

# Stroke Every 5 Rows script

This script will add a .5pt black horizontal stroke every 5 rows within a table selection. A stroke above and below the selection is also added. The entire row is affected, even if only a single cell in the row is selected. All other horizontal strokes in the affected rows will be removed.

Yes, InDesign can automatically add strokes and fills to tables following an alternating pattern you define in the Table Options dialog box. But sometimes you need strokes to repeat at certain user-specified locations in a table, or after a table subhead in the middle of a table. This script lets you do this.

## Running the script

1. Select some cells in a table. No need to select the entire row. The stroke will be applied to the entire row even if only a single column in the row is selected.
2. Double-click on the script in the Scripts panel.
3. A .5pt black stroke is applied to the top and bottom rows of the selection, as well as every fifth row in between.

This is useful. But it wouldn't it be great if you could customize the weight or color of the stroke, or change the interval from 5 rows to 3 rows, or anything else you can imagine? You can edit and adjust this script any number of ways, and you don't need to be a programmer. Turn the page to learn how!

| Fractional Size—135° Point Angle |        |       |            |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|------------|--------|
| Drill Bit Size                   | Length | Depth | No.        | Each   |
| 1/64"                            | 3/4"   | 0.2"  | BlOx1A107* | \$3.82 |
| 1/32"                            | 1 3/8" | 0.5"  | BlOx1A108* | 1.60   |
| 3/64"                            | 1 3/4" | 0.7"  | BlOx1A109* | 1.56   |
| 1/16"                            | 1 7/8" | 0.8"  | BlOx1A111  | 1.38   |
| 5/64"                            | 2"     | 0.9"  | BlOx1A112  | 1.38   |
| 3/32"                            | 2 1/4" | 1.1"  | BlOx1A113  | 1.42   |
| 7/64"                            | 2 5/8" | 1.3"  | BlOx1A114  | 1.47   |
| 1/8"                             | 2 3/4" | 1.4"  | BlOx1A115  | 1.58   |
| 9/64"                            | 2 7/8" | 1.5"  | BlOx1A116  | 1.67   |
| 5/32"                            | 3 1/8" | 1.8"  | BlOx1A117  | 1.80   |
| 11/64"                           | 3 1/4" | 1.9"  | BlOx1A118  | 1.87   |
| 3/16"                            | 3 1/2" | 2"    | BlOx1A119  | 2.13   |
| 13/64"                           | 3 5/8" | 2.1"  | BlOx1A121  | 2.24   |
| 7/32"                            | 3 3/4" | 2.2"  | BlOx1A122  | 2.36   |
| 15/64"                           | 3 7/8" | 2.3"  | BlOx1A123  | 2.62   |
| 1/4"                             | 4"     | 2.4"  | BlOx1A124  | 2.84   |
| 17/64"                           | 4 1/8" | 2.5"  | BlOx1A125  | 3.29   |
| 9/32"                            | 4 1/4" | 2.5"  | BlOx1A126  | 3.51   |

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| Drill Bit Size                   | Length | Depth | No.        | Each   |
| 1/64"                            | 3/4"   | 0.2"  | BlOx1A107* | \$3.82 |
| 1/32"                            | 1 3/8" | 0.5"  | BlOx1A108* | 1.60   |
| 3/64"                            | 1 3/4" | 0.7"  | BlOx1A109* | 1.56   |
| 1/16"                            | 1 7/8" | 0.8"  | BlOx1A111  | 1.38   |
| 5/64"                            | 2"     | 0.9"  | BlOx1A112  | 1.38   |
| 3/32"                            | 2 1/4" | 1.1"  | BlOx1A113  | 1.42   |
| 7/64"                            | 2 5/8" | 1.3"  | BlOx1A114  | 1.47   |
| 1/8"                             | 2 3/4" | 1.4"  | BlOx1A115  | 1.58   |
| 9/64"                            | 2 7/8" | 1.5"  | BlOx1A116  | 1.67   |
| 5/32"                            | 3 1/8" | 1.8"  | BlOx1A117  | 1.80   |
| 11/64"                           | 3 1/4" | 1.9"  | BlOx1A118  | 1.87   |
| 3/16"                            | 3 1/2" | 2"    | BlOx1A119  | 2.13   |
| 13/64"                           | 3 5/8" | 2.1"  | BlOx1A121  | 2.24   |
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# Customizing the script

This script is great for being introduced to the basics of editing a script. The script is written in ExtendScript (a very close cousin of JavaScript) and can be edited with any text editor.

To do this, just right-click on the script in the Scripts panel, and choose *Reveal in Finder* (macOS) or *Reveal in Explorer* (Windows).

Then, open the file that is revealed in your choice of text editors, Even Microsoft Word will do. If you make any changes, just make sure that you save the file back out as a “plain text” file with the original .jsx filename extension. Here are some tips to get you started:

## Adjust the appearance of the stroke

Edit lines 64–66 to change the stroke weight, type, or color. Then, you’ll see these values repeated in lines 69–71. Make these lines the same as lines 64–66 if you want the bottom stroke to match the rest of the strokes in the selection.

```
64 mySelection[i].topEdgeStrokeWeight = ".5pt";
65 mySelection[i].topEdgeStrokeType = "Solid";
66 mySelection[i].topEdgeStrokeColor = "Black";
```

## Adjust the number of rows between strokes

Edit line 63. Change `i=i+5` to `i=i+3` to create a stroke every 3 lines, for example.

```
63 for (var i=0; i<myNumRows; i=i+5) {
```

## Remove the bottom stroke

At `//` at the start of lines 69–71 to turn these lines into “comments” so that they have no effect in InDesign. If you decide later that you want a bottom stroke, just remove the `//` from the start of each line.

```
68 // Add a rule at the bottom of the selection
69 //mySelection[myNumRows-1].bottomEdgeStrokeWeight = ".5pt";
70 //mySelection[myNumRows-1].bottomEdgeStrokeType = "Solid";
71 //mySelection[myNumRows-1].bottomEdgeStrokeColor = "Black";
```

## Apply a cell style instead of a stroke

I've included alternate code so that the script will apply a cell style named *cell\_highlight* every 5 rows instead of a stroke. This alternate code is all contained in a separate function named *myApplyCellStyle* in lines 73–92. To direct the script to use these lines instead of the *myCreateRules* function in lines 56–72, just add *//* to the beginning of line 28, and remove the *//* characters from the beginning of line 29.

Once the *cell\_highlight* cell style has been created, you can edit the style to whatever appearance you desire.

## Learning more about scripting

I hope this whets your appetite to learn more about the amazing capabilities of automating InDesign with scripts.

To learn more about scripting InDesign, watch my *InDesign Scripting Made Easy* course on [LinkedIn Learning](#) and [Lynda.com](#).



```
26 case "Table":
27 case "Cell":
28     // myCreateRules(myDoc);
29     myApplyCellStyle(myDoc);
30     break;
31 case "InsertionPoint":
```



**Keith Gilbert** is a consultant, educator, speaker, and author. He helps solve design and production problems by writing custom InDesign scripts, provides on-site and remote training, and is an author of several popular Lynda.com/LinkedIn Learning courses.

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