

Adobe InDesign



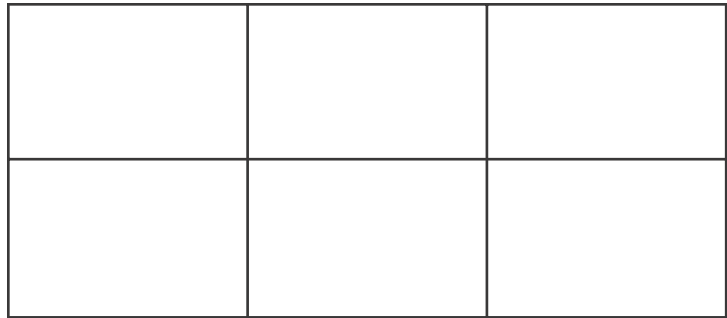
by Tim Cole

Cell settings for working with graphics

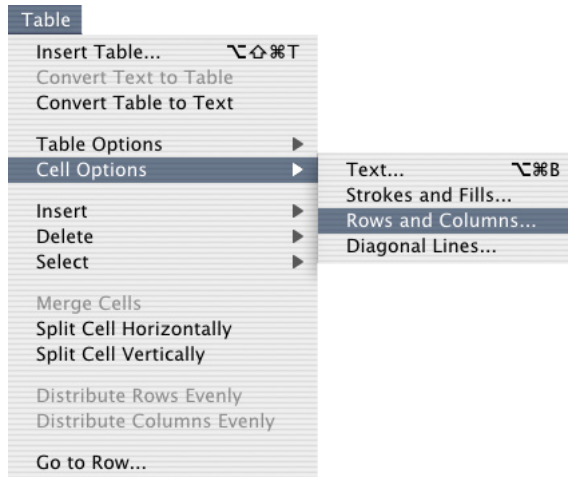
Software needed: Adobe InDesign 2.0 or later

Adobe InDesign 2.0 introduced a new a new tables feature that can be used to create complex tables that can even flow from frame to frame and from page to page. In InDesign 2.0, every table cell is a text cell. You can, however, drop graphics in these text cells as inline graphics, just as you would in a standard InDesign text frame. This tip document shows you how to set up your text cells so that your inline graphics behave their best.

Create a cell for your graphic: Here I've created a simple table using the Insert Table command. I'd like to put an image into the upper left-hand cell. The image needs to completely fill the cell and be clipped at the edges of the cell. Click an insertion point in the cell with the text tool.



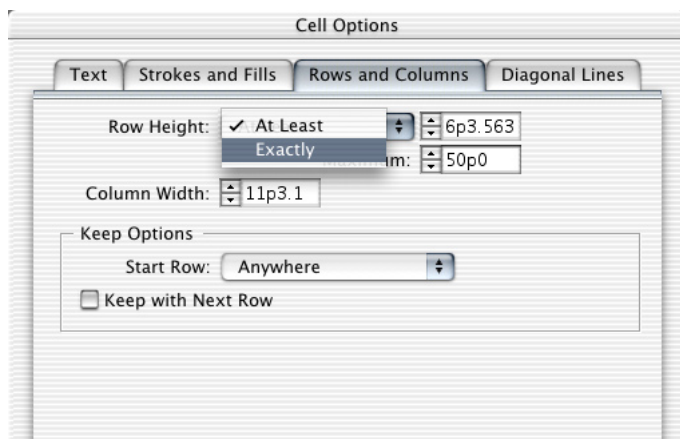
Open the Cell Options dialog: Table > Cell Options > Rows and Columns is the first place you want to go when setting up your graphic cell.



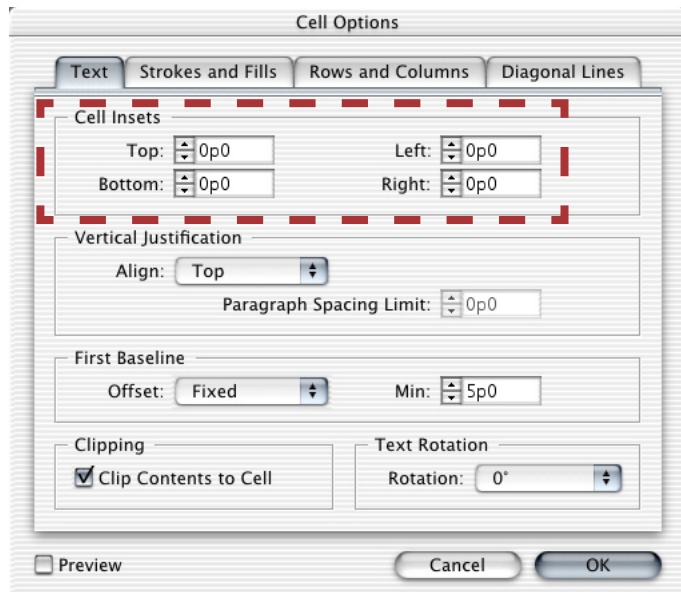
Change Row Height setting to Exactly:

Table cells in InDesign grow automatically by default. This is to accommodate text entry. By changing the setting to an exact amount, you are essentially turning off the auto-grow feature and setting a specific row height.

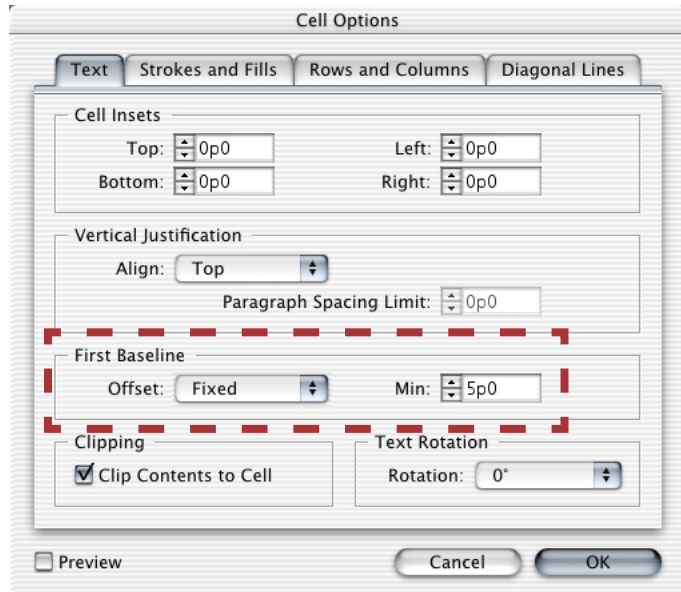
The reason you do this is to prevent your graphic cell from growing to match the size of your placed graphic automatically and thereby altering the layout of your table.



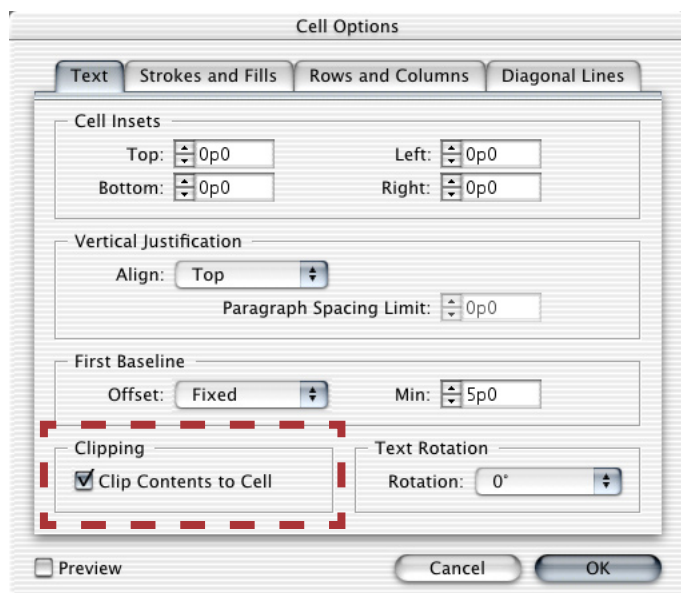
Change Cell Insets to 0: In this example I don't want any space between the edge of my table cell and my image, so I'll remove the default cell inset values of 0p4.



Change First Baseline Offset to Fixed: This setting tells InDesign to ignore the height of the graphic and to put the first baseline of the cell a user-defined distance from the top of the cell. You do this to prevent your inline graphic from going overset when you drop it into your cell. Choose a value that fits comfortably within your cell. You'll adjust the final position of the graphic manually, and what you're doing with this setting is defining the initial position of the graphic so that it will be easy to grab with the selection tool.

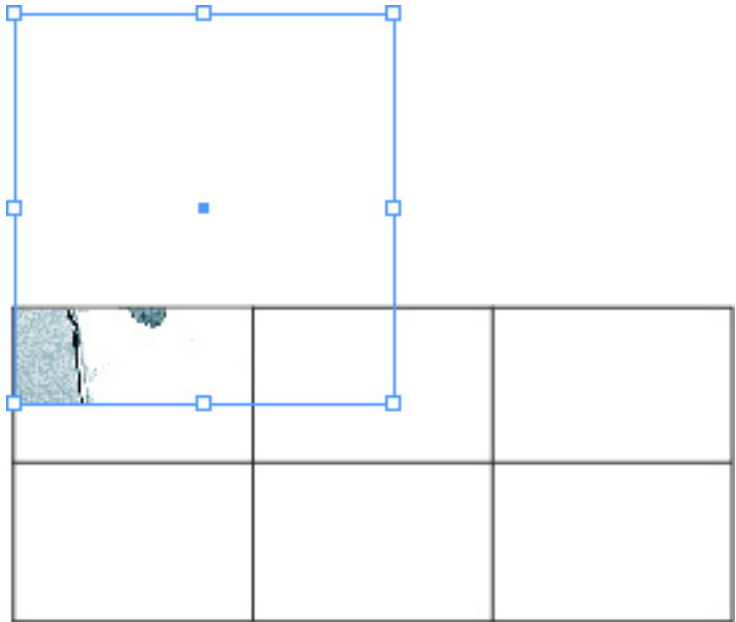


Check Clip Contents to Cell: This setting tells InDesign clip (or crop) the graphic to the bounding box of the cell, which is usually what you will want with an inline graphic in a table cell.



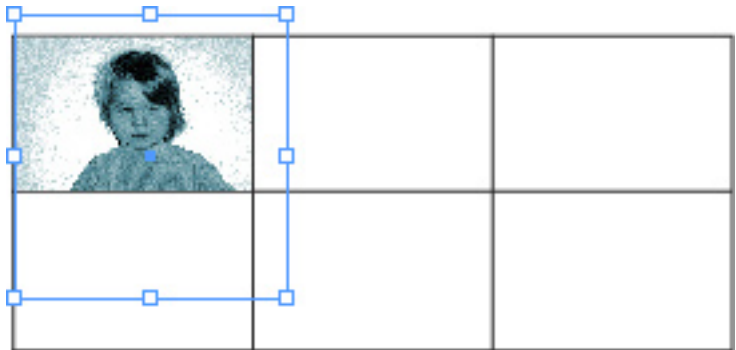
Copy and paste your graphic into the cell:

Select the graphic you want to put in the cell with the selection tool. Copy or cut it to the clipboard. Then, switch to the text tool, click an insertion point in the table cell, and paste the graphic into the cell as an inline graphic. When you select the graphic with the selection tool, you'll see the bounding box of the frame.



Drag and scale the graphic for desired fit:

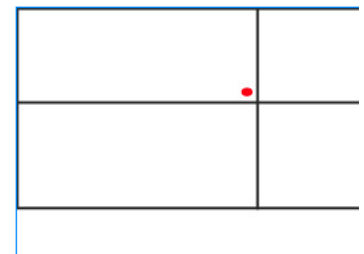
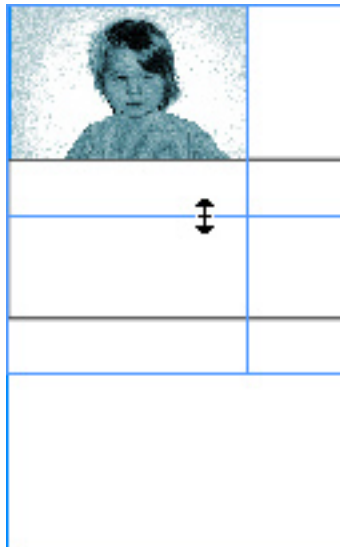
With selection tool, click and drag the frame into the desired position within the cell. Then scale the frame and content as desired.



Resizing both the row (or column) and the table:

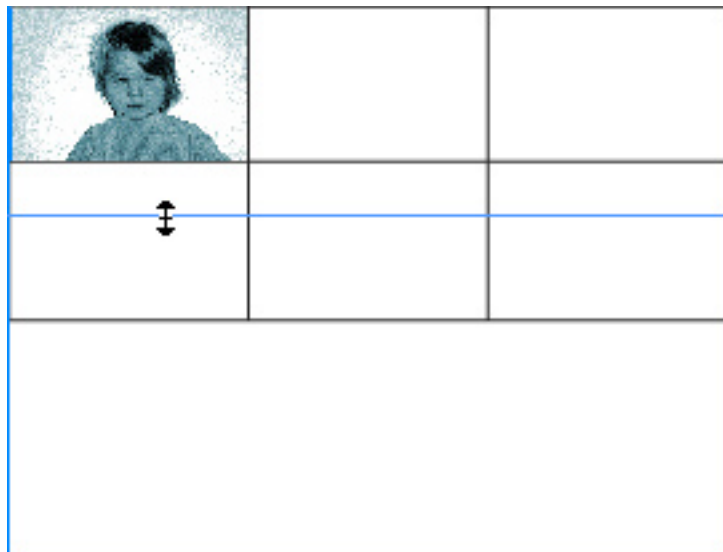
Once the graphic is in place, you can still modify the size of the cell in which it resides. For example, mouse over the cell border with the text tool and it will change to a two-headed arrow. If you then click and drag on the border you can resize the cell. Resizing the cell in this way will change the overall size of your table.

Note: if you make the cell height smaller than your first baseline offset setting, your inline graphic will go overset (i.e., be forced out of the cell).



If the cell height is less than your first baseline offset value, the graphic will be forced out of the cell. If that happens, you'll see a red circle in the bottom right corner of your cell. This is the overset text indicator.

Resizing just the row (or column): If you'd like to resize the graphic cell without affecting the size of the table as a whole, hold down the Shift key as you make your size adjustment.



Adding transformations and transparency: At this point you can still select the inline graphic with the direct selection tool and apply transformations like scaling, rotation, and shearing, as well as any of InDesign's transparency effects, such as a blend mode and/or opacity setting. Those features, along with InDesign's other table features give you large range of creative options to explore.

