



Welcome!



If this is your first experience using scripts with InDesign, I hope it opens your eyes to the possibilities of this exciting technology. I have embraced scripting from my first days of doing desktop publishing — was it really two decades ago? Without scripts, I would have fallen asleep at the computer managing all those tedious adjustments that are part and parcel of producing long documents. InDesign CS2 sets a new high in scripting support and I am so pleased that so many people have been able to take advantage of the results of my efforts to enhance the power of InDesign through add-on functionality.

I am particularly grateful to those who have given tangible evidence of their gratitude by making a donation at my Kagi store. If you too would like to encourage me to produce more scripts, please click the Kagi image and visit my storefront there.

Installing TableTweakers

After unzipping the package, you will have found this readMe and a folder called TableTweakersCS2 within it. The folder contains the actual scripts. Move it (or an alias of it) to your Scripts folder in the Presets folder of your Adobe InDesign CS2 application folder. The next time you launch or switch to InDesign CS2, that folder will appear in the Scripts palette. Click the triangle to open the folder and the scripts are there ready for you to use.

For information on using the individual scripts, see the following pages in this ReadMe.

Scripting Products and Services

If you visited the Kagi site, you will have seen that I have two shareware scripts available. In the spirit of shareware, please try the scripts before considering purchasing a registration. Click the PDS logo above to locate product descriptions and the downloadable files.

Many people are surprised at how quickly and inexpensively a custom script can be produced to enhance their workflow or increase their productivity and free up time for creativity. If you have an idea for a script that will help you, please contact me. My current standard rate for scripting jobs is US\$80 an hour with a minimum of US\$160. If you explain your needs carefully, I'll provide an estimate of how long it will take me. Note that if a script requires a custom interface involving a dialog (such as the one tableSetWidth uses, this will significantly increase the time (and therefore cost) of the script. You are invited to e-mail me at davesaunders@pdsassoc.com.

May 18, 2006

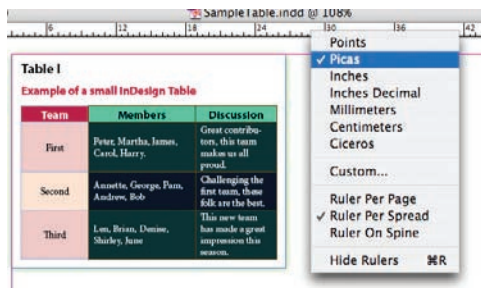
User Guides ➡

Terms & Conditions ➡

Operational Notes ➡

tableColWidthSqueezeL tableColWidthSqueezeR

These scripts adjust the widths of two columns in a table simultaneously. To use either script, select two or more columns and double-click the script's name in the Scripts palette. "SqueezeL" reduces the width of the selection's left-column by one measurement unit of the horizontal ruler and increases the width of the right-column by the same amount. "SqueezeR" reduces the width of the right-column and increases the left.



In this figure, the horizontal measure is set to Picas. Running "SqueezeL" reduces the Members column by a pica while increasing the Discussion column:

Team	Members	Discussion
First	Peter, Martha, James, Carol, Harry.	Great contributors, this team makes us all proud.
Second	Annette, George, Pam, Andrew, Bob	Challenging the first team, these folk are the best.
Third	Len, Brian, Denise, Shirley, Jane	This new team has made a great impression this season.

If you select a range of cells the scripts work on the columns of those cells; if possible, the selection changes to indicate the scope over which the scripts operated.

REV. MAY 19, 2006

tableFitWidthToColumn

Changes the width of a table to match the available width of the text frame that contains the first (or only) part of a table. [Note: the script assumes a rectangular text frame. Its action on text frames of any other shape is undefined.]



To use the script, select any or all of the table or the text frame containing the table (in this case, the script operates only on the first table it finds in the frame), then double-click the name of the script in the Scripts palette.



This second figure shows the result (although I also performed a Fit-Frame-to-Content action to save space on this page). Notice how the extra width was evenly distributed to the three columns.

A word of warning: when using corner effects on a text frame, any left-aligned text is mysteriously set one point to the right of where it should be. I advise using center alignment to get around this problem.

tableSetWidth

Sets the width of a table to the specific amount you enter into a dialog box. The dialog shows you the current width of the table in a measurement field using the measurement units you have set in the horizontal ruler (if you're using a custom setting, the field uses points). Like all these table tweaker scripts, you indicate the table you wish to adjust with a selection:

Table 1
Example of a Small InDesign Table

Team	Members	Discussion
First	Peter, Martha, James, Carol, Harry.	Great contributors, this team makes us all proud.
Second	Annette, George, Pam, Andrew, Bob	Challenging the first team, these folks are the best.
Third	Len, Brian, Denise, Shirley, Jane	This new team has made a great impression this season.

Double-click the name of the script in the Scripts palette and you'll get this dialog:

Width of Selected Table

Width: 30pt6

OK Cancel

Width of Selected Table

Width: 4i

OK Cancel

On the left, you see the dialog as it is originally displayed. For whatever reason, I choose to set the width to 4 inches by typing "4i" and the result is this:

Table 1
Example of a Small InDesign Table

Team	Members	Discussion
First	Peter, Martha, James, Carol, Harry.	Great contributors, this team makes us all proud.
Second	Annette, George, Pam, Andrew, Bob	Challenging the first team, these folks are the best.

The table is now selected and the text frame is now overset because there isn't room for the extra height of the table.

tableVerticalJustification

This script serves two purposes: use it on multi-page tables to align the bottoms of each part of a table with its containing text frames, or use it on a table in a single frame like this:

Table 1
Example of a Small InDesign Table

Team	Members	Discussion
First	Peter, Martha, James, Carol, Harry.	Great contributors, this team makes us all proud.
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This time, I've selected the whole table, but all you really need to do is have a selection that allows the table to be found. It could even be just a single insertion point in a cell of the table. Double-click the script's name in the Script's palette and you'll get this:

Table 1
Example of a Small InDesign Table

Team	Members	Discussion
First	Peter, Martha, James, Carol, Harry.	Great contributors, this team makes us all proud.
Second	Annette, George, Pam, Andrew, Bob	Challenging the first team, these folks are the best.
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I deselected after running the script to make it easier to see what happened. The extra space has been distributed to all the cells, with the amount above and below proportional to the original insets. When using this script on a multi-page table, be sure to adjust the bottom of the last frame so that the cells on that page aren't made ridiculously tall, and make sure there is no text after the table, in that last frame.

Agreement

By unpackaging this software and installing it on your computer, you are agreeing to the following terms and conditions:

These Table Tweaker scripts are provided as-is for your personal use. They have been thoroughly tested and appear to function without error (subject to any caveats in the Operational Notes section of this ReadMe), but like all software, there may be gremlins lurking that have yet to surface.

You use these scripts entirely at your own risk. Any failure to perform as expected or any loss of data or any consequential damages are entirely your responsibility.

You are advised to back-up your work frequently.

How to Contact Us

We're on the web at: <http://www.pdsassoc.com/>

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A word on support of "donationware."

To genuinely qualify as "donationware" a product is not permitted to nag the user for donations. Thus, this is my one and only opportunity to suggest you consider a donation for the work I put into creating these scripts. While I am legally constrained to point out that a donation is not a prerequisite for my providing support to you, you should consider that I do have to prioritize my work according to the economic realities of my life. If free support has to be balanced against paying work, which would you choose?

Operational Notes

Experience working with these scripts has brought to light the following issues. None of these has proven to be “show-stoppers”, so for the moment the scripts have the following limitations or issues:

All Scripts

You might think the naming convention I’ve used for these scripts a tad odd. Why, if they all live in a folder named “TableTweakers” do I name them all with the word “table” at the front?

The reason for this is that I have stopped using the Scripts palette to run my own scripts. Rather, I use a pair of script-launching scripts with shortcuts attached to them. This takes up less screen real estate and makes it easier to organize my scripts by project. It does mean that for each script, an extra keystroke is needed to run it, but it also means that rerunning any of the most recent scripts is much easier than with the palette. However, to keep the scripts organized in the drop-down menu, I need each script’s name to start with the area of functionality to which they apply.

tableColumnWidthSqueezeL

tableColumnWidthSqueezeR

May 20, 2006: updates 1.02 of each released. Addresses problem of not being able to interrogate a non-rectangular selection within a table (as can be caused by merged cells) by issuing an explanatory alert.

May 19, 2006: updates 1.01 of each released to address problem of being unable to select columns if a merged cell extrudes from the rectangle formed by the columns. The scripts now perform their function in this case, but they do not expand the selection to show the scope of their activities; the original selection remains.

Until I started using these scripts, I thought I would go through my whole InDesign life without ever using millimeters as a ruler measurement, but now I find myself using it often. With 1 millimeter equal to 2.835 points, it represents a convenient intermediate value for squeezing a column when 1 point at a time is too small but 1 pica is too big.

tableFitWidthToColumn

As mentioned in the user guide, watch out for left aligned or justified text in frames with corner effects. It is set one point to the right of where it belongs. This includes tables. However, if you’re fitting the table width to that of the column, then setting the alignment of the paragraph containing the table to center alignment puts the table exactly where it should be.

tableSetWidth

If you use the Shift key with the arrow keys to manipulate the value in the dialog, weird things happen if your measurement units are centimeters or ciceros. This appears to be a “feature” of the InDesign scripting engine. I’m trying to get a better idea of how to improve this behavior. For all other units, things seem to work well.

tableVerticalJustification

This script has not been tested with multi-column text frames and my gut feeling is that work is required to make it function properly in that environment. Working out which frame a table cell is in is relatively easy, but working out which column is another thing entirely. If enough people need this feature, I’ll take a look at it. For now, I offer it in its current form which has served me well with some multi-page tables and with smaller ones like the illustration in the user guides.

Also, this script assumes that none of the rows in the table are fixed height. If they are, the result will be tables that don’t vertically justify properly and overset text in the rows with fixed heights.