

# Tips & Techniques

from GILBERT CONSULTING

## InDesign, QuarkXPress 6-6.5

□ With InDesign's eyedropper tool you can create a color swatch that exactly matches colors in a PSD, TIF, or JPG image. However, the eyedropper won't sample spot colors, and provides only an approximate color match for EPS images and vector artwork. To view the exact CMYK or spot color that will be used to output any image or artwork on your page, use the Separations Preview palette (*Window>Output>Separations Preview*). Choose *Separations* for the View, then move the cursor over an image. The exact ink percentages will be displayed in the Separations Preview palette.

In QuarkXPress 6 with the QuarkVista XTension installed, you can view the ink percentages of a TIF, JPG, or PNG image with the Picture Effects palette (*Window>Show Picture Effects*). Select an image, then select the *Info* option at the bottom of the palette. Next, click on the Adjustments button in the upper-left corner of the palette and choose *Levels*. Move the cursor over the image, and the RGB and/or CMYK ink percentages of the image will be displayed in the palette.

## Useful Web site

□ Visit [blogs.adobe.com/blog-list.html](http://blogs.adobe.com/blog-list.html) to read "blogs" created and maintained by Adobe employees.

## InDesign

□ See [www.65bit.com/products/multido/multido.shtml](http://www.65bit.com/products/multido/multido.shtml) to download MultiDo, a free plug-in that adds "undo multiple" and "redo multiple" commands to InDesign's Edit menu, much like the History palette in Photoshop.

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□ InDesign's *Object>Lock Position* and Quark's *Item>Lock* commands are not very useful, since a frame or box that is locked with these commands can still be modified. The Layers palette (*Window>Layers* in InDesign, *Window>Show Layers* in Quark) provides a better way to lock objects.

Create a new layer, and name the layer something like "Locked objects." Continue to work on your original layer, and when you need to lock an object, move the object to the "Locked objects" layer. Lock the layer by clicking in the empty column to the left of the layer name. A pencil icon with a red slash through it will appear in InDesign to indicate that the layer is locked. Quark will display a padlock icon.

## InDesign

□ In InDesign, you can move an object to a locked (or hidden) layer without first unlocking the layer, by holding  $\#$  (Mac) or *ctrl* (Win) while you drag the colored dot that appears to the right of the layer name in the Layers palette to the locked layer.

## Photoshop

□ The *Filter>Extract* command is a powerful, accurate way to "lift" an object from its background. It is most useful for textured edges such as hair, fur, and feathers. It is worth learning about and practicing until you have it mastered. The filter always applies to the selected layer, so be sure to duplicate the layer before you run the filter, since any pixels that you don't extract will be erased.



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