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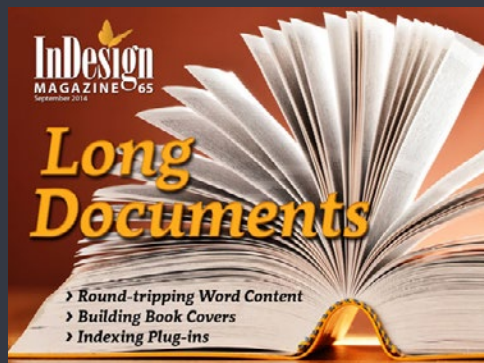
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By Keith Gilbert



InReview: Footwork

A powerful alternative to InDesign's automatic footnote feature

Footwork v1.9.2

[Bookraft Solutions](#)

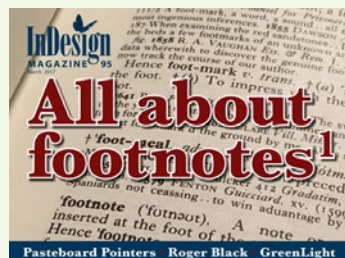
\$385

Mac and Windows, CS4 and higher

Rating: 

The Full Story

For an in-depth discussion of how InDesign's footnote feature works, as well as some other ways to get around footnote limitations, see Peter Kahrel's article in [Issue 95](#).



I know what you're thinking: Didn't *InDesign Magazine* just do a footnote issue? Yes, but the software I'm reviewing in this article was just very recently updated with new capabilities that address many of InDesign's footnote limitations noted in Peter Kahrel's [feature article](#). So consider this a bit of important follow-up news for folks who regularly deal with a lot of footnotes. [Footwork from Bookraft Solutions](#) offers the following advantages over InDesign's automatic footnotes.

- » Footwork can create multi-column footnotes on single-column pages.
- » Footwork can create single-column footnotes on multi-column pages (something InDesign CC 2017 does, but

Footwork provides this capability even in older versions of InDesign).

- » Footwork provides much more flexibility for footnote numbering. For example, if your document contains multiple stories, each with footnotes, the footnote numbering style and starting number can be set independently for each story. In fact, Footwork footnotes don't have to be referenced with a number at all. The footnote reference can be anything with a character style applied to it, so you can even create footnotes without visible references in the text, which is sometimes necessary for scholarly works.
- » Footwork allows footnote references to be placed in text within tables.

» Footwork can create run-on footnotes where each footnote continues on the same line as the previous footnote (Figure 1). This is important for documents with many brief footnotes, where a stacks of notes can lead to much of the space on the page being wasted.

» Footwork provides more control and flexibility over how space is allocated between the main text and the footnote text.

» Footwork allows footnotes to begin on a different page than the footnote reference, if desired.

» Footwork allows any placed graphic or InDesign object to be used as a divider between the footnotes and the main text.

If you work on long, complex documents where you need any of this flexibility, or you've been hobbled by InDesign's limited footnote feature, read on.

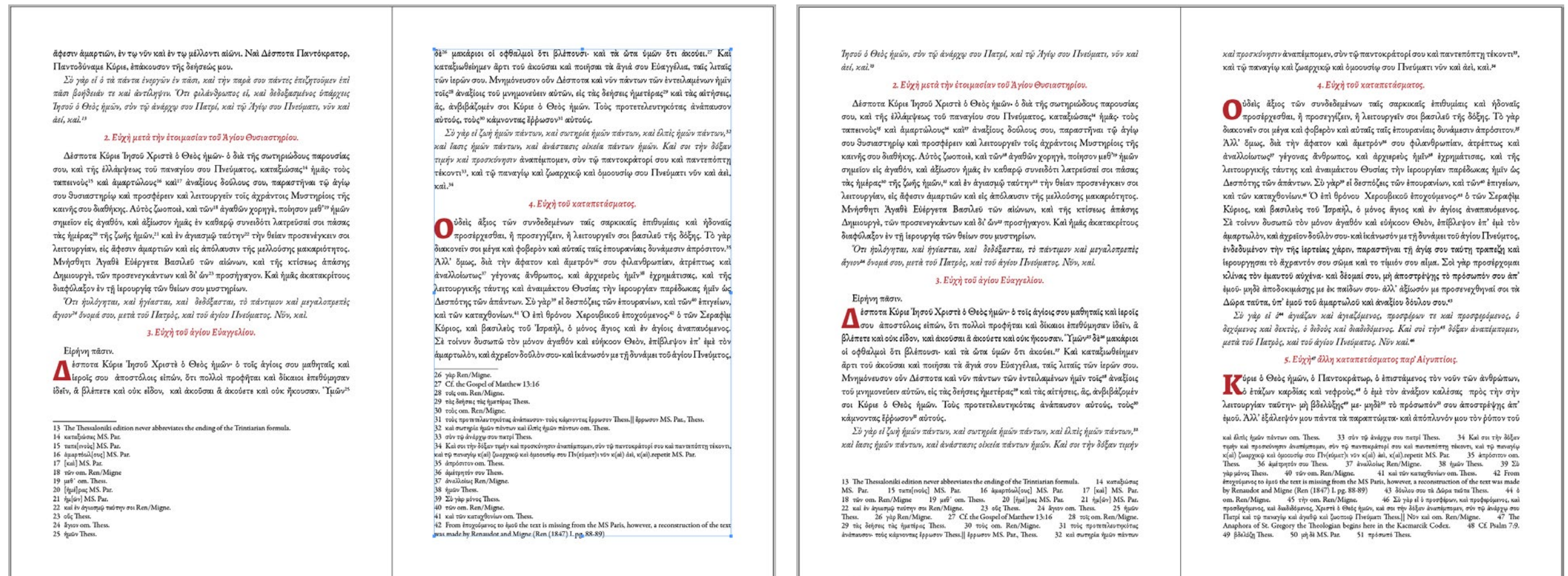


Figure 1: A tall stack of brief footnotes wastes a lot of room on the page (left), a problem solved with run-on footnotes (right), courtesy of Footwork.



Installing and Learning Footwork

Footwork is an InDesign script, so installation is as simple as copying the Footwork script into your InDesign Scripts folder. (A [free 30-day trial](#) version is available.) Once copied to the correct location, it appears in your Scripts panel (**Window > Utilities > Scripts**). You can run the script by double-clicking it in the Scripts panel, by using Quick Apply, or by assigning a keyboard shortcut.

If you're already familiar with setting footnotes in InDesign, you'll find that Footwork doesn't take very long to learn. The interface consists of a single dialog box (). The script comes with a clear, comprehensive user guide.

How It (Foot)Works

New users typically start with a document that contains at least a few InDesign footnotes that they want to convert, so let's

start there. (You can also set up documents from scratch to create Footwork footnotes once you understand how it works.)

The first task is to “detach” InDesign footnotes from the document so that they can be managed by Footwork. This is done in the Detach tab of the Footwork dialog box. First, you fill in options for things such as what type of numbering to use and whether you want traditional or run-on footnotes. Then, click the Detach button to

remove all of the InDesign footnotes and put them in a small text frame placed on the pasteboard below the first page of the story. A frame break character is placed before the footnote text in this frame so that the text becomes overset. Behind the scenes, this frame and the first frame of the story are automatically named in the Layers panel in such a way that the script knows that they belong together—that is, that this footnote frame contains the footnotes for this story.

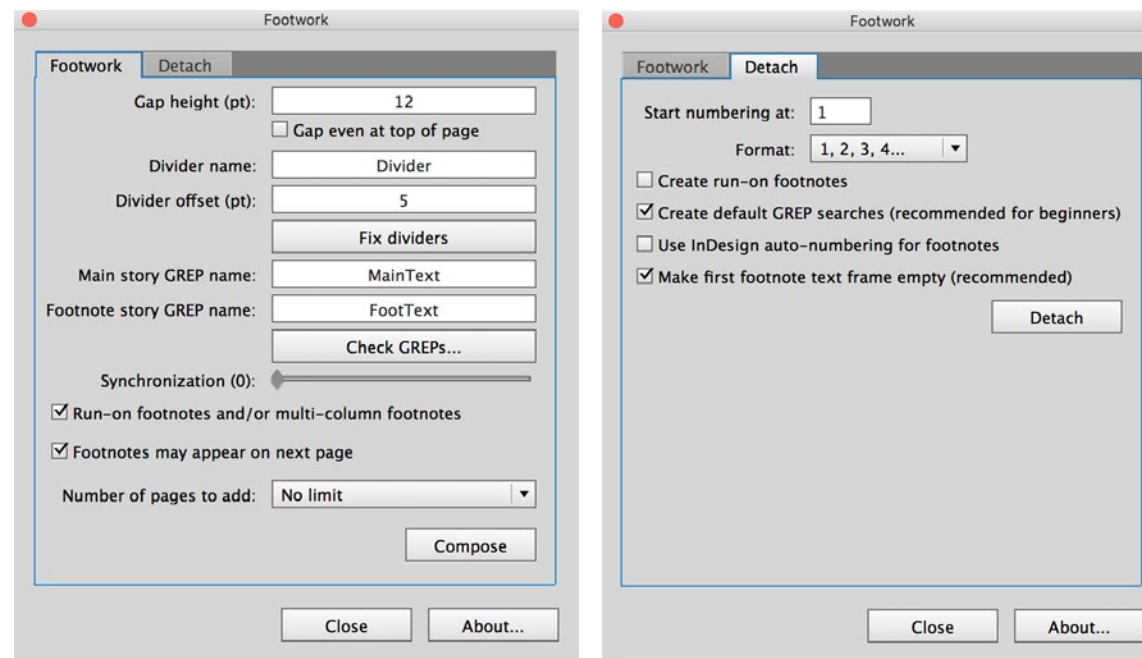


Figure 2: The two tabs of the Footwork dialog box.



Also behind the scenes, two character styles are created, with one assigned to each footnote reference and the other to the main text at the beginning of each footnote. Furthermore, two GREP find/change queries are automatically created that search for the two character styles we just mentioned. These frame names, character styles, and find/change queries are the key(s) to how Footwork keeps footnote references and footnote text in sync.

Once the footnotes have been detached and removed from the layout, the next step is to turn to the Footwork tab of the dialog box, fill in the options as desired, click the Compose button, and watch the magic happen. Footwork goes through the document from the first frame of the story to the last, and attempts to compose each page with the best combination of main text and footnote text possible based on the options you've selected.

When Footwork has finished composing, the footnotes will be in a single story

consisting of multiple frames that thread from the first footnote to the last (Figure 3) and that are positioned below the main text frame on each page.

After you've composed your document with Footwork the first time, you can continue to edit text, add and remove footnotes, and so on. As you do this, large edits will likely cause your text and footnotes to become out of sync with each other. A footnote reference might be on page six, but the footnote text is on page seven. To fix this, you will occasionally need to click the Compose button again to recompose the pages based on the changes you've made. You can compose the entire document (which can take a while on a long complex document) or tell Footwork to just compose from the selected frame forward to the end of the story, or from the selected frame forward a specific number of pages.

InDesign's footnote feature is "live," recomposing each page and subsequent pages as you make changes to the text,

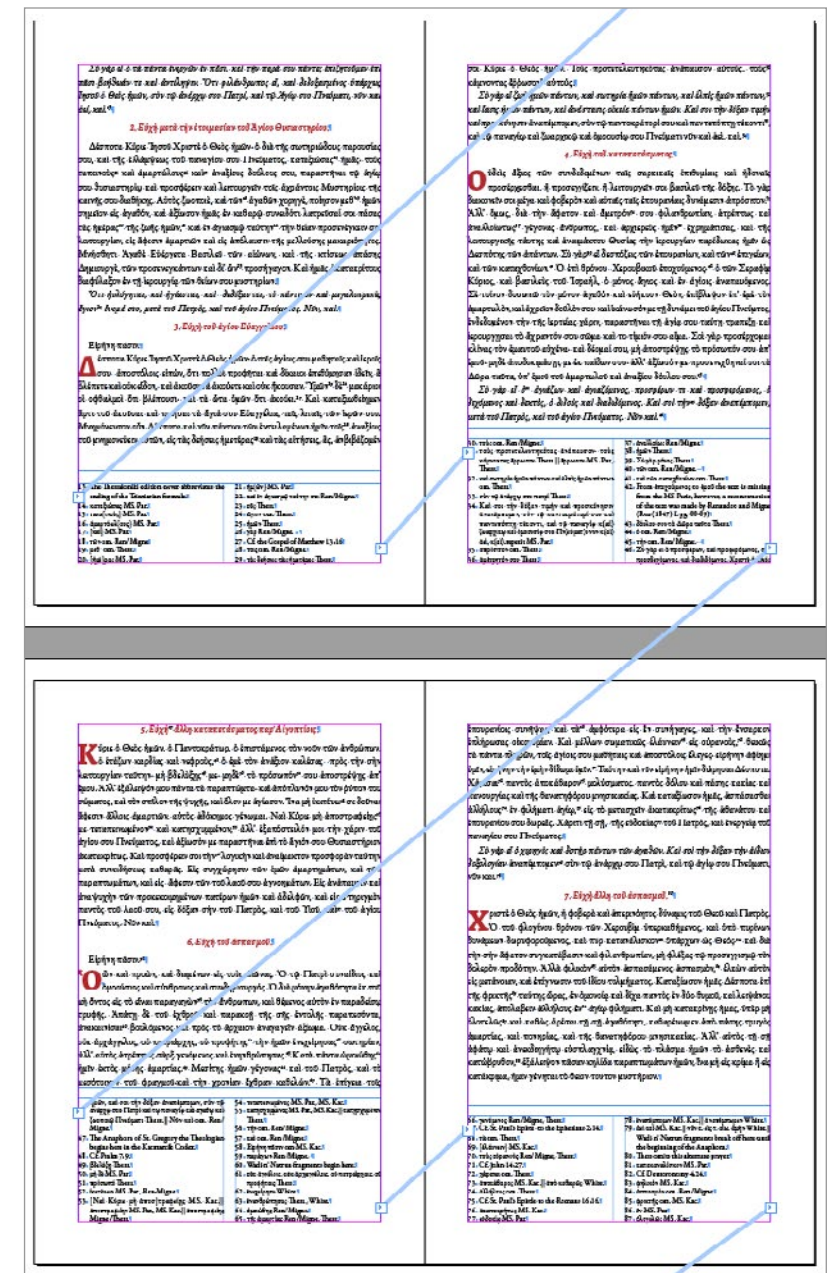


Figure 3: The result of Footwork's Compose command—a single story of threaded footnote frames



layout, and footnotes, while Footwork recomposes pages “on demand.” But once you get the hang of this process, it works very well. Thankfully, the Footwork dialog box is non-modal, meaning that you can leave it on the screen while you work, much like a panel. This makes it easy to compose pages and choose other Footwork options as you work on a document.

Adding New Footnotes

Adding a footnote reference is easy. Just type a footnote reference number in your text, and apply the FootworkMainText character style to the reference (you’ll recall that this character style is generated automatically by Footwork during the “detach” process). You can type any number for the reference, since the footnotes can be automatically renumbered later.

Next, you need to add the text for the new footnote in the proper sequence in the series of threaded text frames that carry the Footwork footnotes. If the page where

you want to place the new footnote doesn’t already contain any other footnotes, it won’t have a footnote frame. So you may need to turn back a few pages to find the preceding footnote. Then, you can click inside that footnote frame, and type the new footnote text. Doing so will cause the footnotes and their references to be out of sync, of course, so the final step is to click the Compose button again to recompose the footnotes from this point forward.

While this might sound clunky, a convenient option is to keep a Story Editor window open on your screen that contains the footnote story ready for editing. In addition, the Check GREPs panel provides a quick way to navigate between footnote references in your layout. This panel is also used to renumber footnotes and identify footnote problems such as a footnote without a reference or a reference without a footnote (Figure 4). A question mark indicates that the footnote number and its reference don’t match. An x indicates

that the footnote and its reference are on different pages. Clicking on a number will jump to that reference in the layout.

Controlling Page Composition and Layout

When your pages contain many footnotes, lengthy footnotes, or a combination of the two, it can be very tricky to allocate room for the main text and footnotes on each page while trying to minimize large gaps of white space. Footwork provides far greater control

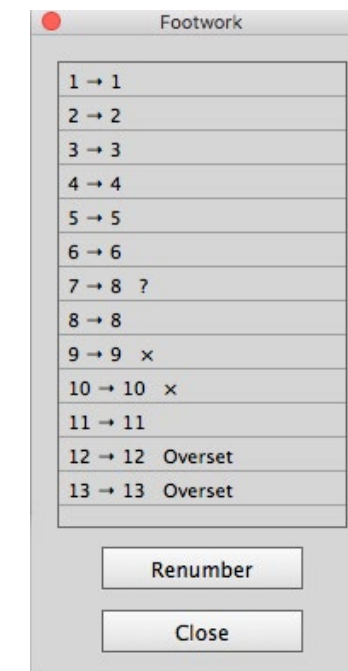


Figure 4: Click the Check GREPs button in the Footwork panel of the dialog box to open the Check GREPs panel where you can see the status of your footnotes at a glance.



over page composition than InDesign's footnotes feature in five key ways.

Choosing the Footnotes May Appear on Next Page option in the Footwork dialog box allows footnotes to appear on a page other than the footnote reference. While not ideal, this concession is sometimes necessary in text that contains very long footnotes.

The Synchronization slider gives the user control over the logic behind how Footwork composes pages. Specifically, the slider controls the split point of footnotes that continue onto the next page. Moving the slider to the right produces better synchronization of footnotes and their references, but may result in more white space on the pages.

Creating run-on footnotes can simplify composition particularly when there are many short footnotes. Run-on footnotes are created by entering whitespace characters (such as the default two non-breaking em spaces followed by a regular space)

between footnotes, instead of the standard return character. It's even possible to mix run-on footnotes with regular footnotes as needed. [Figure 5](#) shows a mix of run-on footnotes and traditional footnotes.

Footwork's ability to create multi-column footnotes on pages with single-column layouts can provide more flexibility for the positioning of footnotes on a page, depending on the length and frequency of the footnotes. The number of footnote columns is controlled by editing the Footnotes Object style that Footwork creates and applies to all the footnote frames.

Figure 5: Footwork allows for a mix of run-on footnotes and traditional footnotes. In this example, footnotes 35–37 are run-on footnotes.

31 τοὺς προτετελευτηκότας ἀνάπασον· τοὺς κάμνοντας ἔρρωνσον Thess.|| ἔρρωνσον MS. Par., Thess.
 32 καὶ σωτηρία ἡμῶν πάντων καὶ ἐλπίς ἡμῶν πάντων om. Thess.
 33 σὺν τῷ ἀνάρχῳ σου πατρὶ Thess.
 34 Καὶ σοι τὴν δόξαν τιμὴν καὶ προσκύνησιν ἀναπέμπομεν, σὺν τῷ παντοκράτορί σου καὶ παντεπόπτῃ τέκοντι, καὶ τῷ παναγίῳ κ(αὶ) ζωαρχικῷ καὶ ὁμοουσίῳ σου Ἰν(εύματ)ι νῦν κ(αὶ) ἀεὶ, κ(αὶ).repetit MS. Par.
 35 ἀπρόσιτον om. Thess. 36 ἀμέτρητόν σου Thess. 37 ἀναλλοίως Ren/Migne.
 38 From ἐποχούμενος to ἐμοῦ the text is missing from the MS Paris, however, a reconstruction of the text was made by Renaudot and Migne (Ren (1847) I. pg. 88-89)
 39 δούλου σου τὰ Δῶρα ταῦτα Thess.

Because Footwork allows you to recompose the layout from a selected frame in the story forward, you can make manual changes to the footnote or main text frame position, size, margins, or columns on a page-by-page basis after the text has been composed. These changes will be overridden by Footwork if you recompose the page, but as long as you recompose only subsequent pages, the modified page won't be touched. Footwork includes an additional script called FootworkUtilities. Running this script provides a floating panel that will shorten or lengthen the selected frame one line at a time. Pressing the Shift key while you run the script causes the



selected frame to be shortened and the footnote frame to be lengthened, or vice versa. The gap measurement is displayed in the lower-right corner of the panel (Figure 6).

Custom Dividers

InDesign's built-in footnote dividers can only be horizontal rules. This can make for some pretty bland-looking pages. But Footwork makes it easy to liven things up by using any placed graphic, InDesign object,

or group of objects as a divider. Just place or create the divider artwork somewhere on the pasteboard, and in InDesign's Layers panel, name the object "Divider." Then, in the Footwork dialog box, specify the desired gap height and offset, and recompose the text ().

Footnotes in Tables

InDesign's footnote feature doesn't allow footnote references in table text, but Footwork does. For short tables, Footwork

follows the same composition rules as with non-table text. For long tables that flow from page to page, Footwork behaves as if all of the footnote references in the table are in the last row. In other words, all of the footnotes for the entire table will appear on the same page as the last row of the table.

Heavy-Duty Footnotes

Since Footwork operates completely independent of InDesign's automatic footnote feature, the two can even be used

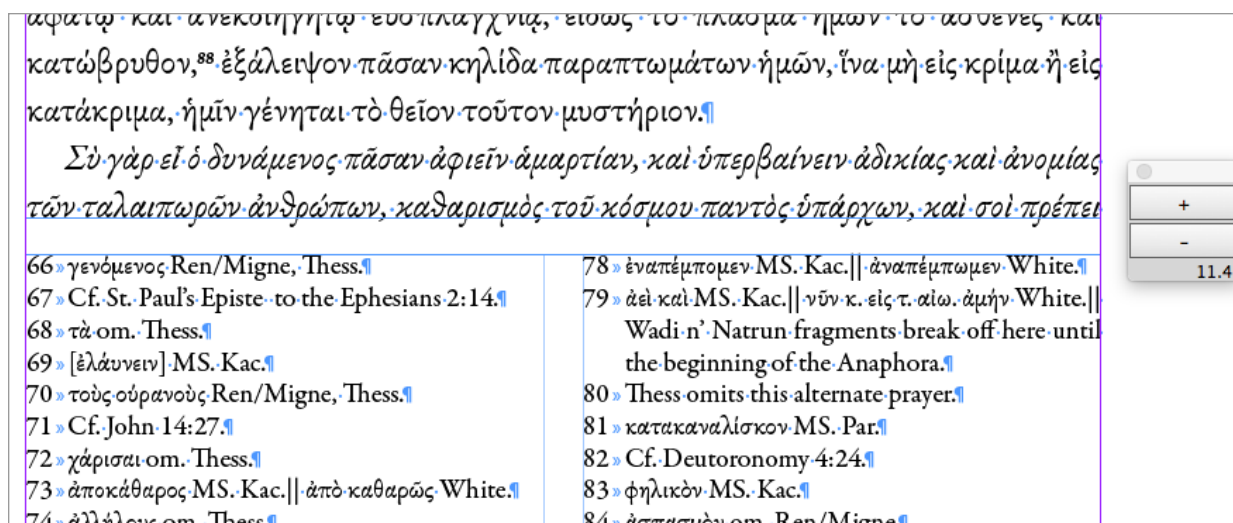


Figure 6: You can quickly add or subtract lines from frames using the floating panel that appears when you run the FootworkUtilities script.

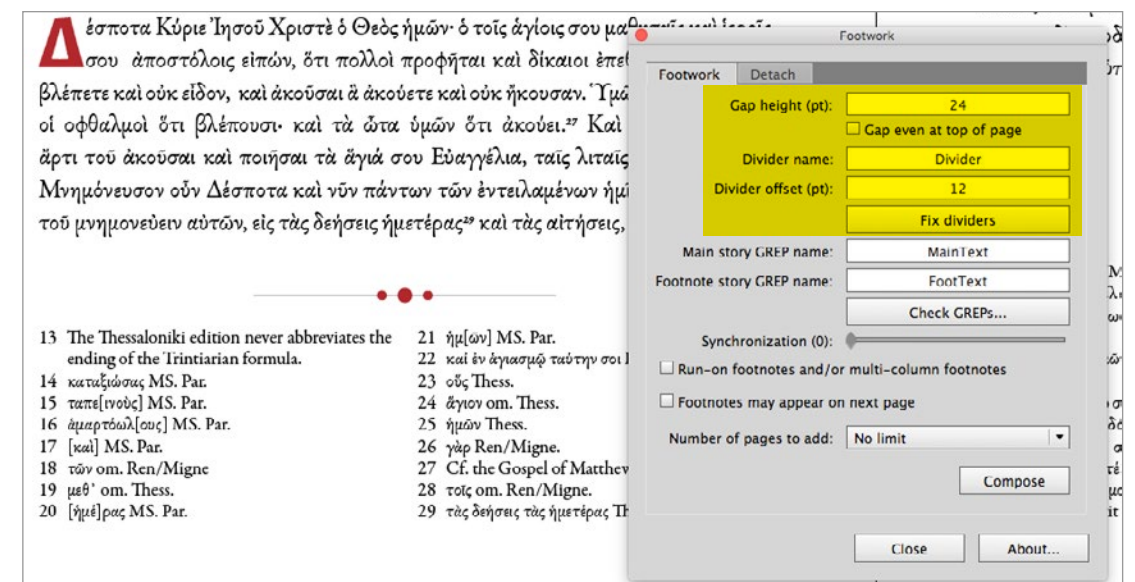


Figure 7: A graphic divider automatically positioned by Footwork's divider feature.



simultaneously for powerful formatting of complex documents. For example, the main text could have two sets of footnote references, one using InDesign's automatic footnote feature, the other referencing Footwork footnotes.

What About EPUB?

If you are creating reflowable EPUB output, you'll need to think about how you are going to include Footwork footnotes, since they (the footnotes) are unaffected by the Footnotes Placement option in the "EPUB - Reflowable Layout Export Options" dialog box. Since Footwork footnotes exist as a second, "parallel" story in the document, it wouldn't be difficult to include them in a reflowable EPUB as endnotes. But the endnotes won't be linked to the footnote references without some additional pre- or post-export work.

Wish List

Once you get comfortable with Footwork and see how well it performs, you'll most likely start thinking of all kinds of other footnote-related things that you want it to do. For example, it would be useful if Footwork could adjust the number of table rows on each page for long, multi-page tables to create space for footnote text. Some EPUB integration might be helpful for certain workflows. And of course, automation of endnotes and margin notes seems like a natural extension.

Do You Need It?

Footwork is a sophisticated, high-end tool with a significant price tag. If you have only occasional, lightweight footnote needs, InDesign's footnote feature, augmented with the many free scripts and workarounds mentioned in [Peter Kahrel's article](#), may be enough for you. But if you deal with a high volume of footnotes, or your layout requirements cause you to devote hours

of work to setting footnotes, I think you will find that Footwork vastly improves the process, and justifies the investment.



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