

Good Impressions

Printing numbered tickets is easier than you think; Richard Grant raises the curtain to show you how

I was asked recently to print some tickets for a charity theatre production, one of the specifications being that each ticket should be numbered. I was given the wording and told I had to produce 200 tickets. This prompted me to investigate how Impression could be used to do this, and for what other uses the same techniques could be employed.

There are, as always, several ways to number things sequentially in Impression and its derivatives. Perhaps the easiest way to start with is to work from a Master Page and let the computer handle the numbering for you. So let's assume that you wish to make your tickets A6 size (i.e. one quarter of an A4 sheet) and that you will be using A4 paper or card to print on.

COUNTING BY NUMBERS

Before you start, however, you will need to generate a list of numbers, each one occupying a separate line. Listing 1 will do this for you from Basic and can be run directly from the desktop. It will save a data file called Numbers in the currently selected directory, so you should add a pathname to the filename in the fifth line if you want to save it to a particular directory. The program allows you to define both the start and finish numbers for the print run so you don't have to start from 1.

Listing 1

```
CLS
INPUT "Enter Start number: "start%
PRINT
```

```
INPUT "Enter End number: "end%
Z%=OPENOUT("Numbers")
FOR X%=start% TO end%
  BPUT#Z%,STR$(X%)
NEXT:CLOSE#Z%
```

Open an A4 document and using Sh-Ctrl-A change its format to A4 Landscape. Open its Master Page, and on the Master Page create one frame approximately one quarter of the page in size at the top left. This is your ticket master. At this stage you now create your text and incorporate any graphics frames within this frame, but, and this is most important, also create a small frame just large enough to hold the ticket number, somewhere on the ticket.

GROUPING...

Now group together all the frames you have created and copy them to the clipboard. Impression II users should use Ctrl-C, while Style/Publisher users can use the Copy icon on the tool bar. Using Ctrl-V or Insert (or the paste icon for Style/Publisher) paste into place three copies of your ticket so that the A4 sheet is now complete. Close the Master Page and save your work at this stage as it is easy to go wrong at the next!

...AND LINKING

The next stage is important. You need to link together the small ticket number frames on the Master Page, one on each ticket, so that there is a natural text flow from one ticket to the next. So re-open the Master Page and on it click Select on the small frame on the top left ticket, then follow this with an Adjust click on the equivalent frame on the top right ticket. Immediately, before clicking anywhere else, click Select in the same frame (in the top right ticket) and then Adjust in the bottom left ticket small frame. Repeat this action from the third ticket to the last ticket at the bottom right (Figure 1). Close the Master Page and save your work again. If you now click to show the flow (from the icon bar menu in Impression or the Show Flow icon in

Style/Publisher) you should see a series of black arrows leading from one ticket to the next.

The general idea is that any text that is dropped onto the first small frame will automatically flow across each of these linked frames, and if the frame and text are adjusted so that only one line is capable of being shown in the frame, each new line will fall into the next small frame and create new pages of tickets automatically. The text you are going to drop in is the Numbers file you created before.

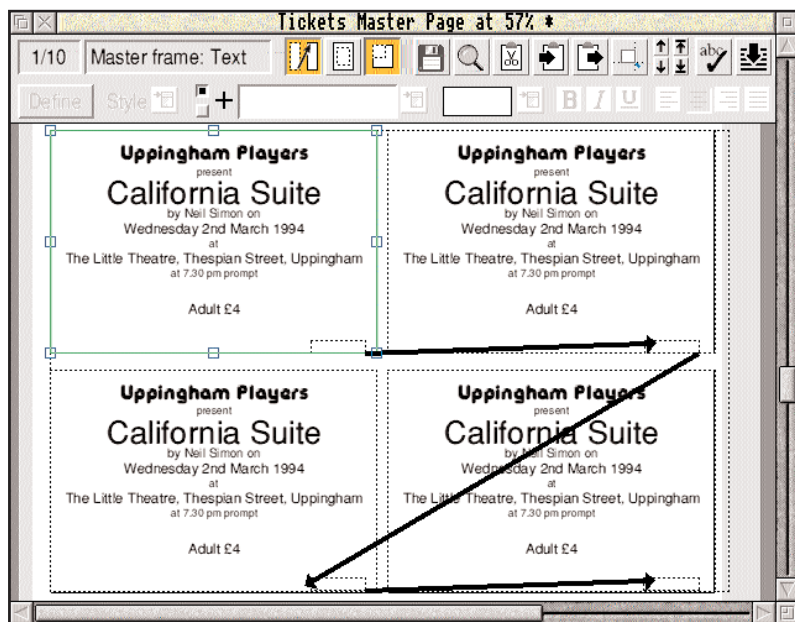
So click on the top left small frame to give it the input focus and if all has gone well, when you drop your Numbers file onto this frame, as many pages as is required to generate tickets for all your numbers will be created. All that remains is to print them out and cut up the full pages into tickets.

Of course, as I mentioned before, there is always more than one way of doing this. If you want only small runs of numbers, you could simply position the cursor in the first small frame of your working page, type 1 and Return followed by 2 and Return and then 3 etc., each Return forcing the cursor to the next small frame, until all your numbers are in place.

USING A DIFFERENT APPROACH

You can, of course, create your tickets one to a page instead of four-up, and there is an alternative method for doing this. Open a document and bring up the Master Pages as before. This time, rather than editing an existing page, open the New master page

dialogue box using Ctrl-F7, click on the Custom button for the page size and edit the fields to match your ticket exactly. Again, on the newly created Master Page, you need to create a small frame for the ticket number but this time you will need the use of a second similar frame to help generate the numbers.



Showing text flow between the frames

Click on the small frame that you will be using for the numbering and use the Insert page number facility to insert the current page number. Compose your ticket on the Master Page and then close it. Now, on the normal document page, position the cursor in the small, empty second frame and press Return as many times as you need to generate your tickets. If you have again chosen your second frame size and text size to correspond, then each time you press Return the text will overflow from this frame. Since it is a Master Page frame, another page (or ticket) will automatically be created, generating an apparent page number each time as it does so.

THIS MONTH'S HINTLET

Finally here is a little hint: if you are saving your work, it is more

