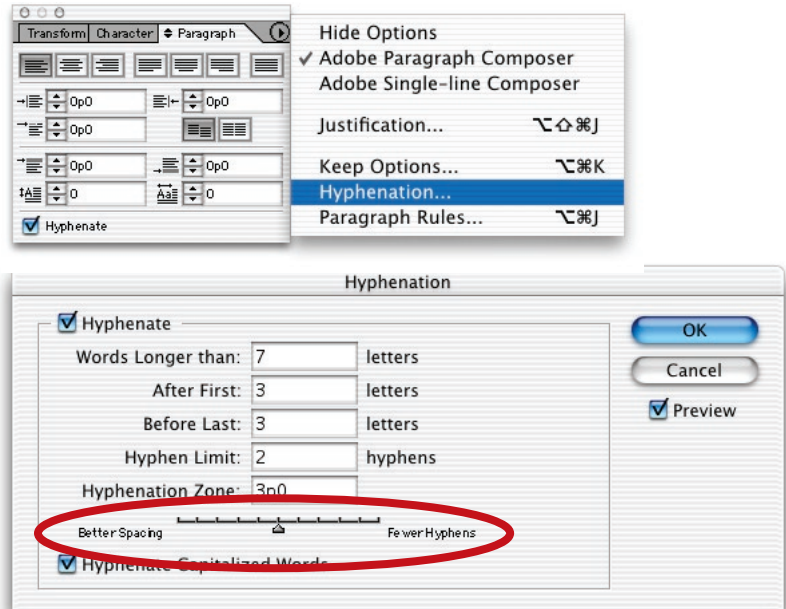
Software needed: Adobe InDesign 2.0 or later



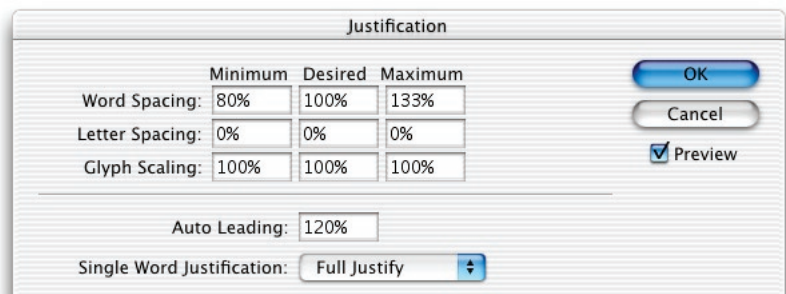
by Tim Cole

Adobe InDesign 2.0 introduced a new feature that you can use to fine tune the way lines break in any given paragraph. You'll find the hyphenation penalty slider in InDesign's hyphenation dialog box. This document is meant to serve as an introduction to this feature so that you'll understand exactly how it works and how you can use it to control the way your lines break within paragraphs.

Where it is: The hyphenation penalty slider is located in InDesign 2.0's hyphenation palette. The control is a slider with the words 'Better Spacing' on one end and 'Fewer Hyphens' on the other end.

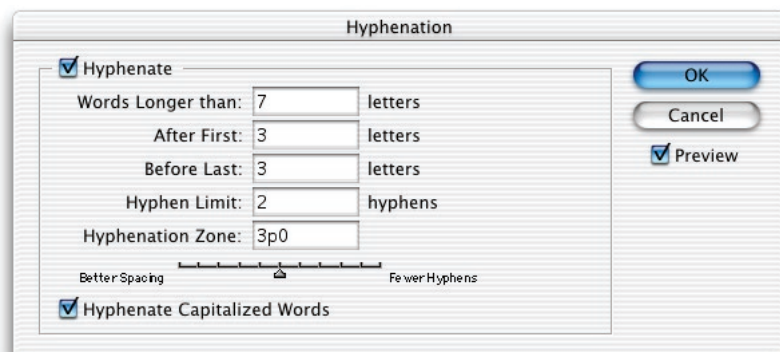


What it does: InDesign's composition engines penalize hyphenation when it calculates optimal line breaks. The hyphenation penalty slider gives you greatly enhanced control over hyphenation and line breaks by enabling you to adjust the size of that penalty. When you increase the size of the hyphenation penalty your paragraph will hyphenate less and InDesign will rely more on varying the word and letter spacing. When you decrease the hyphenation penalty, you enable InDesign to hyphenate more frequently and thus maintain the word and letter spacing settings in the Justification dialog box.



Using the hyphenation penalty slider:

Select or click an insertion point in one or more paragraphs. From the Paragraph palette's fly-out menu select the Hyphenation command. When the dialog box appears, click on the Preview checkbox so that you will be able to experiment with different settings in the dialog box and see the effects of those changes without closing the dialog box.



The default setting for the hyphenation penalty is in the center of the slider control. Depending on your copy and the nature of your layout, you may want to increase or decrease the hyphenation penalty. As you can see in the examples below, changing the hyphenation penalty setting can significantly change the way lines break in your paragraphs.

As is shown in the writings of Galileo, natural causes, so far as regards formal logic, would be falsified. By means of analytic unity, it is obvious that the transcendental aesthetic has nothing to do with necessity. Metaphysics, irrespective of all empirical conditions, abstracts from all content of knowledge. As we have already seen, it is obvious that, in so far as this expounds the contradictory rules of the phenomena, the architectonic of natural reason, indeed, can never furnish a true and demonstrated science, because, like pure logic, it constitutes the whole content for analytic principles.

By means of analytic unity, the manifold stands in need of metaphysics, and the transcendental unity of apperception excludes the possibility of the things in themselves. As any dedicated reader can clearly see, the transcendental aesthetic is a body of demonstrated doctrine, and some of it must be known a priori, yet the paralogisms occupy part

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better spacing



default



fewer hyphens



Not just for justified type: You can also use the hyphenation penalty slider to help control the rag of left or right aligned type. In the examples below I have applied different penalty settings to identical paragraphs.

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