
Grid Master

Version 1.0



Grid Master

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Grid Master

Introduction

Grid Master is an XTension for QuarkXPress® versions 3.1 and higher. Grid Master creates equally spaced grids of text or picture boxes two ways. The XTension can create boxes in a defined area when given the number of boxes and gutter width across and down. The XTension can also create grids of boxes of a defined size given the number of boxes and gutter width across and down.

Minimum System Requirements

Grid Master is designed for QuarkXPress 3.1.

Grid Master is network protected and is fully compatible with floppy, RAM, or hard disks.

This manual assumes that you are familiar with standard Macintosh procedures such as basic use of the mouse, clicking, pulling down menus, copying files, and copying disks. If any of these procedures are new to you, please refer to your Macintosh user's manual.

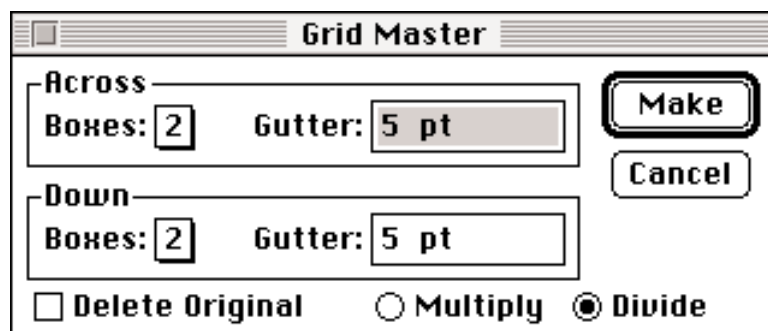
Installing Grid Master

The Grid Master disk that you have purchased contains the file **Grid Master**. To install Grid Master, drag the file into the same folder that contains the QuarkXPress application. After this has been done, place the original Grid Master disk in a safe place.

Creating Boxes to Fill a Defined Area

It is possible to manually create a number of boxes to fit in a defined area. However, this usually involves a number of calculations on the user's part before any results are seen. Grid Master makes this process simple.

To fill a defined area with boxes, create a text box to mark the area if text boxes are desired or create a graphic box to define the area if graphic boxes are desired. Any attributes such as color or border which are desired in the finished boxes should be applied to this box. With the box selected, choose *Grid Master...* from the **Utilities** menu. A dialog appears:



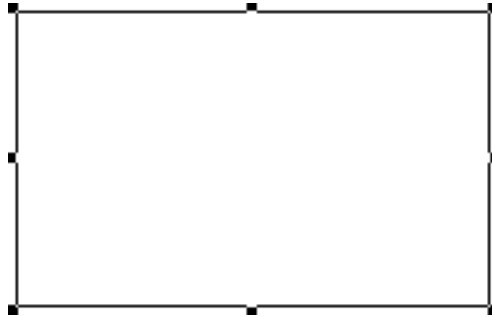
The Grid Master dialog

For the Across controls, choose the desired number of boxes from the *Boxes* popup menu, then enter the space desired between boxes in the Gutter field. Repeat the process for the Down controls. Check the Delete Original check box if the currently selected box should be deleted after the smaller boxes are created, and choose the Divide radio button. Then click the **Make** button, and the original box is automatically filled with the defined boxes. The newly created boxes are grouped together, but they are not grouped to the original box which was used to define their boundary.

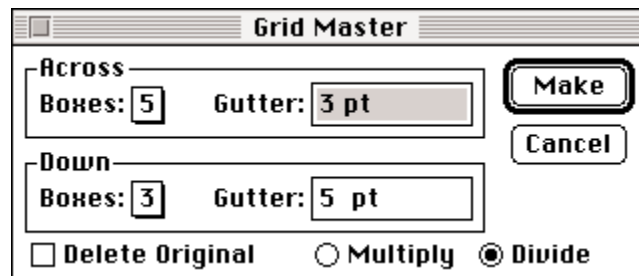
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Creating Boxes to Fill a Defined Area — Example

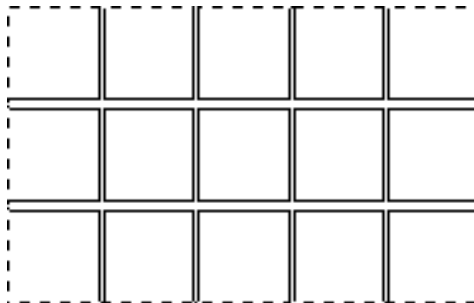
For example, take the following text box:



Choose *Grid Master...* from the **Utilities** menu. Set the controls to the desired settings (make sure the Divide radio button is selected) and click the **Make** button.



Smaller boxes fill the area according to the specifications and are automatically grouped together.



Creating Boxes of a Defined Size

It is also possible to take boxes of a defined size and use the QuarkXPress Step and Repeat feature to arrange them in a grid pattern. However, this can be accomplished in one easy step with Grid Master. Grid Master's multiply feature makes it work very much like an enhanced Step and Repeat function.

To make a grid of boxes of a defined size, first create a box the size desired. Remember that the boxes created will be identical to this one, so make it a text box if the boxes that follow should be a text box, and a graphic box if graphic boxes are desired. Any attributes such as color or border which are desired in the finished boxes should be applied to this box.

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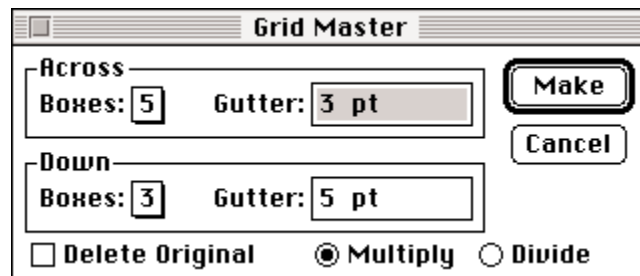
Next choose *Grid Master...* from the **Utilities** menu. When the dialog appears, set the number of boxes desired and the gutter width for both across and down. Make sure the Delete Original check box is set as desired, and choose the Multiply radio button. When everything in the dialog is set correctly, click the **Make** button. The boxes which are made are automatically grouped together for the user's convenience.

Creating Boxes of a Defined Size — Example

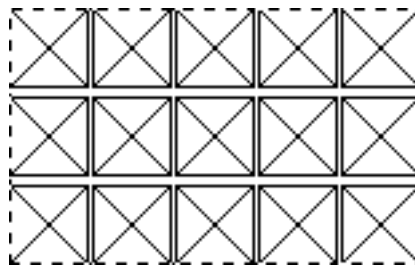
For example, take the following graphic box:



Choose *Grid Master...* from the **Utilities** menu. Set the controls to the desired settings (make sure the Multiply radio button is selected) and click the **Make** button.



Larger boxes are created in across and down rows as specified in the Grid Master dialog.

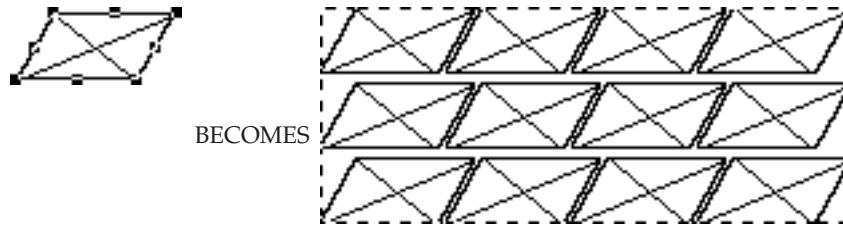


Rotated and Skewed Boxes

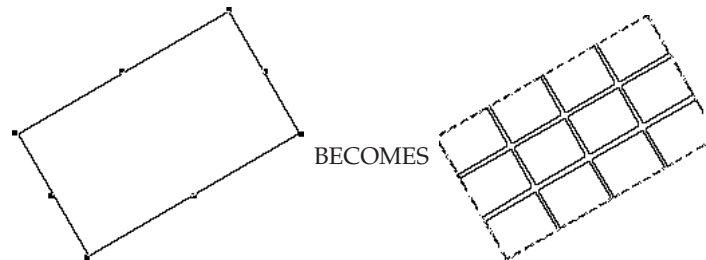
Grid Master works with rotated and skewed boxes. When using Grid Master on rotated boxes, all resulting boxes are oriented using the origin and angle of the original box. When Grid Master is used on a skewed box, the resulting boxes are placed as if the original box had not been skewed, and then they are skewed the same angle as the original box.

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Example — Skewed boxes



Example — Rotated boxes



Notes

- If the user tries to place too many boxes with too wide a gutter area in an area which is not wide or tall enough, Grid Master returns an error. For example, it is not possible to place 5 boxes across with a gutter of 7 pt in an area which is only 20 pt wide.
- When using Grid Master's Multiply feature, be careful not to use settings which place part of the grid off of the bottom of the page. Grid Master cannot create a grid which runs off of the bottom of the page and will return an error.