

Create dynamic slash text in InDesign

InDesign does not have a diagonal strikethrough option. Table cells, on the other hand, allow diagonal lines. However, table cells are only dynamic in the vertical direction, the width of the columns being fixed and having to be modified by the user if necessary.

By diverting this principle, it is possible to create blocks whose width varies dynamically. The idea is therefore to create a table rotated at 90° with a single cell comprising an oblique line and in which the text to be crossed out will be inserted as an anchored block. The end result looks like this:

9,99€ <= Basic block	Add a 1=>	19,99€	Insert a 2 =>	129,99€
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1 - Create text to strikethrough

In our example it is a price, it could be a word, although this is rarer and the result on a whole sentence is not perfect, the beveled ends of the stroke extending with the block:

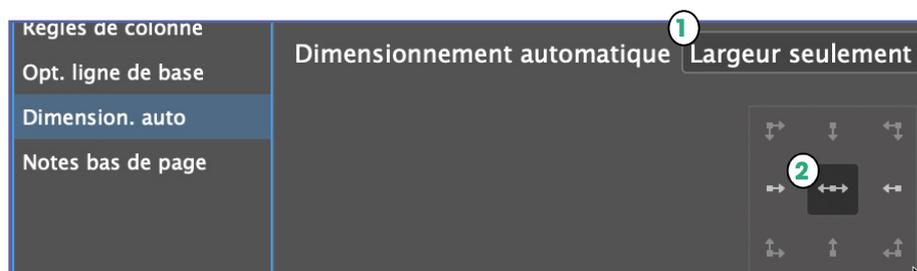
~~This is a strikethrough sentence, the ends of the stroke become more and more refined, as the block grows~~

However, and in all cases, we start with minimal text. Here, a unit price with two decimals.

~~9,99€~~

Text: body 12, center alignment

Block selected -> right click -> choose
Text block options -> Auto dimension =>
Width only (1), in centered mode (2)



2 - Create the basic table

In the top menu bar => Table

-> Create a table

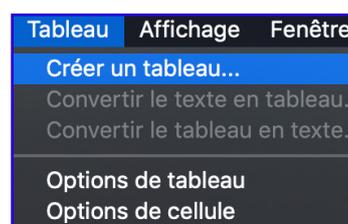
-> fill in the fields

-> 1 row, 1 column

-> choose a Simple Table

=> the cursor changes icon

-> draw your table, its size does not matter at this time



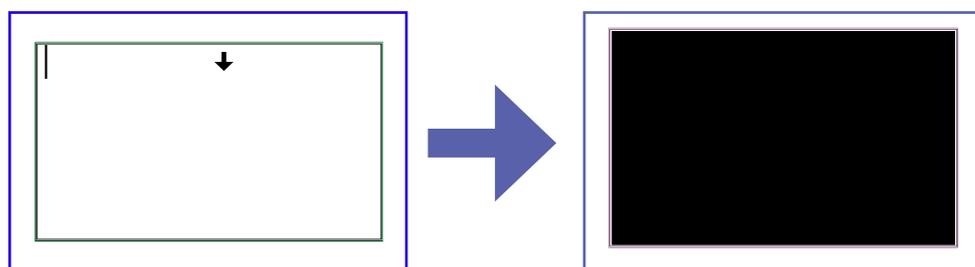
3 - Configure the table

The body text of the cell will depend on that of the text to be crossed out. Let's take the example of a price in body 12 pt, you must then start by adjusting the cell to the body of the text.

-> with the text tool activate the cell => the text insertion cursor appears

-> select the inside of the cell => a small black arrow appears when approaching the edge of the cell

-> select the cell



The cell is selected, it is then possible to modify certain parameters in the InDesign control panel.

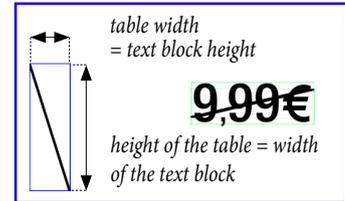
Control panel Left Side:

- the body of the font (1) (the leading is useless because there will only be one line)
- alignment (2) horizontal -> centered; vertical -> by default (no influence)



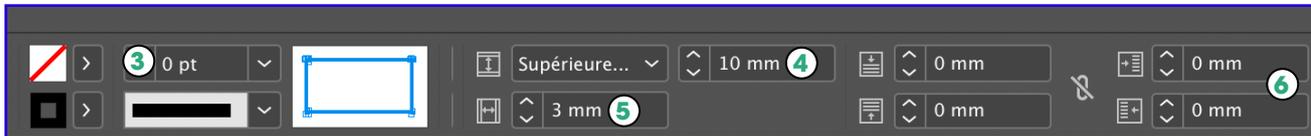
Center part:

- the cell outline -> 0 (3)
- the height of the cell (4). Important, it will determine, due to the rotation of the table, the width of the cell*
- To determine it, simply refer to the width of the text/price block created previously
- the width of the cell (5) will affect the height of the strikethrough **



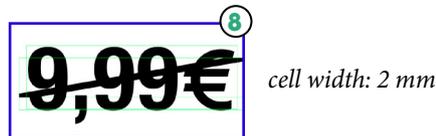
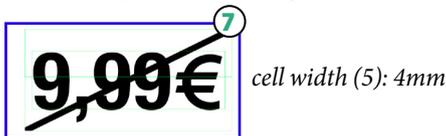
Right part:

cell margins (6) -> 0



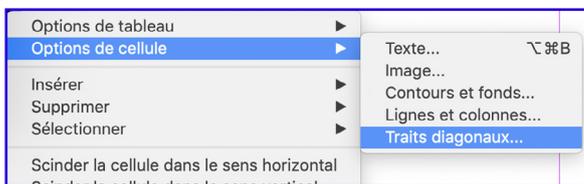
* Cell height (4) identical to block width => the strikethrough fits perfectly to the basic text block => ~~9,99€~~
 Cell height greater than block width => the strikethrough extends beyond the base text block => ~~9,99€~~

** Cell width (5) greater than the height of the text block, => if we want the strikethrough to take more than the height of the text (7); Cell width less than text block height => if we want the strikethrough to be inside (8). Ultimately these settings determine the angle of the slashed line.



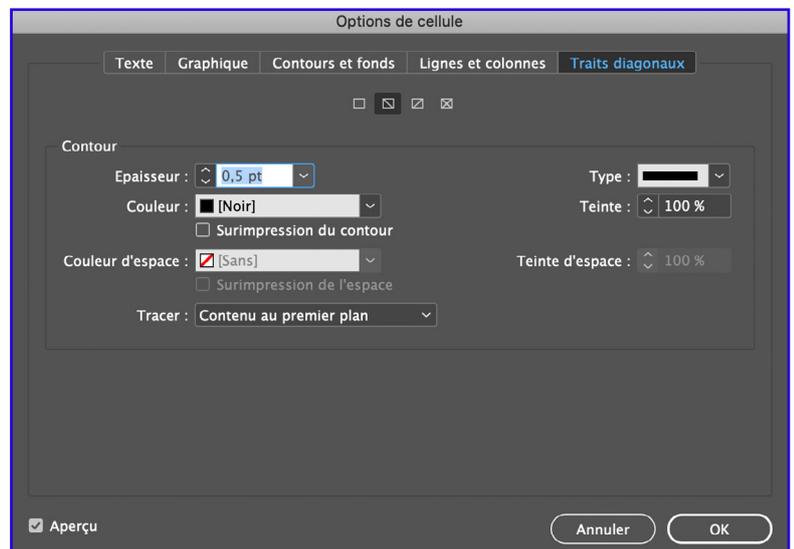
3 - Table Options

With the cell still selected, a right click (or command-click) displays the menu of options, including the diagonal lines. -> right click -> choose Cell Options > Diagonal Lines



- > choose the thickness of the line as needed. In our example 0.5 or 0.7 points will suffice.
- > the color, according to the charter specifications.
- > the orientation of the line.

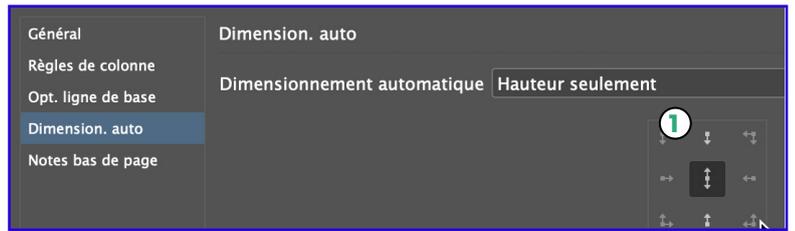
Note: since the trick lies in the pivoting of the painting, you must choose the orientation opposite to the desired final line. Here, a diagonal starting from the top-left towards bottom-right, will give bottom-left towards top-right.



Diagonal Lines tab of the Cell Options window.

Now, as for the text block, we must also allow the table block to grow dynamically. This is done the same way:

- > direct board block selection
- > right click -> choose Text Block Options
- > Autosize
- > Height only, center reference (1)

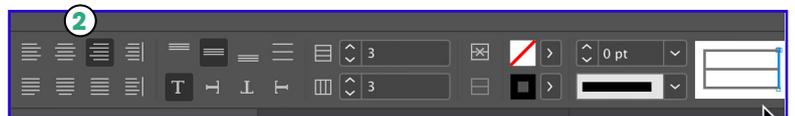


Note: For a teaser price, with the benchmark in the center (1), the price will spread evenly to the right and to the left



In a price table, with the same referential, if the cell option framed on the right is selected (2), the price will extend to left.

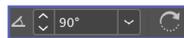
34/36, 38/40	9,99€	26,99€
34/36, 38/40	19,99€	36,99€
34/36, 38/40	129,99€	36,99€



4 - Embed the text block in the cell

First of all, the text must be rotated 90°

- > direct selection then control panel



9,99€



9,99€

Then it is necessary to pass the table to -90° of rotation.

- > direct selection then control panel

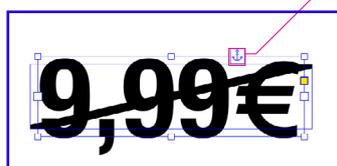


/!\ Pay attention to the negative sign on the table, the two angles must be opposite otherwise the text will not appear in the right direction.

Finally, all that remains is to copy and paste the text block inside the cell (= anchoring)

- > select the text block in direct selection (black arrow)
- > copy
- > click in the cell with the text tool => the insertion cursor appears
- > paste => the text block is anchored

anchor icon, the text block is well-anchored to the cell



That's it, the dynamic strikethrough text is created, adding characters will extend the text block in the width starting from its center, the table will follow with the strikethrough cell adapting to it.