

InDesign User Group

DENVER CHAPTER

Denver InDesign User Group Meeting Notes June 2, 2009

A. Meeting Business

1. Our auction was a great success, as usual. Our members, once again, bid on some great items...the big one being the FULL Creative Suite Design Premium! We raised over \$600 this meeting. Thank you to all the bidders and for everyone's enthusiasm for the auction and the group. We realize times are tough and appreciate all that our members do to support the group in all the ways you do...thank you!
2. Our training on Interactive PDF went well. The best way to keep up-to-date on upcoming training is to check the group's website often: www.idugdenver.net. We might try to get a registration form online at some point in the future. Please email admin@idugdenver.net if you have ideas for upcoming training sessions.
3. We have a brand new food sponsor: Charles Holt and Melissa Ollila of [Pebmac](#): Mac consultants extraordinaire. They provided us with some great snacks at the meeting. Special thank you to our other current sponsors [Yellow Dog Printing](#) and [New Horizons](#).
4. Don't forget to check all of your member benefits, such as a 2-year subscription to InDesign Magazine for only \$39! Member benefits can be found in the Member Area at www.indesignusergroup.com.
5. Have a meeting topic that you are dying to know about or would you like to do a presentation? Please send an e-mail to admin@idugdenver.net.

B. Presentations:

1. Extending InDesign-Using Scripts and Plugins

Presenter: Brian Reyman, IDUG Denver Co-chair

Presentation Summary:

Extending InDesign is about adding functionality, like adding dealer options to a car.

Plugins:

Protected

Ease of use

More features

Scripts:

Free

More accessible

Easy to create

Top places to look for free plugins and scripts:

Adobe Plugin list: www.adobe.com/products/plugins/indesign/?prom

InDesign Secrets: www.indesignsecrets.com/free

Adobe Exchange: www.adobe.com/cfusion/exchange

****Be aware that plugins sometimes are required for file view if it was used to create the file.**

Plugins - Pretty much install and they are ready to go.

Scripts - Open in InDesign via Window menu>Automation>Scripts

continued...

To install a script: Right-click the user drop down in the Script Panel. Then click to reveal in finder. Place script from your hard drive in to the window that was revealed in finder.

**You may be able to edit scripts with the Extended Script Toolkit that comes with InDesign. You can also write scripts with this tool.

Some good plugin and script suggestions (all free): most can be found in the previous list

Script: CalendarWizard

Allows you to setup a calendar layout automatically.

Plugin: Tetris

You can play Tetris within your InDesign program

Script: NumberAdjuster

Will allow you to adjust numbers within a story or document.

Plugin: MultiDo

Puts the undo and redo steps in the File menu so you can see them.

Plugin: MultiPageImporter

Allows you to import multiple PDF or InDesign pages into a layout all at once. Has added functions like start page and object scaling. Better than the plugin that comes with InDesign.

Script: SplitStory

Allows you to break the threading between two stories and split them into individual text frames.

2. Transparency Effects Within InDesign

Barb Binder of Rocky Mountain Training

Presentation Summary:

Colorizing a placed image:

Has to be a grayscale bitmap

Place the file in InDesign

Color background by using selection tool

Tint image by using direct selection tool and selecting a color

In the Effects panel for CS2 you only had blending mode and opacity as options. Now you have an expanded range of options. To get to the effects panel you can go to Window menu>Effects. To get additional effects that you can apply to objects in your layout, click the fx button at the bottom of the Effects panel or click the button in the tool bar. You can also access it via Objects menu>Effects.

A basic effect that has been said to be the most over used is the Drop Shadow. Those familiar with Photoshop will recognize how the drop shadow menu options work. It gives you a light source angle, size, and opacity. You can also add in some noise for realism.

Feather is another useful effect. There are a couple types of feathering:

Basic Feather:

Softens the edges on all sides

Directional Feather:

Lets you control the side of the object that is being feathered.

Gradient Feather:

Gives you a gradient stop so you can add multiple colors or shades of gray to you feather effect. There is also a Gradient Feather tool on the tool bar that will give you an interactive or visual experience when trying to use the Gradient Feather feature.

C. Wrap-Up

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, August 4, 2009. Networking starts at 6 and the meeting starts at 6:30...Help Desk presentation from about 6:15-6:30. Check out www.idugdenver.net for the latest meeting information. Hope to see you all there! Don't forget to bring a friend – you'll get auction bucks and you'll be helping to grow our membership.