

# InGutter howtos

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Sandbox

## Overview

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## GETTING STARTED

1. Download InGutter from <indiscripts.com>. Right-click [InGutter.zip](#) and choose Save Target / Link As.
2. Extract [InGutter.jsxbin](#) from the zip file, then place the script in your InDesign script folder.
3. Create a keyboard shortcut — e.g. **Cmd Alt B** — to easily run the script from any context.
4. Open a document, create and fill a sample text frame (like the one above).
5. Select the text frame or put the insertion point within. Run [InGutter](#).

- InGutter requires InDesign CS3 or CS4 (recommended) and works on both Mac and Win platforms.
- By default, the script creates a set of black solid rules on both sides of every columns.
- Keep in mind that the script can adjust the left/right inset spacing of the text frame (in order to center the rules in the gutter).

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## POSITIONING THE RULES

1. Set the **Gutter** of the text frame from the script dialog. (You can also change the number of columns.)
2. When **Rule Offset** = 0, the rules are centered within the gutter. To move the rules to the right, increase the offset. To move the rules to the left, decrease the offset. (If you overset the Rule Offset, InGutter automatically enlarges the Gutter.)
3. Select the **Location** option (Inner, Left, Right, Side or All Rules).
4. Set **Overflow** to a positive value to make the rules extend out of the frame bounds. Use a negative value to reduce the rule length.

■ Note that **Vertical Spacing** is equivalent to the Inset Spacing Top/Bottom fields of the Text Frame Options dialog. It has no effect on the rules themselves.

■ InGutter uses, displays and converts the values according to your preferred rulers units. If you type "1 mm" in a field expecting inches, the value will be changed to 0.039 in.

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### RESIZING THE BLOCK

1. Once you have attached a rule set to a text frame by the means of **InGutter**, the two components are combined into a **group**. To resize the whole block, select the group and drag any handle using the **Selection Tool** (V).
2. To resize the block to a precise size, select the group and enter the size in the width (W) or height (H) fields on the **Transform/Control Panel**.
3. The rules fit automatically.

- On transforming an InGutter block, a common mistake is to target the sole text frame instead of selecting the whole group. If the text frame is selected, use the **Select Container** button from the Control panel.
- You can apply many transformations to the group (rotation, scale, shear X).

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## CHANGING COLORS AND APPEARANCE

1. **InGutter** allows you to control the **Color** and **Tint** of the background, and the **Color** and **Tint** of the rules. Simply select the corresponding fields/items from the script dialog.
2. To change the rule appearance and create interesting effects, increase the **Weight** of the rules and play with the **Type** options (Dotted, Dashed, Wavy, Hash...).
3. To **add a stroke**, close the script dialog, select the group with the Selection Tool and simply apply your settings from the Stroke and/or Swatches panel. (InGutter doesn't interfere with the stroke settings.)

- Do not use directly the Swatches panel to apply a color to the background. Since InGutter creates the "rule effect" through an underlying frame, it needs to keep the control.
- **Known issue:** InGutter will crash if you try to apply a tint to a Gradient Swatch.

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## REPAIRING OR REMOVING A RULE SET

1. If you break something by accident (by moving, resizing or resetting the text frame leaving aside its container) it's easy to get **InGutter** to restore the rule set:
  - make sure that the text frame (front) and the rule frame (back) are grouped;
  - select the group or the text frame;
  - run InGutter to make the rules fit the frame, then press OK.
2. To remove the rules, run InGutter, check **Destroy the rule set** and press OK.

- After running the script InDesign CS4 users can reverse the whole operation using **Edit / Undo InGutter**.

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## CREATING A “PERFORATED STAMP” EFFECT

1. Select a text frame and call **InGutter**.
2. Set the **Gutter** to 10 mm (or more) and set the **Rule Offset** to zero (center).
3. Set **Location** to **All Rules**.
4. Set the **Weight** to 20 pt, **Overflow** to 10 pt (=3.528 mm) and choose **Japanese Dots**.
5. Set **Color** to Paper and press OK.

- InGutter allows you to attach creative effects to any text frame. Select the frame, run the script and tweak the rules!
- You can also define your own rule types using the Stroke panel. In the panel menu, choose **Stroke Styles** and create a custom stroke style. From now on the new style is available in the InGutter **Type** list.

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## ADDING TRANSPARENCY/ BENDING EFFECTS TO THE RULES

1. Select the group with the **Selection Tool** (V). (If needed, add some effects to the group itself.)
2. In the **Control panel** press successively the **Select content** and **Select next object** buttons in order to target the underlying “rule frame”.
3. In the **Effects panel**, double-click the **Text** row to have your effect settings applied to the rules. (In the screenshot above, we use **Pillow Emboss** to create a “needlework” effect.)

- Remember that the rules rendered within the gutters belong to a text frame and emerge from **Paragraph rules**. That’s why you need to select the **Text level** when applying effects to the rules.