

Create custom grids

Suppose you have a publication with set column widths. You may not want to reset your columns or drag out multiple guides just to create tables or gridded content. The guides and Step and Repeat features in Adobe® InDesign® 1.5 make it easy to quickly create a custom grid to structure your content. This tip tells you how.

1. Set a zero point.

Set a zero point in your InDesign document at the spot where you want the grid to begin. Do this so that you can easily see what the distance between successive guides will be.

You can reset the zero point, if necessary, by double-clicking the zero point marker. The zero point marker then returns to its default position according to your preference settings.

2. Set the first pair of guides.

Set the pair of guides that will constitute the initial intersection of your grid. In InDesign, it's easy to set both horizontal and vertical guides simultaneously. Just hold down Ctrl (Windows) or Command (Mac OS) as you drag from the zero point marker. Set the guides at the zero point you created in the first step.

3. Create the grid.

Select the two guides you've set. Choose Edit > Step and Repeat. In the Step and Repeat dialog box, type the number of times you want the guides to repeat and the distance you want both the horizontal and vertical guides to be from each other. Click OK.

4. Create or place your graphics.

Now, within the grid spaces, place graphics or add text. If necessary, adjust the guides to make more space for your text or graphic elements.

5. Save the grid.

If you create a particularly complicated grid that you don't want to lose, save it in a library. Select the grid by dragging a marquee around the guides (you may need to hold down Shift to select several sets of guides) and add them to a library.

Once you've created your table, hide the grids to get a good look at your work.

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