



www.layoutgridcalculator.com



USER GUIDE

Layout Grid Calculator

Version 1.1.0



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Getting started with the Layout Grid Calculator

Layout Grid Calculator (LGC) help you create a perfect typographic grid in no time. Either for a new design or to refine an existing one, the realization of such a grid requires expertise and a lot of calculation, but in a few clicks, with the LGC you can have a perfect grid where all the components of the typographic grid system (document grid, lead, reference grid, margins and gutters) correlates to each other perfectly.

Installation

The [Layout Grid Calculator plug-in](#) can only be found and installed via the [Adobe Exchange](#) customer portal. Sign in to the Adobe Exchange portal to install your extension. When file synchronization is enabled, purchased add-ons will automatically sync with the Creative Cloud account and will available in InDesign. If you cannot install your extension using the Adobe CC Desktop application, please follow the instructions on the Adobe Exchange portal to install the plug-in using an extension install utility or command line.

Using the Layout Grid Calculator

Launching the LGC panel

After installation, the Layout Grid Calculator panel can be accessed in Window > Extensions > Layout Grid Calculator.

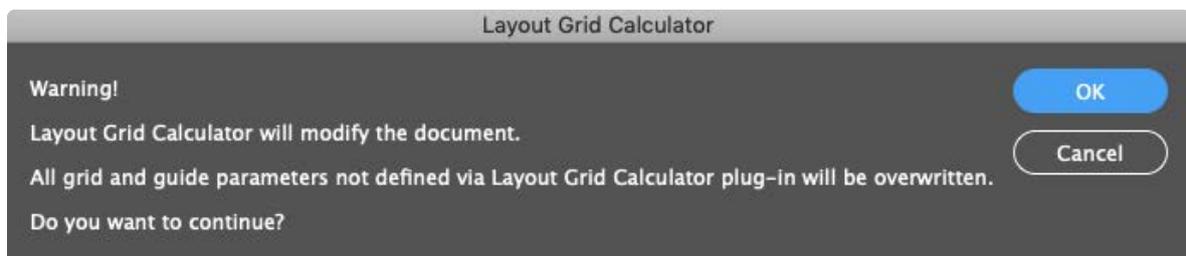


Figure 1. Warning dialog box at launch.

A *warning dialog box* appears each time the LGC panel is launched, (Figure 1). It warns you that changes will be made to the open document and that all grid and guide settings that were not created using the LGC will be overwritten.

When the panel is launched it checks the existence of LGC settings, if LGC settings are found, the panel extracts this information and displays it without making any changes to the actual configuration of the open document. But if it does not find any existing LGC settings, the panel analyzes the open document, and adjusts it according to the panel's presets.

Click *OK* to continue and make changes or *Cancel* to apply no modification to your document and in this case the LGC will not be launched.

Works on *Master pages* only

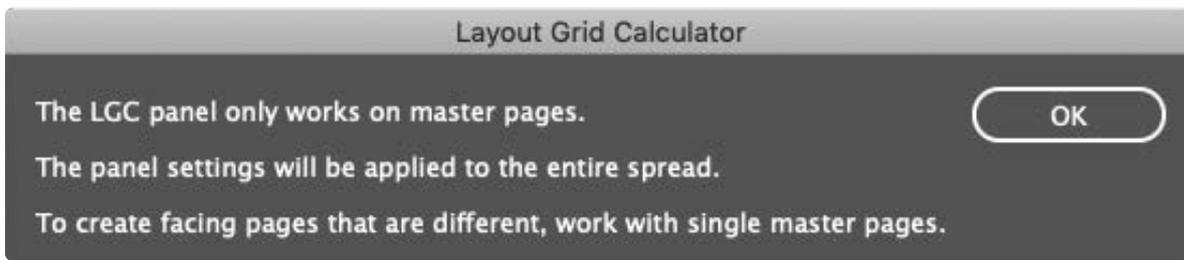


Figure 2. Opening instructions.

The LGC only works on the *master pages*. So when you launch the LGC panel, it automatically displays the *master page* on the pasteboard so you can start configuring your grid. Changes made using the panel will be applied to the entire selected *master spread* (see more on page 7).

Workspace overview

Three configuration modes

The Layout Grid Calculator panel consists of three configuration modes, the *Modular*, *Column* and *Manuscript* modes, which are three calculation methods of configuring the typographic grid. Choose a method according to your publication type or page format. Some modes work best for small formats, others for long text, etc.

The *Modular* and the *Multicolumn* modes can be used simultaneously in the same document (see page 7).

Modular

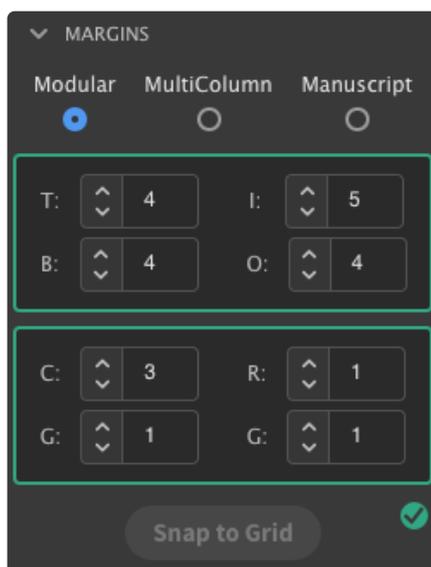


Figure 3. Modular control panel.

Multicolumn

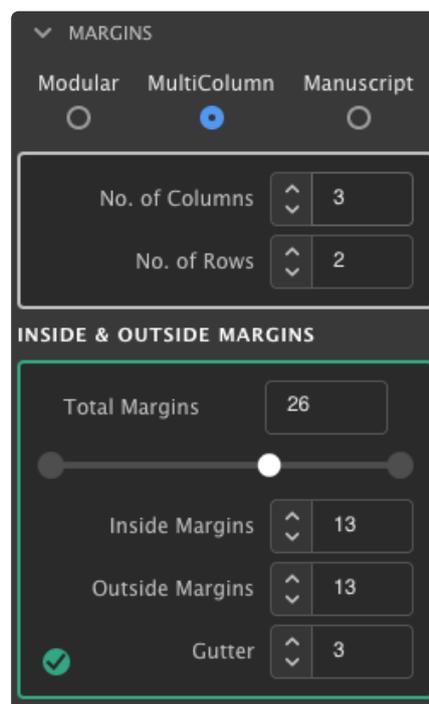


Figure 4. Multicolumn control panel.

Manuscript

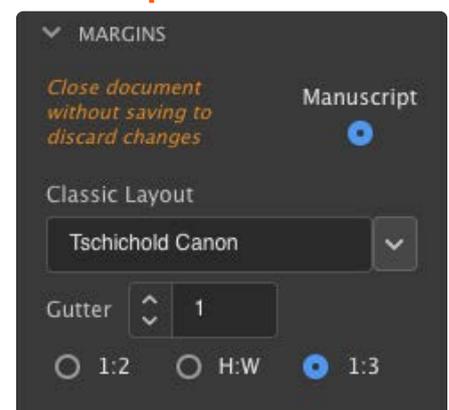


Figure 4. Multicolumn control panel.

Important: Recommended Workflow

Below is the recommended workflow for using the layout grid calculator.

Steps

1. Create a document in InDesign

- Choose File > New > Document. Choose a preset.

2. Decide on the font size and leading of your body text

- Create a text frame using the type tool.
- Add placeholder text by choosing Type > Fill with Placeholder Text.
- Select the text box, change the value of the font size in the Properties panel to your choice.
- Change the Leading value to adjust the spacing between lines of text.

3. Launch the Layout Grid Calculator panel

- Choose Window > Extensions > Layout Grid Calculator.

4. Configure the LGC panel (Document section)

- The first step when configuring the panel is to insert the value chosen for the body text font size (from step 2) in the *Size* field of the LGC panel.
- The second step is to also insert the value chosen for the leading (from step 2) in the *Leading* field of the LGC panel.

5. Apply the 'LGC Paragraph Style' (Optional)

- If the above step has been followed, you will find a paragraph text style named '*LGC Paragraph Style*' in the Properties panel.
- Apply the style by inserting the cursor in a text and selecting the LGC paragraph style.
- When this is done, updating the font size and leading in the LGC panel will update all text with that same style applied.
- **It is important to be very careful when modifying this style manually, as the font size, the leading and 'Align to grid' value get overwritten when updating settings of the LGC panel.**

6. Configure the LGC panel (Margin section)

- You can now use the Margin section to set up the columns, rows, margins, gutters etc. (see page 6 to 8).

7. The LGC panel can be closed and reopened without losing the settings

- A document created using LGC can be shared and reopened without the plug-in installed, it can also be exported to IDML format.
- An IDML file that is reopened will lose its LGC editing capabilities but will retain its grid settings. We recommend that you do not reuse the LGC with an IDML file, because some parameters will be ignored and replaced.

The Panel workspace

A. Top section (*Document*)

The *Document* section is where you set the document size page and desired leading and font size. All calculation will be based on these informations. This is common in all three modes.

W	Page width.
H	Page height.
Drop-down	Modify the page size according to the chromatic scale (see page 8).
Apply	Apply the changes to all pages, including the master page, but excluding the page that were modified using 'liquid layout'.
Size	Value equal to body text.
Leading	Specify leading (This will be recalculated by the LGC).
%	Line spacing percent ratio.
New Leading	Recalculated leading.

B. Middle section (*Margins*)

The *Margins* section is the heart of the panel. It consists of three control tabs, the *Modular*, *Column* and *Manuscript* control tabs which are three method of setting up grids. Choose the one that best suits your goal.

C. Bottom section (*More*)

The bottom section of the panel contains options that control the *Document grid* and the *Baseline grid*.

Baseline subdivision	To specify value for subdivisions of baseline grid.
Top of page/margin	To specify where the grid is to start*.
Doc. grid subdivision	To specify the value of the subdivisions between each grid line of the document grid.

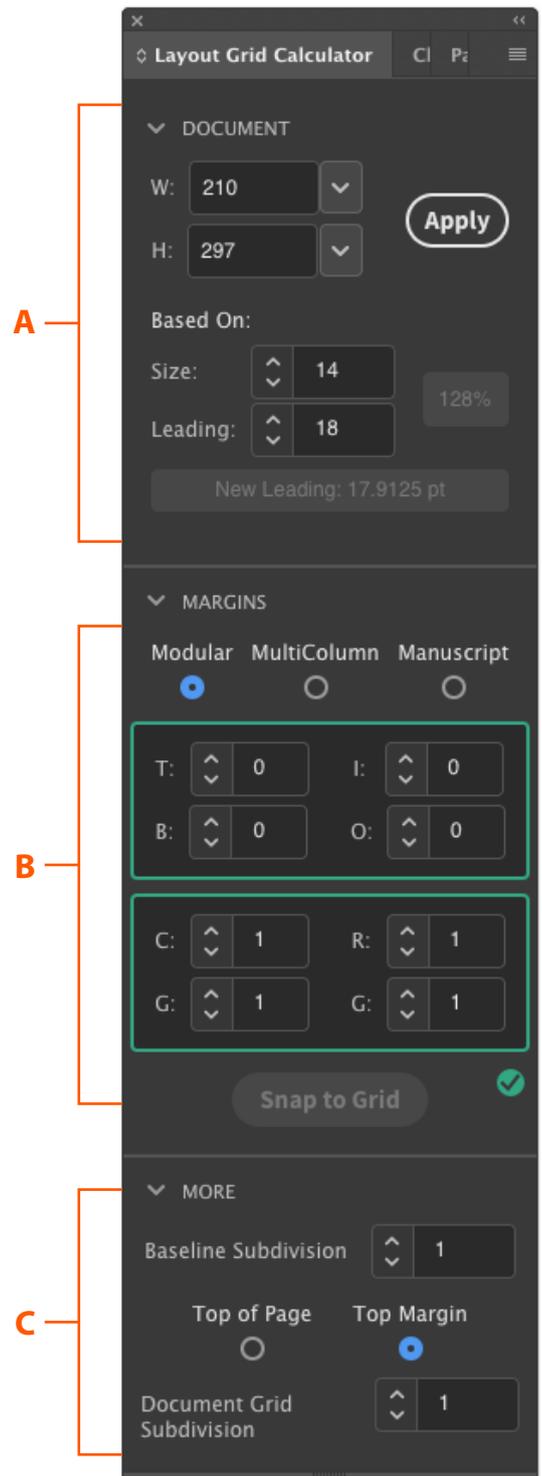


Figure 6. The LGC Modular control panel.

* **Note.** If the baseline grid is set to start at the *top of the margin*, text boxes containing a paragraph text aligning with the baseline will not be visible if they are located in the margin area. To make these texts visible, you must set the baseline grid so that it begins at the *top of the page*.

Modular mode

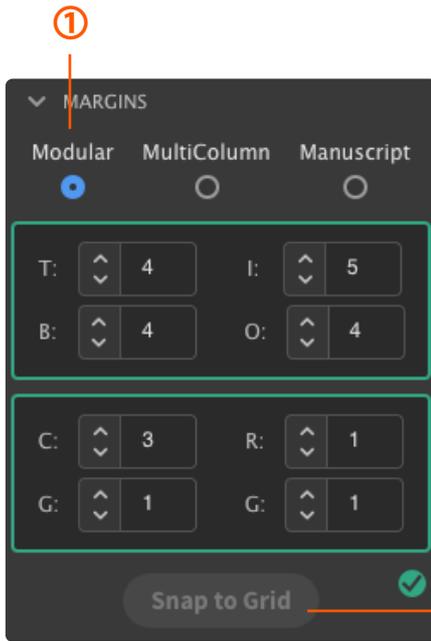


Figure 7. Modular control tab.

The *Modular mode* works well for any type of publication, small size and large i.e. Business cards, pamphlets, etc.

- T** Top margin.
- B** Bottom margin.
- I** Inside margin.
- O** Outside margin.
- C** Number of columns.
- R** Number of rows.
- G** Gutters.

Snap to grid button

When the columns and rows do not match the document grid, the panel alerts you by turning red and displays a warning sign. Click on the *Snap to grid button* to automatically align all elements to the document grid.

Note: When you choose to automatically correct the alignment, the number of columns and the width of the gutters remain unchanged, only the margins are readjusted by prioritizing the bottom and inner margins.

Multicolumn mode

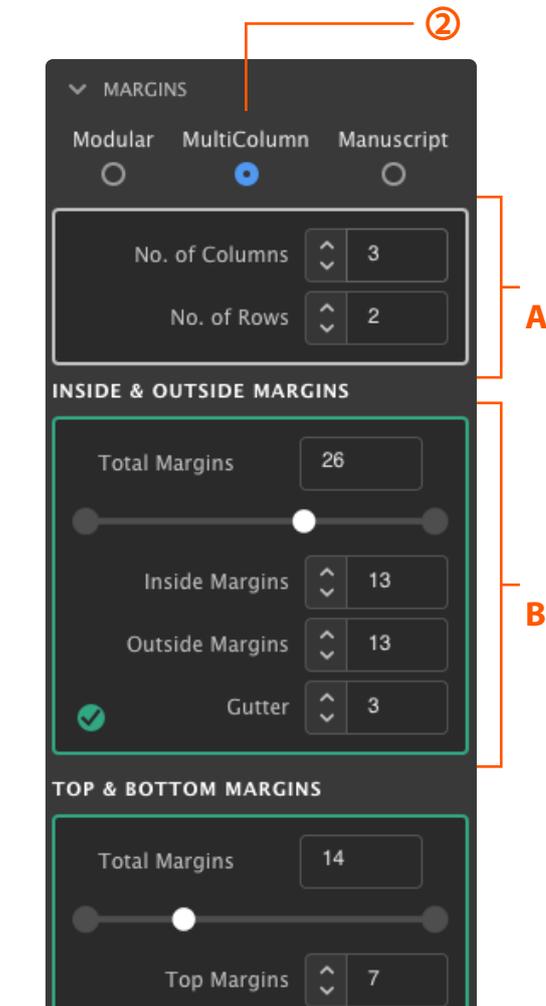


Figure 8. Multicolumn control tab.

The *Multicolumn mode* works well when a specific number of columns is needed i.e. magazines, newspaper etc. The first step when using the *Multicolumn control panel* is to choose the desired number of columns and rows (**A**). The calculator then returns the options available for the interior and exterior margins in terms of grid lines (**B**. > *Total Margins*).

The second step is then to decide the number of grid lines that will be allocated to the outer and inner margins using the *slider* (**B**). The LGC will distribute the number of grid lines more or less evenly between the margins.

Increase or decrease the value of the outside and inside margins to allocate more or less grid lines to the inner or outer margin.

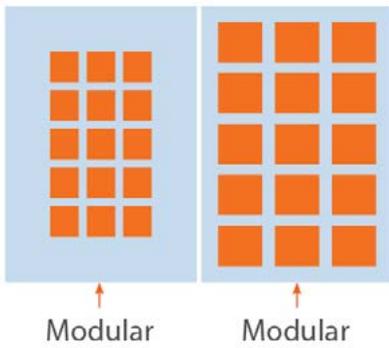
Total Margins Total number of grid lines assigned to margins.

Slider Increase or decrease the total number of grid lines allocated to margins.

Inside Margins Specify the number of grid lines for the interior margins.

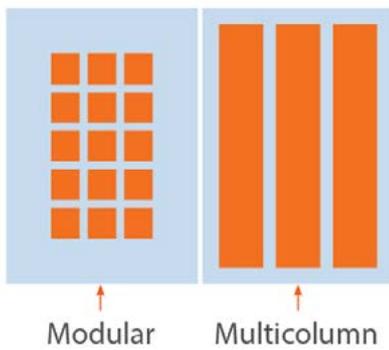
Outside Margins Specify the number of grid lines for the outer margins.

Mixing Modular and Multicolumn



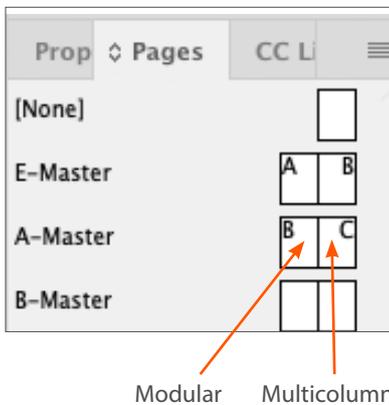
To create a spread composed of pages with *different layout configurations* (Figure 11), work with single master pages created from scratch. Then place them side by side in the document page section.

Figure 11. Mix of different grid configurations on the same spread.



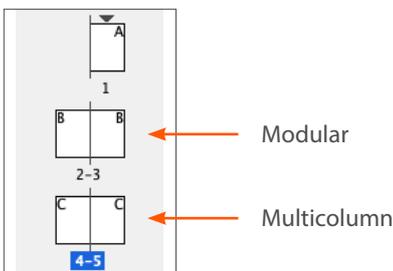
In document spread It is also possible to have pages, which have been configured using *different modes* (Figure 12), to face each other on the same document spread. The process is the same as above.

Figure 12. Mix of different types of grid on the same spread.



In master spread You can create master spreads containing pages created with two different configuration modes (Figure 13). To do this, configure two simple master spreads, **then close the LGC panel**, place the pages side by side. You are done! You can now relaunch the LGC panel.

Figure 13. Mix of different types of grid on master spread.



You can only mix *Modular* and *Multicolumn*, this will not work with the *Manuscript* mode.

Figure 14. Mix of different types of grid in same document page.

Manuscript mode

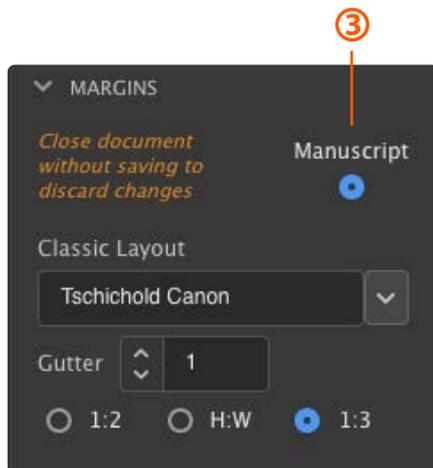


Figure 15. Manuscript mode's control panel.

Use the *Manuscript mode* to create a harmonious and pleasant grid layout that uses the classic canons of page construction. This mode is mainly use for the layout of long text documents, i.e. books, long essays etc.

Note that this mode works on its own and cannot be mixed with the other modes unlike the *Modular* and *Multicolumn* modes. It uses a different calculation method to determine the document grid.

Best practice is to start from scratch .

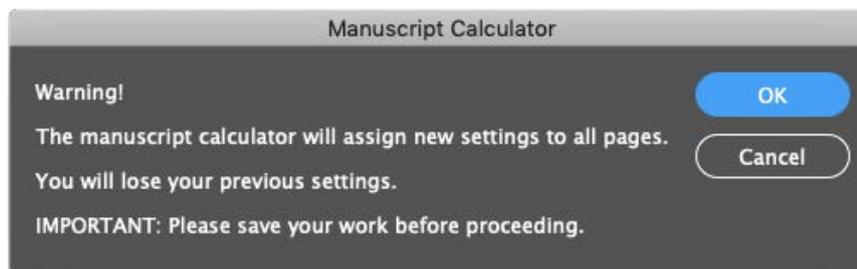


Figure 16. Manuscript mode's warning window.

When you switch to this mode, the panel opens a window warning you that the panel will assign new settings to all the pages of the document (Figure 10). The panel overwrites the parameters of all pages, including the *master pages*. **The existing configuration will no longer be usable.** The panel will create a new *master page* to use and all the previous settings will be lost and the effect is irreversible. We therefore advise you to save your document before proceeding to this mode.