How to Use OpenType in InDesign CS5

**Subject Descriptors:** InDesign CS5, OpenType, Font, Glyphs, Alternates, Stylistic, Show, Real Fractions, Discretionary Ligatures, Ordinals, Swash

**Application (Version):** Adobe InDesign CS5 - Windows

**Task Description:** OpenType fonts provide improved cross-platform document portability, rich linguistic support, powerful typographic capabilities, and simplified font-management requirements.

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**Which OpenType Fonts Do You Have?**

When you installed InDesign or the Creative Suite, you also installed some Open Type fonts; however, how do you know which fonts are Open Type? You can check it out in InDesign's Type>Font menu. This menu shows you a sample of the fonts and better yet, it shows you the type of font that it is before you use it.

*Note: If your font list doesn't show type samples (as shown), press Command+K (Ctrl+K) to open the InDesign Preferences and under Type, check the Font Preview Size box, and click OK.*
Use the **Type tool** (T) and create a new text frame in a document. I'm going to use Bickham Script Pro for this first example. For this illustration, we'll type "Griffin Family Reunion." It doesn't really matter what we type; however with this phrase, we'll have some nice characters to work with.

### Alternate Characters

Let's play with some alternate characters: First, highlight the letter "G" with the **Type tool** and go under the **Type menu** and choose **Glyphs**.
By default, the Glyphs panel will show you the entire font, highlighting the character that you've selected. If you see a little arrow in the lower-right corner of the character in the Glyphs panel, then that means you have additional glyphs available for that character.
Switch to the Alternates View

Although we could use the little flyout of alternate glyphs for each character we highlight, it's much easier to use the Alternates for Selection view. So in the Show pop-up menu, choose Access All Alternates and you'll see the alternate Ws for this font. Double-click on one of them to test it out. Then, try out alternate glyphs for some of the other characters in your text.

Use Stylistic Sets

Sometimes it's hard to figure out which alternate characters you want to use. No problem, because some fonts have Stylistic Sets. For this example, we'll use Poetica Std to type "Beautiful Type made Possible with Open Type" (top example). Highlight the text, bring up the OpenType flyout menu and choose Set 1 from your Stylistic Sets submenu. You'll notice that the capital letters changed to different glyphs (bottom). Choose Undo from the Edit menu and try other sets.

You can also use your Glyphs panel to preview a set before you use it. Just choose the different sets from the Show pop-up menu.
Next, let's take a look at Discretionary Ligatures. Highlight the "ff" in "Griffin" and switch to Discretionary Ligatures in the Show pop-up menu. You should see some really nice ligatures, so double-click on one to choose it.

Another OpenType advantage is "real" fractions. Since the dawn of computers, we've always typed one half as 1/2; however, in typography it should look like the 1 is higher than the 2 and above the slash. Typically, this would take some kerning and baseline shifting, or a special fractions font, to get this look. Now with OpenType, you can just turn on those fractions. Create a new text frame with the Type tool and type some fractions manually in Adobe Garamond Pro.
There are a couple of places to pop up the OpenType menu: You can either do it from the Control panel flyout menu or the Character panel flyout menu. Highlight your fraction(s), then once you have the OpenType menu open, choose Fraction. This will turn your numbers and slashes into real fractions without the need for any extra work on your part.
What about Ordinals?

Once again, we’re all used to settling for ordinary-looking ordinals such as 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc. In the typography world, we want those ordinals to be superscripted. Create a new frame and type some ordinals like the ones shown.

Turn on Ordinals

Highlight the ordinals you typed and choose **Ordinal** form the **OpenType** flyout menu from the **Character** panel or **Control** panel.
Other tips

Features not supported in the current font appear in square brackets, such as [Swash].

Keep in mind that you'll also find OpenType support in Adobe Photoshop CS3 and Adobe Illustrator CS3, so the things that you just learned here will also work across the Creative Suite.