

How to transform objects

You can modify an object's size or shape and change its orientation in the document window by using the Free Transform tool (**Figure 1**). Download the assets used in [this tutorial here](#).



Figure 1 Design project before image transformations (left) and after (right)

Using the Free Transform tool

The Free Transform tool works the same way in Adobe InDesign that it does in Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator, by providing a way to perform any transformation with just one tool. You can combine transformations, such as scale, rotate, reflect, and shear, when the Free Transform tool is active.

To use the Free Transform tool:

1. Start InDesign and open a document.
2. Select the **Free Transform Tool** from the transformation tools in the Tools panel (**Figure 2**).

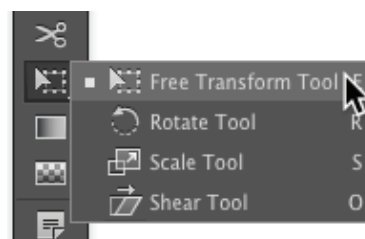


Figure 2 Transformation tools

3. Select a text or graphic frame by clicking on it.

A bounding box appears around the edge of the frame, with handles on the sides and corners (**Figure 3**).

4. Drag one of the handles to scale the frame (**Figure 4**).
5. Release the mouse button to apply the scale.
6. Move the pointer just outside one of the corner handles.

Note: Because you are using the **Free Transform Tool**, rotation, reflection, and shear are all immediately available here.

The pointer turns into a rotation icon (**Figure 5**).

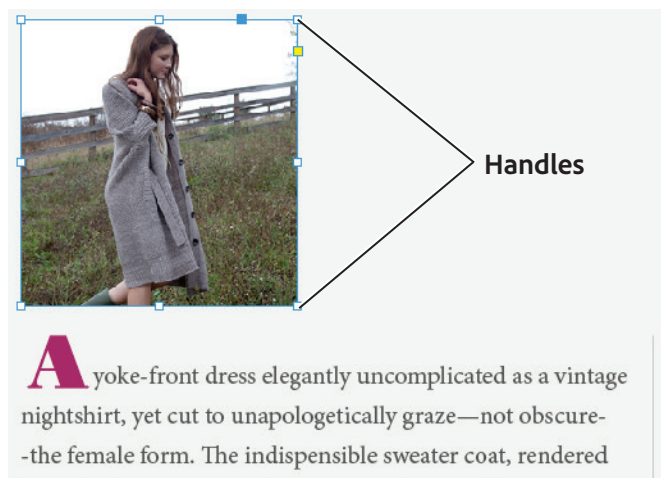


Figure 3 Frame selected with Free Transform tool



Figure 4 Dragging to scale frame



Figure 5 Rotation icon

7. Drag the pointer clockwise or counterclockwise.

The frame rotates with an angle indicator showing the number of degrees the image has rotated (**Figure 6**).

8. Release the mouse button to apply the rotation (**Figure 7**).
9. Drag one of the handles to the opposite side of the shape (**Figure 8**).



Figure 6 Rotating image



Figure 7 Rotation result

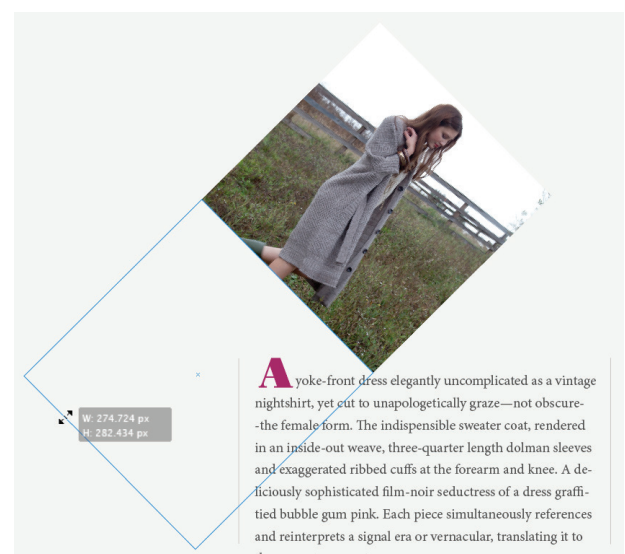


Figure 8 Dragging to reflect

10. Release the mouse button to apply the reflection (Figure 9).
11. To shear objects, begin dragging a handle, and then hold down **Ctrl** (Windows) or **Command** (Mac OS) (Figure 10). Hold down **Alt+Ctrl** (Windows) or **Command+Option** to shear from both sides of the object.
12. Release the mouse button to apply the shear.

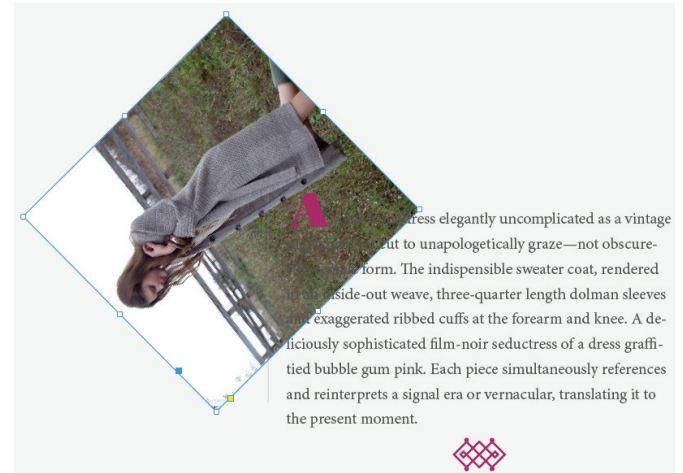


Figure 9 Reflection result

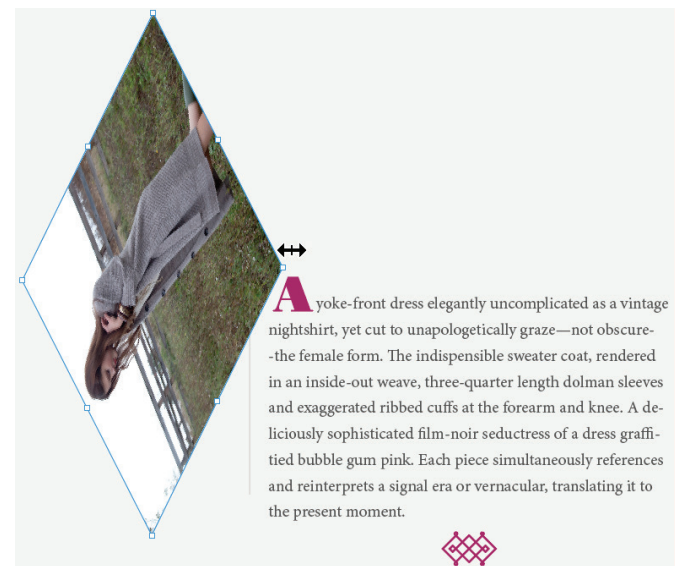


Figure 10 Applying a shear

To use the Transform Again command:

1. Apply one of the transformations described in the previous section.
2. Choose the Selection tool in the Tools panel.
3. Select another object.
4. Choose **Object > Transform Again > Transform Again**.

The transformation you applied to the first object has also been applied to the second object.

For more information

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