eightshapes

# Instant Deliverable Mix

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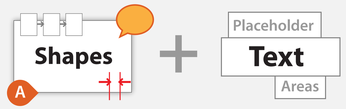
## Page Patterns are predefined...




in a layout to enable designers to place artwork (e.g., wireframe) and compose annotations in a consistent and effective deliverable page.

## Rationale

- Generate typical content far faster
- Create consistent, predictable page structure
- Share common layouts with peers
- Establish expectations for deliverable content

## Use When

Place a page pattern onto your page at the outset of authoring content for that page. Better yet, use page patterns from the deliverable's outset, planning your outline and clarifying delivery with your audience(s).

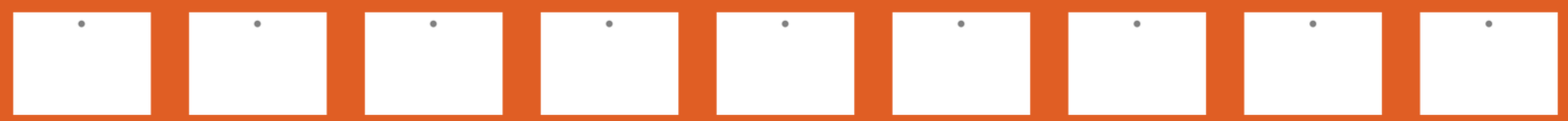
## Page Patterns ≠ Backgrounds

A background (in Visio; referred to as canvas in Omnigraffle and master in InDesign) enables you to utilize the same structure, document metadata, and other page elements across pages.

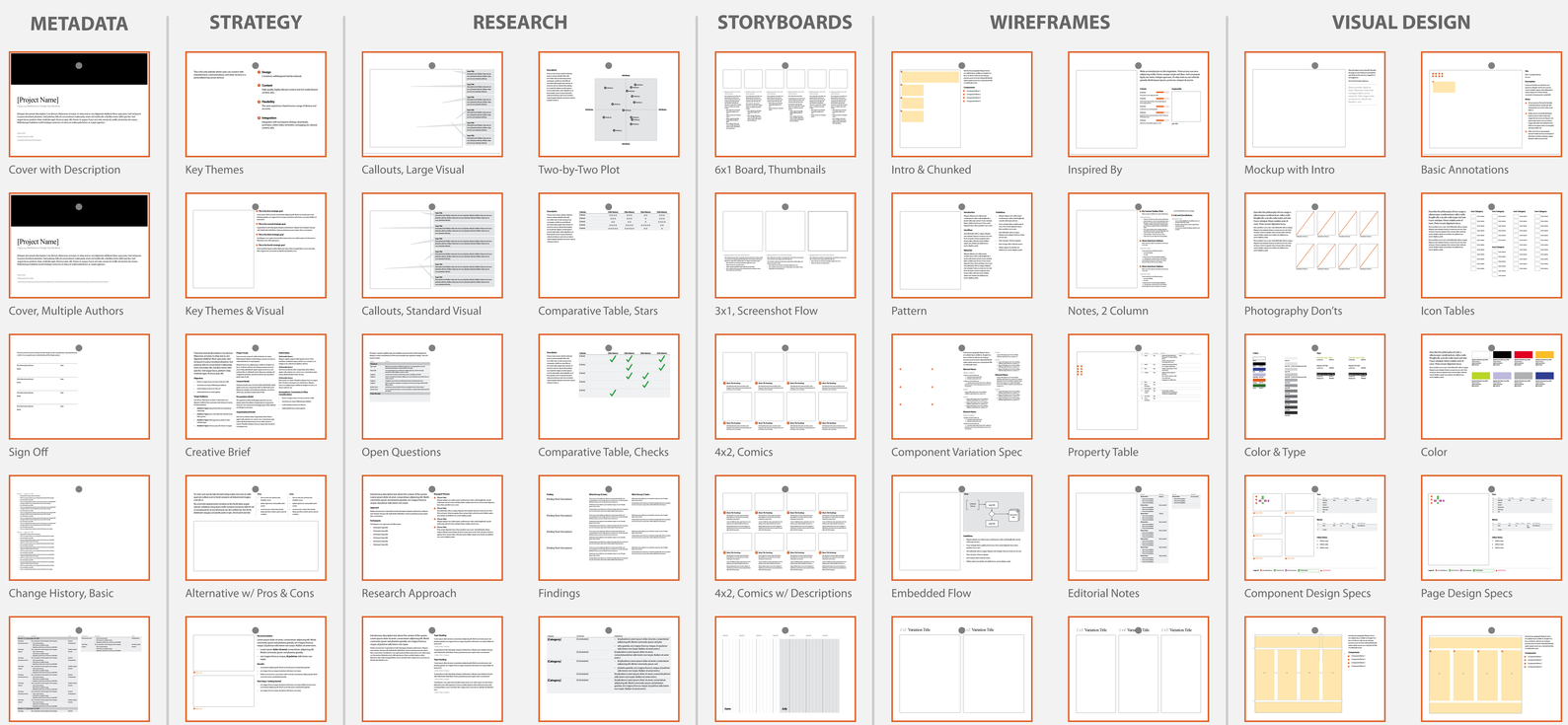
Backgrounds enable you to create a few, representative backgrounds for simple templates, but reasons you wouldn't use the feature for page patterns include:

- Backgrounds are not intended for page specific editing; page patterns are for actual content
- The massive number of objects in a 60+ page pattern library would bloat template file size
- Separating page patterns from document templates eases creation, maintenance, and distribution of page pattern libraries

## *Cook up your own deliverable in less than 3 minutes!*



## Find your ingredients in the Page Pattern Library:




## Create Your Own **Recipes**

Recipes use page patterns to predefine your deliverable structure by pages and chapters. Outline once but use it repeatedly, each time adding whatever special ingredients necessary.

Even better, review your recipes with your deliverable's intended consumers ... before you get started. That way, expectations are set.

## Truly Instant? Use Recipe **Scripts**

Automate deliverable production (or at least starting points) via a combination of:

**XML**

```
<pages>
    <page>
        <pattern>wireframes/pattern.inds</pattern>
        <title>Autocomplete</title>
        <titlestyle>Search Autocomplete</titlestyle>
    </page>
    <page>
        <pattern>components/specs.inds</pattern>
        <title>Autocomplete Panel</title>
```

+

**Script**

```
// Get XML page pattern values
var pageTitle = x.itemByName("title").contents;
var pageTitleStyle = x.itemByName("titlestyle").contents;
var pattern = x.itemByName("pattern").contents;

// Add New Page & Place Snippet
var newpage = designDoc.pages.add();
newpage.place(File(pathToPagePatterns + pattern));

// Adds new page title
var pageTitleFrame = overrideMasterTextFrameByContents("B-R
pageTitleFrame.contents = pageTitle;
pageTitleFrame.paragraphs[0].appliedParagraphStyle = getPar
```

## Software Capabilities

Page patterns can be utilized in many different information architecture software tools. In all cases, simply drag a pattern onto a page and begin authoring content and artwork. But the features you use depend on the tool:

**Adobe InDesign CS3**
**Snippets** (primary)
A snippet is a distinct file that is placed into the document via drag-and-drop or menu
**Object Library** (secondary)
A panel in the workspace from which you can drag-and-drop

**OmniGraffle & Microsoft Visio**
**Stencil**
A panel in the workspace from which you can drag-and-drop