# Recipes for Applying—and Ignoring—Text Wrap

## *Whip Up a Few Tasty Treats Using InDesign's Text Wrap Features*

**By DIANE BURNS**

It doesn't take long to discover the usefulness of InDesign's Text Wrap feature. After all, text wrap is that lovely feature that, among other things, allows our text to have a, shall we say, *muy compatible* relationship to adjacent graphics or even other text. Text Wrap is simply applied by selecting a frame or object around which you want text to wrap, then setting the desired wrap using controls in the Text Wrap palette by choosing **Window > Text > Text Wrap**. Applying a text wrap creates an editable text wrap boundary around an object.

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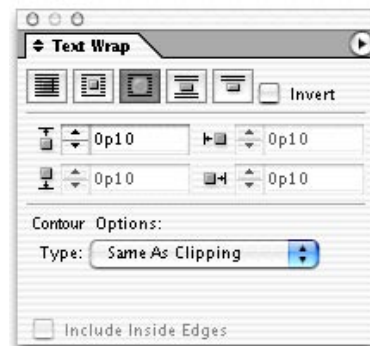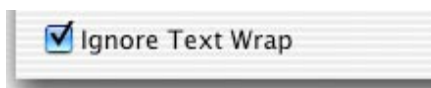
The icons across the top of the palette indicate the basic text wrap shape **(Figure 1)**. Once the basic shape is selected, you can set the inset values, and in the case of Wrap Around Object Shape, known as *contour wrapping*, you can also set the text wrap boundary to be the same as the image's clipping path or alpha channel. Unlike in QuarkXPress, text wrap in InDesign takes effect regardless of the layering order of objects.



**Figure 1**: Text Wrap palette

However, even though text wrap can be essential to achieving a certain effect, there are times when we need text wrap around one area of an object, but not another. For example, we might need body text to wrap around a graphic, but not a headline. That's when a little check box, located far away from the Text Wrap palette, comes into play. This little text wrap helper, *Ignore Text Wrap*, can be found at the very bottom of the Text Frame Options dialog box under **Object > Text Frame Options (Figure 2)**. To use



**Figure 2:** Text Frame Options dialog (detail)

this handy feature, select the frame containing the text that you don't want to be affected by an overlying item that has Text Wrap applied, and check *Ignore Text Wrap*. With *Text Wrap* and *Ignore Text Wrap*, you really can have it both ways. Use *Ignore Text Wrap* when you want to create interesting pull quotes, headlines with graphics slightly overlapping them, or even to put a price on your products! #

## Wrapped Graphics Over Text

*Ingredients*

1  Headline
1  Graphic
Body text to taste
The Text Wrap palette
The Text Frame Options dialog box

**DIRECTIONS:** Take one headline and one two-column frame of body text; position on page. Place graphic. Apply text wrap to the graphic by clicking the 🖾 icon in the Text Wrap palette. Position the graphic over the text frames. The headline text will momentarily be pushed out of its frame by the text wrap on the graphic; select the headline text frame, open the **Object > Text Frame Options** dialog box, and click Ignore Text Wrap. The headline will flow back into its frame, and the graphic can be positioned over it freely without displacing the text.

*Serve chilled with garnish. Perfect with margaritas on the rocks.*

## Text Wrap à la *New York Times*

*Ingredients*

1  Capital letterform in your favorite font (e.g., Berthold City)
The Create Outlines command (optional)
The Text Wrap palette
The Text Frame Options dialog box

**DIRECTIONS:** Type a capital letter in a text frame. Increase size as desired. Optionally, you can convert the character to outlines to make easier to work with: Click on the frame with the Selection tool and covert to outlines using the *Create Outlines* command. Create a separate text frame containing the pull quote text, and apply text wrap to the pull quote text frame by clicking the ⬛ icon in the Text Wrap palette. Position the pull quote text within the main story, and set the desired insets for the wrap. Position the outlined capital within the pull quote and main story. Apply text wrap to this frame. The pull quote text will momentarily be pushed out of its frame by the text wrap on the capital; select the pull quote text frame, open the **Object > Text Frame Options** dialog box, and click Ignore Text Wrap.

*Serves thousands of readers every Sunday.*

# Prix d'une Pêche

*Ingredients*

Body or other text
1   Image (e.g., a pretty peach)
Text for topping
The Text Frame Options or Preferences dialog box

**DIRECTIONS:** Take one image, and apply text wrap to it by clicking the  icon  in the Text Wrap palette. Position the image over text. Next, create a text frame that will be positioned over the image. If you position the text frame over the image, the text will be displaced by the Text Wrap applied to the image. Instead, open the Text Frame Options dialog box (**Object > Text Frame Options**) and check Ignore Text Wrap. You can now freely position the text over the image, without displacing the topping text! If you're putting the entire store on sale, you can save time by simply turning on the Text Wrap Only Affects Text Beneath preference (**InDesign > Preferences > Composition > Text Wrap**). By this method, you don't have to use the Ignore Text Wrap option in each instance.

*Use when you want the cool, refreshing pleasures of text sitting on top of an object to which Text Wrap has been applied.*

**DIANE BURNS** is a pioneer in electronic publishing, founding TechArt International in 1984. One of the first Macintosh-based design firms in the country, TechArt today is one of the leaders in print and web design, specializing in East Asian languages. She is also the author of many books on publishing, and loves to cook.

**Text Wrap** is applied to the graphic, causing the body copy to wrap around it.

Nothing is sweeter than a Georgia peach, and our fine organic fruit is grown with lots of love and kisses from the warm Southern sun.

SPECIAL PRICE

**Ignore Text Wrap** is applied to the frame containing the pricing text, which would otherwise be pushed out of its frame.