

Adobe InDesign CS

Enhance text design with nested styles

Creating nested styles is a great way to add unusual text effects to your document. With Adobe InDesign® CS, you can apply one character style to the beginning of a paragraph, and then determine where that character style stops and the next character style begins. By creating a paragraph style that includes these nested styles, you can quickly apply the effect to multiple paragraphs.

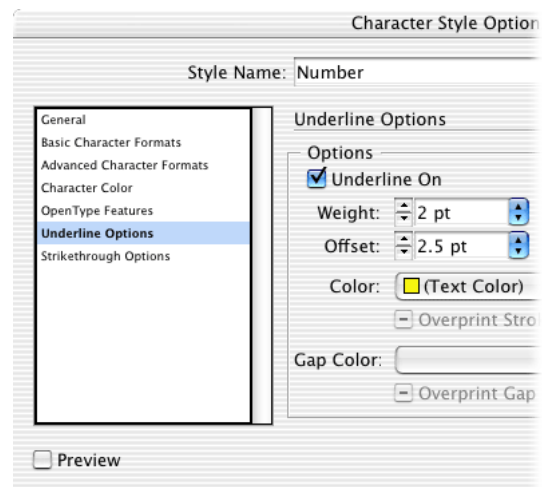


1. Create character styles.

Open the Character Styles palette, and then choose New Character Style from the palette menu. Specify the style attributes using the tabs on the left side of the dialog box, and then click OK. If you want to use more than one nested style in your paragraph, create additional character styles.

In our example, we created two character styles. For the Number style, we used an 18-point font, yellow text color, and a wavy yellow underline. For the Run-In style, we used an 11-point font, blue text color, and a wavy dotted underline.

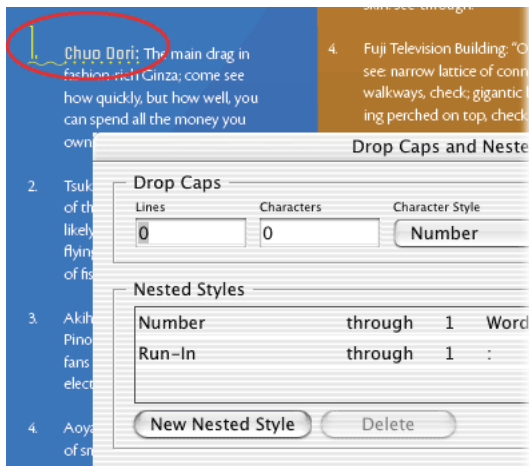
Tip: To create a hanging indent for the numbered paragraphs, type **1p6** for Left Indent and **-1p6** for First Line Indent in the Control palette or Paragraph palette.



2. Apply nested styles.

Now that you've created the nested styles, it's time to apply them to the first paragraph. Using the Type tool, click in the first paragraph of your list. In the Control palette, click the Paragraph icon to display the paragraph options. Choose Drop Caps and Nested Styles from the Control palette menu. Click New Nested Style. In the first box under Nested Styles, select a character style you created. In the text areas to the right of the character style name, specify where the first style will end. Add other nested styles as needed, and then click OK.

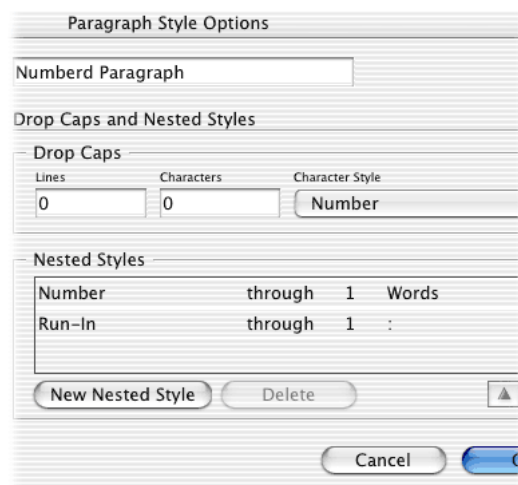
In our example, we applied the Number style through the first space after the number. When the Number style ends, the Run-In style is applied through the first colon.



3. Create a paragraph style.

With the insertion point in the paragraph where you just applied the nested style, create a new paragraph style by choosing New Paragraph Style from the Paragraph Styles palette. This command creates a new paragraph style based on the formatting of the current paragraph. The nested style formatting is included automatically in the paragraph style. You can apply any additional paragraph formatting you want, such as changing the font for the paragraph text, adding spacing above the paragraphs, and so on.

Tip: The Drop Cap section of the Drop Caps and Nested Styles dialog box is a great way to quickly apply a character style to drop caps in paragraphs. If you apply a character style for a drop cap, it acts as the first nested style. (In our example, we didn't use a drop cap.)



4. Apply the paragraph style to text.

Select a paragraph or a set of paragraphs, and then click the paragraph style you created in the Paragraph Styles palette. The paragraphs are formatted with the nested styles.

Make sure that the paragraphs are set up properly for the nested styles. In our example, the Run-In style is applied through the first colon. If a paragraph does not have a colon, the Run-In style would be applied through the end of the paragraph. You can end a nested style at any point by placing the insertion point and choosing Type > Insert Special Character > End Nested Style Here.

