

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 sea, sand, and sky (**Figure 1**). Text and image come together to create a compelling effect. This guide shows you how to fill text with an image. To do so, you first convert the letters of a text line to frames, and then fill those frames with an image. You can download the assets used in [this tutorial here](#).



Figure 1 Text filled with an image, with drop shadow and inner shadow effects applied

To fill a line of text with one image:

1. Create a new document in Adobe InDesign.
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 2**):
 - From the Font pop-up menu, choose a thick font, such as **Arial Black**.
 - From the Font Size pop-up menu, choose 100 pt or larger.
 - Adjust tracking and kerning as desired. Because you're only creating one line, you do not need to worry about leading.

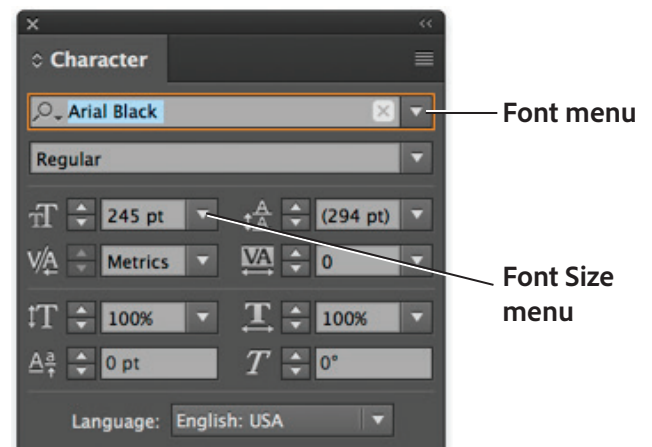


Figure 2 Character panel

4. Select the Type tool in the Tools panel (**Figure 3**) and drag on the page to create a text frame.

5. Type a short line of text in the text frame, such as "Maui".

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 (**Figure 4**).

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.

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.

9. Click one of the letters in the text.

The outlines of the letters become visible as frames (**Figure 5**).

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

The **Place** dialog box appears.

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

12. Select the file and click **Open**.

The **Place** dialog box closes, and the letter outlines fill with the selected image (**Figure 6**).

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.

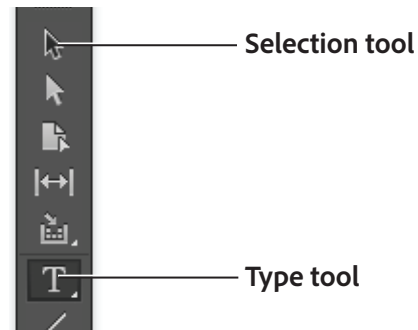


Figure 3 Tools panel



Figure 4 Text selected with Type tool



Figure 5 Outlines of letters



Figure 6 Initial step of text filled with image

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

The full size of the image is selected (**Figure 7**). 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 .

14. 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.

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

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



Figure 7 Image selected



Figure 8 Text filled with rescaled image

To fill individual letters with different images:

For a fun variation on filling a line of text with one image, consider creating individual letters and filling them with separate images. To do this, simply repeat the steps 4 to 15 from the previous section and create standalone letters filled with images.



Figure 9 Individual letters filled with separate images

Hawaii image by BKD, CC0 Public Domain.

For more information

Get instant access to free courses, workshops, & teaching materials and connect with the creative education community on the Adobe Education Exchange: <https://edex.adobe.com/>.



Adobe

Adobe Systems Incorporated
345 Park Avenue
San Jose, CA 95110-2704
USA
www.adobe.com

Adobe and the Adobe logo are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated in the United States and/or other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

© 2017 Adobe Systems Incorporated. All rights reserved.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License.