How to fill text with an image

You've seen the effect: a postcard with the word "Maui," the letters filled in with images of sand, sea, and jungle. Text and image come together to create a compelling effect. This guide shows you how to fill text with one or more images. To do so, you first convert the letters of a text line to frames, and then fill those frames with images.

To fill a line of text with one image:

1. Create a new a document in Adobe InDesign CS6.
2. Choose Window > Type & Tables > Character to display the Character panel.

   Your text needs to be fairly large and thick so the images show clearly inside the text characters.
3. Set the following or similar options in the Character panel (**Figure 1**):
   - From the Font pop-up menu, choose a thick font, such as Copper Std.
   - From the Font Size pop-up menu, choose 72 pt. You could type an even higher number into the Font Size box.
   - Adjust tracking and kerning as desired. Because you're only creating one line, you do not need to worry about leading.
4. Select the Type tool in the Tools panel (**Figure 2**) and drag on the page to create a text frame.
5. Type a short line of text in the text frame, such as Play.

   Note: If you type in all capitals, the image has more room to show through.
6. When you finish typing, select the text with the Type tool.

   Next, you convert the text to an outline. An *outline* is basically a frame in the shape of the text's letters.
7. Choose Type > Create Outlines.

   An outline is added to the text (**Figure 3**).

   Note: You might first need to choose Type > Show All Menu Items to make the Create Outlines menu item available.
8. Choose the Selection tool in the Tools panel (**Figure 2**).

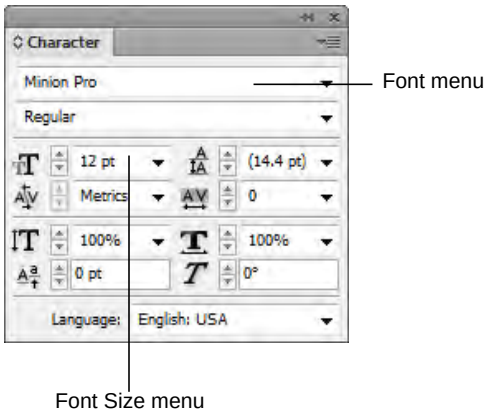

Figure 1 Character panel

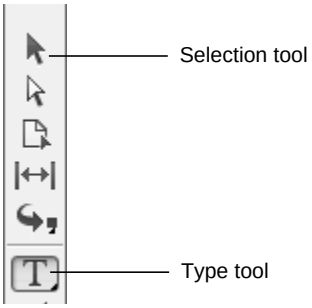

Figure 2 Tools panel

Figure 3 Text selected with Type tool

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9. Click one of the letters in the text.

   The outlines of the letters become visible as frames (**Figure 4**).

10. With the text outline still selected, choose File > Place.

    The Place dialog box appears.

11. Make sure Show Import Options is deselected and Replace Selected Item is selected.

    You use the *Show Import Options* option to manage advanced options for placed images. This option becomes especially important when you place image formats such as Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator files.

    The *Replace Selected Item* option asks InDesign to put the new image in place of whatever content is in the currently selected frame.

12. Select the Preview option (Windows).

    When the Preview option is selected, a thumbnail of the image appears in the lower-right corner of the Place dialog box.

13. Browse to the location of the image file you want to appear in the letters of your text.

14. Select the file and click Open.

    The Place dialog box closes, and the letter outlines fill with the selected image (**Figure 5**).

    Note: Even though the letters appear to be separate, they function as a single frame.

    The image isn't automatically well positioned behind the text. Your next task is to reposition the image.

15. With the text outlines still selected, choose Object > Select > Content.

    The image becomes selected (**Figure 6**). Only part of the image is visible through the text.

    Note: If the text outlines become deselected, you can click anywhere in the text and then choose Object > Select > Content to select the image inside the graphic frame .

16. As you drag the image to position it behind the text, the location appears with X and Y coordinates to help guide you for proper placement (**Figure 7**).

    You can also select a corner handle to scale an image behind the text.

17. Release the mouse to accept the changes (**Figure 8**).

Figure 4 Outlines of letters

Figure 5 Initial step of text filed with image

Figure 6 Image selected

Figure 7 Positioning image behind text

Figure 8 Text filled with image

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