Column Flow

CS2/CS3/CS4/CS5
InDesign Plug-in

version 1.0.7

last revision: June 17, 2010

Column Flow

Contents

"What does Column Flow do?"

Spanning Headers/Footers

Creating headers or footers which span multiple columns is a very difficult task in InDesign. This is because all column settings are set by the text frame. Creating different column settings requires creating a new text frame each time that the number of columns change. The text frames must then be manually positioned.

Column Flow attempts to simplify this process by allowing the setting the number of columns within paragraph styles. Each style applied in the story must have the number of columns defined.

Once properly set up, *Column Flow* will flow the text and add / remove text frames as necessary to properly flow the text. It can flow text one page at a time. It can flow an entire story. It can even flow an entire document comprised of many stories.

Precise Control of Positioning

To further insure proper positioning of the text frames, text blocks can be automatically aligned to the baseline grid, and specific paragraph styles can be defined as headers. (So they will always appear above the following text block.) Additionally, *Column Flow* offers many advanced keeps options which gives a tremendous amount of flexibility in controlling how your text flows.

Boxed Sections/Styled Sections

Column Flow (in CS3 and later) allows object styles to be attached to specific paragraph styles. Any time the associated object style changes, *Column*

Column Flow

Flow will break the text frame, and continue the text flow with a new text frame below. This is very useful for creating sections with a box around it, or a background color. It can even be used for automatically creating headings with transparency effects!

Column Flow and CS5 Span Columns

InDesign CS5 introduced a new feature called *Span Columns*. *Span Columns* essentially does what *Column Flow* was created to accomplish. There are however some differences that might make *Column Flow* a better choice than *Span* (or *Split*) *Columns*:

1. The most obvious difference between *Span Columns* and *Column Flow* is that Span Columns works dynamically, while Column Flow must be invoked to create separate text frames for each text section. While the dynamic nature of Split Columns is usually desirable, there are cases where it is more limiting. One example might be a case where you need to add or subtract space between text sections.

2. *Span and Split Columns* gives very little control over keeps options, and very often keeps are completely ignored to prevent columns from remaining with no text. *Column Flow* gives very precise control over keeps with three different levels of strictness to give you your preferred balance between type-fitting and adherence to keeps rules.

3. Additionally, *Column Flow* gives an option to keep specific numbers of columns together as a unit, so it will not break across pages, while *Span Columns* does not offer this level of control.

4. *Column Flow* gives precise control over whether text sections are snapped to the baseline grid. This ensures proper alignment of heading text which is normally not baseline aligned.

5. *Column Flow* performs more column balancing than *Span Columns*. It can even make pages one line long or short if necessary to balance the columns.

6. *Column Flow* can create spanning headings even across different stories when *Story Tools* is used to set up *Story Strings*.

7. When *Column Flow* is used in conjunction with *AutoFlow Pro*, master pages can be automatically applied.

8. *Column Flow* allows for boxed sections to be created with a border or background.

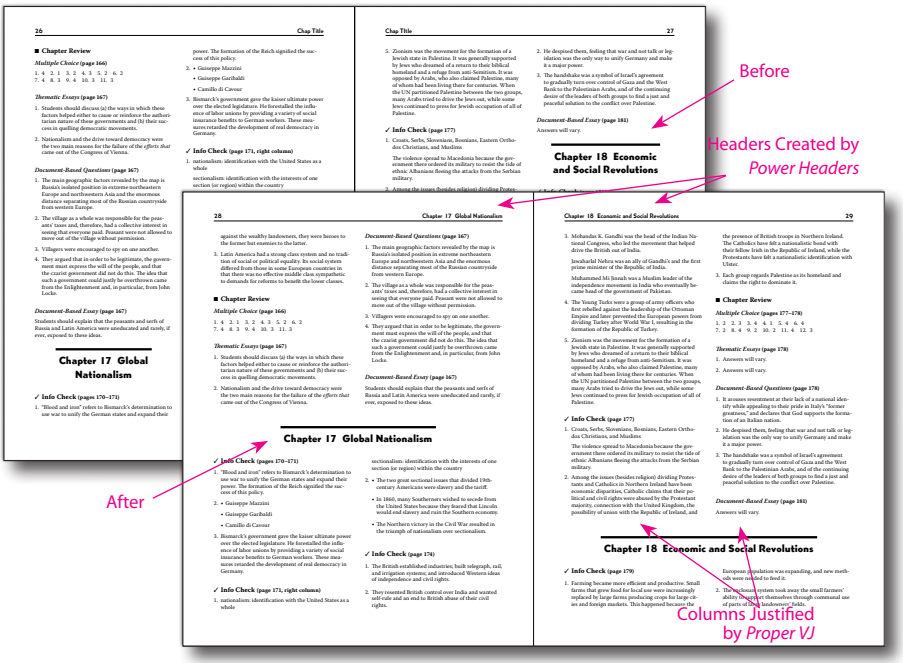
9. Because *Column Flow* creates a separate text frame for each section, transparency effects can be automatically applied to headings specifically.

Column Flow

Examples of Use

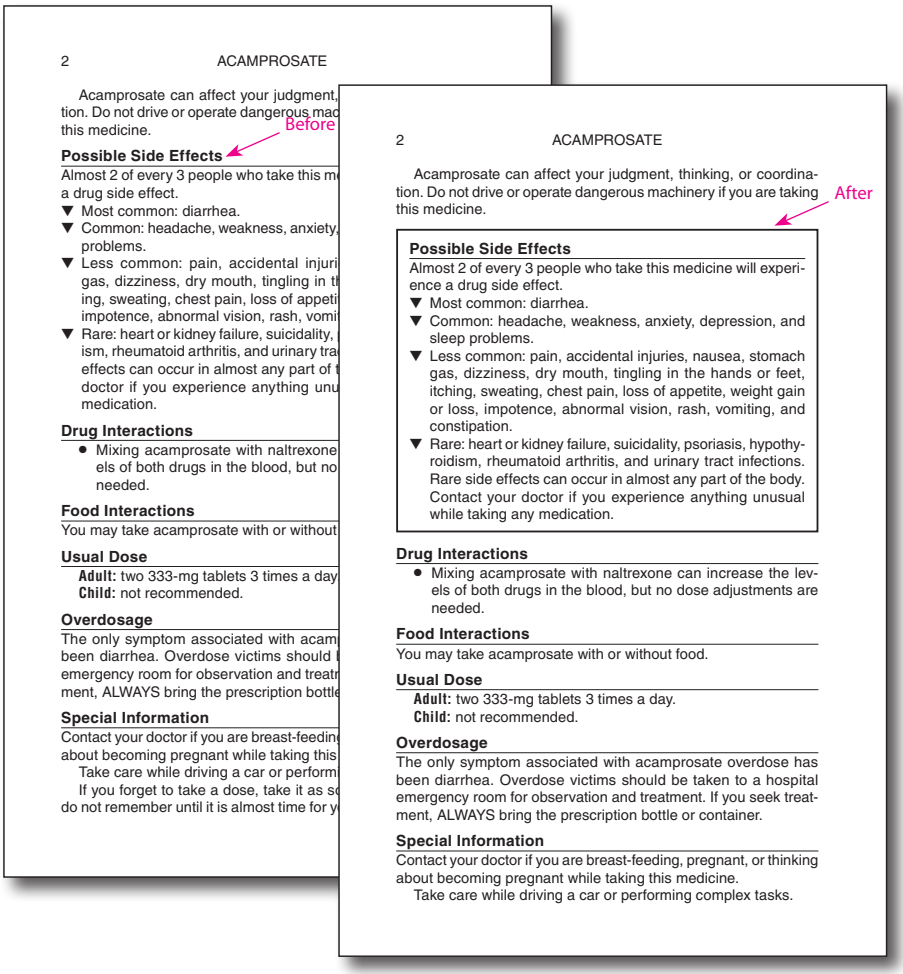
Below are some samples of documents laid out using *Column Flow*.

The sample below shows a document which was composed using a number of components of InBook. The columns were created by *Column Flow*. The headers were created by *Power Headers*, and the text was vertically justified by *Proper VJ*.



Column Flow

Shown below is a document which used Column Flow to create boxed sections. The boxes were created automatically using alternate text frame styles for text which is contained within the box. The boxed text can break across pages and a separate box is created for each section!



2 ACAMPROSATE

Acamprosate can affect your judgment, tion. Do not drive or operate dangerous mac this medicine.

Before

Possible Side Effects

Almost 2 of every 3 people who take this m a drug side effect.

- ▼ Most common: diarrhea.
- ▼ Common: headache, weakness, anxiety, problems.
- ▼ Less common: pain, accidental injuri gas, dizziness, dry mouth, tingling in t ing, sweating, chest pain, loss of appeti impotence, abnormal vision, rash, vomi
- ▼ Rare: heart or kidney failure, suicidality, ism, rheumatoid arthritis, and urinary tra effects can occur in almost any part of t doctor if you experience anything unu medication.

Drug Interactions

- ● Mixing acamprosate with naltrexone els of both drugs in the blood, but no needed.

Food Interactions

You may take acamprosate with or without

Usual Dose

Adult: two 333-mg tablets 3 times a day
Child: not recommended.

Overdosage

The only symptom associated with acam been diarrhea. Overdose victims should emergency room for observation and treatr ment, ALWAYS bring the prescription bottl

Special Information

Contact your doctor if you are breast-feedin about becoming pregnant while taking this

Take care while driving a car or perform

If you forget to take a dose, take it as s do not remember until it is almost time for y

2 ACAMPROSATE

Acamprosate can affect your judgment, thinking, or coordination. Do not drive or operate dangerous machinery if you are taking this medicine.

After

Possible Side Effects

Almost 2 of every 3 people who take this medicine will experience a drug side effect.

- ▼ Most common: diarrhea.
- ▼ Common: headache, weakness, anxiety, depression, and sleep problems.
- ▼ Less common: pain, accidental injuries, nausea, stomach gas, dizziness, dry mouth, tingling in the hands or feet, itching, sweating, chest pain, loss of appetite, weight gain or loss, impotence, abnormal vision, rash, vomiting, and constipation.
- ▼ Rare: heart or kidney failure, suicidality, psoriasis, hypothyroidism, rheumatoid arthritis, and urinary tract infections. Rare side effects can occur in almost any part of the body. Contact your doctor if you experience anything unusual while taking any medication.

Drug Interactions

- ● Mixing acamprosate with naltrexone can increase the levels of both drugs in the blood, but no dose adjustments are needed.

Food Interactions

You may take acamprosate with or without food.

Usual Dose

Adult: two 333-mg tablets 3 times a day.
Child: not recommended.

Overdosage

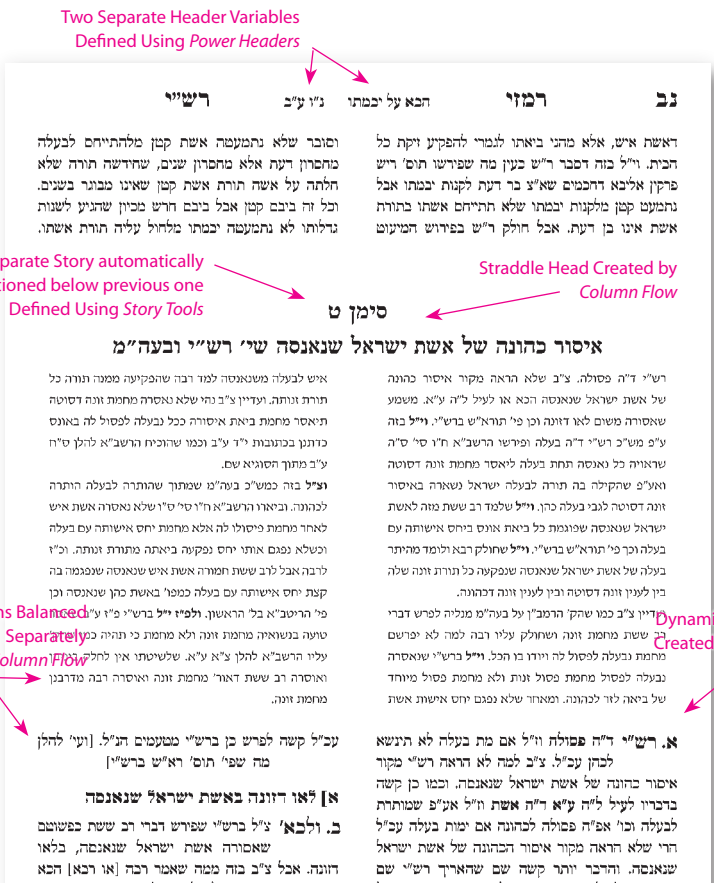
The only symptom associated with acamprosate overdose has been diarrhea. Overdose victims should be taken to a hospital emergency room for observation and treatment. If you seek treatment, ALWAYS bring the prescription bottle or container.

Special Information

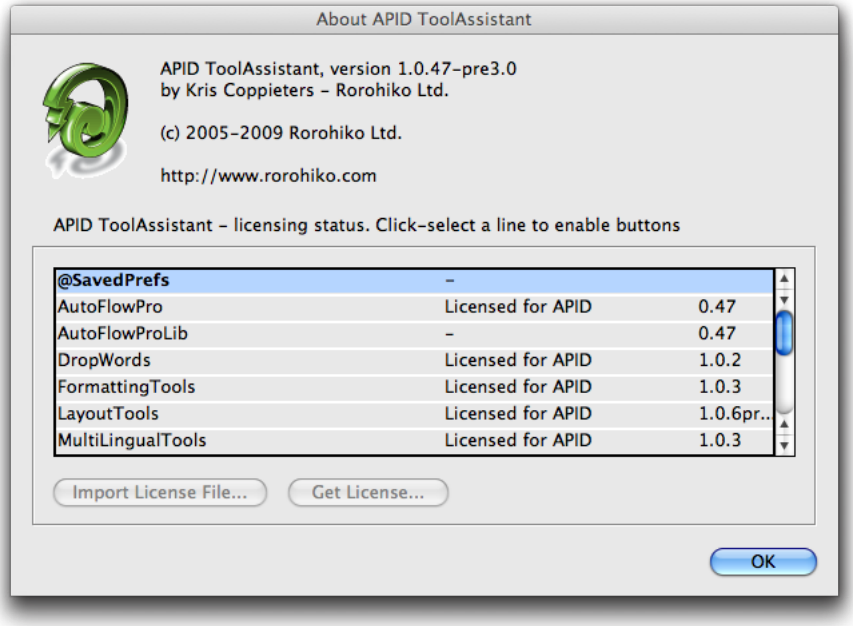
Contact your doctor if you are breast-feeding, pregnant, or thinking about becoming pregnant while taking this medicine.

Take care while driving a car or performing complex tasks.

Shown below is a typical sample of Hebrew layout.



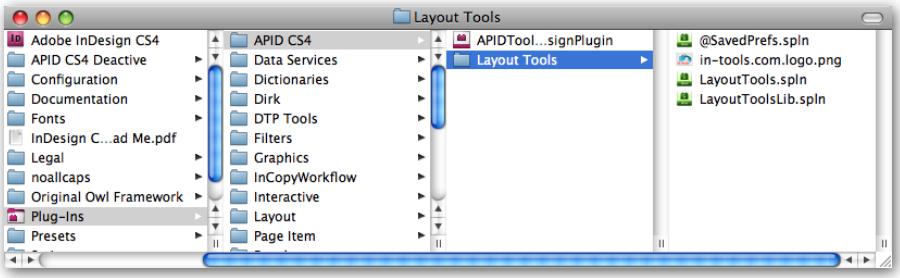
Installation



Column Flow was developed using a product called "APID ToolAssistant" created by Rorohiko. This necessary central controller does a lot of the low-level processing. *If you are interested in the technology behind the development, you can read the addendum on page 29.*

There are four different files which must be installed for *Column Flow* to function properly: 1. APIDToolAssistantCSx.xxx (the exact name depends on your version) 2. @SavedPrefs.spln 3. ColumnFlow.spln 4. ColumnFlowLib.spln. *Alternately*, if you are using Layout Tools which contains *Column Flow* as one of its parts you will need LayoutTools.spln and LayoutToolsLib.spln instead of files #3 and #4.

All of these files need to be copied to InDesign's plug-ins folder. To ensure that everything is properly installed, we suggest that the *Column Flow* folder included in the download be copied in its entirety to your plug-ins folder. The APIDToolAssistant file must also be installed in the plug-ins folder. It does not need to be in the same folder as *Column Flow*. You can organize your folders as you desire.

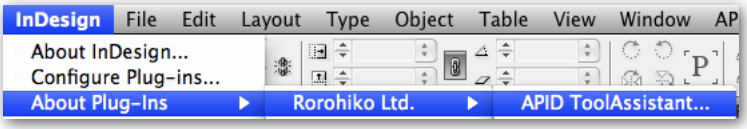


Shown above is a screen shot of how your folder structure should look after installation. We have created a folder named APID CS4 inside the Plug-ins folder to help keep things organized.

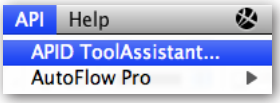
Please note: APID ToolAssistant replaces an older version of the plug-in. In the past, there were two versions of the API plug-in distributed by Rorohiko. Active Page Items Developer (APID), was the version developed to work with externally developed plug-ins. The free Active Page Items Runtime (APIR), was for plug-ins developed internally at Rorohiko. If you have either of these two plug-ins installed, you must remove them and install the APID ToolAssistant instead. The older APIR or APID plug-ins will not work. You must have the most current version of the APID ToolAssistant installed (version 1.0.47 or higher).

Column Flow

Shown above on page 10 is the "About" window of API. This window can be brought up in two ways: 1. Select: InDesign ➛ About Plug-Ins ➛ Rorohiko Ltd. ➛ APID ToolAssistant...



2. Select: API ➛ APID ToolAssistant...



In-Tools plug-ins do not show up separately in the "About Plug-Ins" menu. Information on installed In-Tools plug-ins are only displayed in the "About" window of API. If the plug-ins are properly installed you should see the displayed window (or the equivalent Windows version).

Please note the API version number near the top of the window. Your version number must say 1.0.47 or higher. Additionally it must say "APID ToolAssistant". If it says "Active Page Item Developer" or "Active Page Item Runtime", you have the wrong version installed. As mentioned above, both of these versions have been replaced with APID ToolAssistant.

When in doubt: search your plug-in folder for a file whose name contains "ActivePageItem", and replace it with the new one.

In the "About APID ToolAssistant" window, there is a list of all installed plug-ins and their status. The first column lists the plug-ins. The second column shows the license status. If the plug-in is licensed, "Licensed For APID" will be displayed. If the plug-in is in demo mode, the word "Demo" will be displayed along with the number of days remaining until the plug-in expires.

The third column shows the plug-in's version number. When trying to determine that you have the most current version of a plug-in, please refer to the version number listed in this column.

Enabling and Disabling Plug-ins.

To enable or disable any individual plug-in, simply move the file into or out of the folder which contains the APID ToolAssistant plug-in. One simple solution would be to create two folders within your plug-in folder. Name one "API", and the other "API disabled". You can then easily move files back and forth.

The APID ToolAssistant is like any other plug-in, and InDesign must be restarted when it is installed or removed. However, the rest of the plug-ins do not require a restart of InDesign when they are installed or removed. Newly installed plug-ins are available in documents when they are opened. If there are open documents when you install any of the *.spln files, those documents should be closed and reopened.

I installed Column Flow, but I can't find its menu!

In-Tools plug-ins are unique, in that menu items will not appear until a document is opened. The plug-ins will appear in the plug-in list in the "About APID ToolAssistant" window, but menu items only appear after a document is opened or created.

Purchasing Licenses and Activation

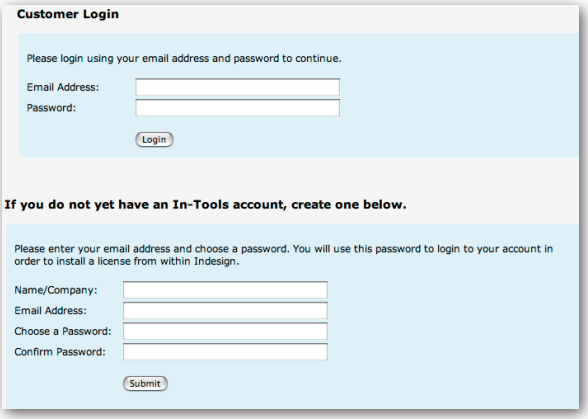
There are two ways to purchase In-Tools plug-ins: They can be purchased from the In-Tools web site prior to activation, or they can be purchased directly from within InDesign. If the plug-ins are purchased from the web site,

you will establish a login and password for activation at the time of purchase. If you purchase the plug-ins from within InDesign, the payment and activation both occur simultaneously. If you plan to purchase a plug-in package, or would like to purchase a number of plug-ins in one transaction, you should purchase them from the In-Tools web site before you initiate the activation process.

No matter how you purchase the plug-ins, the process from within InDesign is the same:

1. Select the plug-in you would like to activate.

2. Click "Get License". This will take you to the log-in page of the In-Tools web site (shown on the following page).



If you already have an In-Tools account, fill in your login and password. Otherwise create an account now. If you already paid for your plug-ins, make sure you fill in the login information that you provided at the time of purchase. You *must* provide a valid e-mail address or you might not receive your license file.

3. If you have not yet paid for the plug-in you will be taken to a PayPal payment page. Upon successful completion of the payment, you will be returned to the log-in page. To ensure that you are credited with your license, please don't close your browser window until PayPal returns you to our web site

4. After successfully completing the log-in procedure, verify that you are on your login page and you should see a link to download your license file.

If you do not download the file initially, you can do so at any time. On your account page there are two tables. The top table lists licenses which were already activated. The bottom table lists licenses which were paid for but not yet activated. To the right of each license on the top table is a link which says "Show License". After clicking on it, it will change to "Download License". You can then simply download the license file and save it where you like on your hard drive.

Please note: If you are using Safari, you will need to right-click (or control-click) on the download link to save it. Otherwise, Safari will open a window with gibberish.

The license file is specific to the installation from within which you have activated the license. It will not work on a different installation, even with the same serial number. If you need to use In-Tools plug-ins with more than one installation of InDesign, you will need to purchase an additional license for each installation.

5. Once you have your license file, go back to the "About" window in InDesign, select the plug-in you are activating and click on "Import License File". Locate the file on your hard drive and click "Open". The status next to your plug-in will change to "Licensed".

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Please note: Under certain circumstances while trying out our plug-ins, you might see the APID ToolAssistant listed as unlicensed. There is no need to purchase a license for the APID ToolAssistant if you plan on purchasing any In-Tools plug-ins. The licensing of APID ToolAssistant is handled completely transparently when you purchase an In-Tools plug-in. An In-Tools license will properly license APID ToolAssistant as well. The end result will be a licensed copy of APID ToolAssistant, but you will not see (or need) any license file for it.

For further questions and issues regarding licensing and activation, please refer to the FAQ web page; or for specific problems, please contact technical support.

Before You Start

It is important to understand how *Column Flow* works, and what its limitations are:

1. *Column Flow* does not break columns within a single text frame. A new text frame is created in each place that columns are split or spanned.

2. *Column Flow* does not work dynamically. You must specifically invoke a command to have Column Flow reflow your text when you edit it or re-style it in such a way that text re-flows. For this reason, it is highly recommended that you use *Column Flow* at a point when your text will change very little or not at all.

3. *Column Flow* only works with text that have paragraph styles applied. You cannot locally apply column settings to specific text. All settings must be applied using paragraph styles.

4. *Column Flow* can be used to create boxes or background shading around sections of text, but since it must break text frames to do this, it cannot be used to create boxes or background shading around individual paragraphs in a two column text frame.

Basic Setup

The setup procedure for Column Flow changed drastically between version 1/CS2 and vresion 2 for CS3 and later.

In version 1 (or when using CS2 in version 2) all column settings were set by changing the style names to have a number prefix. The number prefix defines the number of columns the text should take up.

Column Flow

In version 2 using CS3 or later, the setup is much more intuitive and much less disruptive.

Preliminary Setup

Before you start using Column Flow, you'll need to do a couple of things:

1. You must make sure all your text has styles applied to it.

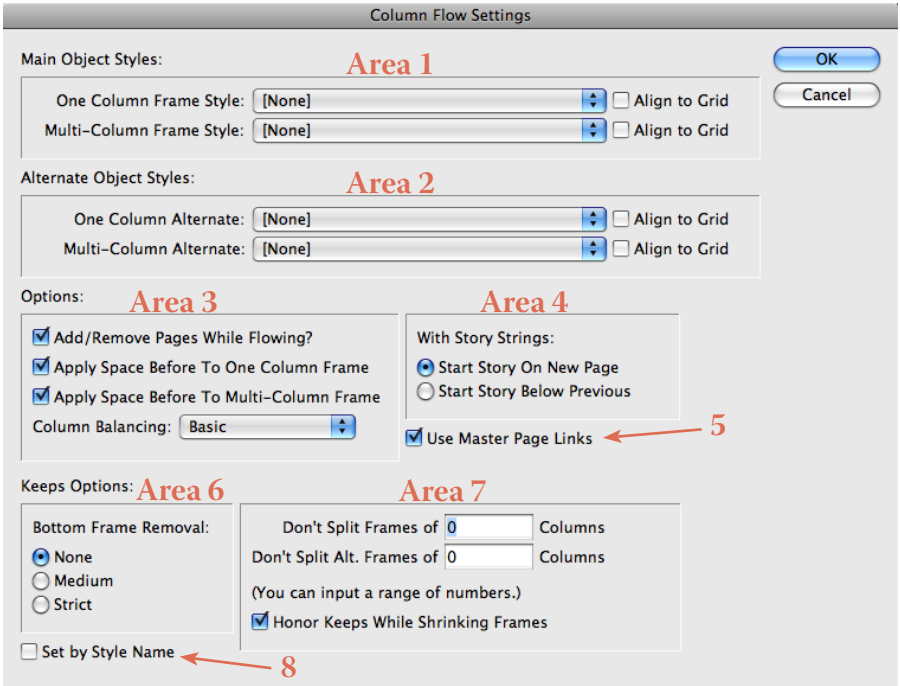
2. Additionally, you should create at least one object style for your text frames which has all the settings you will need (such as: First Baseline Offset, Column Gutter, text inset, stroke color, background color, etc.). You will generally want separate styles for single clumn frames and multiple column frames, and sometimes separate styles for alternates as well. All these styles should be set up (or at least created) before you set up the Column Flow options.

Configuration Setup

Once the preliminary set up is done, select API ➛ Column Flow ➛ Configure Column Flow. This will bring up the following dialog shown below.

Please note: The Column Flow configuration settings are document-wide settings. If it is necessary to use different settings in the same document, the settings must be changed before each re-flow.

The only setup *required* before running *Column Flow* is the selection of the object styles used for single column and multi-column frames. All the other settings are optional.

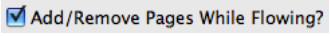


1. In the dialog shown, there are many different areas. Of all the settings, Area #1 and in some cases, area #2 are the most important. In Area #1, select the object styles that will be used for composing the single and multi-column texts. If "Align to Grid" is checked, the text frames will be aligned to the document-wide baseline grid and space will be added between the text frames if necessary. These settings should be set up in the document "*Grids" Preferences*.

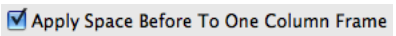
➠ The "Align to Grid" option is very useful for ensuring that headings which are normally not aligned to grid, line up with grid-aligned body text at the top of a column.

2. If your document requires the use of alternate styles (such as documents which have boxed sections), make sure to select the correct object styles in area #2.

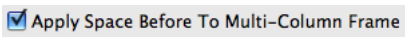
3. Area #3 has four configuration options:

a) 

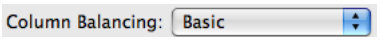
Enabling "Add/Remove Pages" will cause *Column Flow* to add or remove pages as needed while flowing text. If the option is not checked, text will only be flowed on pages which already have a text frame of the story currently being flowed.

b) 

The second checkbox defines whether the space-before settings of the first paragraph will be used to place the text frame lower on the page. If checked the space-before values will be added to the space between a single column frame, and the text frame above it. The "space after" setting of the previous paragraph is always applied.

c) 

If this option is checked the space-before values will be added to the space between a multi-column frame, and the text frame above it. The "space after" setting of the previous paragraph is always applied.

d) 

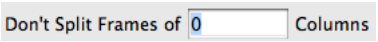
Column Flow offers a few different options for balancing of columns at the bottom of a page. If "None" is selected, the text frames at the bottom of a page will always be snapped to the bottom page margin. If "Basic" is selected, the text frame will be shrunk up to balance the columns as best as possible. (The amount the text frame will shrink depends on the checkbox in area #7.) If Line Long/Short is selected, *Column Flow* will add or remove a line if the bottom text does not align across columns and changing the number of lines would fix this. Column Flow will only allow a difference of one line length across a single spread of

facing pages. This means that if one page is a line long, the facing page will not be a line short, and vice versa.

4. The "story string" option is for use in conjunction with *Story Tools*. When flowing "story strings" (set up using *Story Tools*), each consecutive story can start either on a new page, or immediately below the previous one (provided there is enough room on the page). If "Start Story Below Previous" is selected, the alignment and spacing settings will be the same as for within one story.

5. Option #5 is only visible if *AutoFlow Pro* is installed. *AutoFlow Pro* allows for the creation of links between paragraph styles and master pages. If the checkbox is checked and the master page links are set up using *AutoFlow Pro* (please refer to the *AutoFlow Pro* documention for more details), *Column Flow* will automatically apply the correct master pages as it flows the text.

6. Area #6 allows for control of how much text is forced on the bottom of a page. InDesign allows keeps options to be broken, when honoring them will cause a text column to be empty. Column Flow gives three options of adherance to keeps options for text frames which fall on the bottom of a page. "None" will leave any text frames that can be created on the bottom of the page, even if doing so will violatre keeps restrictions. "Medium", will allow text frames that don't violate keeps at the end of the frame, but allow keeps to be broken between columns. "Strict" will not allow any keeps options to be broken in the bottem text frame, and will remove any bottom text frames that will violate any of the keeps settings.

7. Area #7 has three different settings. The first two allow for sections to be kept together. 

The first option is for text

which uses the main object style. 

The second option is for text which uses the alternate object styles. For both fields, you can input a range of column numbers. Valid formats are comma and/or hyphen separated numbers. For example: "2-4" will cause all text of one, two, or three columns to be kept together. "1,3-5"will cause all text of 1, 3, 4, or 5 columns to be kept together.

The third option defines how much *Column Flow* will shrink text frames after breaking the text. If the checkbox is checked, *Column Flow* will only shrink the frame as much as possible without breaking keeps settings. If it is unchecked, the text frames will be shrunk as much as possible.

8. Option #8 allows for legacy style names to be used to determine the number of columns text takes up. If the checkbox is checked, the number of columns will be determined by the style name instead of the settings set by the styles dialog.

Setting Up Styles

CS2

As mentioned earlier, the number of columns are set at the paragraph level. The method for setting the number of columns in CS2, is simply a number prefix to the paragraph style name. For example: A paragraph named "1.Header" is defined as a one-column frame. A paragraph named "2Body Text" is defined as a multiple-column frame. Only numbers 1 and 2 may be used as prefixes. The number 2 prefix can be used for more than two columns by setting the appropriate number of columns in the object style.

In the example used before, the style "1.Header" has a dot after the number. This dot indicates that it is a one-column *header*. If the style has the dot following the "1", it will *always* be placed above the following multiple-column frame. If the placement of the frame is not required to be above the following frame, the dot should be left out.

To define a style to use an alternate object style, insert a hyphen (dash) at the end of the style name.

For example: a style named "1.MyStyle-" will be composed in one column as a header using the alternate style definition. If it's named "3MyStyle", it will be composed in three columns using the main style definition.

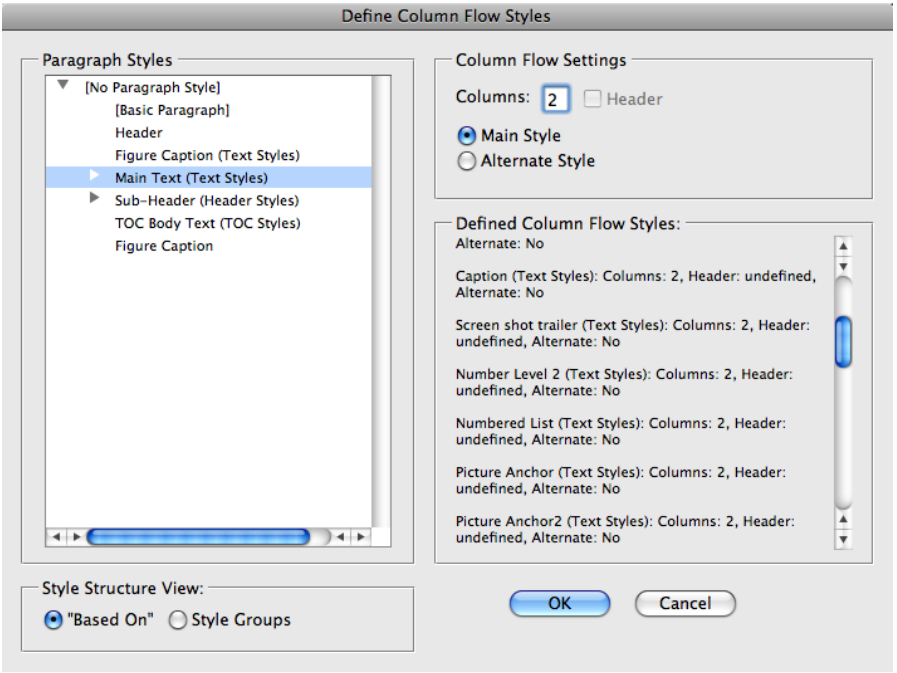
Knowledge of this information is not strictly necessary to run *Column Flow*. If any styles are encountered while flowing which where not properly set up, *Column Flow* will prompt for the proper settings. The style names will be automatically adjusted as necessary.

Please note: Because the "Basic Paragraph" and "No Paragraph" style names cannot be changed, these styles cannot be used in CS2 on text when Column Flow will be run.

CS3 or Later

In CS3 or later, defining style settings is much easier! To access the style dialog, select API ➛ Column Flow ➛ Column Flow Styles.... This will bring up the dialog shown below.

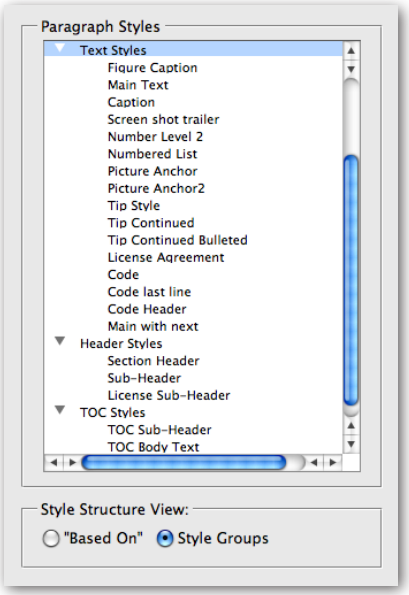
Column Flow



There's only three dirrent settings are set in this dialog: Columns count, Header, and Main/Alternate Style. You must input a column count for the styles, as well as select whether the main style should be used, or the alternate. The Header option is only applicable if the column count is 1.

You can scroll through the "Defined Column Flow Styles" list to quickly see which styles have which settings.

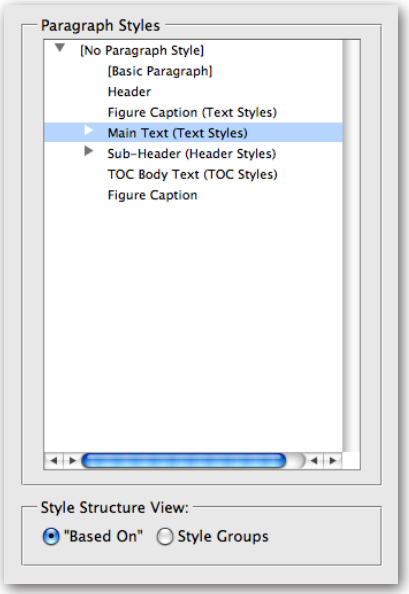
The *Column Flow* Style dialog presents the object styles of the current document in a tree format. There are two distinct tree structure views available. There is the "Based On" view and the "Style Groups" view. You can switch between the two views at any time by clicking on the appropriate radio button.



Style Groups View

The "Style Groups" view presents the styles in an expandable tree, with a folder structure similar to the folder structure of InDesign's Object Style panel. If you organize your object styles in style groups, you can use this view to select either individual styles or entire style groups.

When a style group is selected, all the styles (and sub-group styles) in the selected style group will be associated with the *Column Flow* setting you choose.



Based On View

The "Based On" view presents a tree structure of all the styles, in which each style can be seen in its relation to the style upon which it is based. The root of the style tree will always be the [None] style as all styles are ultimately based on [None].

When the styles are viewed in the "Based-On" structure, all styles which are based on the selected style will be associated with the *Column Flow* seting you choose.

Column Flow

Running Column Flow

To Run *Column Flow*, You simply select API ➛ Column Flow ➛ Flow... All flowing is done to fit within the page margins and can be flowed on five different levels.

1. Current Page: This option flows the selected story on the current page, and fits as much text as possible using the current flow settings. It uses the selected frame as the vertical starting point. This option should be used if a lot of manual tweaking is to be done.

2. Rest of Story: This option will flow the rest of the story starting from the selected text frame. Pages will be added or removed if ths option is selected in the Column Flow Options.

3. Whole Story: This will re-flow the entire selected story.

4. Story String From Selection: This option will be grayed-out, unless a story string was set up using the Story Tools plug-in. If the Story String was properly set up, this option will flow the entire string starting from the selected frame. Story String Flow will always add and remove pages as necessary, regardless of the settings in the Column Flow Settings.

5. Whole Story String: This will flow the Story String (if set up) starting from the first story in the string.

➠ *Column Flow* works much quicker when it creates pages and text frames on the fly. It is therefore recommended when flowing large amounts of text, to remove all subsequent pages, and run *Column Flow* on overset text.

➠ To automatically create two multiple column frames one immediately after the other: Insert a blank one column paragraph with a leading of zero. This paragraph will act as a "column breaker", and will cause the text above it to be balanced across the columns. The text after the blank paragraph will be balanced independently.

Addendum

What is "APID ToolAssistant"?

Classically, there are only two ways to automate InDesign. One way is by scripting. Scripts are a series of commands written in one of the three supported scripting languages — AppleScript for the Macintosh, Visual Basic for Windows, or ExtendScript for both platforms. ExtendScript is Adobe's version of Javascript. For scripts to run, they must be placed in the application script folder and explicitly run. For automation to be truly automatic, it requires "event processing". This means that certain events trigger specific processes to take place. There is limited event-triggered scripting available in CS3.

To achieve true integration, plug-ins must be programmed using C++. Developing C++ plug-ins is a very involved, and lengthy process. APID ToolAssistant is a plug-in which allows very fine grained event processing using ExtendScript. It allows for creation of advanced plug-ins in a fraction of the time required when programming using C++. It also aids in the creation of hybrid plug-ins which mix ExtendScript and C++ for maximum efficiency.

Without the APID ToolAssistant, it would not have been possible to create the collection of plug-ins we offer in the same amount of development

time. This increased programming efficiency means more functionality for the end user and lower prices.

Additionally, APID ToolAssistant offers the ability to attach scripts to specific objects. These attached scripts can be run automatically when triggered by specific events. Anyone who has a licensed version of the APID ToolAssistant plug-in installed can create and use these attached scripts. There are also additional scripting properties and methods which are usable by scripters. For more information see Rorohiko's web site.

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To all our beta testers, thank you for the valuable input which helped shaped our plug-ins. To Brad Walrod: a special thank you for your unrelenting comments and suggestions. To Peter Gold and Raphael Freeman: thank you for your many useful suggestions.

Column Flow

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