The QuarkXPress user interface: Old vs. new

This document provides a quick-reference guide to the changes in the QuarkXPress user interface for version 8.

Old tools and new tools

The topics below list the old QuarkXPress tools and show where to look for the corresponding tools in QuarkXPress 8.

Item tool

The Item tool works the same way it did in previous versions.

Content tool

The Content tool has been replaced by the Text Content tool and Picture Content tool.

Rotation tool

The Rotation tool has been removed from the Tools palette. You can now rotate an item or picture by clicking and dragging near a box corner when the rotation pointer displays.
Zoom tool

The **Zoom** tool has been moved to a group at the bottom of the **Tools** palette.

Text Box and picture box tools

Rather than drawing a text or picture box, you can now simply draw a box and then import text or a picture. Consequently, the **Text Box** group and the **Picture Box** group have been replaced by the **Box** tool group and the **Bézier** tool group.

Tables tool

The **Tables** tool works the same way it did in earlier versions.

Line Tools

The tools in the **Line** tools group have been replaced by the **Line** tool and the tools in the **Bézier** tool group. The **Orthogonal Line** tool has been removed, but you can constrain lines to 45-degree angles by pressing Shift before drawing.

Text Path tools

The tools in the **Text Path** group no longer exist. Instead of drawing a text path, you can simply draw a line, and then double-click it with the **Text Content** tool.

Corner styles are now a box attribute in QuarkXPress 8. You can change a rectangular box into a rounded-corner box — and control the radius of the corners — from a drop-down menu in the Measurements palette.
Linking tool

The Linking tool works the same way it did in earlier versions. This tool has been moved to the Text Content tool group.

Unlinking tool

The Unlinking tool works the same way it did in earlier versions. This tool has been moved to the Text Content tool group.

Composition Zones tool

The Composition Zones tool works the same way it did in earlier versions. This tool has been moved to the Box tool group.

Scissors tool

The Scissors tool works the same way it did in earlier versions. This tool has been moved to the Bézier tool group.

Starburst tool

The Starburst tool works the same way it did in earlier versions. This tool has been moved to the Box tool group.

Tool selection

A tool remains selected in QuarkXPress 8 until you select another tool or use a keyboard shortcut to switch tools.
New tools in detail

QuarkXPress 8 Tools palette

QuarkXPress 8 comes with a completely revamped Tools palette. The tools (old and new) are summarized below.

**Item tool:** You can double-click a text box with the Item tool to switch to the Text Content tool, or double-click a picture box to switch to the Picture Content tool. Depending on your preferences, you can also double-click either type of box to display the Modify dialog box.

**Text Content tool:** Use the Text Content tool to edit text. You can also use the Text Content tool to draw a rectangular text box and immediately switch to text editing mode.

**Text Linking tool:** Use the Text Linking tool to flow text between boxes.

**Text Unlinking tool:** Use the Text Unlinking tool to break the flow of text between boxes.

**Picture Content tool:** Use the Picture Content tool to work with pictures in picture boxes. You can also use the Picture Content tool to draw a rectangular picture box and immediately import a picture.

**Rectangular Box tool:** Use the Rectangular Box tool to create rectangular boxes that accept both text and pictures.

**Oval Box tool:** Use the Oval Box tool to create oval-shaped boxes. Press Shift to create circular boxes that accept both text and pictures.
Starburst tool: Use the Starburst tool to create star-shaped boxes that accept both text and pictures.

Composition Zones tool: Use the Composition Zones tool to create Composition Zones® items.

Line tool: Use the Line tool to create straight lines at any angle. To constrain lines to 45-degree angles, press Shift before drawing.

Bézier Pen tool: Use the Bézier Pen tool to draw and edit Bézier lines and boxes. A comprehensive set of modifier key commands makes it easy for you to create, edit, and adjust Bézier lines without having to switch tools.

Add Point tool: Use the Add Point tool to add a point to a Bézier line or box segment. (You can also add a point to an existing path by clicking the path with the Bézier Pen tool.)

Remove Point tool: Use the Remove Point tool to delete a point from a Bézier line or box segment. (You can also remove a point by clicking it with the Bézier Pen tool.)

Convert Point tool: Use the Convert Point tool to convert a Bézier smooth point to a corner point, or a corner point to a smooth point. (You can also convert a point by Option+clicking/Alt+clicking it with the Bézier Pen tool.)

Scissors tool: Use the Scissors tool to "cut" a box or line segment by adding Bézier points.

Select Point tool: Use the Select Point tool to select a Bézier point or line segment.

Freehand Drawing tool: Use the Freehand Drawing tool to draw a line with a continuous motion.

Table tool: Use the Table tool to create tables.

Zoom tool: Use the Zoom tool to zoom in on the layout. Press Option/Alt and click to zoom out.

Pan tool: Use the Pan tool to scroll the layout in any direction.
Keyboard shortcuts for switching tools
When you’re not working with text, you can use the following keys to switch between tools:

- V = Item tool
- T = Text Content tool, Text Linking tool, Text Unlinking tool
- R = Picture Content tool
- B = Rectangle Box tool, Oval Box tool, Star Box tool, Composition Zones tool
- L = Line tool
- P = Bézier Pen tool, Add Point tool, Remove Point tool, Convert Point tool, Scissors tool, Select Point tool, Freehand Drawing tool
- G = Table tool
- Z = Zoom tool

You can cycle through tools that share the same shortcut key by pressing that key repeatedly.

Direct manipulation of boxes and pictures

QuarkXPress 8 introduces direct manipulation, which is a faster and easier way of resizing and rotating boxes and pictures.

In earlier versions of QuarkXPress, you had to select the Rotation tool to rotate a box. With QuarkXPress 8, you can just move your mouse pointer near an item’s corner handle until the rotation pointer displays, and then click and drag. Move the mouse a little closer to a handle, and the resize pointer displays, allowing you to resize the box.
Pictures in picture boxes now have their own handles too, allowing you to rotate and resize them without switching tools. You can even see a ghosted version of the cropped-out portion of the active picture.

Use picture handles to rotate pictures.

Flexible content handling

In earlier versions of QuarkXPress, you had to create a text box before you could import text, and you had to create a picture box before you could insert a picture. With QuarkXPress 8, you simply draw a "plain" box, then choose File > Import and import a text or picture file. If you want to change a picture box to a text box, you can just select it and import a text file. In fact, you don’t even have to draw a box — simply choose File > Import and select a file, or drag content onto a page from the desktop or another application, and QuarkXPress creates the box for you.