

PROPER FRACTION PRO 2.1 USER GUIDE

A Script for Adobe InDesign & InCopy

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Certified Instructor



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Terminology

/ = Regular Slash (less slanted)

/ = Fraction Slash (more slanted). This is sometimes called a virgule.

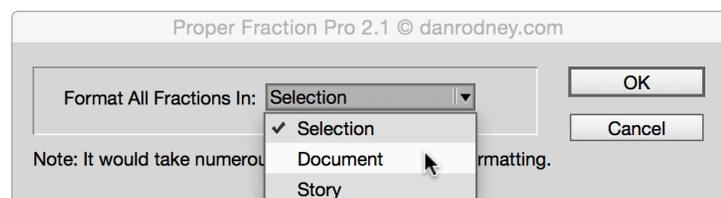
Proper Fraction Pro Overview

Format Selected Fraction: This formats a selection of unformatted text that constitutes a fraction (character, slash, character). It verifies that the selection contains a slash with a character before and after, and then formats the selection according to the defined preferences.

Format Multiple Fractions: This searches the **Selection, Story, Document,** or **Selected Frame(s)** for fractions. It assumes they are numerical fractions, yet intelligently skips dates such as 8/30/16. It offers flexibility by allowing you to define custom kerning for specific numbers before and after the fraction slash. Beyond that, you can apply those settings to fractions found in a specific font.

Both techniques can format fractions using OpenType formatting or by horizontally/vertically scaling the numerator and denominator for fonts that don't have OpenType fractions. Thin strokes can optionally be applied so the fractions match the weight of full size characters.

Choose Where to Search for Fractions

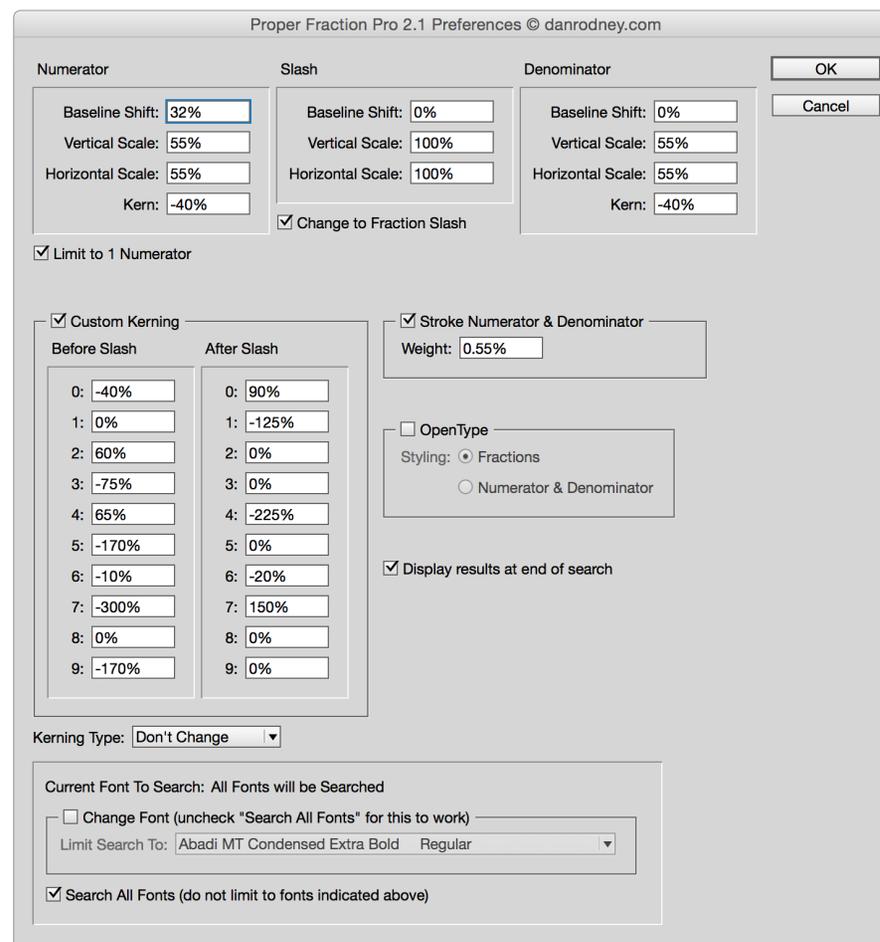


Requires Adobe InDesign or InCopy for Mac or PC

Proper Fraction Pro works inside of InDesign or InCopy CS3 or later (tested through CS6 and Creative Cloud CC 2015).



Preferences

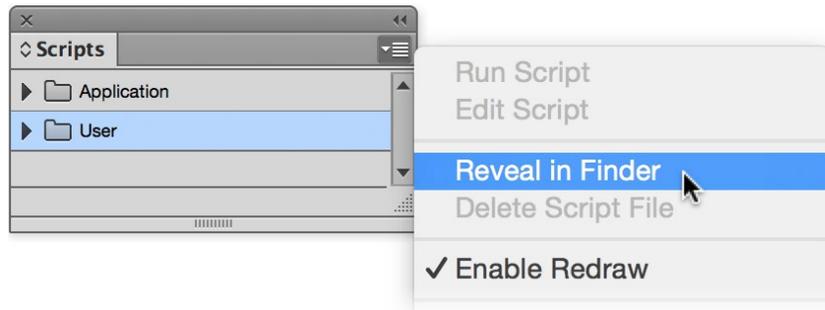


1. Open the **Scripts** panel as follows:

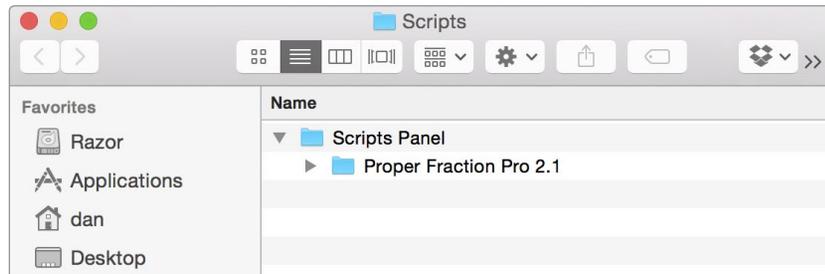
In CS5 or Later: Go into the **Window > Utilities > Scripts**.

In CS4 or CS3: Go into the **Window > Automation > Scripts**.

2. In the **Scripts** panel you'll see **Application** and **User** folders. Scripts can be installed into either, but only admins can install into the **Application** folder. If you're not an admin (or aren't sure), choose the **User** folder. With one of the folders selected, **at the top right** of the panel go into the menu and choose **Reveal in Finder** (Mac) or **Reveal in Explorer** (PC).



3. You should now see a **Scripts Panel** folder. Drag the script files/folder into the **Scripts Panel** folder and it's installed!



4. Switch back to InDesign and the script will be listed under the folder you put it in. To start the script just double-click it and enjoy!

Scripts Panel Folder Location

Curious where the **Scripts Panel** folders are located?

InCopy installations are identical, except the folder is **InCopy** instead of **InDesign**.

Mac

- **Application Folder:** Hard Drive > Applications > Adobe InDesign [version number] > Scripts > Scripts Panel
- **User Folder:** Hard Drive > Users > [username] > Library > Preferences > Adobe InDesign > Version X.X > Scripts > Scripts Panel

Windows 7 & Later

- **Application Folder:** C:Drive > Program Files > Adobe > Adobe InDesign [version number] > Scripts > Scripts Panel
- **User Folder:** C:Drive > Users > [username] > AppData > Roaming > Adobe > InDesign > Version X.X > [en_US or other language] > Scripts > Scripts Panel

Windows XP

- **Application Folder:** C:Drive > Program Files > Adobe > Adobe InDesign [version number] > Scripts > Scripts Panel
- **User Folder:** C:Drive > Documents and Settings > [username] > Application Data > Adobe > InDesign > Version X.X > [en_US or other language] > Scripts > Scripts Panel

Step 1

Make a Selection

To format one fraction:
Select the fraction (numerator/denominator).

To format multiple fractions:
No selection is required to format all fractions in the document.
If you want to convert only certain fractions, select some text or text frame(s).

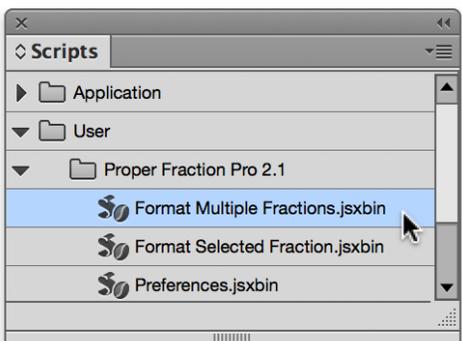
Step 2

Open the Scripts panel

In CS5 or later choose **Window > Utilities > Scripts**.
In CS4–CS3 choose **Window > Automation > Scripts**.

Step 3

Double-click the Desired Script



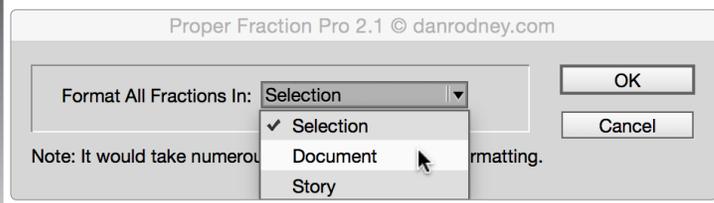
The screenshot shows a 'Scripts' panel with a tree view containing 'Application', 'User', and 'Proper Fraction Pro 2.1'. Under 'Proper Fraction Pro 2.1', three scripts are listed: 'Format Multiple Fractions.jsxbin', 'Format Selected Fraction.jsxbin', and 'Preferences.jsxbin'. A mouse cursor is hovering over 'Format Multiple Fractions.jsxbin', which is highlighted in blue.

Format Selected Fraction will turn the selected text into a formatted fraction and you are done!

Format Multiple Fractions has one more step.

Step 4

Choose What to Search



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled 'Proper Fraction Pro 2.1 © danrodne.com'. It has a label 'Format All Fractions In:' followed by a dropdown menu currently set to 'Selection'. A mouse cursor is clicking on the 'Selection' option in the dropdown menu. Other options visible are 'Document' and 'Story'. There are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons to the right. A note at the bottom reads: 'Note: It would take numerou... formatting.'

Format Multiple Fractions will confirm what content will be searched.

Click **OK** when done.

Numerator	Slash	Denominator
Baseline Shift: <input type="text" value="32%"/>	Baseline Shift: <input type="text" value="0%"/>	Baseline Shift: <input type="text" value="0%"/>
Vertical Scale: <input type="text" value="55%"/>	Vertical Scale: <input type="text" value="100%"/>	Vertical Scale: <input type="text" value="55%"/>
Horizontal Scale: <input type="text" value="55%"/>	Horizontal Scale: <input type="text" value="100%"/>	Horizontal Scale: <input type="text" value="55%"/>
Kern: <input type="text" value="-40%"/>		Kern: <input type="text" value="-40%"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change to Fraction Slash		

Sizing (Horizontal & Vertical Scale)

To scale down the numerator or denominator, horizontal and vertical scale is applied as specified in the preferences. One of the nice things about applying scaling instead of changing the type size is that you can see the percentage of scale in case you want to experiment with other type sizes. It allows the type size to be changed and the numbers remain scaled down. If only the baseline shift could be a percentage then the fractions could scale completely! Of course with **Format Multiple Fractions** you can just run it again to fix them if you change the font size.

Fraction Slash

Sometimes called a Virgule, the Fraction Slash is a less vertical slash and is the proper slash to use in a fraction.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Custom Kerning	
Before Slash	After Slash
0: <input type="text" value="-40%"/>	0: <input type="text" value="90%"/>
1: <input type="text" value="0%"/>	1: <input type="text" value="-125%"/>
2: <input type="text" value="60%"/>	2: <input type="text" value="0%"/>

Custom Kerning

When **Custom Kerning** is checked on, the Numerator and Denominator **Kern** amounts towards the top of the window will be ignored. Instead the kerning will be specific to a number when it is before or after a fraction slash. This allows a very exact method for dealing with kerning. It may take a little while for you to figure out the desired settings for a font (and each font may be different) but once you have it set, you'll get perfectly kerned fractions every time!

Current Font To Search: All Fonts will be Searched
<input type="checkbox"/> Change Font (uncheck "Search All Fonts" for this to work)
Limit Search To: <input type="text" value="Abadi MT Condensed Extra Bold Regular"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Search All Fonts (do not limit to fonts indicated above)

Font Search

Every font requires different kerning. Proper Fraction Pro has the powerful ability to define custom kerning it made sense to be able to target those preferences to a specific font. To choose a font check on **Change Font** and select the font from the menu. Be sure to uncheck **Search All Fonts**. For more information on setting this up for multiple fonts, please refer to the Tips on page 7.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stroke Numerator & Denominator
Weight: <input type="text" value="0.55%"/>

Stroke Numerator & Denominator

When using non-OpenType fonts the numerator and denominator are scaled down. This makes them appear thinner than full size characters such as the fraction slash. To compensate, Proper Fraction Pro looks at the current character color and adds a thin stroke with that same color, thickening up the character. The results are excellent.

<input type="checkbox"/> OpenType
Styling: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Fractions
<input type="radio"/> Numerator & Denominator

OpenType Formatting

Some OpenType fonts have numerator and denominator characters specially designed to the proper size, weight and position. These typically look better than scaled down characters. To use them we apply OpenType's **Fractions** option. But not all fonts properly format all three type of fractions: basic (ie: $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$), extended (ie: $\frac{1}{8}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$), or arbitrary (ie: $\frac{1}{16}$ or $\frac{99}{100}$). In such cases, we can apply OpenType's **Numerator & Denominator** options. Proper Fraction Pro can apply either.

Date Detection

This is the invisible feature you didn't know you needed. A fraction is a slash with numbers around it. Dates such as 8/30/16 could be wrongly identified as a fraction. Proper Fraction Pro detects dates and does not format them.

Q. How do I remove the stroke from my fractions?

A. Check on **Stroke Numerator & Denominator** and set the weight to **0%**. Run Proper Fraction Pro again to format the fractions with no stroke. You can then uncheck **Stroke Numerator & Denominator** if you wish. NOTE: By design, unchecking the **Stroke Numerator & Denominator** option does not alter the stroke. This allows existing strokes on the text to remain unaltered.

Q. How do I use the OpenType formatting and what's the difference between the two options?

A. Some OpenType fonts convert only certain fractions when using the **Fractions** attribute. If a fraction isn't formatted, we can apply the **Numerator** and **Denominator** attributes to these non-standard fractions. Typically the **Fractions** option is best for fonts that support it (often yields better kerning, etc.) but **Numerator & Denominator** is there for fonts that don't. If one option doesn't work try experimenting with the other.

Q. When I turn on the OpenType formatting, my numerator & denominator get very small and the numerator is shifted too high. What is going on?

A. OpenType fraction characters are already sized and positioned according to the artistic vision of the font designer. They typically do not need additional resizing or baseline shift. When using OpenType formatting you should set the Numerator and Denominator **Baseline Shift** to **0%** and **Horizontal Scale/Vertical Scale** to **100%**.

Q. Must I use the OpenType formatting when using OpenType fonts?

A. No, some OpenType fonts don't support OpenType fraction formatting or don't support it fully. If you turn off the OpenType option, Proper Fraction Pro will apply preference settings like it would for any font. Adding the stroke option can even out the weight to better match full size characters. The results can look quite comparable to an OpenType fraction.

Q. Why do you use percentages instead of normal kerning amounts?

A. By using percentages instead of specific amounts for any formatting option, Proper Fraction Pro creates excellent fractions independent of the font size. This is a much more flexible approach.

Q. The progress bar (CS3 & later) sometimes ends early. Is it missing fractions?

A. No need for worry here. All fractions are being properly formatted. The progress bar's initial length (and count) is based on the number of "possible" fractions—which is the number of slashes found. Things like dates are not fractions and will be skipped. They were included in the initial count—twice actually as they contain two slashes! This means the progress bar may appear to end before finishing, but all "real" fractions have been formatted.

Q. What's the "Limit to 1 Numerator" option for?

A. Some users rarely have more than a one digit numerator. To make it easier to deal with mixed fractions (a whole number in front of a fraction) this option will only format one numerator, assuming that if there were any numbers in front that they are supposed to be whole numbers. That means you can type **11/2** (with no spaces) and **Format Multiple Fractions** will turn it into **1½**.

Q. I've chosen a font in Preferences. Why does "Format Selected Fraction" still format fractions when they're in a different font?

A. By design **Format Selected Fraction** only identifies that the selection contains a slash with characters before and after it. **Format Multiple Fractions** allows for formatting of fractions that are font dependant.

Q. Can I undo the fraction formatting done by Proper Fraction Pro?

A. Technically yes, but it would be time consuming if a lot of fractions were formatted. There are many things that get changed: size, baseline shift, stroke, etc. Therefore it would require numerous undos per fraction. I recommend saving your file before running Proper Fraction Pro.

Q. Can I format a non-numerical fraction such as "a/b"?

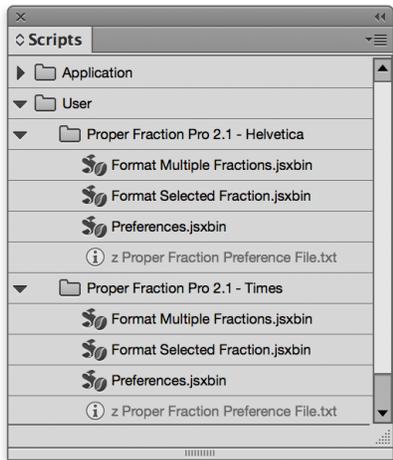
A. Yes, select the fraction and double-click **Format Selected Fraction**. Please note that **Format Multiple Fractions** only formats numerical fractions and will not format this type of fraction.

Q. In Adobe InCopy, Proper Fraction Pro seems to run slowly.

A. For an unknown reason it runs slower in **Galley** and **Story** views. Switching to **Layout** view should improve performance.

Different Settings for Multiple Fonts:

When you edit the Preferences and set a font, this setting is saved in the preference file in the **Proper Fraction Pro** folder. This allows you to have multiple copies, each for use with a different font. Duplicate the entire **Proper Fraction Pro** folder for each desired font. I recommend naming the folders according to the font. When you're done the **Scripts** panel will look something like this:



NOTE: **Format Selected Fraction** will format any selected fraction regardless of the font set in preferences. You must be careful to use the copy that matches the font of the currently selected fraction. It will not double check for you.

Speed It Up with a Keystroke:

You can assign a keyboard shortcut to Proper Fraction Pro. This enables you to press a keystroke to launch it instead of using the **Scripts** panel.

- Go into the **Edit** menu and choose **Keyboard Shortcuts**.
- From the Product Area menu choose **Scripts**.
- From the list choose one of the actions, such as **Proper Fraction Pro 2.1: Format Multiple Fractions**
- Towards the bottom click in the empty field under **New Shortcut**.
- Press the desired keys on the keyboard
For example **Option-F** (Mac) or **Alt-F** (Pc).
- Click **Assign**.
- Click **OK**.

Restoring the Default Preferences:

In the **Proper Fraction Pro** folder is a file called "**z Proper Fraction Preference File.txt**" After you trash this file, the default preferences will be restored the next time you run Proper Fraction Pro. Here's an easy way to delete this file:

- Select the "**z Proper Fraction Preference File.txt**"
- From the **Scripts** panel menu  choose **Delete Script File**.
- When asked to confirm click **Yes**.

Version 2.1 released 8/21/2015

- Updated **Preferences** dialog to be clearer by spelling out abbreviated words: **BShift** is now **Baseline Shift**, **VScale** is now **Vertical Scale**, **HScale** is now **Horizontal Scale**
- Fixed a bug that sometimes prevented the interface from appearing.

Version 2.02 released 3/11/2008

- A bug has been fixed that affected the **Format Multiple Fractions** feature. The problem prevented fractions from being properly formatted when a non-standard space character (hair space, thin space, etc.) was before the fraction. Fractions should now get proper formatting even with these special characters.
- Preferences Version 1.0: No change was made to prefs file. You can reuse previous pref files (z Proper Fraction Preference File.txt) with this version.

Version 2.01 released 2/04/2008

- The kerning pairs preferences now allow larger negative amounts. The previous limit of -1000 has been increased to -8000. This allows for more space to be removed.
- Preferences Version 1.0: No change was made to prefs file. You can reuse previous pref files (z Proper Fraction Preference File.txt) with this version.

Version 2.0 released 9/17/2007

- Initial release of "Pro" Version with many new features such as a Preferences window, fraction search, search by font, stroke, OpenType support, date detection, and more.
- Proper Fraction Lite (Free) continues to work in InDesign CS, but Pro version requires CS2 or later.
- Pro version adds a progress bar. (Only works in CS3 and later.)
- Preferences Version 1.0: In the future, if the preference version changes, you may not be able to reuse your previous preference file. If the preference version remains the same, you can reuse your existing preferences by moving the preference file into the new script folder.)

Version 1.1 released 06/21/2006

- Minor update to Proper Fraction Lite (Free).
- Added instructions for CS2 installation.

Version 1.0 released 12/07/2005

- Initially release (of free Lite version). Was designed to add Quark's Make Fraction command which wasn't available in InDesign.

Purchasing

Visit <http://www.danrodney.com> or email dan@danrodney.com

Single-User License

Allows an individual to install and use Proper Fraction Pro on as many machines as he/she works on. It is not to be used by multiple persons. Only the person who purchased the license has the right to use it. Multiple installed copies cannot be used concurrently. Since there is only one licensee, he/she can only be using one copy at a time. This license is nontransferable.

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Allows a company, organization, household, etc. to install and use Proper Fraction Pro on multiple machines. The number of copies that can be installed and used concurrently depends on the number of licenses purchased. This license is nontransferable.

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Use of **Proper Fraction Pro** is subject to the following terms:

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Proper Fraction Pro is NOT to be distributed freely.

No part of the script files can be used and/or redistributed as your own.

In other words: “Please don’t steal my hard work!” 😊

While I have tested it to the best of my ability and know it to work as I intended, like any software there may be bugs that I have yet to find. It is provided “as is” with no guarantee of specific functionality. I recommend that you save frequently and keep backups of your documents. I am not responsible for any damages or liabilities incurred by the use of this product.

In other words: I’ve worked hard to make sure things should work fine, but in case I made a boo-boo please don’t sue me.

