



INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHICS

Anchoring Elements in InDesign



When you're laying out classified ad pages or other types of listings for print, you want your subheads to flow along with your text. But what if those subheads are graphical elements? In Adobe InDesign, you can embed (or "anchor") graphics into your text fields so that images and other elements can flow along with the words on the page.

There are, essentially, two ways to do this, with a number of options and variations in between. The first of these is to place a graphic (such as a dingbat, a graphic created in Photoshop, etc.) directly into your text field. The other is to take an element you create within InDesign and place that inline inside a text field, anchoring it to a section of text.

Placing imported graphics: method 1

To begin, we'll look at the most common method of creating "inline" or "anchored" elements: importing an image file. The uses for this are, of course, numerous. You may want to create section heads that flow along with the text, custom bullets that stick with a particular paragraph, images that accompany a particular listing (real estate listings, buyer's guides, catalogs), et cetera.

XXXX - ANCHORING ELEMENTS IN INDESIGN

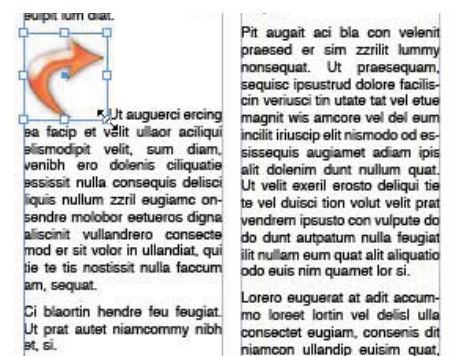
There are two ways to do this. The first and more simple is this.

1. Activate the text box, and insert the cursor at the point where you want the graphic element to be anchored. The graphic doesn't necessarily have to appear at the location of the cursor (as we'll see later), but the insertion point is what we'll be using as a reference for the text that your graphic element will follow. I'll be inserting an arrow that will act as a sort of custom bullet drop cap for a particular paragraph, so I'll place my insertion point at the beginning of that paragraph.

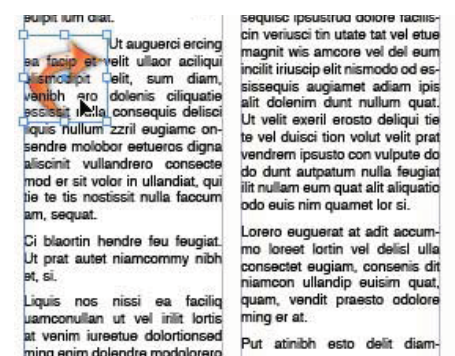
2. Now choose File > Place. The graphic will be placed at your insertion point. If it's a large graphic, you may see something like this.



This you can do just as you would any placed image. Use the Selection tool to reshape/resize the image's bounding box or hold down Shift-Command (Mac) or Shift-Control (Windows) to resize the graphic proportionally.



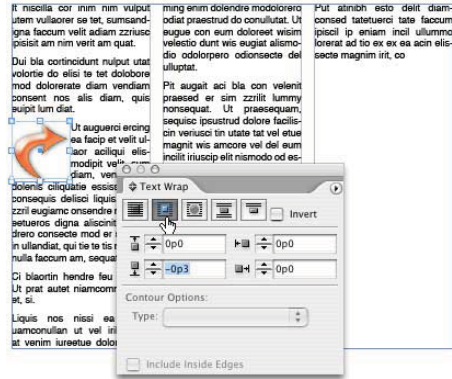
4. Then, using the Selection tool, you can reposition the graphic within the paragraph by simply dragging it to a new position. It will still be anchored at the original point, but the graphic itself will appear in a slightly different location.



3. So now you'll want to adjust the imported image.

5. And, finally, if you're doing something along the lines of what I'm doing, you'll

also want to use text wrap on this object so that the text doesn't overlap the graphic. To do this, open up the Text Wrap panel (Window > Text Wrap), and apply the wrapping method that's appropriate for your presentation.



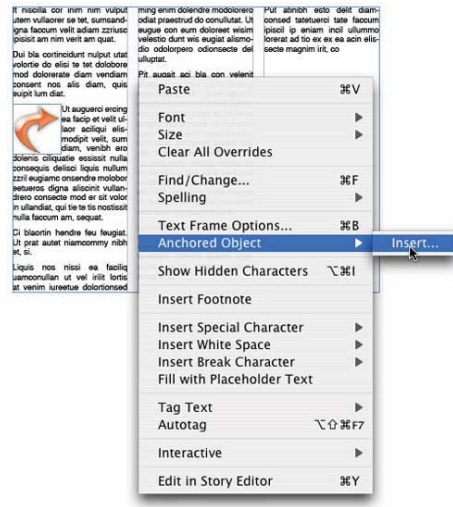
Placing imported graphics: method 2

But there's a second method for doing this that you might find more useful in many situations. In particular, if you're placing an extraordinarily large graphic (which can cause problems with your text frame) or if you do not yet have the graphic that will be used in the final presentation, you can create a placeholder box for the anchored graphic. Then you can import the image later on.

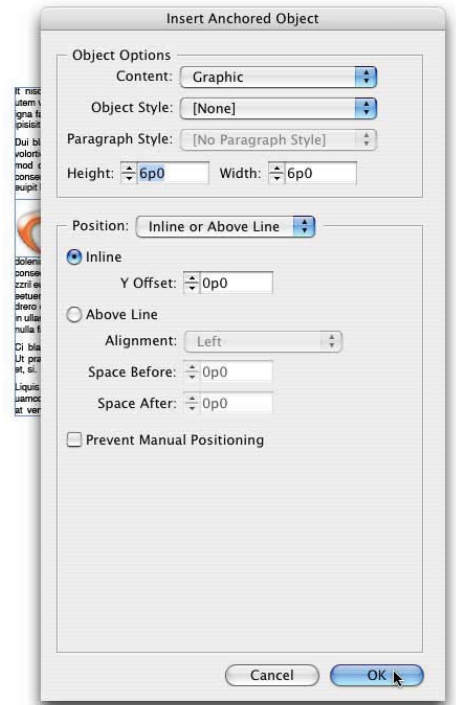
Here's how that works.

1. Once again, click your cursor in the text frame, and position the insertion point where you want the graphic to appear.

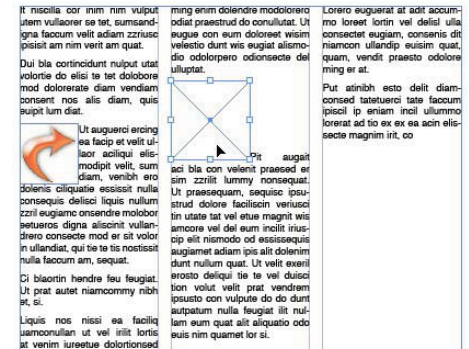
2. Then right-click on that point. From the contextual menu that pops up, choose Anchored Object > Insert.



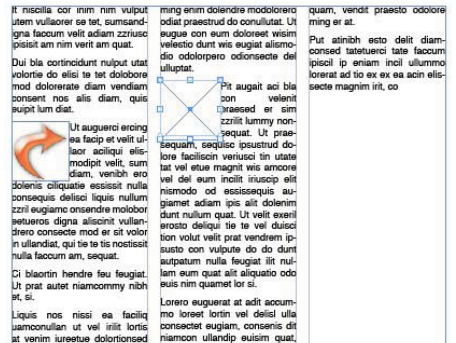
3. A new dialog will appear. Switch the Content setting to "Graphic," and adjust the height and width to suit your needs. You can also use the default height and width settings, and then adjust the box later just by dragging corner points.



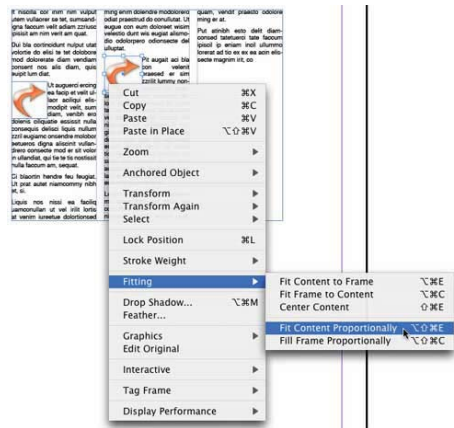
Here's what you get.



4. Now, just as with the graphic you placed using the previous method, we can reposition and resize this placeholder box to suit our needs. You can also apply text wrap to it.



5. And, finally, with this box selected, we then choose File > Place, and place your chosen graphic into this box. Use the Position tool to resize the graphic inside the box, if necessary. Or right-click on the graphic box and choose Fitting > Fit Content to Frame (or Fit Content Proportionally) from the contextual menu options.



4. Then simply paste the element in. It will automatically be anchored at the insertion point you chose.



The anchored object can then be resized and repositioned and have text wrap applied to it (if appropriate), just like a placed image.

Anchoring InDesign elements

The final method for making inline graphics is used when you wish to anchor an element that you've created directly within InDesign. It's fairly straightforward, but just in case you aren't aware of it you could use this kind of functionality to make your life easier.

1. Select your InDesign element (or group of elements).



2. Copy or cut the element.

3. Place your cursor where you want the element to be inserted inside your text frame.