



# InDesign

MAGAZINE 16

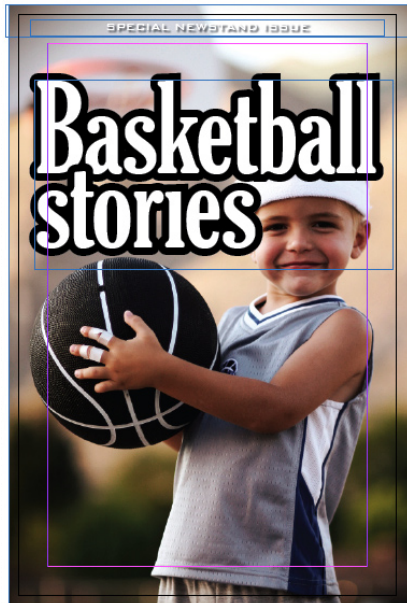
February | March 2007

## Make an Image Sandwich

Special offer on page 5!

## Make an Image Sandwich

Place an image above and below text and vector graphics for a tasty visual meal.



**Figure 2:** The vector text is on top of the entire image.

By DAVID BLATNER

I have long envied the covers of *Sports Illustrated*—but not the sports stars or the bathing beauties. My eye has been on one specific effect: Part of an image “pops” out and covers up part of the magazine’s logo. The logo remained vectors but the text over and behind it was built of pixels (Figure 1). Seemed like magic to me.

Yet like most magic tricks, almost anyone can do it once they understand the underlying principle and have practiced it a few times. Here’s how it goes.

### 1 Lay Out the Page

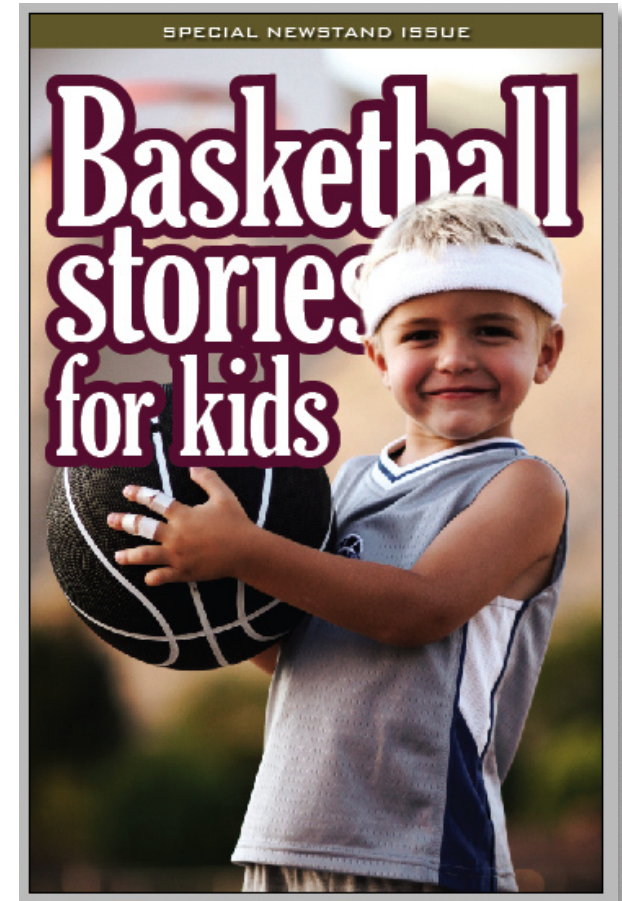
Lay out your page approximately how you want it to appear. In Figure 2, I’ve placed the logo (a text frame with text that I stroked and filled) above the full-page background image (courtesy of istockphoto.com).

### 2 Prepare the Image

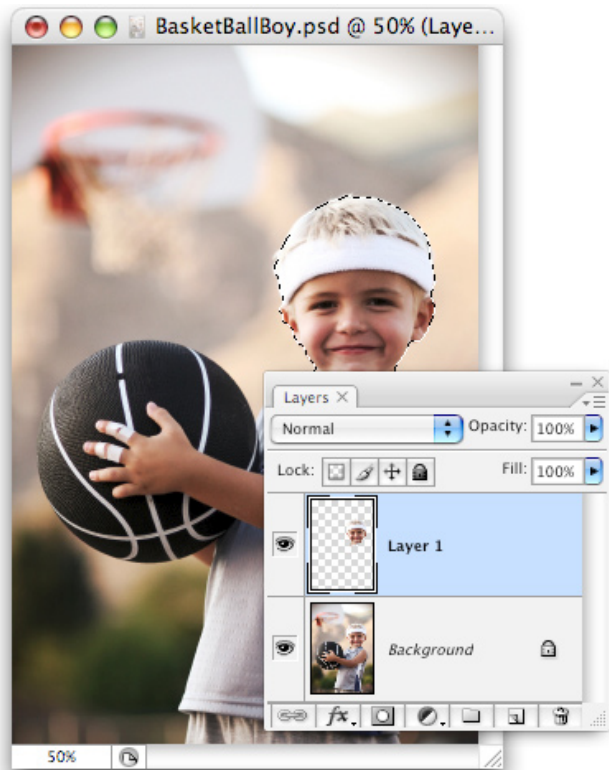
To perform this particular conjuring trick, I need to edit the image at the pixel level, which means I have to open the file in Photoshop. (You can Option/Alt-double-click to open the file in the original application.)

In Figure 3, I’ve selected pixels from the image (the head) and pressed Command/Ctrl-J to duplicate them onto a new layer. You can use any selection method you want for this task, including the Lasso tool or the Extract feature (see my book *Real World Adobe Photoshop CS2* for a variety of techniques).

Save the result as a native Photoshop (PSD) file.



**Figure 1:** Can this be done in InDesign? Of course! Image courtesy of istockphoto.com, design courtesy of me, not *Sports Illustrated*.



**Figure 3:** The duplicate created by copying the selection to a new layer in Photoshop.

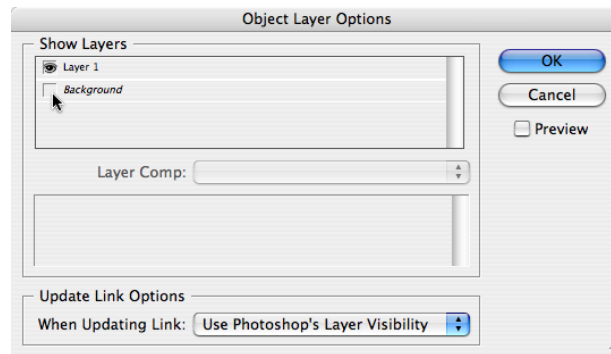
### 3 Duplicate Your Image

Back in InDesign, create a new layer and duplicate the image to that layer. To do this, you can copy the frame, select the layer, and choose **Edit > Paste in Place** (Command-Option-Shift-V/Ctrl-Alt-Shift-V). Or, after selecting the frame,

Option/Alt-drag the small colored square proxy icon in the Layers palette to the new frame. (Option/Alt tells InDesign to duplicate the frame on the new layer rather than just place it on that layer.)

### 4 Turn Off the Background

Remember that this image is a PSD file with two layers (the original image and the “floating head”), and that we can turn layers on and off in PSD files. In this case, we want to select the duplicate image and choose **Object > Object Layer Options** (Figure 4). Then turn off the Background layer and set the When Updating Link pop-up menu to Keep Layer Visibility Overrides. (That way, if you later make a change to the Photoshop file, InDesign maintains your changes to this dialog box.)



**Figure 4:** Turning off the background layer for the duplicate image hides everything but the boy's head.

### 5 The Vector Sandwich

Click OK. The result is two graphic frames, each containing the same image, each in perfect register (Figure 5). The top image has no background, so it appears transparent over the editable, vector text. The background image is still behind the text. Lock the top layer in the Layers palette so that you can't accidentally move (or even select) that “floating head.”



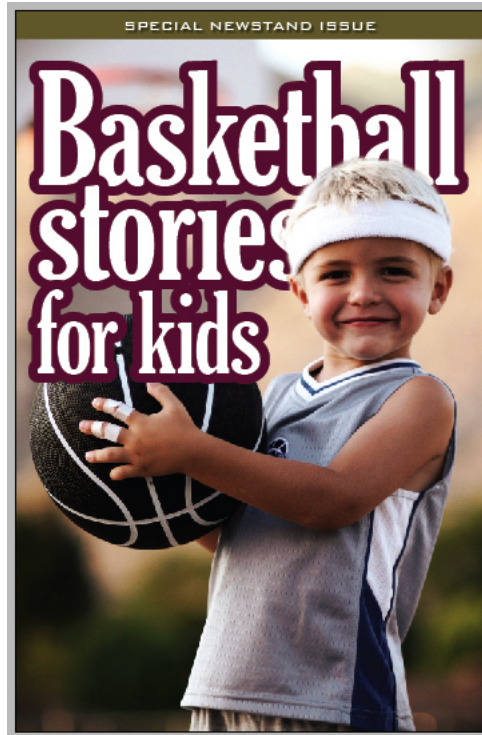
**Figure 5:** The vector text is sandwiched between two images.

### 6 Continue to Edit

Once you've created this effect, you can still make changes to the file easily. I used the Eyedropper tool to pick up a color from the CMYK image and apply it to the frame at the top of the page. Then I added more text to the title, which flows on top of the basketball (Figure 6).

If you ever need to move that image, remember that it's still two different frames. (You could group them, but grouped objects cannot live on two different layers, so you'd lose that option.)

■ **David Blatner** is the editorial director of *InDesign Magazine* and [The InDesign Conference](#), and is the co-host of [InDesignSecrets.com](#), a blog and podcast about InDesign and InCopy.



**Figure 6:** Adding more text that flows over the background emphasizes the effect.



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