

InDesign Introduction Series:

Phase 2 - Planning & Pictures

Pro-Tip: Have a Goal or End Product in mind, BEFORE you build.

InDesign is the last program designers will use before printing or publishing a file or document.

Because of this, using InDesign requires the user to have a plan or end goal in mind.

For our build, we will be creating a 2-Page Character Profile. This will allow us to use a combination of images and text.

In my experience, making a checklist before you build can be helpful in keeping track what you are doing.

This checklist does not need to be overly detailed - but by listing what you will need for end product, you will begin to think about the types of tools you will need to use in InDesign.

For our **Essential Parts**, we will be using:

Frame Tool
Text Tool

That's it!

Once we have a layout of where all our essential parts go, we can then focus on doing design details and other artistic features.

Another way to look at InDesign is as a digital scrapbook maker.

InDesign Checklist

Goal: Character Profile (2 pages)

Essential Parts:

- **Pictures (4-6)**
 - Character
 - Action
 - Environment
 - Extras
- **Titles**
 - Text boxes
- **Information Blocks (text boxes)**
 - Name
 - Features
 - History
 - Interesting Facts

Design Parts:

- **Picture collection**
- **Font types**
- **Styling elements**
 - Colours
 - Shadows
 - Glow
 - Layering

Here's my checklist for this build.

I broke up the work into 2 parts:

Essentials (What I Absolutely Need)

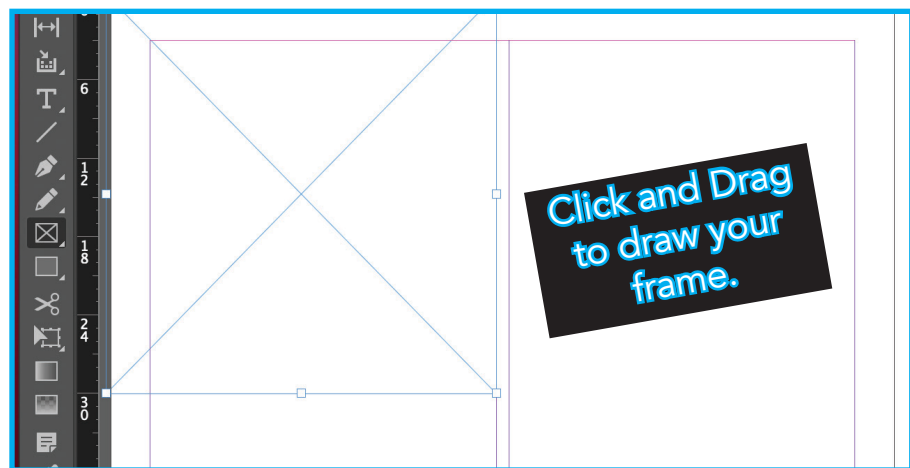
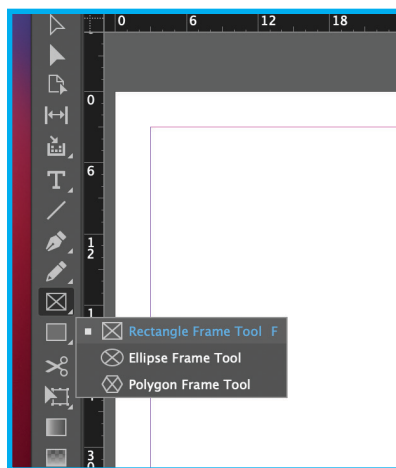
Design (Details and Art Stylings)

Building -> Start with Pictures

Picture location is a great starting point of working on this type of design. Pictures will help to grab a viewers attention and will help to break up text into smaller pieces.

For pictures, we will use the Frame Tool. This tool has some other settings buried in it. Click and Hold the Frame Tool to see what other shapes...

**Rectangular, Elliptical, Polygon
(multi-sided shape)**



Frame Details

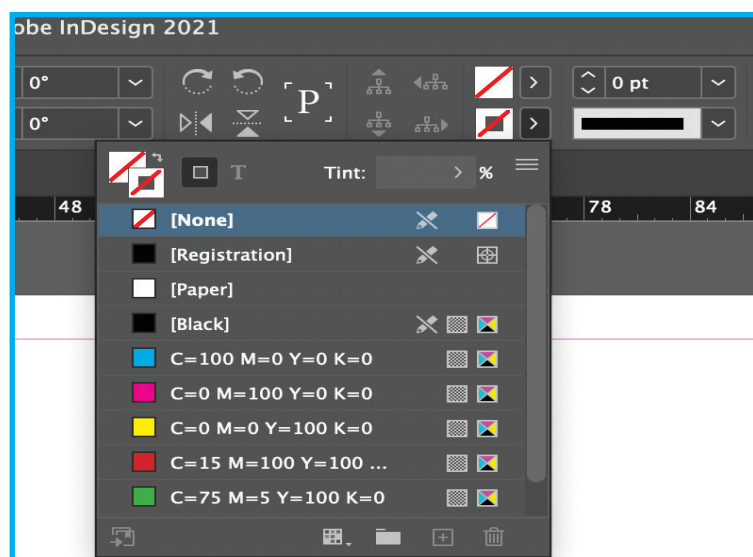
With the Frame Tool active, look at the top properties menu.

In here we can manually change the size, position, fill and outline of our frame.

To add an outline, look for the two colour blocks - the bottom one is where you can change the colour.

The options to the right will change the size and style of the outline.

Try it out!



Adding Frames

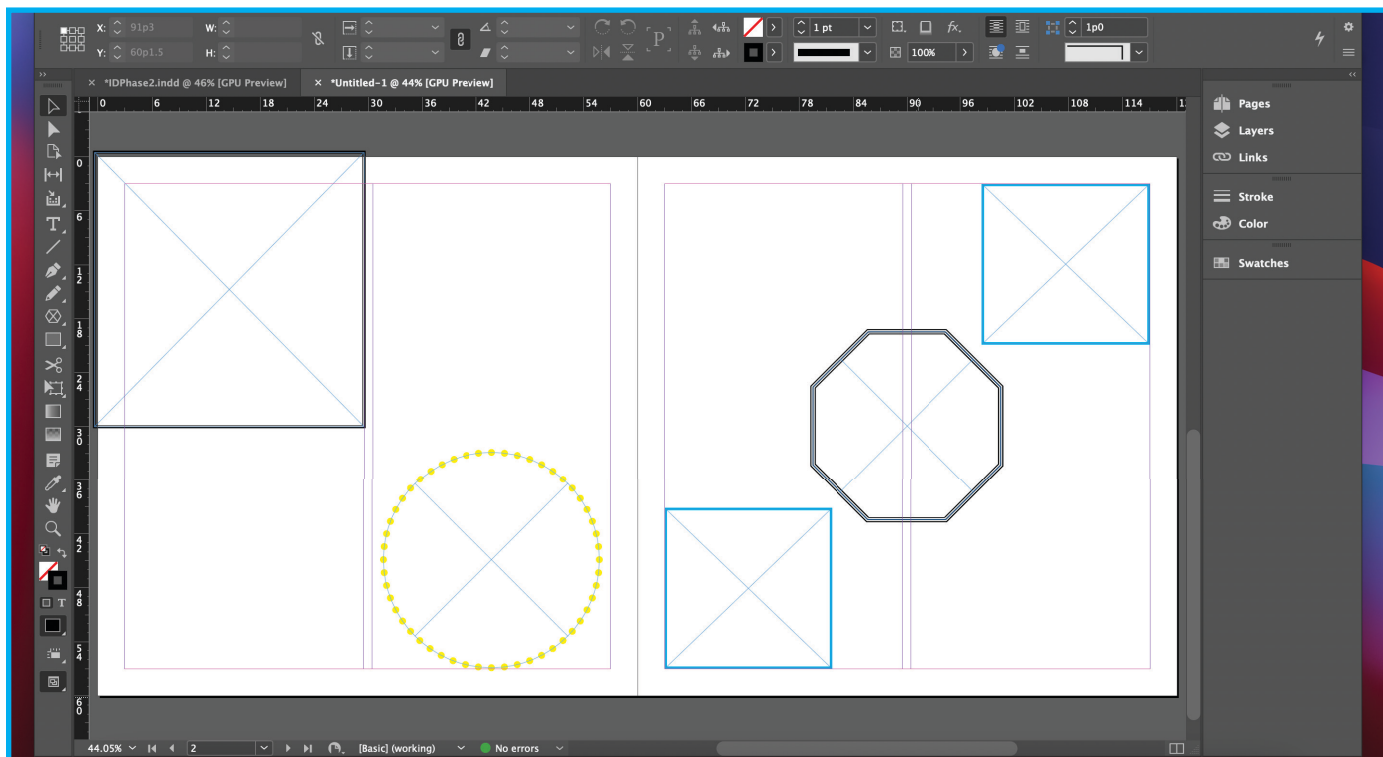
With our Key Image placed, we can now add the rest of frames.

There is no set rule on how many pictures go in a two page layout - this decision is up to the designer.

However, if you choose less photos, you will want to make sure they are amazing.

Add 4 frames to your space, for a total of 5.

Here's what mine looks like.



Adjusting Frames

The default for all the frames are regular, even shapes - but what if you want to change that?

The Direct Selection Tool allows you to pick out an individual corner and move it to where you want. This is a great way to change up the look of your layout.

