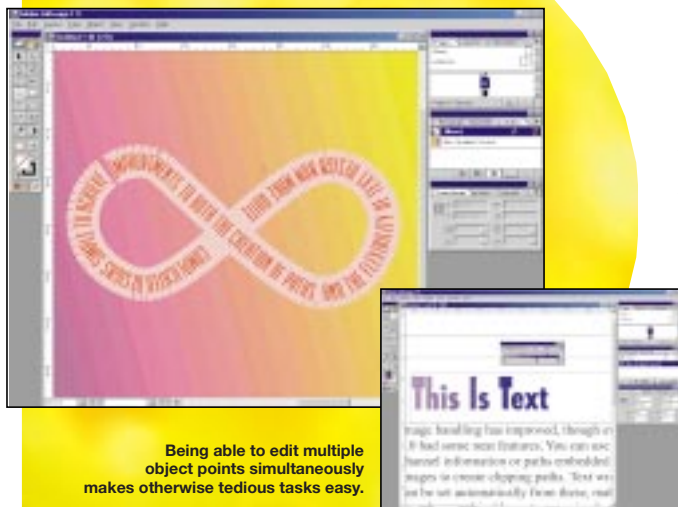




Not only the ability to put text on a path, but to put text on a very complicated path, and apply a variety of effects.



Being able to edit multiple object points simultaneously makes otherwise tedious tasks easy.

DTP

# ADOBE INDESIGN 1.5

*A much improved version of Adobe's DTP contender*

## WHAT'S NEW IN VERSION 1.5

### Key features

- Text can now be applied to a path
- Eyedropper tool for copying text and graphic formatting
- Vertical justification of text
- Freehand drawing tool
- Extended font usage and linked files utilities
- Use embedded alpha channels and clipping paths
- Multi-point curve editing

PRICE £516 EX VAT £439 SUPPLIER Adobe PHONE 0131 458 6842 WWW [www.adobe.co.uk](http://www.adobe.co.uk)

**A**dobe might not have achieved a huge share of the DTP market with the initial release of InDesign, but it has proved it is in for the long haul by refining the original, and developing the significantly improved version 1.5.

The original version of InDesign got a fairly lukewarm reception from the press and consumers alike. While it was certainly a good first version piece of software, it lacked any compelling features which would drive anyone to desert their current setup (though it has to be said the introductory price was a bargain). Indeed, InDesign had a few serious shortcomings.

Top of the list, then, for additions have been text and drawing features. InDesign now has the ability to place text on any path, and the paths themselves are much easier to edit – groups of path nodes can be selected and transformed just as easily as single points. There are new drawing tools, too – a pencil to draw freehand shapes, combined with a smooth tool and an eraser. The smooth tool makes the resulting curves more fluid, to a point, and the erase tool can be used for removing sections of the resulting object, though it has to be said its behaviour is rather erratic.

Professional designers will be pleased to note that it is now possible to manually edit the colour trapping information – a bizarre omission in the initial release. While Adobe still prefers to rely on In-RIP trapping, you can adjust and set up your own trapping information. It's not as easy as the way

Automatic colour naming will be a boon for slow-fingered designers.



Text wrapping is even easier, and can now be applied automatically to the contours of PDF and EPS images.

XPress handles trapping, but at least it's possible.

InDesign's graphic handling abilities have been pretty good from the word go, and they have improved even further. It is now possible to apply automatic object word wrap around PostScript-based images (EPS and PDF) as well as bitmaps, and embedded alpha channels and paths from Photoshop images can be used to create clipping paths in InDesign.

One disappointment is the lack of improvement in the HTML capabilities. InDesign still outputs accurate HTML pages, but at the expense of size. Virtually all text is rendered as GIF files, and only generic optimisations are applied – the resulting Web pages might look as intended, but a lot of people will probably give up long before the whole document is downloaded.

There are plenty of new features for wordsmiths, too, with the emphasis on ease of use and speed. It is possible to quickly change the case

of any text to upper, lower or mixed with a few clicks, and for those who can't be bothered to get their copy to fit properly, you can fiddle about with vertical justification.

There is a certain amount of extra polish in this release. The user interface has been tidied up, there are plenty of time-saving new shortcuts, and the full scope of some of the features has been realised. On top of that, there are certain flourishes which have obviously come about from listening to users. As Quark hopes to release an integrated PDF and HTML version of XPress in November, the battle for DTP supremacy will, no doubt, continue. If you have the original, it is well worth upgrading, and if you haven't yet been tempted, it's worth considering more than ever.

**Nick Veitch**



Trapping support has been enhanced with the ability to manually edit your settings.

## PC Plus

### VERDICT

#### ADOBE INDESIGN 1.5

For A raft of new features, and it is certainly ahead of Xpress in the PDF stakes

Against Disappointing HTML support, over-complicated trapping options, more daunting to use than XPress

Range of features.....8  
Ease of use.....7  
Documentation.....9  
Performance.....8  
Value for money.....9

**8/10**

### EXISTING OWNERS

## Upgrade options

The news for existing owners is also good. Anyone who bought a full priced copy of InDesign 1.0 after 1st January 2000 is promised a free upgrade, as is everyone who bought any version in the month preceding the announcement of the new version. Visit Adobe's Web site at [www.adobe.com/store/customerservice.html](http://www.adobe.com/store/customerservice.html).