



NUMBER DROPPER

Description

Add a serialised number to a page based on a location specified in a template document.

Features of the app

- Numbers are added to blank impositions, in the correct position as indicated on the template file, in a pdf generated by the app.
- The number can be incremented by a preset increment.
- A prefix can be added to the number string.
- The font to be used can be derived from a variable, a fixed font from a font repository, or the font name used in the pdf template, which is found by internal processes in the app.
- The font size can be derived from a variable or the size of the font used in the pdf template.
- A number specified in multiple positions on the template file is supported.

General app info

Only true type fonts are supported.

The name of the font used in the pdf for the variable place holder should match exactly the font name as seen in the font resource directory before the .ttf extension.

Template pdf setup

The template pdf will either need to be manipulated in Acrobat so that a layer called Number with a sample text line in exactly the position the serialised number should appear. This sample text should be in the desired font and font point size required.

This can be achieved by importing a pdf that only has the sample text in the position it is needed in into the template pdf, through the Import as Layer method under the drop down for the layers palette in Acrobat.

Another alternative is to use Pitstop Pro in Acrobat & setup the sample text in the position it is needed, assigning to a layer called Number.

The other alternative is to generate a pdf from a application that can maintain the layer structure into pdf format.

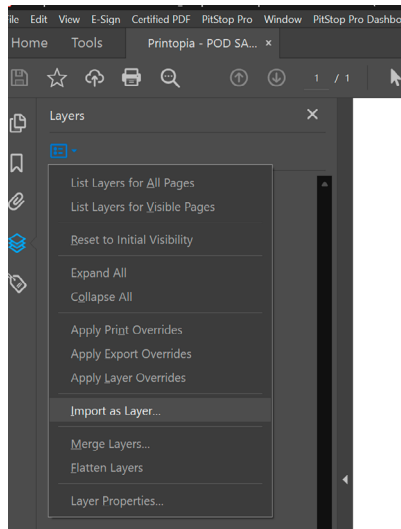
Debugging

If a font cannot be found for the serialised number, a default of Helvetica will be used.

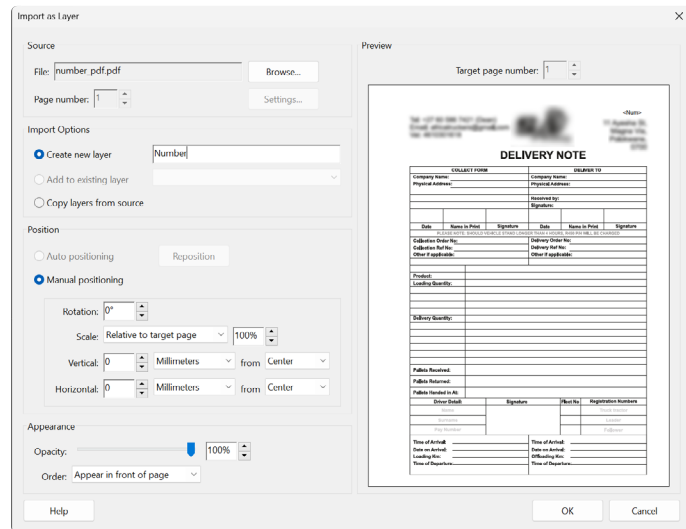
If the above situation arises, the app can be set to output debugging information. This will output the actual font name & font name as seen internally by the app to the Switch messages screen. This should help to problem solve why the correct font is not being used for the output.

The debugging information will be attached as a JSON dataset to the outgoing pdf named, __dbg_vdp. This debugging information will be attached by default to jobs that throw an error.

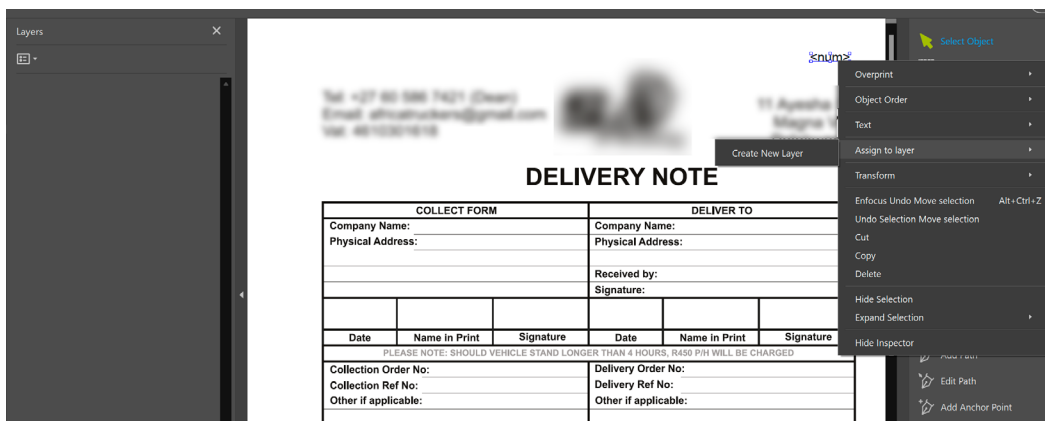
Screenshots for setup of sample text



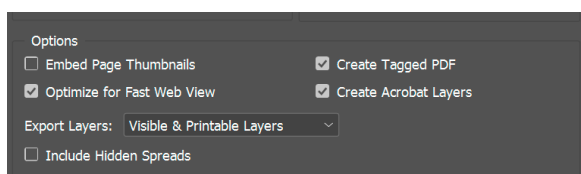
Import as Layer menu item - Acrobat



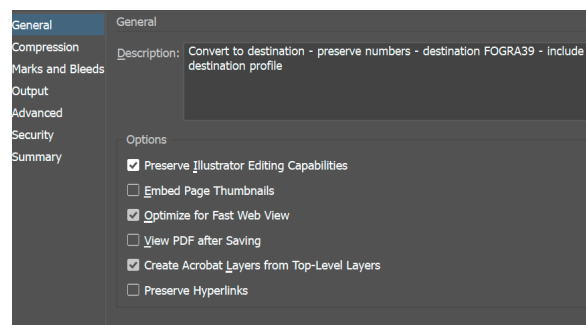
Import as Layer dialogue setup - Acrobat



Add item to layer with Pitstop Pro



Indesign create layers on pdf export



Illustrator create layers on save as pdf

Overview of configurator options

Element	Options	Element Type	Description
Name		String	Name of script element in Switch.
Description		String	Description of element in Switch.
Set suffix for overlay file	overlay	String	Name appended to the pdf generated that contains the numbering. This enables the file to be differentiated from the template file.
Set suffix for master file	master	String	Name appended to the template pdf.
Font repository	Single line text/Choose folder	String	Indicate location of custom font folder. Only shown if Use custom font resource location is Yes.
Use font name from a variable or a fixed font?	No ;Yes	No/Yes drop-down	If No the font name generated from internal logging will be used.
Select font	Single line text;Single line text with variables;Select from library	String	Select how to impart font name information. Only shown if Use font name from a variable or a fixed font? is Yes.
Use font size from variable?	No ;Yes	No/Yes drop-down	If No font size will generated from app internal logging.
Font size	Single line text;Single line text with variables	String	Select how to impart font size information. Only shown if Use font size from variable? is Yes.
Font alignment	Single line text;Single line text with variables	String	Set font alignment. Should be same as that set in template pdf.
Color of character string	Default;Custom	Drop-down list	Indicate if default color to be used(100% K), or if a custom color should be used
	C,M,Y,K	String	Set custom font color. Use a range of 0 - 100 for values. Only shown if Color of character string is Custom.
Start value		String	Start value of numbers
Width of character string	Single line text;Single line text with variables	String	Set the number of characters for string. String will be padded by default with 0's
Increment by	Single line text;Single line text with variables	String	The amount the serialised string is to be incremented by.
Number of overlay pages		String	Set number of required pages.
Set prefix for string?	No ;Yes	No/Yes drop-down	Indicate if string to be prefixed.
*Imposition matrix		String, format, 0x0	Matrix of the imposition, 2x3, 2x1.
*Imposition binding		String	Left binding Top binding, Across then up Top binding, Up then across
*Spine edge distance		String	Distance of spine side tear off to edge of spine of NCR book

NOTE: additional configuration settings on next page

Overview of configurator options, cntd

Element	Options	Element Type	Description
*Impose template pdf			Template impose, No Template impose, Yes, Sheetwise Template impose, Yes, Perfecting
Offset string	No;Yes;Single line text;Single line text with variables	No/Yes drop-down	Indicate if offset to be set for VDP string to be added to the pdf..
Offset X (mm)	Single line text;Single line text with variables;Script expression	String	Offset in Y axis, set in millimeter. Only shown if Offset string is Yes
Offset Y (mm)	Single line text;Single line text with variables;Script expression	String	Offset in Y axis, set in millimeter. Only shown if Offset string is Yes
Default dataset name			Name of outgoing dataset
Prefix for string	Single line text;Single line text with variables	String	Set the prefix. Only shown if Set prefix for string? is Yes.
Debugging output	No;Yes	No/Yes drop-down	Indicate if debugging information to be output. Logs warnings to messages & attached debugging data as JSON dataset to job, named __dbg_vdp.

Additional configuration parameters for imposition

***Imposition matrix** - the matrix for the imposition, eg. 2x3 - 2 columns by 3 rows

***Imposition binding** - the binding stated dictates the imposition sequence - 1 imposition sequence for left binding and 2 imposition sequences for top binding- options are set out in the table above - see diagram below for further explanation of imposition sequence

Left binding,
Down then
across



Top binding,
Across then up



Top binding,
Up then across



***Spine edge distance** - millimeter distance from the spine edge trim of the NCR book to the first tear off on the spine side

***Impose template pdf** - whether the template pdf should be imposed - options set out in the table above - imposition styles supported are sheetwise & perfecting - if template page is more than one page, only the first 2 pages will be imposed, with the second page used as the back page of the imposition - the position indicator for the number will be removed for the imposition of template file

Note: A sample flow has been provided that shows methodologies of imposition based on variables attached as metadata to the job to be imposed.

Note: The artbox will reflect the live area of the imposition that contain the actual NCR tear off pages, ie. in the case of left binding with a spine edge the left margin of the artbox will be inset from the media box, according to the distance set in the configuration for the app, likewise with top binding.

Note: Number of pages is now the number of pages required for the NCR book, ie. with a 2x2 imposition of a 100 pages, starting at 1, the end number will be 400.