

**Benchmark Results**

**The InDesign 2.0 J  
Productivity Benchmark Report**

**Productivity comparison of Adobe InDesign 2.0 J  
and QuarkXPress 4.x J**

**Client: Adobe Systems**

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**The InDesign 2.0 J Productivity Benchmark**

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 <b>Pfeiffer</b> Consulting 01001011	<b>Client: Adobe Systems, Inc.</b>	<b>Benchmark Report</b>
	<b>The InDesign 2.0 J Productivity Benchmark</b>	

**About the Benchmark Project**

<b>Section: About the Benchmark Project</b>		<b>3</b>
For further information contact: <a href="mailto:reasearch@pfeifferreport.com">reasearch@pfeifferreport.com</a>	<b>July 21, 2003</b>	

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	<b>The InDesign 2.0 J Productivity Benchmark</b>	

## 1 About this Report

### 1.1 Introduction

This report presents the results of the benchmarks conducted for the InDesign J Productivity Benchmark Project.

## 2 About the Benchmarks

### 2.1 Two Types of Benchmarks

Two types of benchmarks were conducted: **composition productivity benchmarks** specific to Japanese typographic requirements, and **application integration benchmarks**.

### 2.2 Composition Productivity Benchmarks


These benchmarks, based on Pfeiffer Consulting's methodology for productivity benchmarking, were defined and supervised by Takashi Sasaki of ImageExplain, Tokyo.

**Market specific page layout assignments included:**

- **Vertical composition benchmark**
- **Horizontal composition benchmark**
- **Complex page layout, including Illustrator and Photoshop integration**

The third benchmark also included PDF export as a project phase. Results of this project phase are presented separately.

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### 2.3 Application Integration Benchmarks

Productivity linked to integration of the page layout applications with Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop were defined and conducted by Pfeiffer Consulting.

Application integration Benchmarks were comprised of:

- **Photoshop Round-Trip 20 MB File**
- **Photoshop Round-Trip 40 MB File**
- **Photoshop Round-Trip 80 MB File**
- **Create Drop Shadow (using Adobe Illustrator)**
- **Create Transparency Effect (using Adobe Photoshop)**
- **Export PDF (results from Composition Productivity Benchmark N° 3)**

### 2.4 About the Execution of the Productivity Benchmarks

No scripting was used in the execution of the benchmark: the main aim of this productivity benchmark is to show real-world productivity increase, and has therefore to take in account actually performing all the operations necessary for the completion of the project.


Every phase of the benchmark was therefore defined as **several sets of clearly defined, repeatable steps**. These steps were then executed in a strictly identical way. Each set of steps was executed three times; only the fastest result was preserved.

The overall test results are calculated from **cumulating the measures obtained for each individual set of step**.

Note: Vertical and horizontal composition benchmarks were conducted in two distinct ways: once using the layout specification describing the result to be achieved in both programs, and once using the exact benchmark procedure defined by Pfeiffer Consulting and Takashi Sasaki of ImageExplain. Both results are featured individually in this report.

No Scripting was used in any benchmarks in order to reflect real world working conditions.

<b>Section: About the Benchmarks</b>	
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## 3 About the Configurations

### 3.1 Two Types of Configuration

All benchmarks were conducted on the Macintosh platform. Each benchmark was conducted twice: once on a **standard configuration**, corresponding to the average equipment in a Japanese design and publishing environment, as well as on a **high-spec configuration** which represents a recent, fully equipped work-station.

- **Standard configuration**  
400 Mhz Power Macintosh G3 with 256 MB of RAM
- **High-spec configuration**  
1 Ghz Power Macintosh G4 with 512 MB of RAM

## 4 Software

The most recent commercially available version of each software package was used.

- **Adobe InDesign 2.0.1 J**
- **QuarkXPress 4.1 J**
- **QuarkXPress 4.1 J + EasyCompo II extension**
- **Adobe Photoshop 7.0.1**
- **Adobe Illustrator 10.0.2**

In order to closely reflect typical working conditions in a Japanese desktop publishing environment, QuarkXpress was not only tested “as is” but also in a configuration which included the widely used EasyCompo II extension which correct some of the shortcomings of the program in terms of Japanese typography.

No additional plug-ins were used were used for Adobe InDesign.


## 5 System Software

Adobe InDesign-based tests were conducted on two versions of the Macintosh operating system:

- **Benchmarks on the standard configuration were conducted using Mac OS 9.2.**
- **Benchmarks on the high-spec configuration were conducted using Mac OS X 10.2**

Since QuarkXPress J is currently not available in a native Mac OS X version, all benchmarks of the QuarkXPress based workflow were conducted on Mac OS 9.2.

<b>Section: About the Configurations</b>		<b>6</b>
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## 6 Key Results

### 6.1 Composition Productivity Benchmarks

Adobe InDesign is significantly faster than QuarkXPress in a majority of productivity measures:

- Comparing results of InDesign with results from QuarkXPress (w/o special extensions) shows an almost two time increase in all market specific composition benchmarks.
- In some cases, a QuarkXPress-based workflow is over two times slower than Adobe InDesign.
- Even when compared with an enhanced QuarkXPress-based workflow (using special extensions for speeding up Japanese typesetting tasks) the Adobe publishing environment offers clearly superior performance.

### 6.2 Application Integration Benchmarks

Tighter Integration with other Adobe Applications can offer spectacular improvements in productivity:

- Exporting a design to a PDF file is 4 to 5 times faster using InDesign.
- Creating a drop shadow is up to 15 times faster using InDesign, rather than using QuarkXPress in conjunction with Adobe Illustrator.
- Creating transparency effects is almost ten times faster using InDesign.
- Integration with Photoshop (Photoshop round-trip benchmark) offers at least a 20% to 30% performance increase with InDesign based solutions.

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	<b>The InDesign 2.0 J Productivity Benchmark</b>	

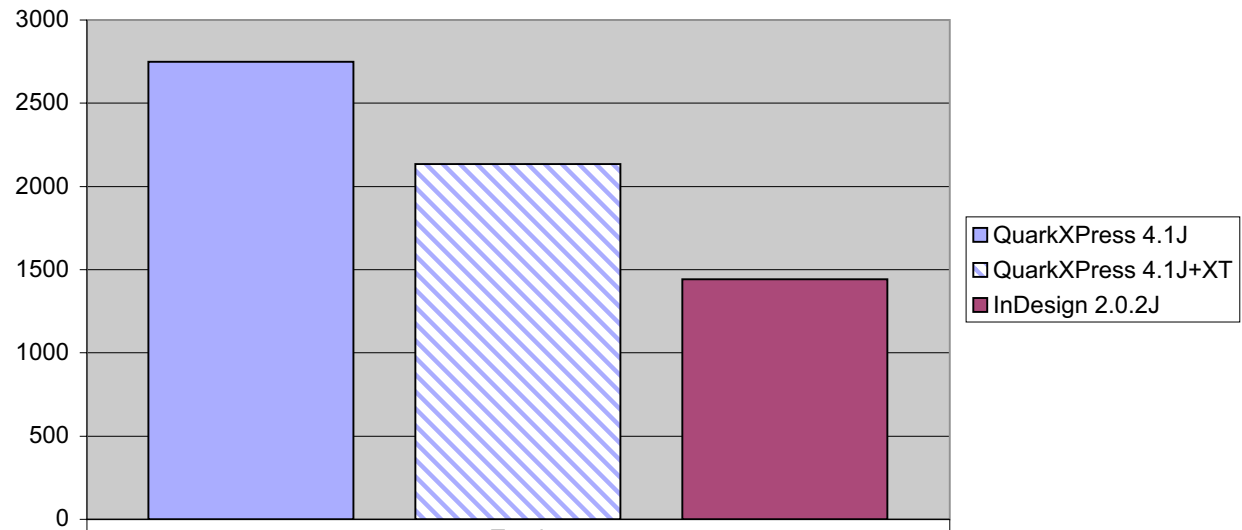
**Results and Charts**

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**Horizontal Composition (using Benchmark Procedure): Results and Charts**

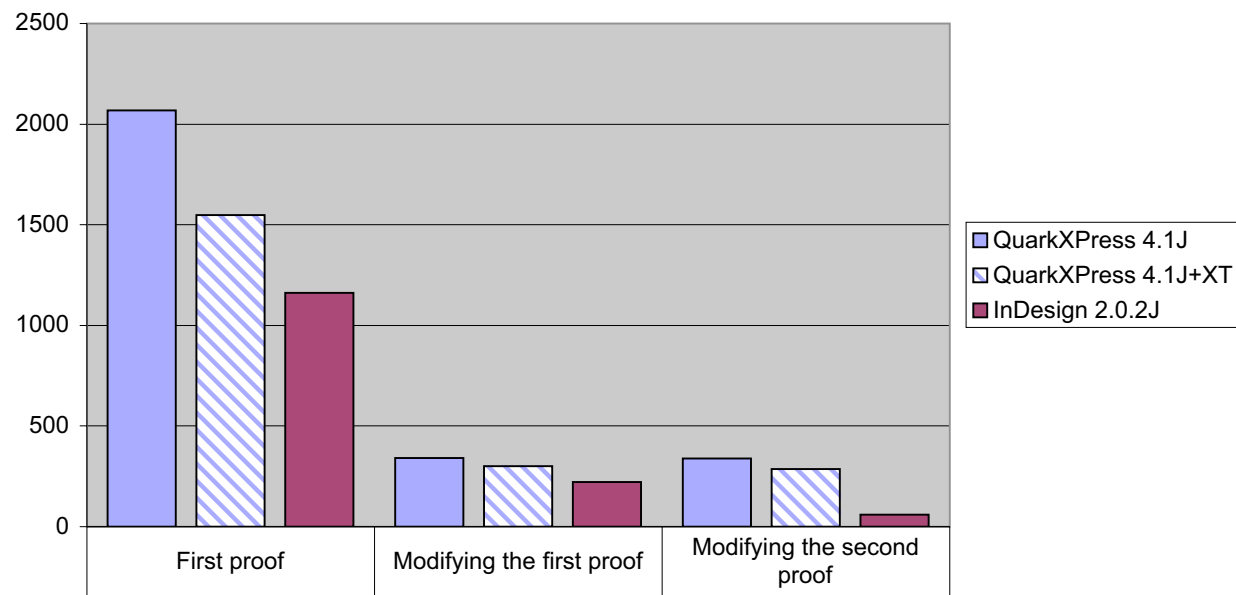
**Horizontal Composition (following benchmark procedure)  
Standard Configuration - Total**

Time in seconds - shorter is better



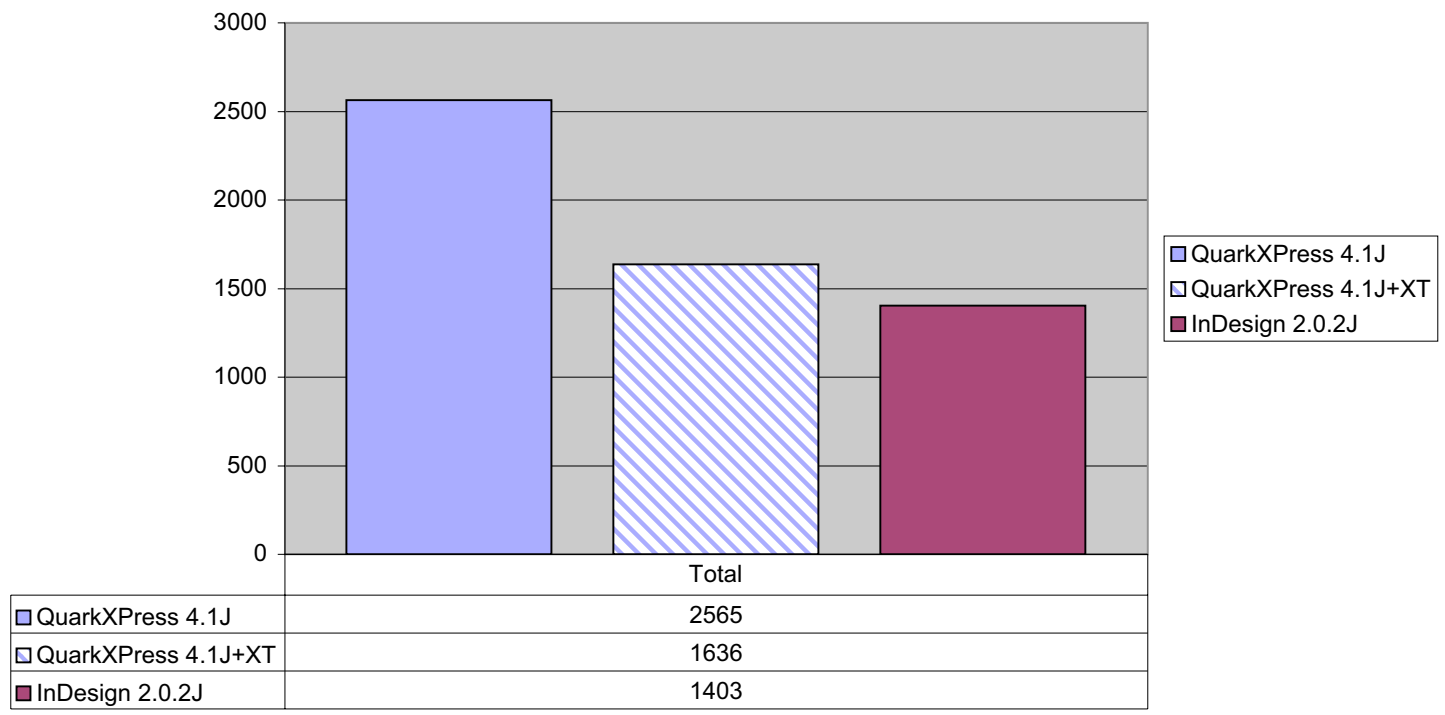
	Total
■ QuarkXPress 4.1J	2748
▨ QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT	2136
■ InDesign 2.0.2J	1443

**Horizontal Composition (following benchmark procedure)**  
**Standard Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

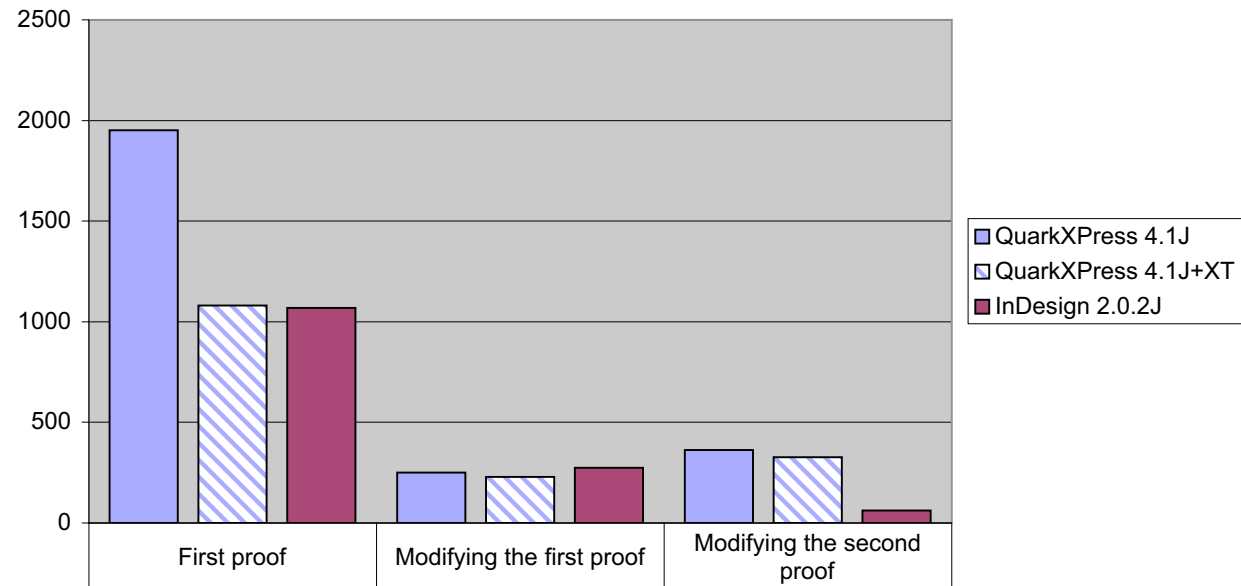


■ QuarkXPress 4.1J	2068	342	338
▨ QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT	1548	301	287
■ InDesign 2.0.2J	1161	222	60

**Horizontal Composition (following benchmark procedure)**  
**High-spec. Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



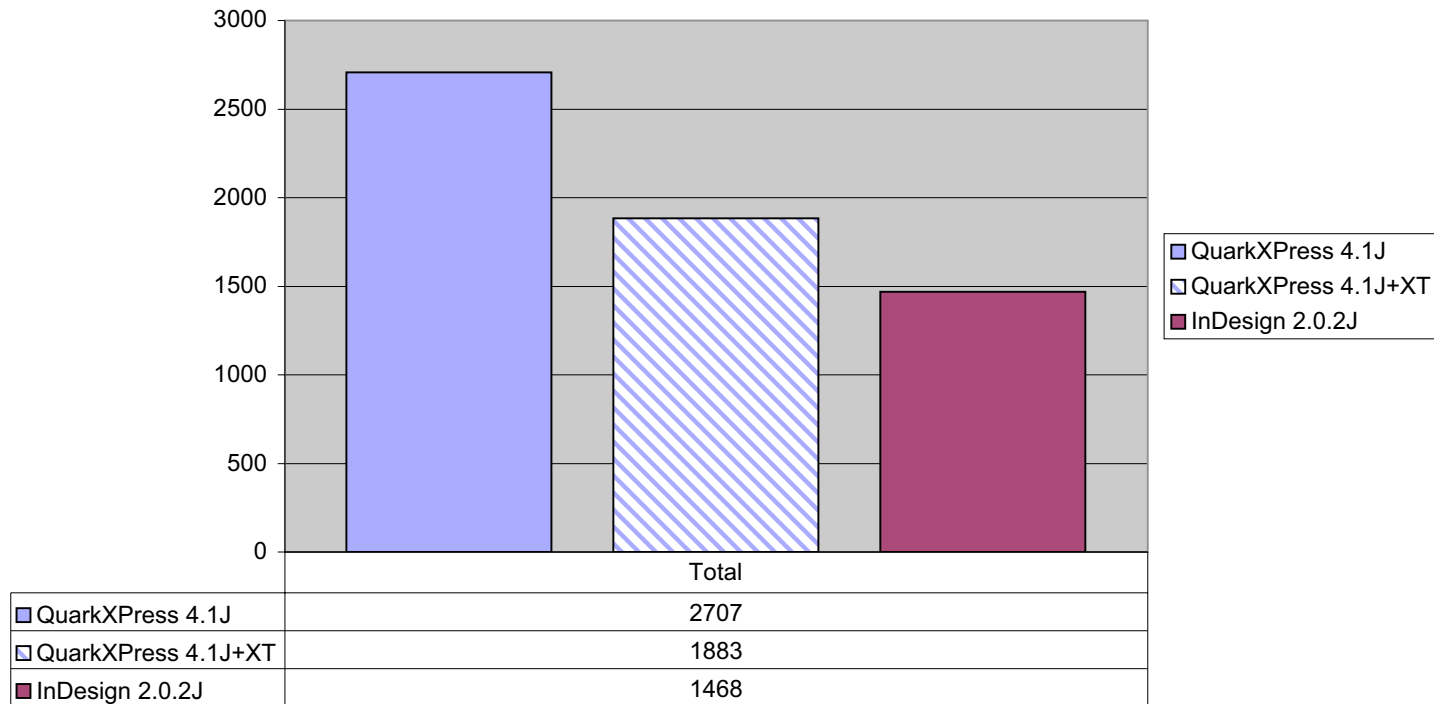
**Horizontal Composition (following benchmark procedure)**  
**High-spec. Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



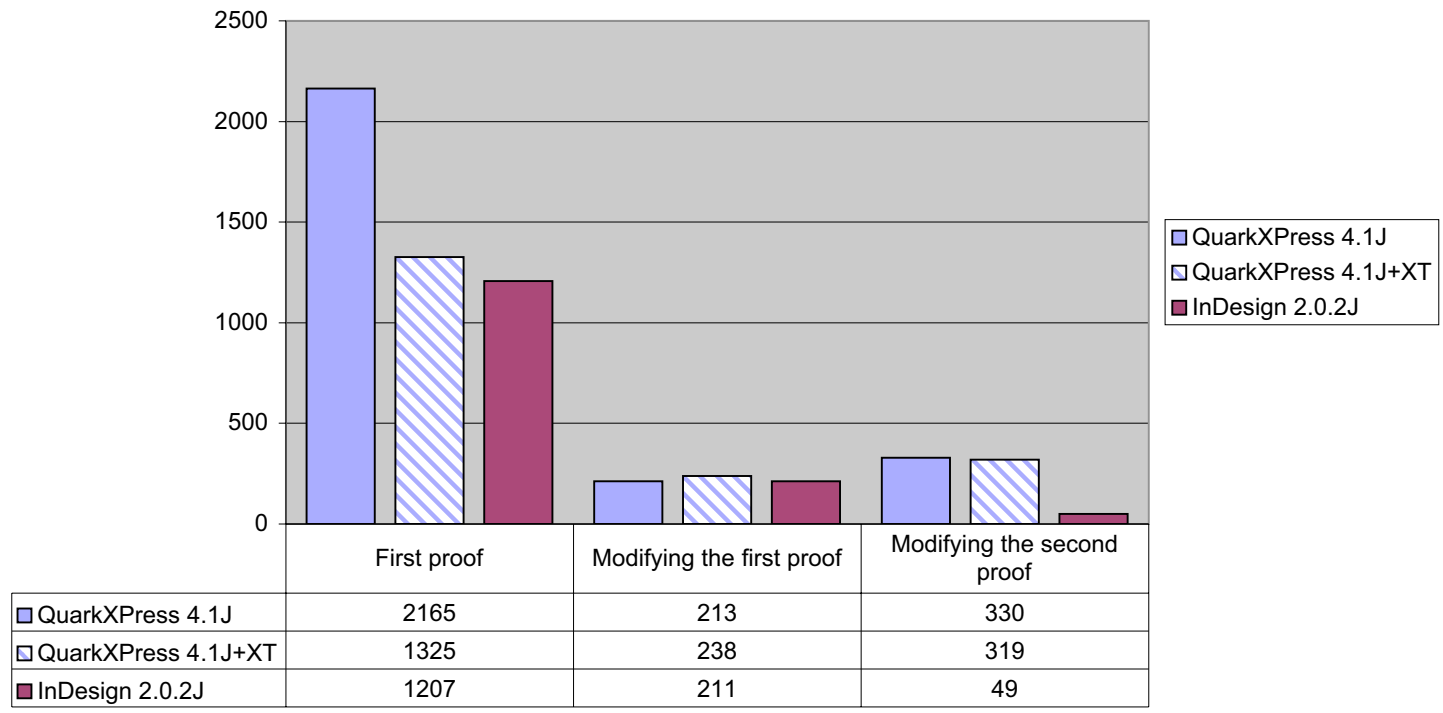
QuarkXPress 4.1J	1952	251	362
QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT	1080	229	327
InDesign 2.0.2J	1069	273	61

**Horizontal Composition (using Layout Instructions): Results and Charts**

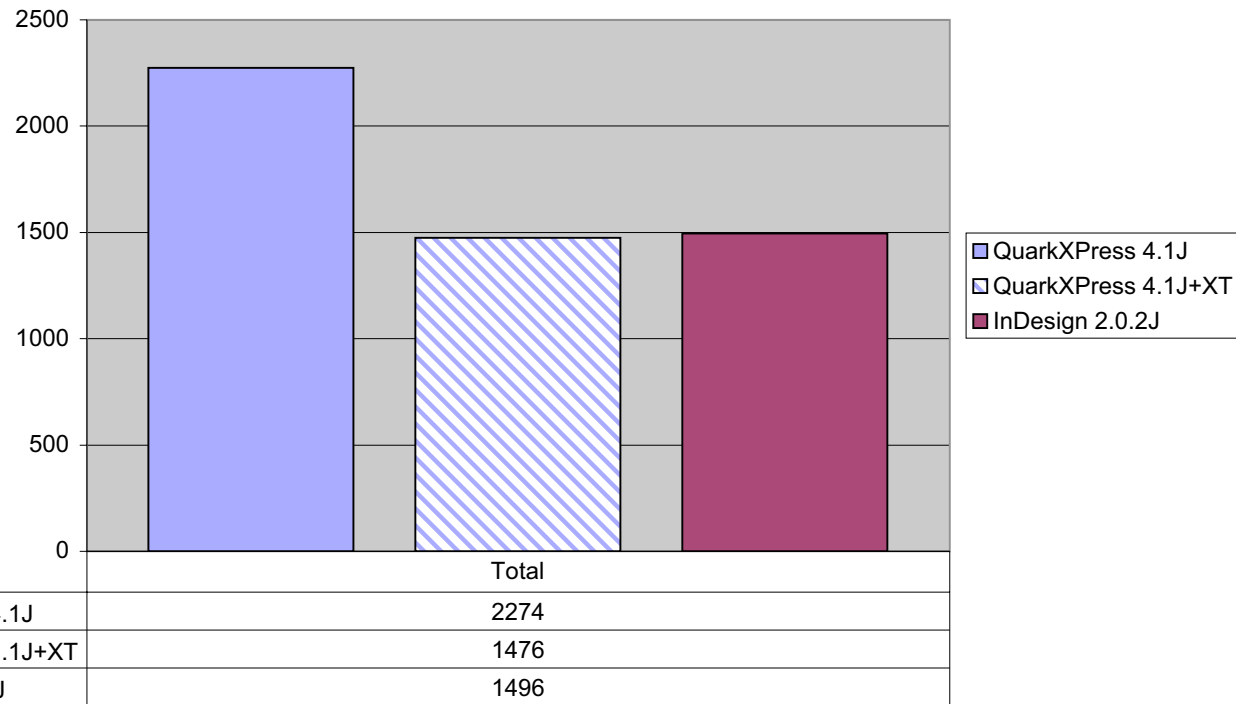
**Horizontal Composition (following layout instructions)  
Standard Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**Horizontal Composition (following layout instructions)**  
**Standard Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

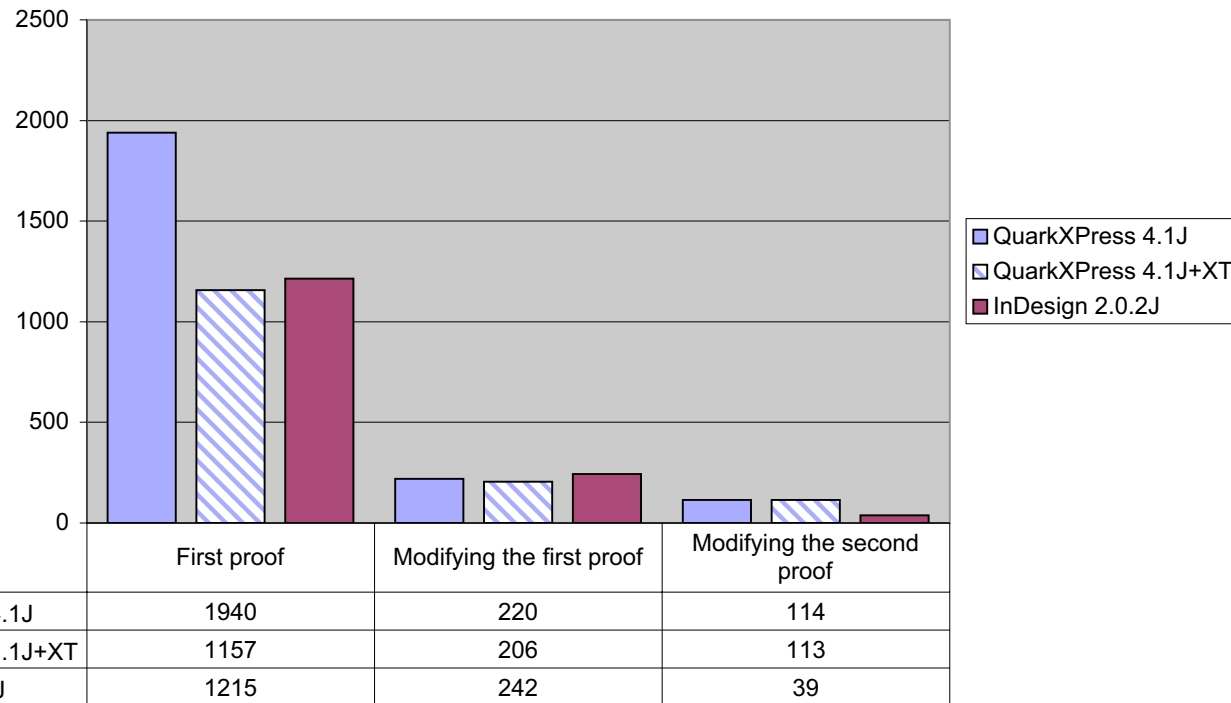


**Horizontal Composition (following layout instructions)**  
**High-spec. Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**Section: Results and Charts**

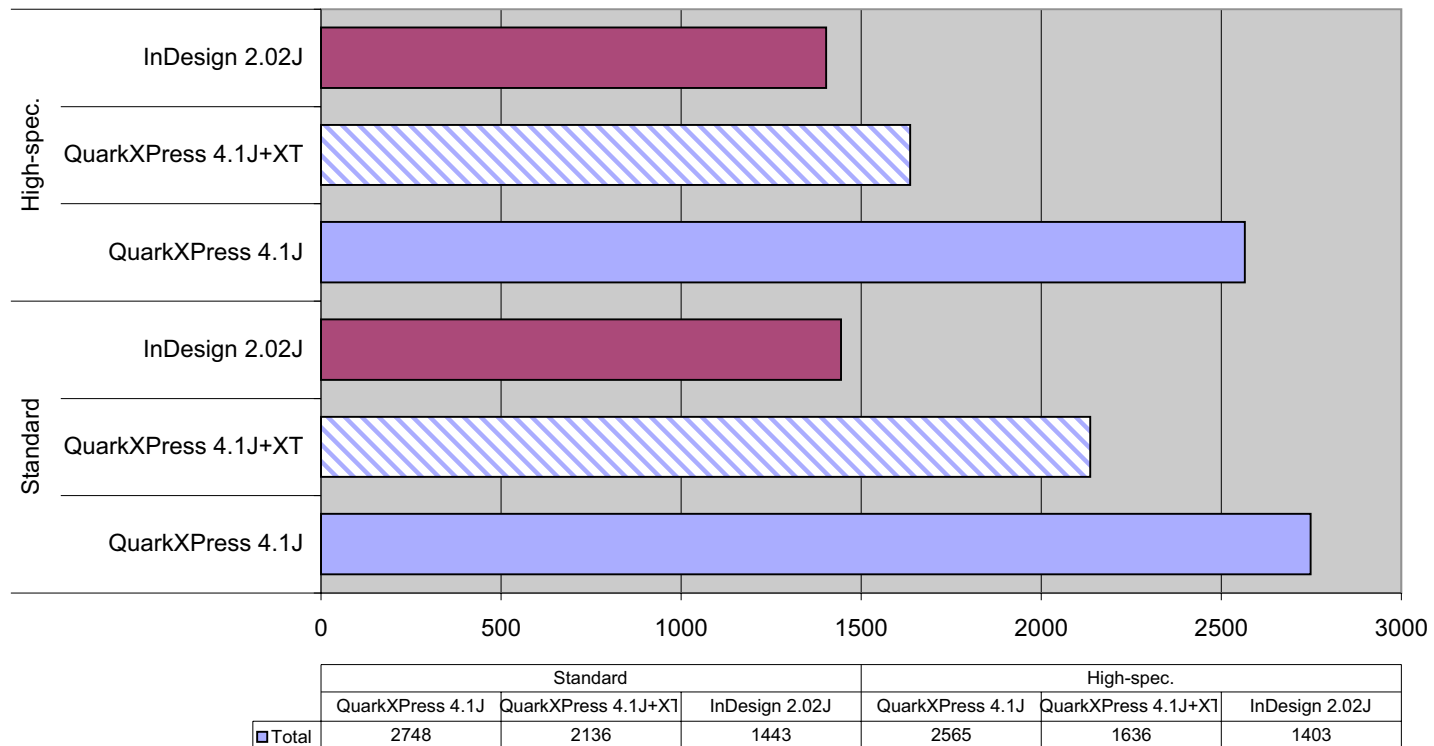
**Horizontal Composition (following layout instructions)**  
**High-spec. Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**Section: Results and Charts**

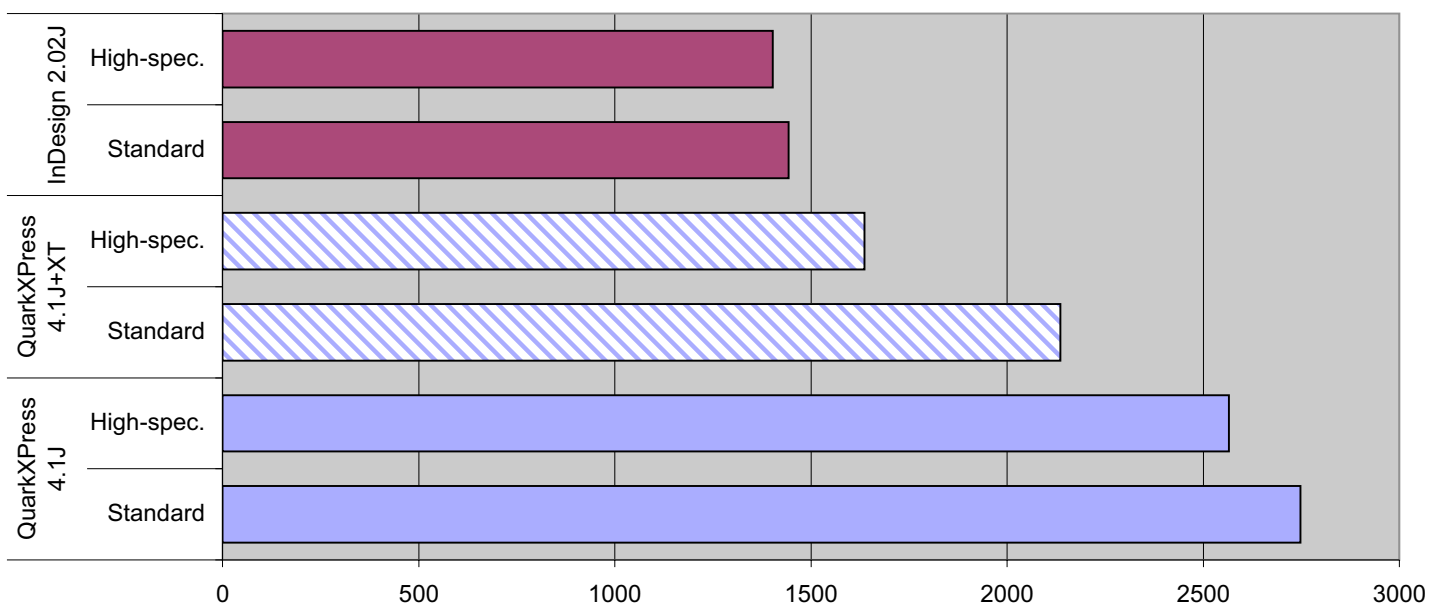
**Horizontal Composition (using Benchmark Procedure): Conf. Comparison**

**Horizontal Composition (Benchmark procedure) - Configuration Comparison 1 - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**Horizontal Composition (Benchmark procedure) - Configuration Comparison 2 - Total**

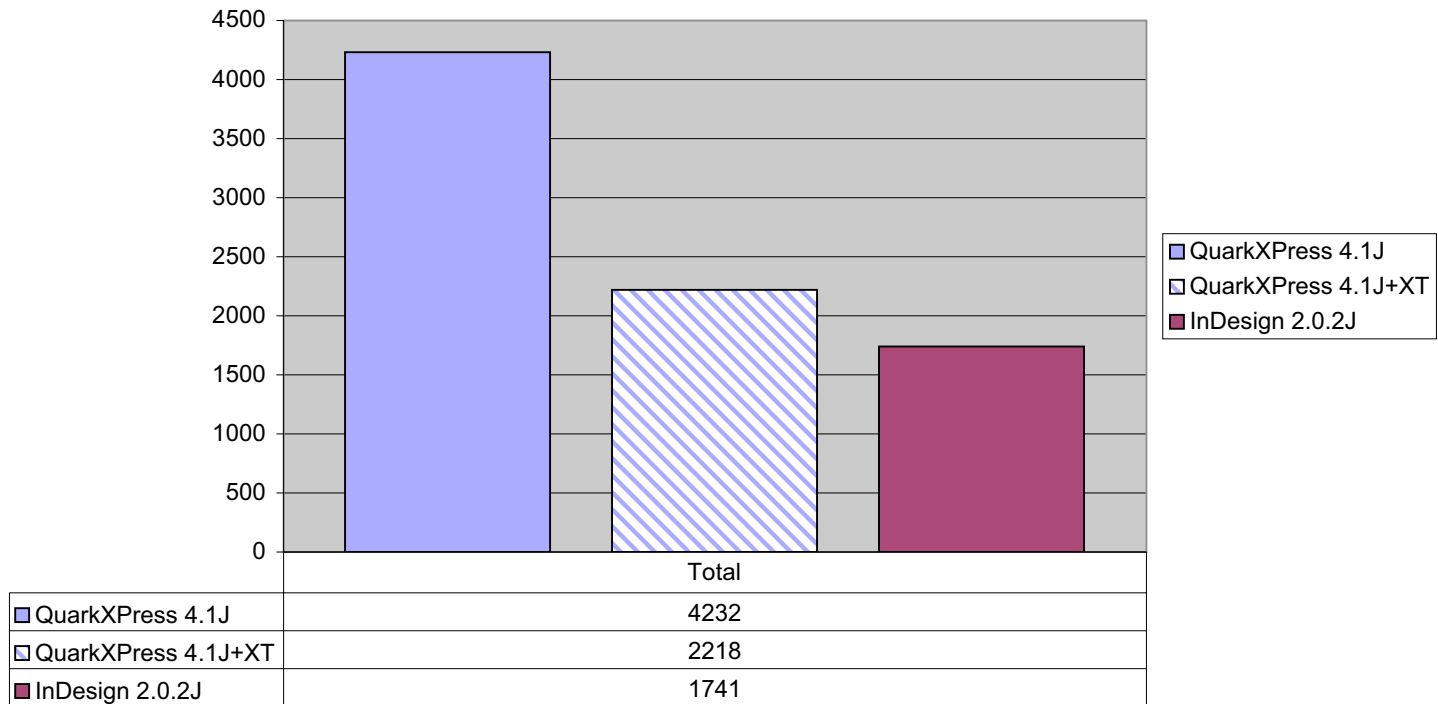
Time in seconds - shorter is better



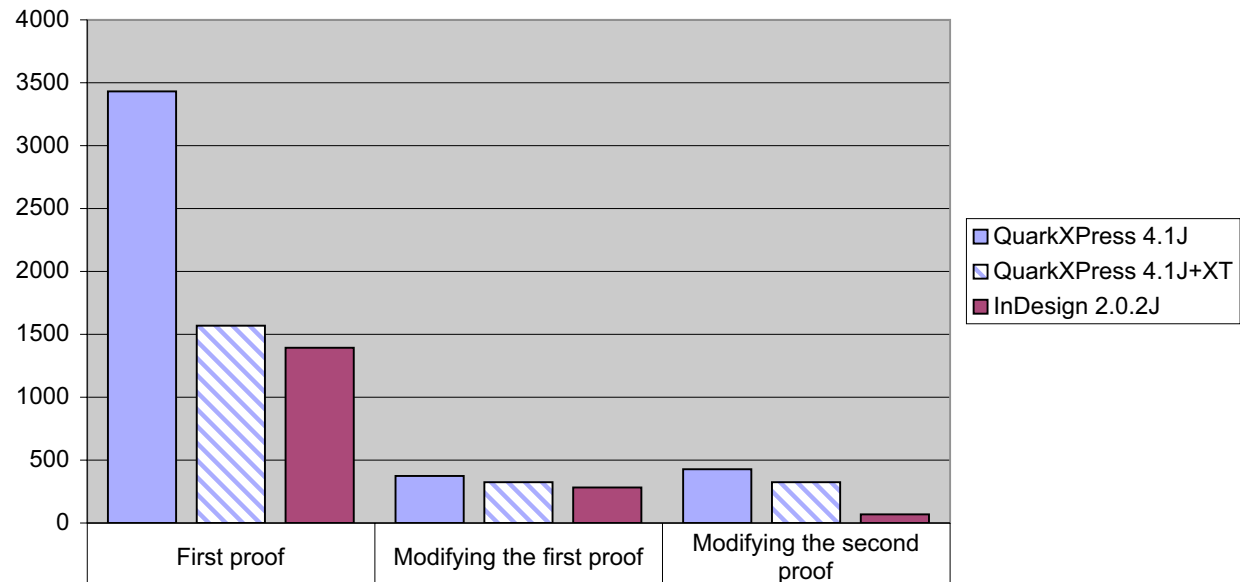
	QuarkXPress 4.1J		QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT		InDesign 2.02J	
	Standard	High-spec.	Standard	High-spec.	Standard	High-spec.
■ Total	2748	2565	2136	1636	1443	1403

**Vertical Composition (using Benchmark Procedure): Results and Charts**

**Vertical Composition (following benchmark procedure)**  
**Standard Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

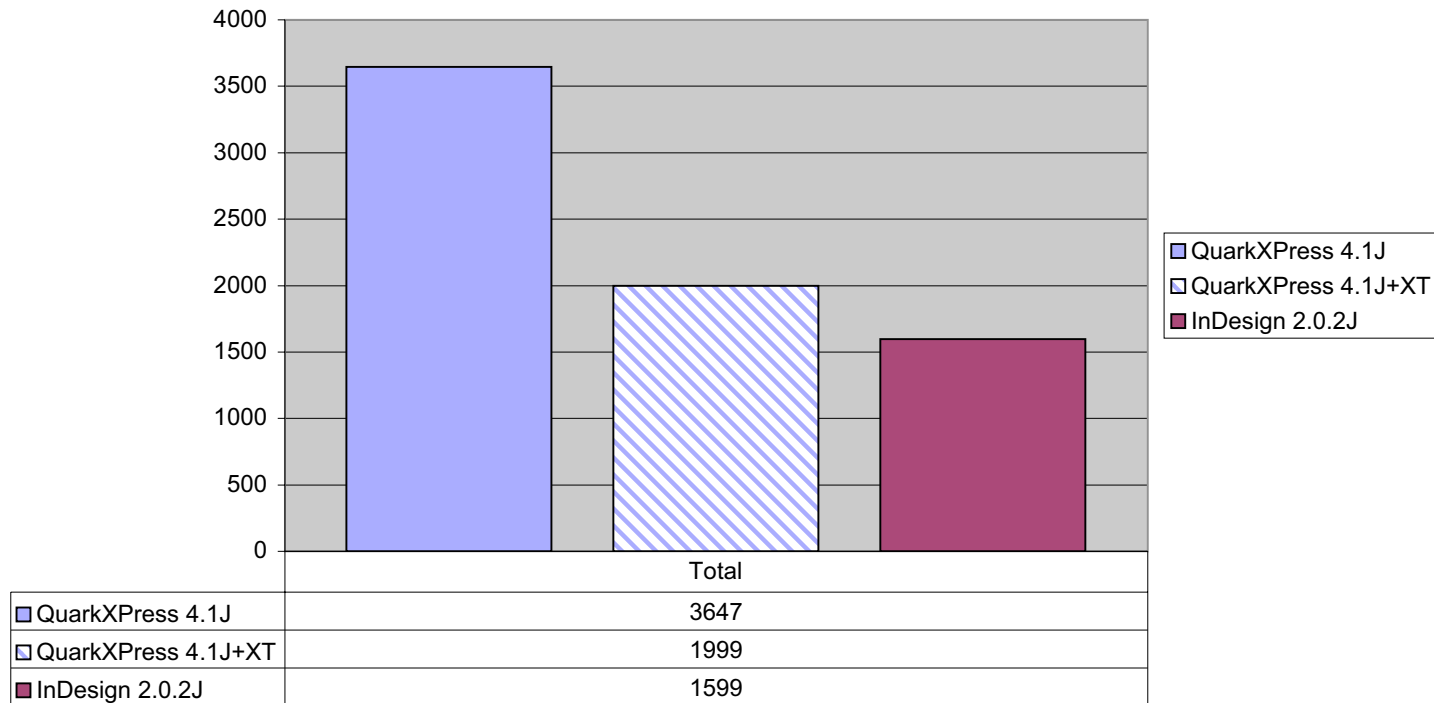


**Vertical Composition (following benchmark procedure)**  
**Standard Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



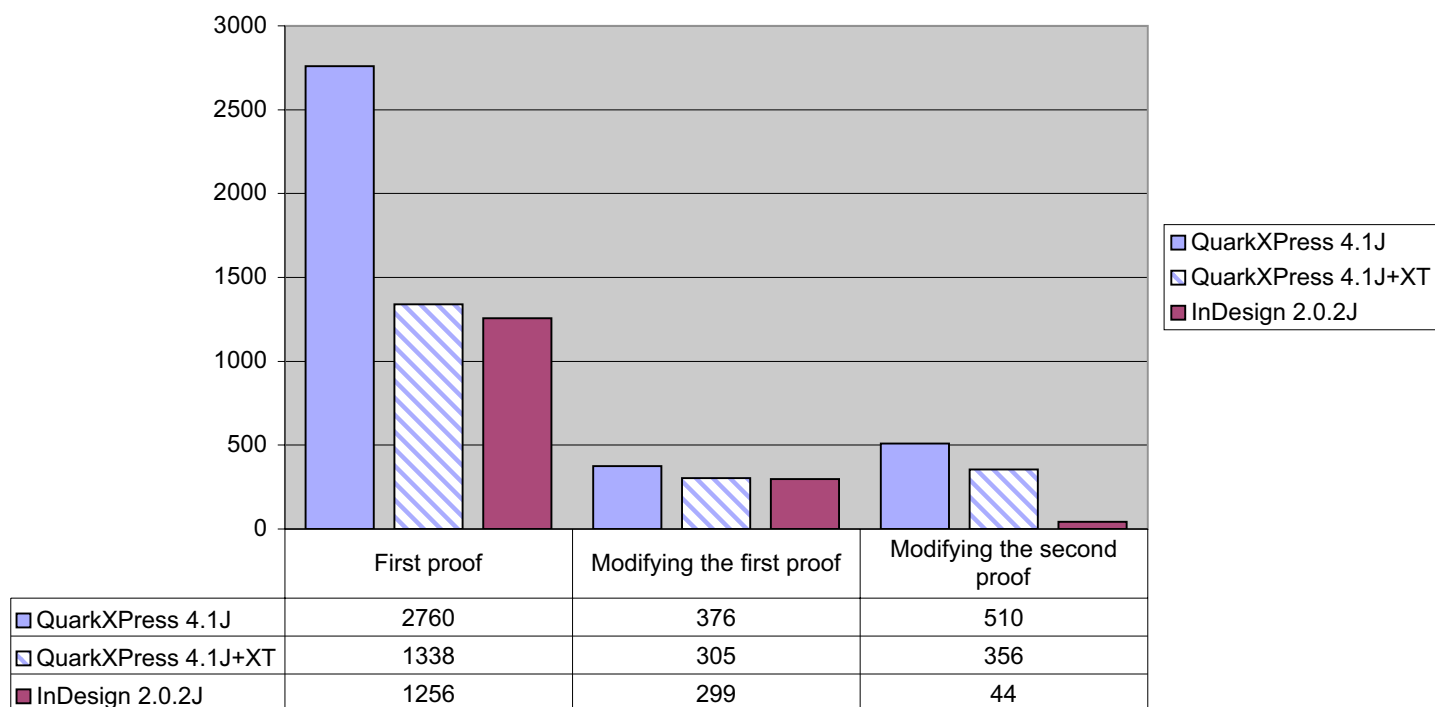
QuarkXPress 4.1J	3432	374	426
QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT	1570	325	323
InDesign 2.0.2J	1393	281	67

**Vertical Composition (following benchmark procedure)**  
**High-spec. Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



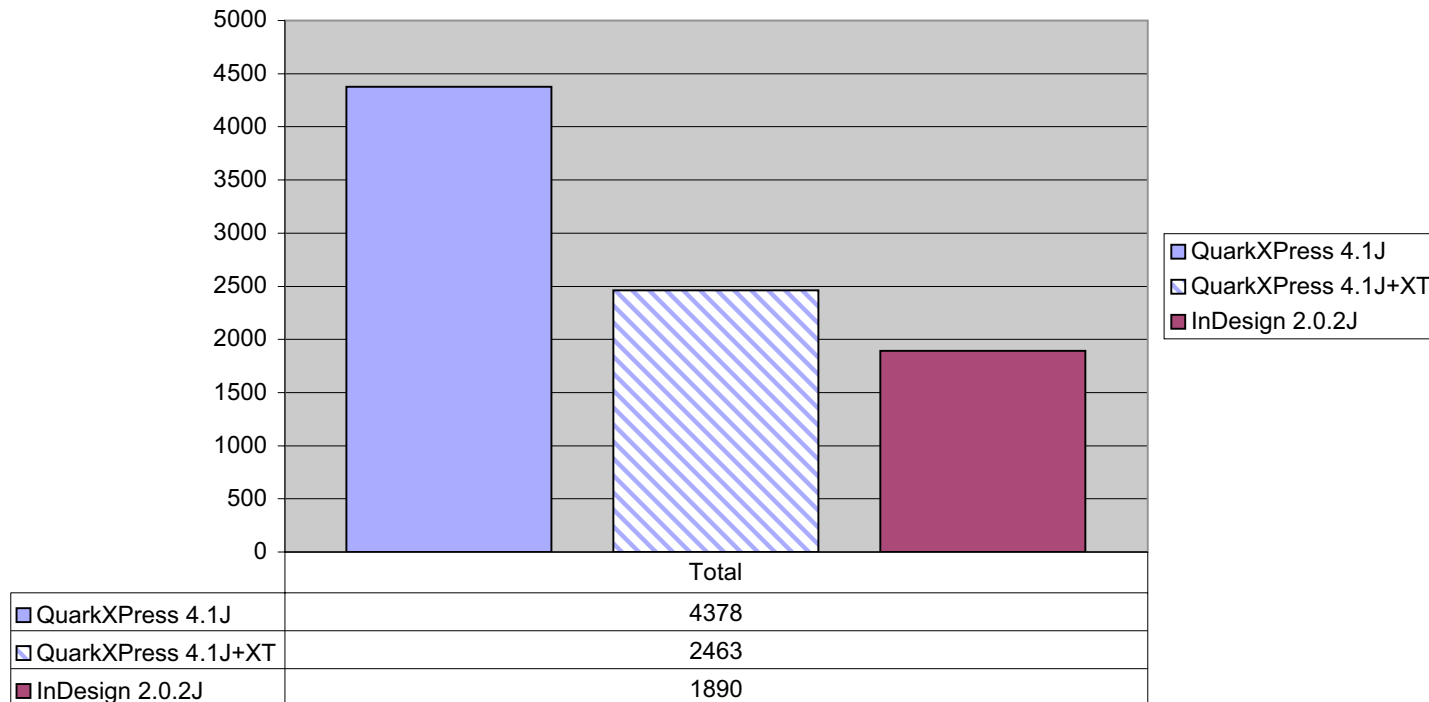
**Section: Results and Charts**

**Vertical Composition (following benchmark procedure)**  
**High-spec. Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

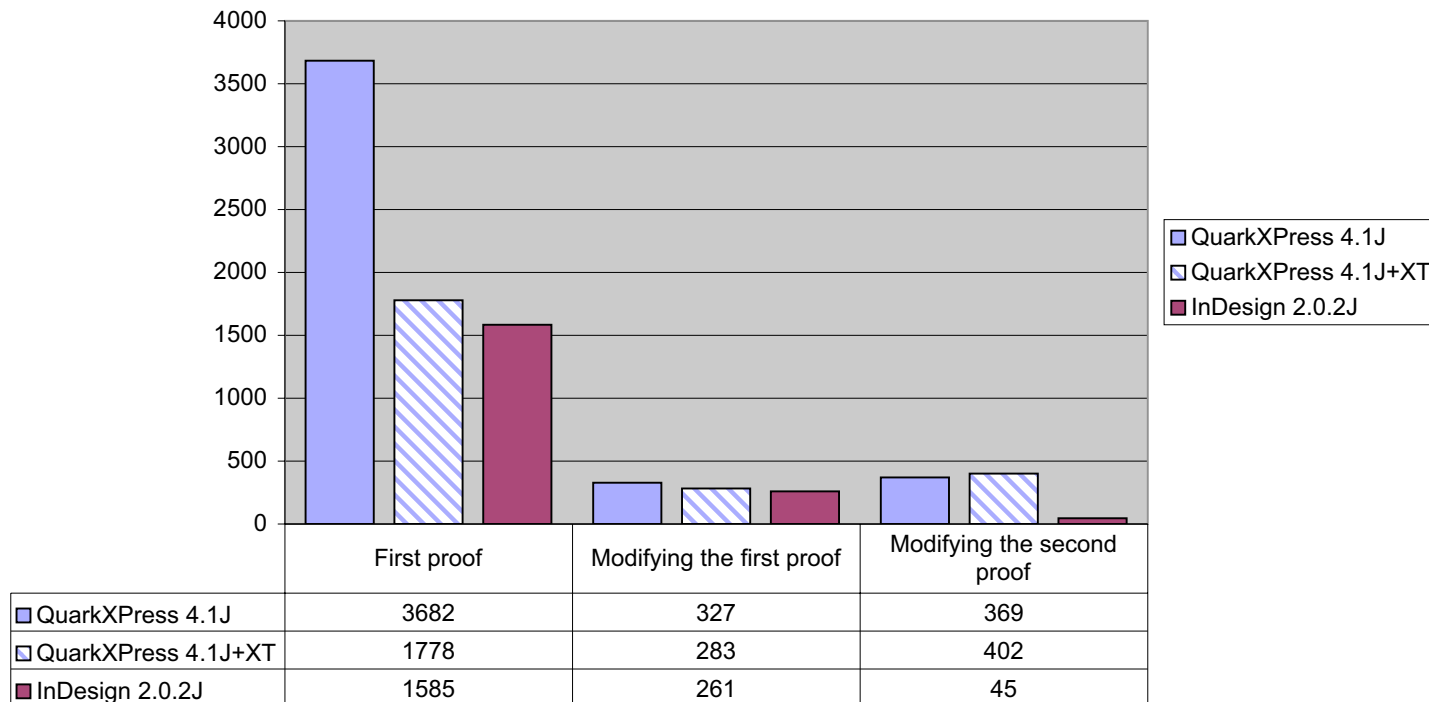


## Vertical Composition (using Layout Instructions): Results and Charts

**Vertical Composition (following layout specification)**  
**Standard Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

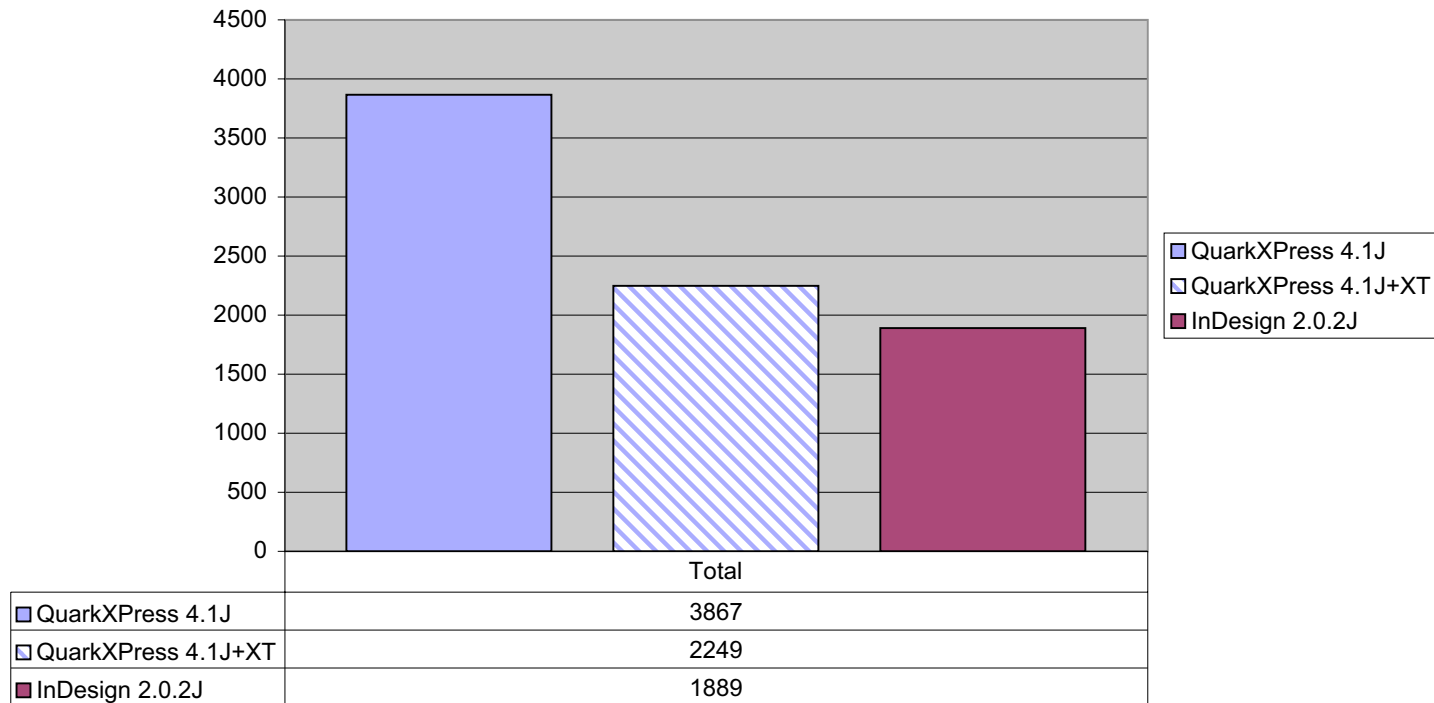


**Vertical Composition (following layout specification)**  
**Standard Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



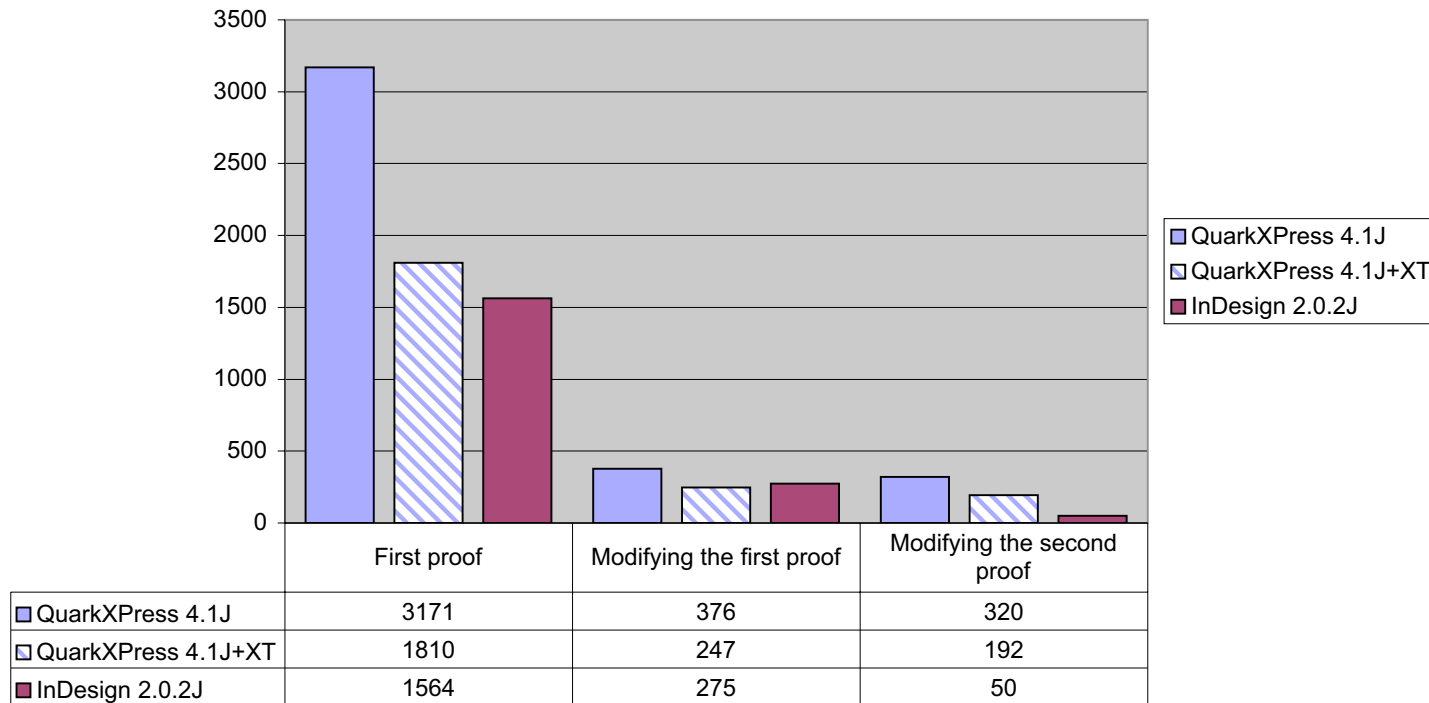
**Section: Results and Charts**

**Vertical Composition (following layout specification)**  
**High-spec. Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**Section: Results and Charts**

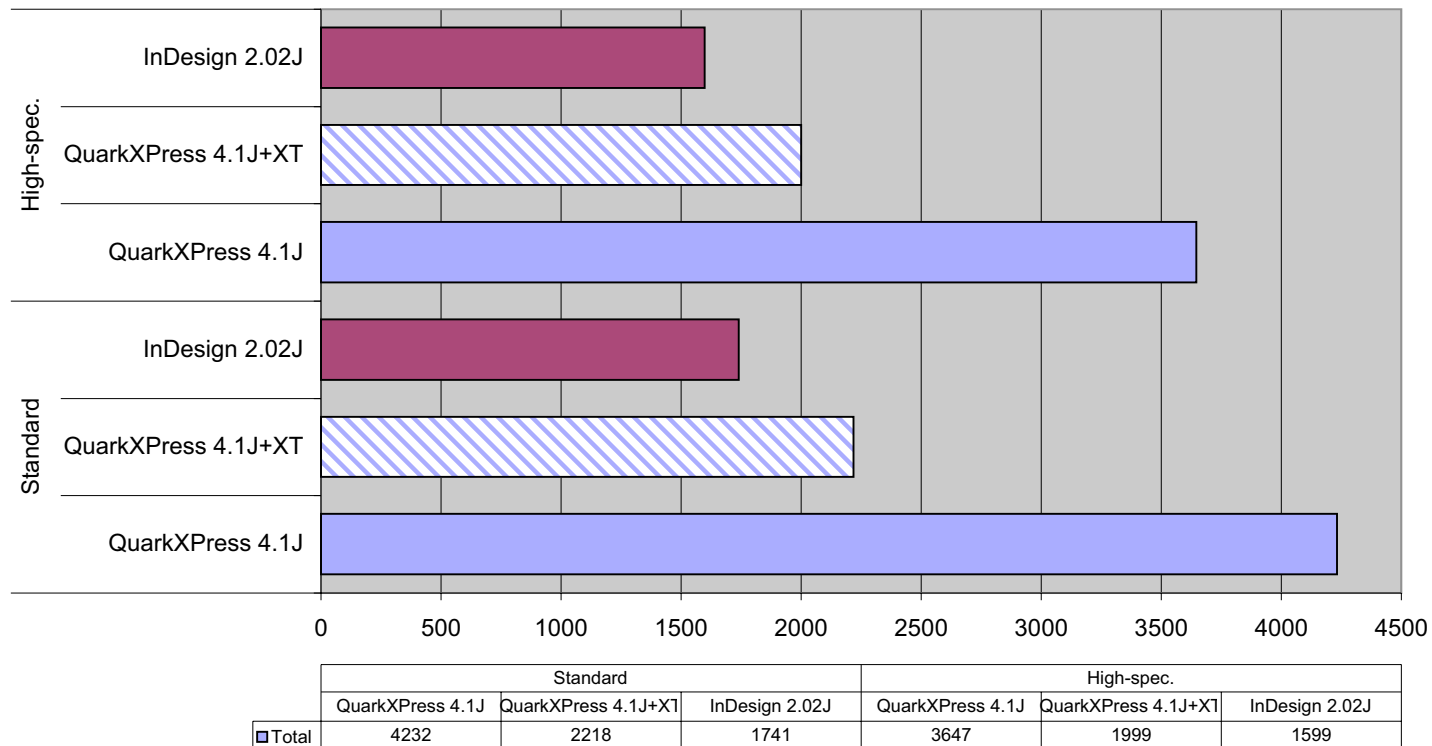
**Vertical Composition (following layout specification)**  
**High-spec. Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**Section: Results and Charts**

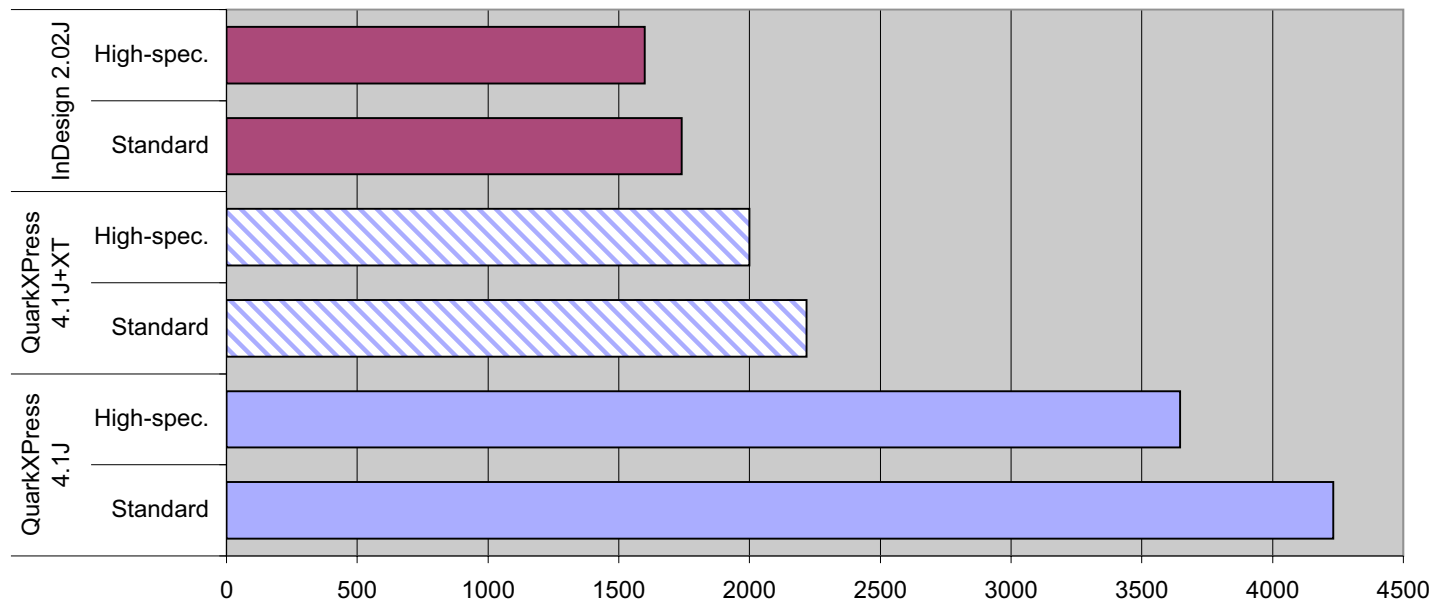
**Horizontal Composition: Configuration Comparison**

**Vertical Composition (Benchmark procedure) - Configuration Comparison 1 - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**Section: Results and Charts**

**Vertical Composition (Benchmark procedure) - Configuration Comparison 2 - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

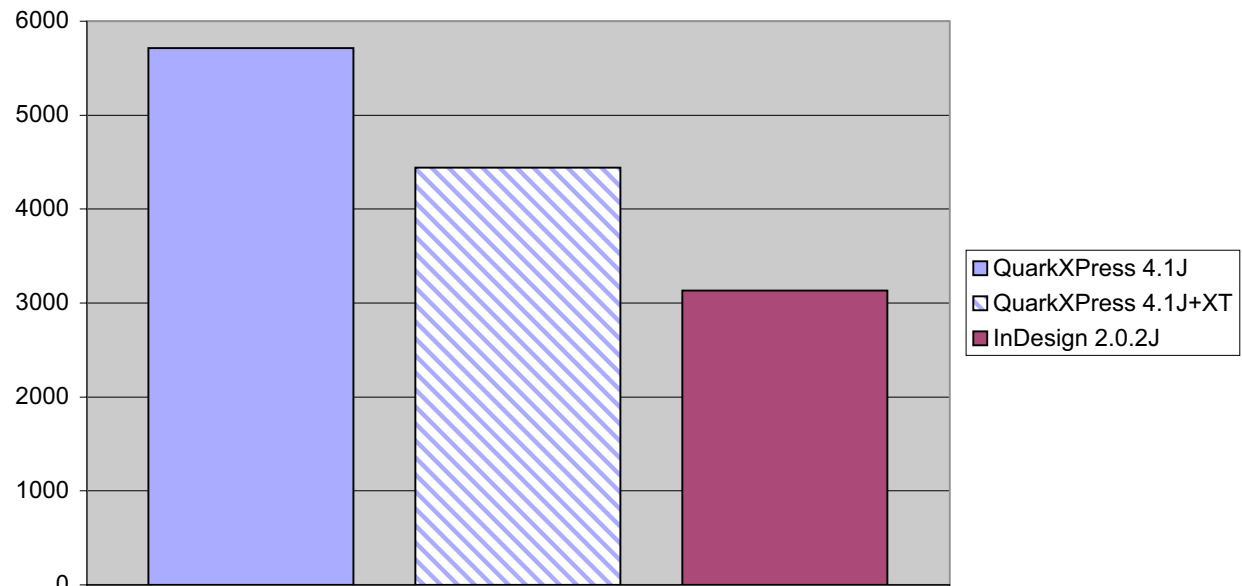


	QuarkXPress 4.1J		QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT		InDesign 2.02J	
	Standard	High-spec.	Standard	High-spec.	Standard	High-spec.
■ Total	4232	3647	2218	1999	1741	1599

**Section: Results and Charts**

**Complex Page Layout Productivity Benchmark: Results and Charts**

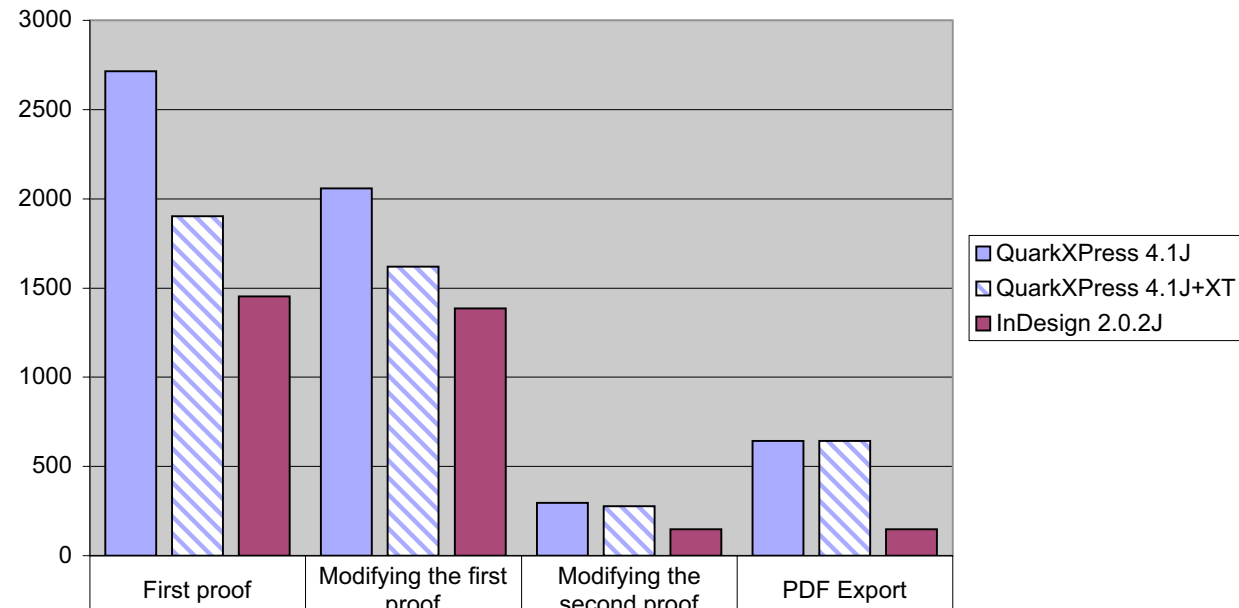
**Complex Layout Productivity Benchmark - Standard Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



	Total
■ QuarkXPress 4.1J	5712
▨ QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT	4443
■ InDesign 2.0.2J	3133

**Complex Layout Productivity Benchmark - Standard Configuration - Detail**

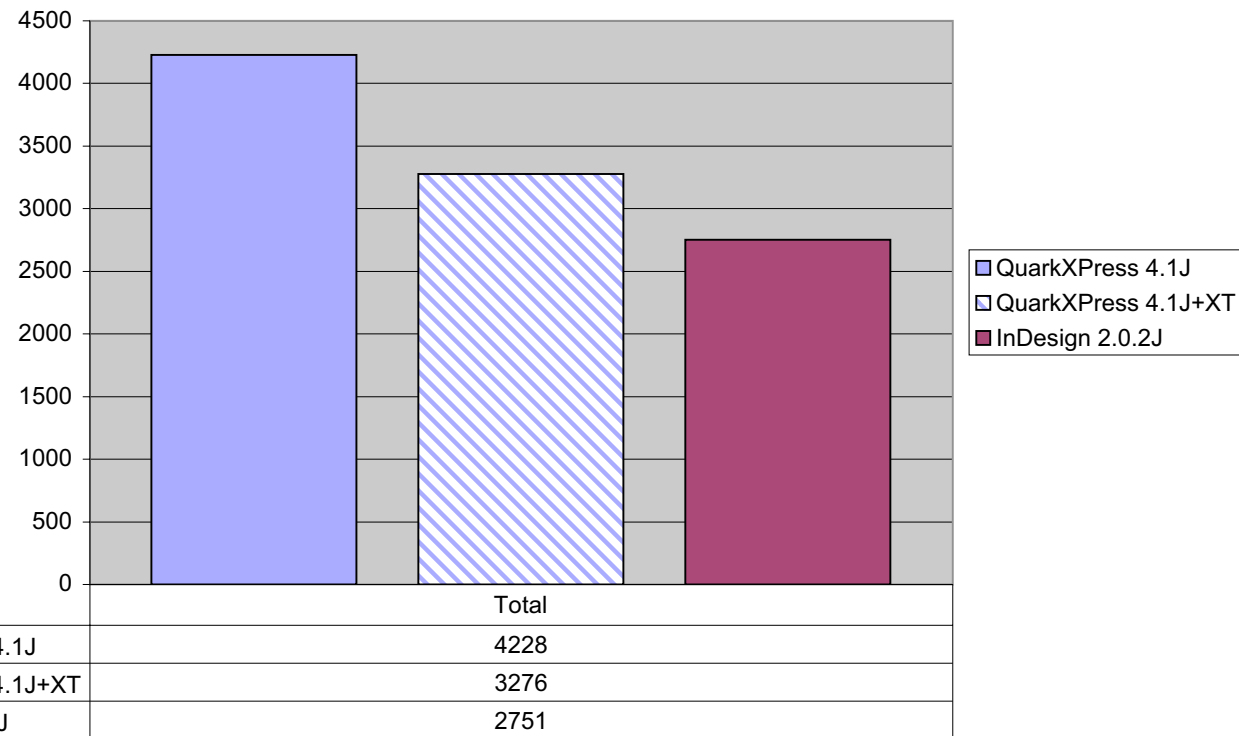
Time in seconds - shorter is better



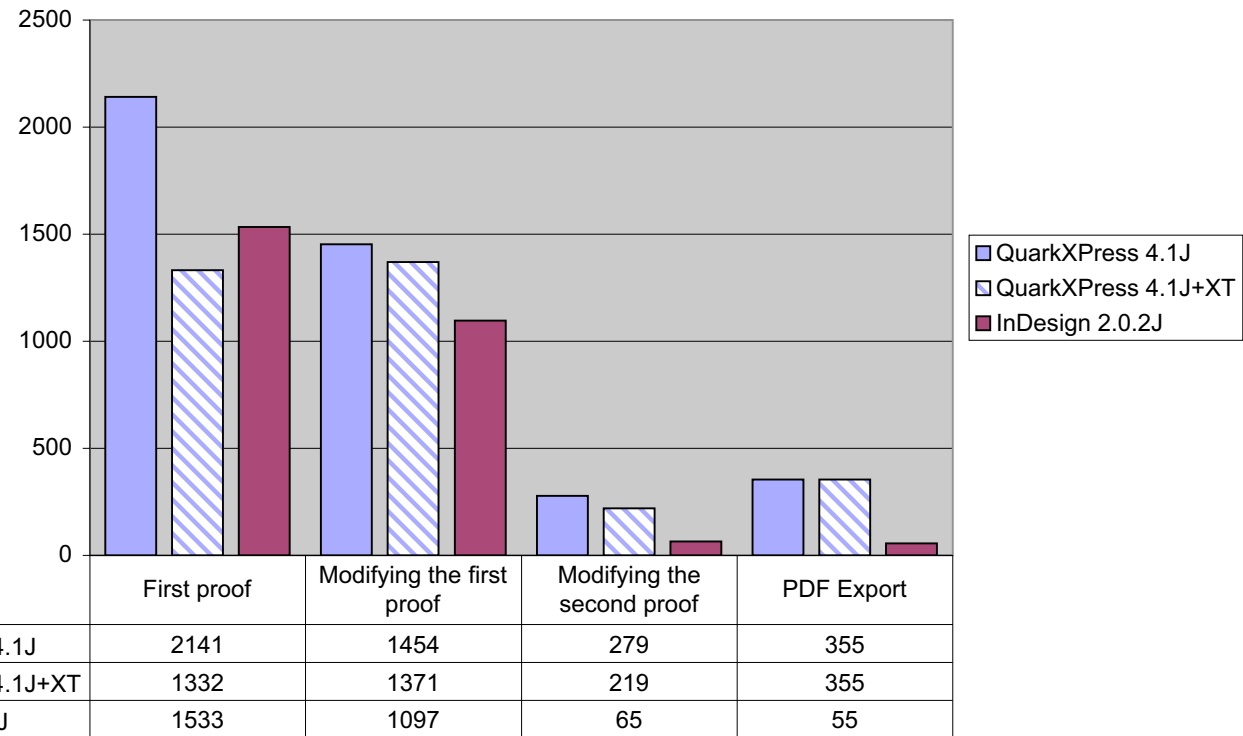
	First proof	Modifying the first proof	Modifying the second proof	PDF Export
QuarkXPress 4.1J	2716	2058	295	643
QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT	1903	1621	277	643
InDesign 2.0.2J	1453	1385	147	147

**Section: Results and Charts**

**Complex Layout Productivity Benchmark - High-spec. Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



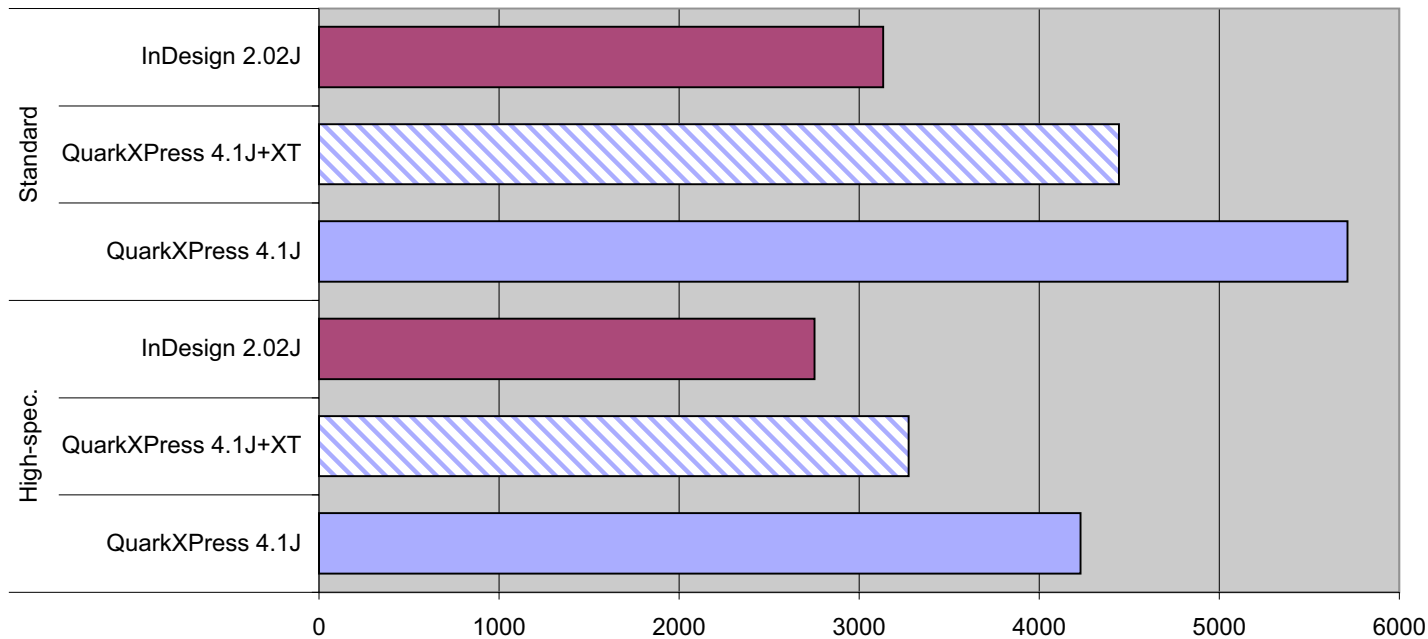
**Complex Layout Productivity Benchmark - High-spec. Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**Section: Results and Charts**

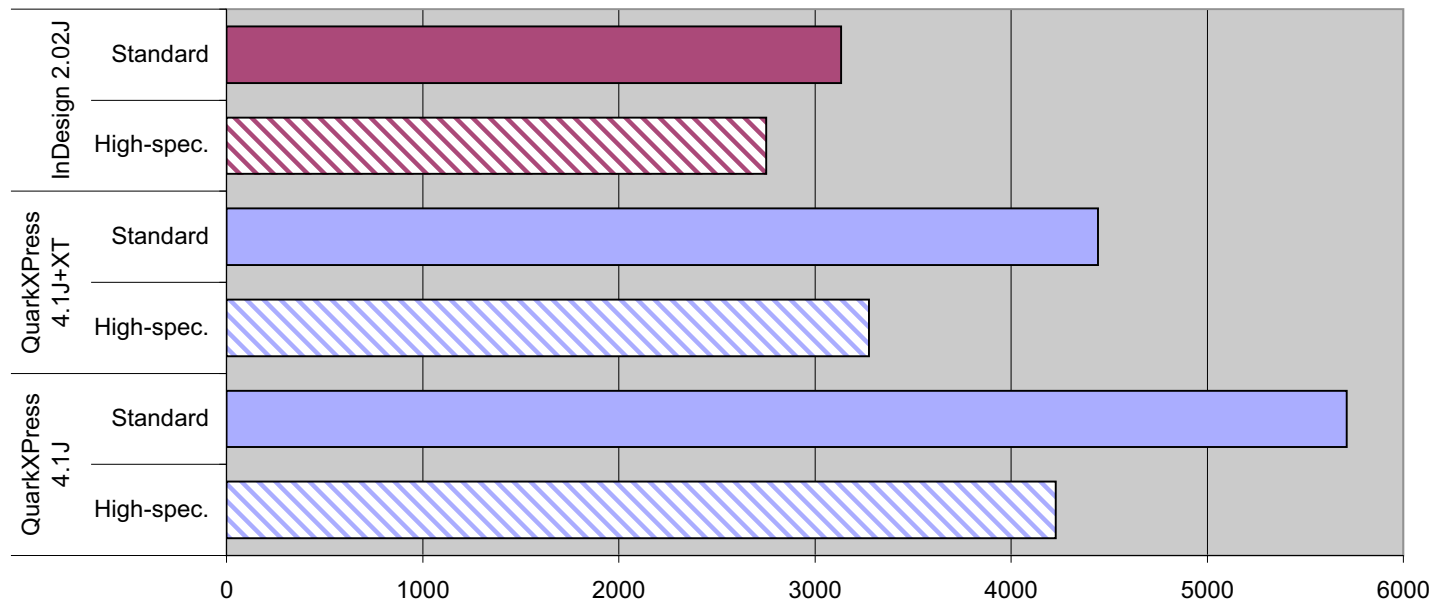
## Complex Page Layout Productivity Benchmark: Configuration Comparison

**Complex Layout Productivity Benchmark - Configuration Comparison - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



	High-spec.			Standard		
	QuarkXPress 4.1J	QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT	InDesign 2.02J	QuarkXPress 4.1J	QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT	InDesign 2.02J
■ Total	4228	3276	2751	5712	4443	3133

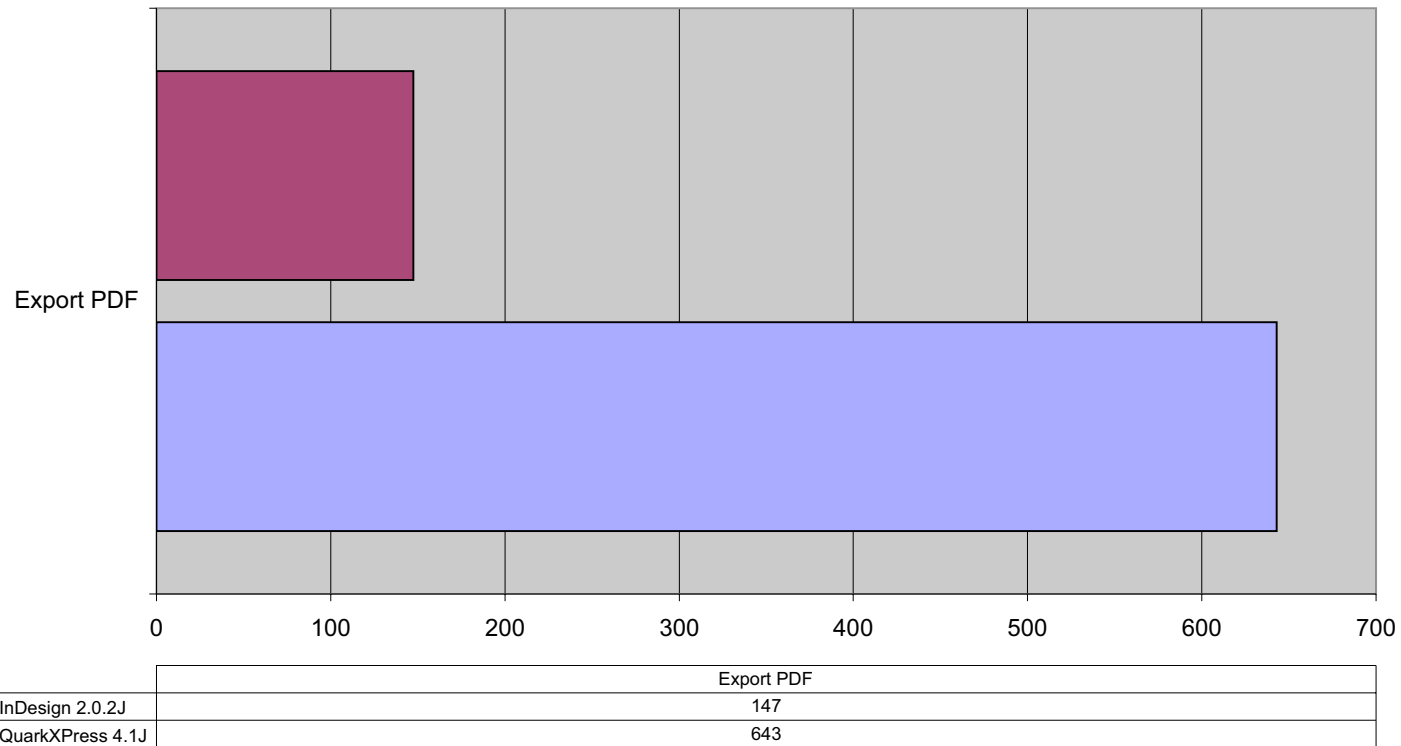
**Complex Layout Productivity Benchmark - Configuration Comparison - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



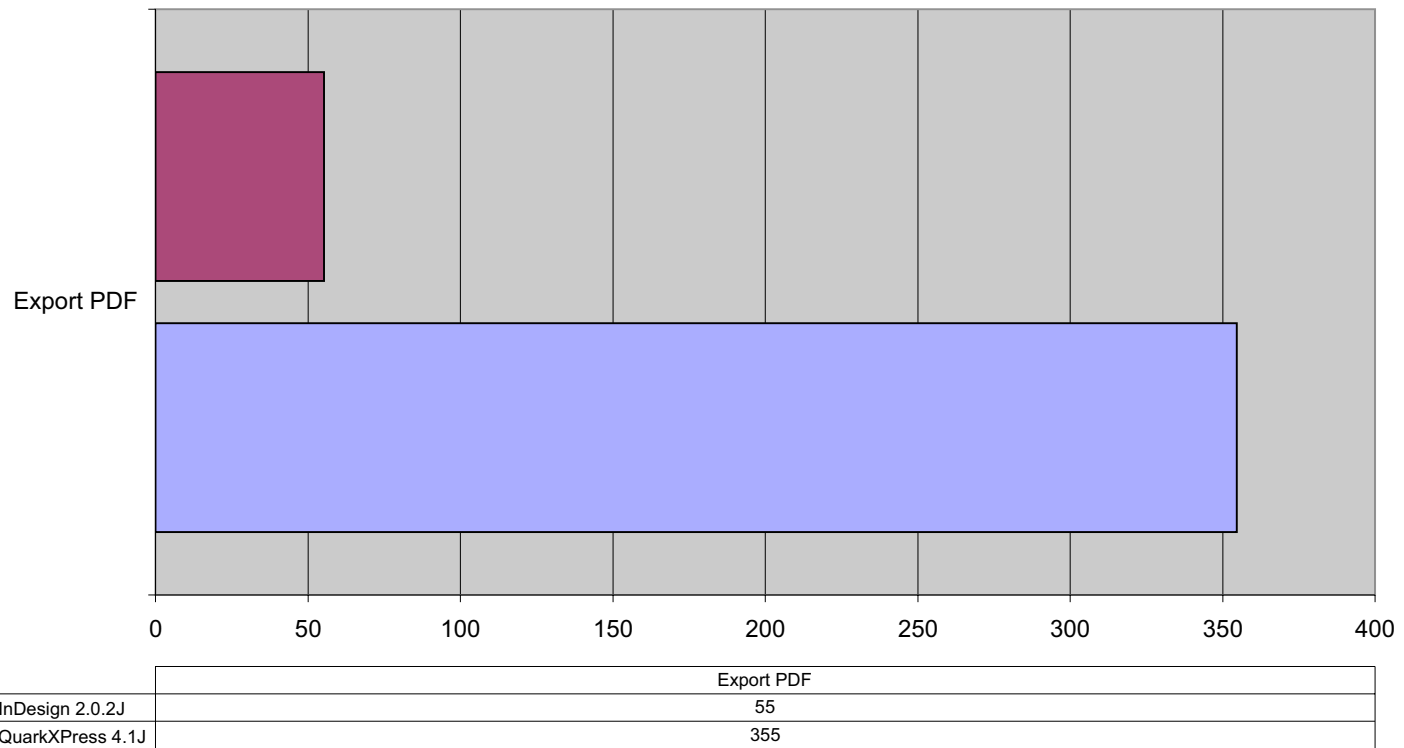
	QuarkXPress 4.1J		QuarkXPress 4.1J+XT		InDesign 2.02J	
	High-spec.	Standard	High-spec.	Standard	High-spec.	Standard
□ Total	4228	5712	3276	4443	2751	3133

**PDF Export: Results and Charts**

**PDF Export - Standard Configuration**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

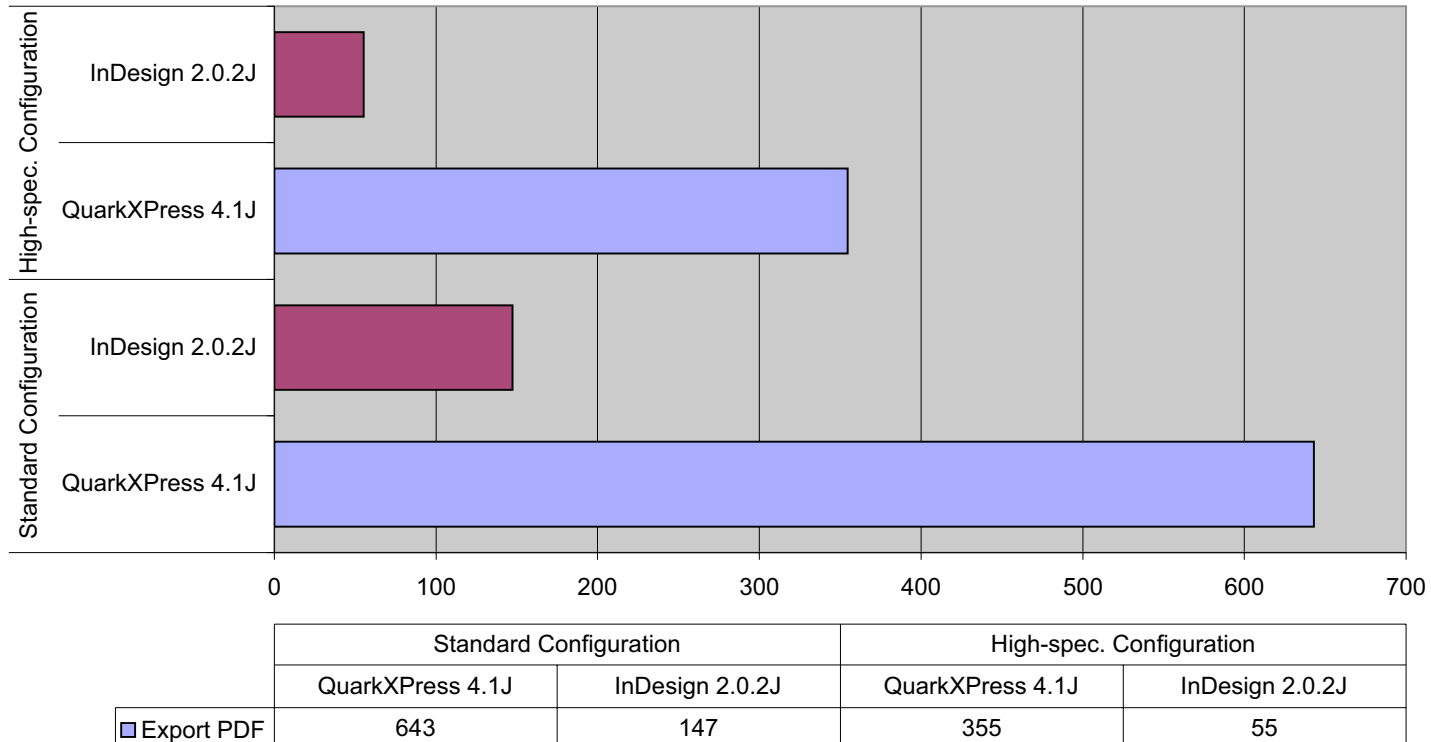


**PDF Export - High-spec. Configuration**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



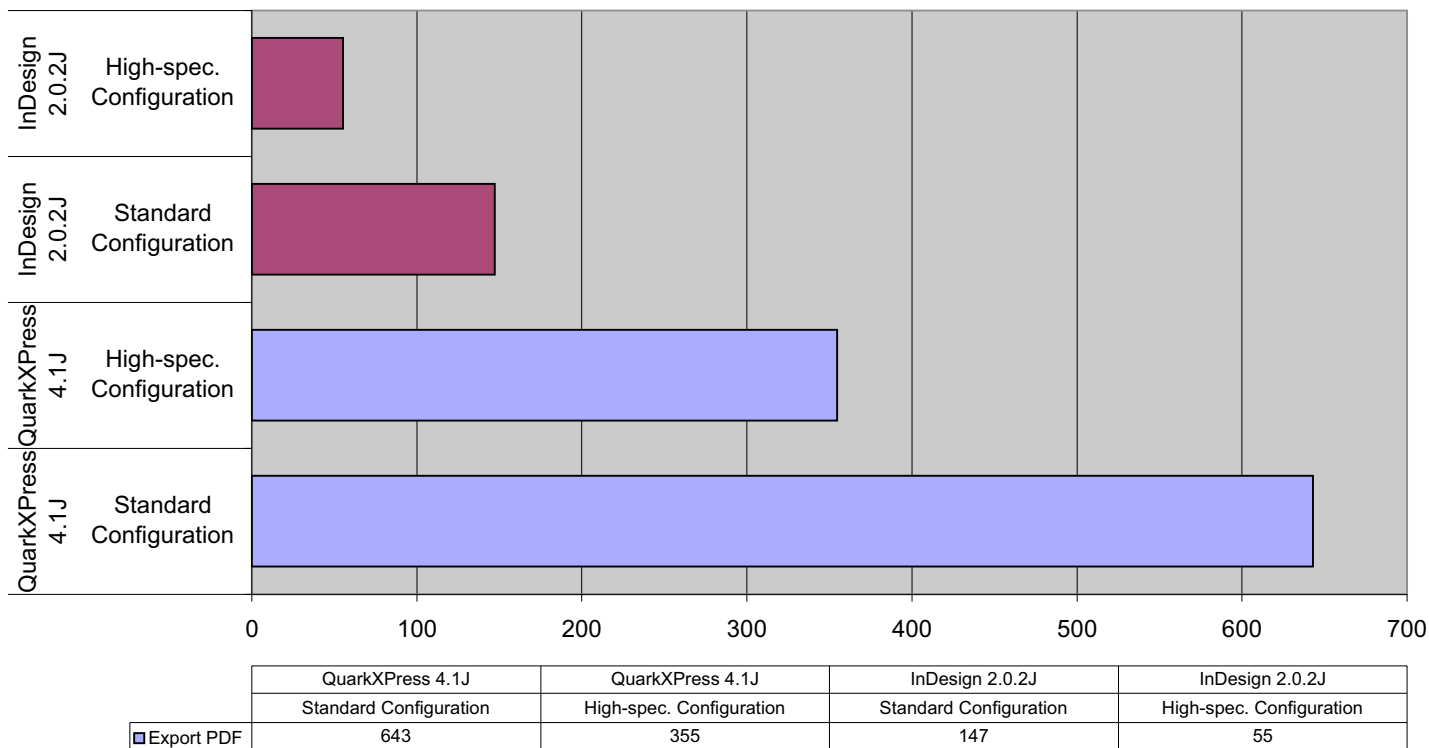
**PDF Export: Configuration Comparison**

**PDF Export - Configuration Comparison 1**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**PDF Export - Configuration Comparison 2**

Time in seconds - shorter is better

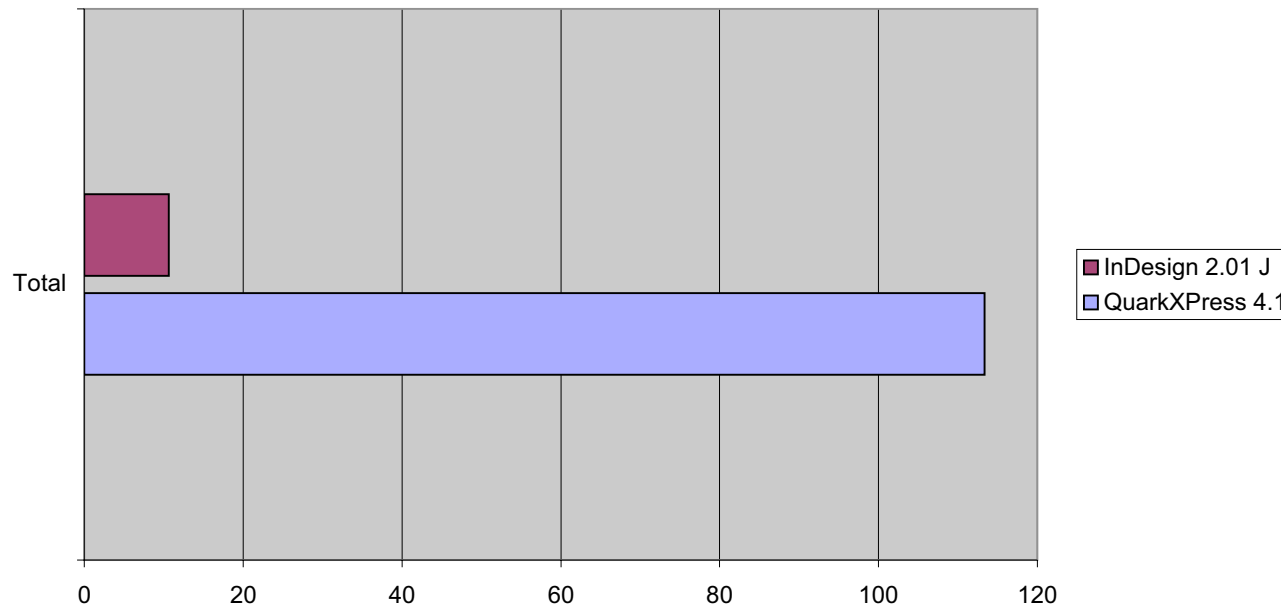


## Create Drop Shadow: Results and Charts

<b>Test: Drop Shadow</b>		<b>Hardware: Standard</b>							
	Description of steps/phases	QuarkXPress 4.1				InDesign 2.01 J			
		Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Average	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Average
Phase 1	<b>QuarkXPress (4 phases):</b> Select Formatted Headline Copy type specifications Copy text Switch to Illustrator Create new document Save document as AI file	36	35	35	<b>35</b>	11	12	9	<b>11</b>
Phase 2	Create New Text object Paste Headline text Format Headline text Create Drop Shadow (default settings)	38	36	34	<b>36</b>				<b>0</b>
Phase 3	Save File Convert text to outline Save as EPS file Switch to QX	24	23	22	<b>23</b>				<b>0</b>
Phase 4	Create Picture Box in place of headline Import EPS document Position EPS document	20	19	18	<b>19</b>				<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>118</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>InDesign (1 Step only)</b>									
Select Headline									
Apply Drop Shadow									

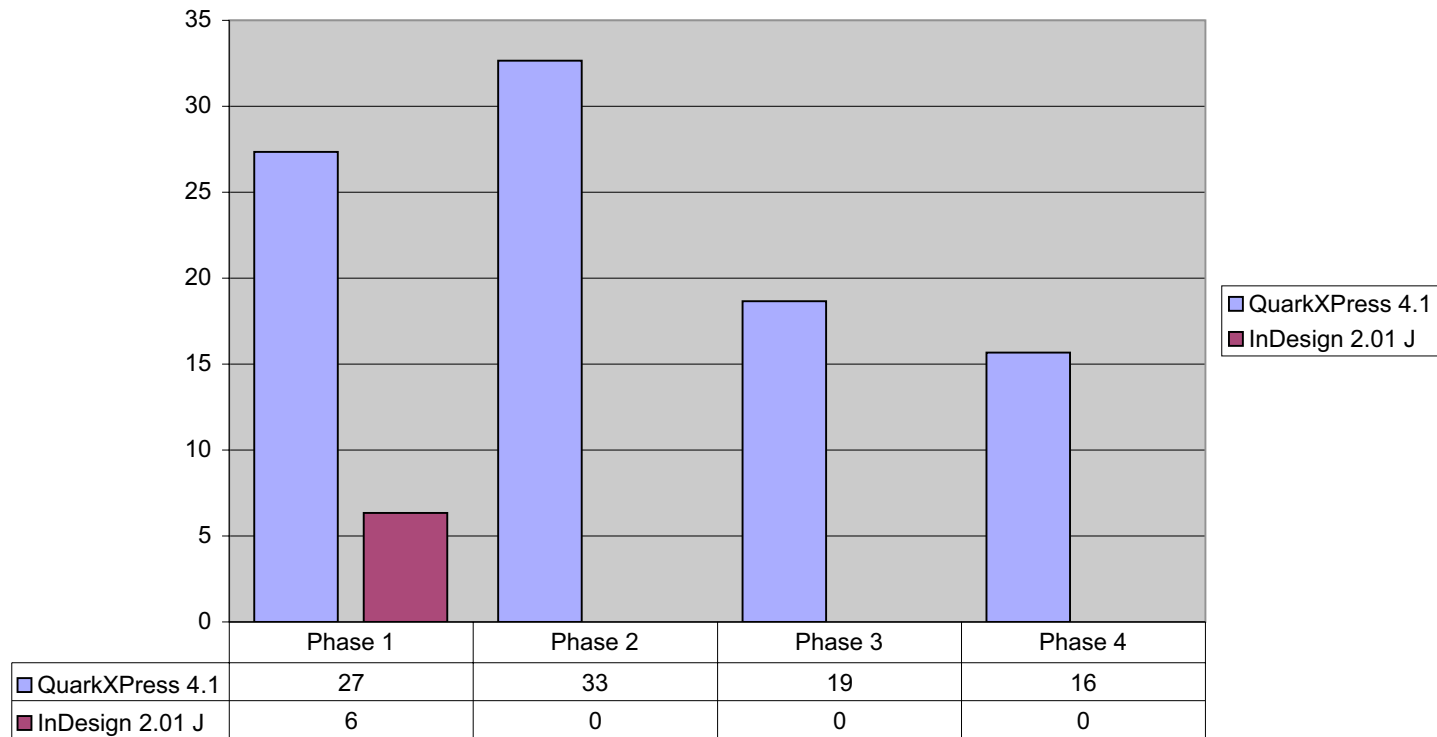
**Section: Results and Charts**

**Create Drop Shadow - Standard Configuration - Total Time**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



	Total
InDesign 2.01 J	11
QuarkXPress 4.1	113

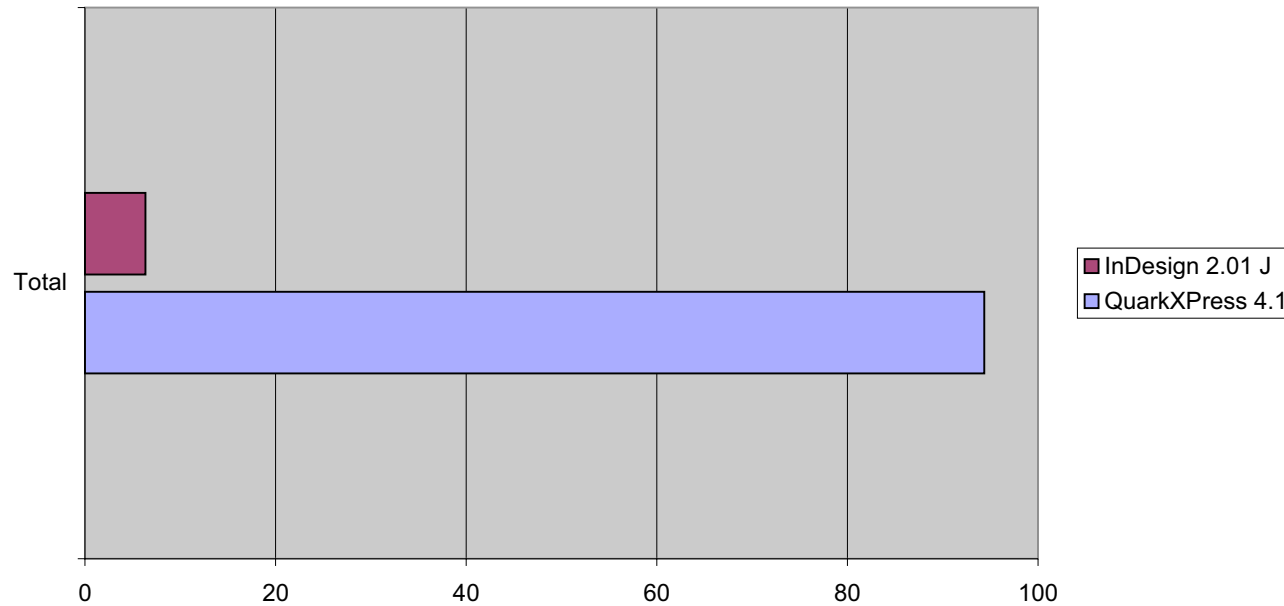
**Create Drop Shadow - Standard Configuration**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



<b>Test: Drop Shadow</b>		<b>Hardware: High-End</b>							
Description of steps/phases	<b>QuarkXPress 4.1</b>				<b>InDesign 2.01 J</b>				
	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Average	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Average	
Phase 1 QuarkXPress only: Select Formatted Headline Copy type specifications Copy text Switch to Illustrator Create new document Save document as AI file	28	29	25	27	7	6	6	6	
Phase 2 Create New Text object Paste Headline text Format Headline text Create Drop Shadow (default settings)	34	32	32	33				0	
Phase 3 Save File Convert text to outline Save as EPS file Switch to QX	21	17	18	19				0	
Phase 4 Create Picture Box in place of headline Import EPS document Position EPS document	18	14	15	16				0	
<b>Total</b>	101	92	90	94	7	6	6	6	
<b>InDesign (1 Step only)</b>									
Select Headline									
Apply Drop Shadow									

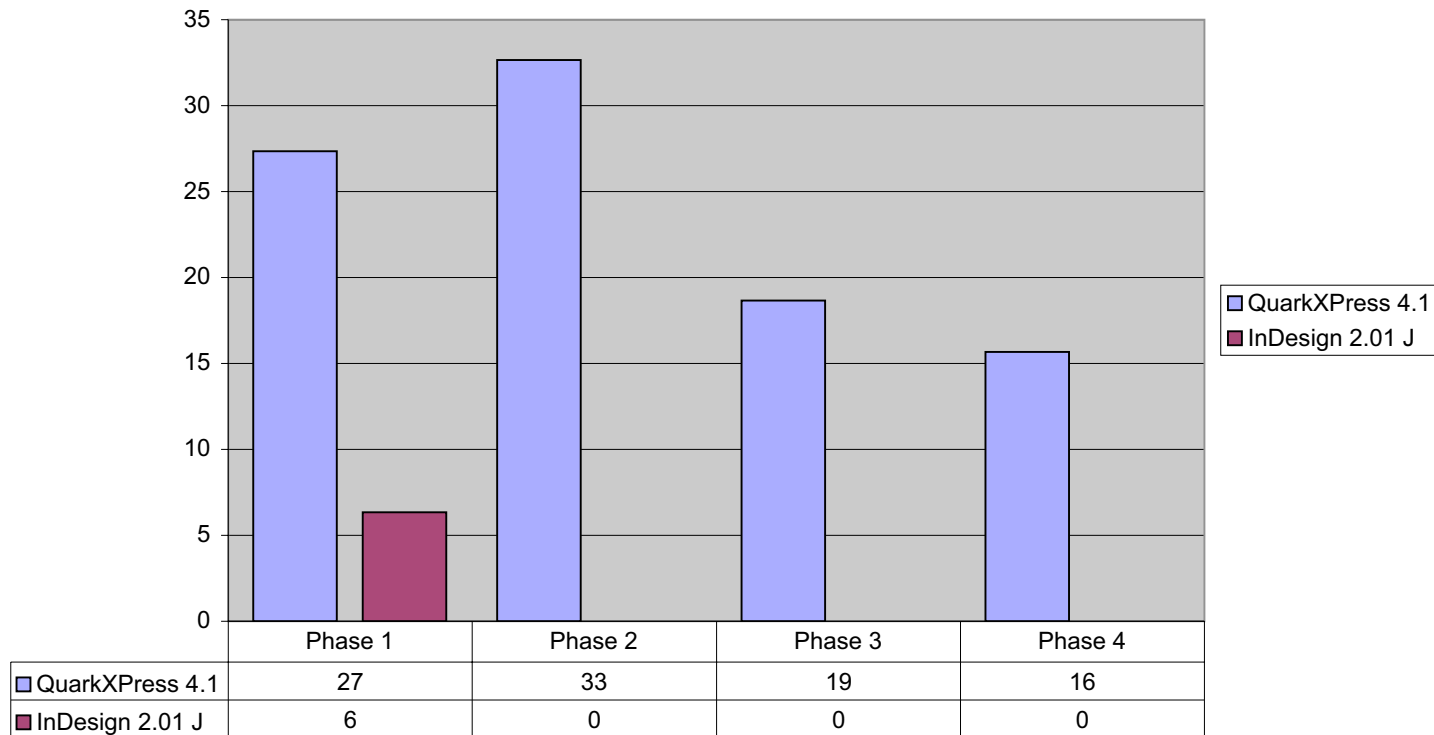
**Section: Results and Charts**

**Create Drop Shadow - High-spec Configuration - Total Time**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



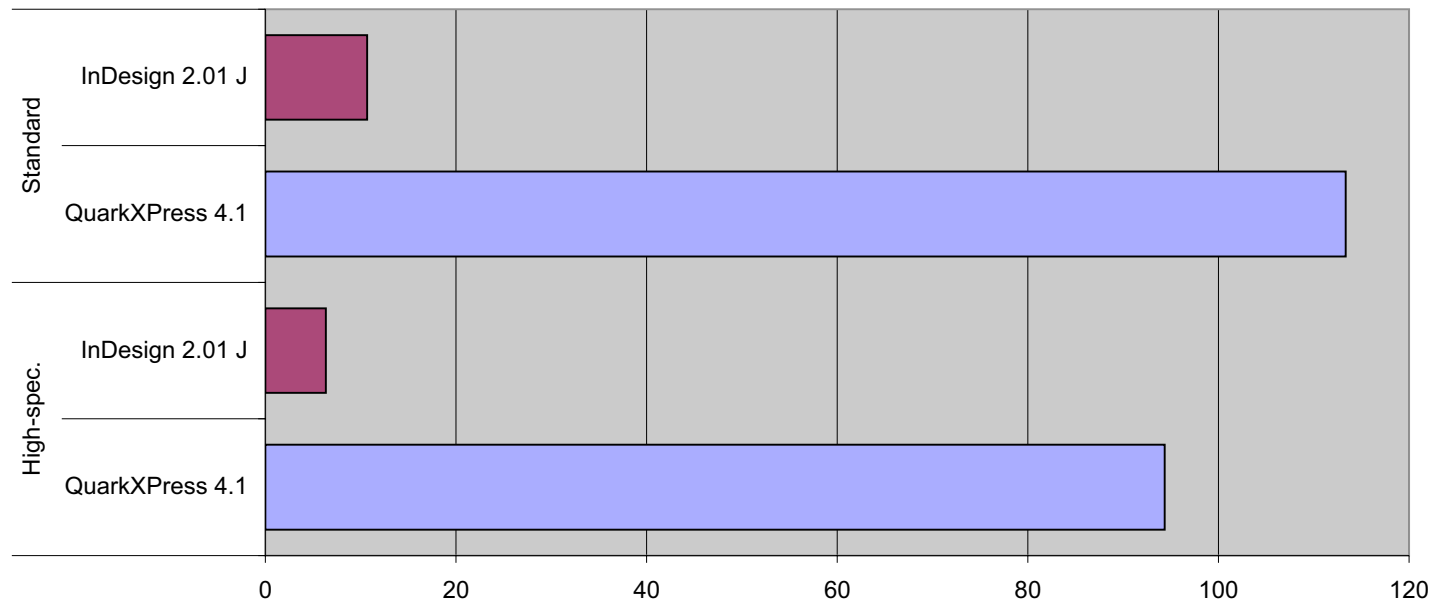
	Total
InDesign 2.01 J	6
QuarkXPress 4.1	94

**Create Drop Shadow - High-spec Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**Create Drop Shadow: Configuration Comparison**

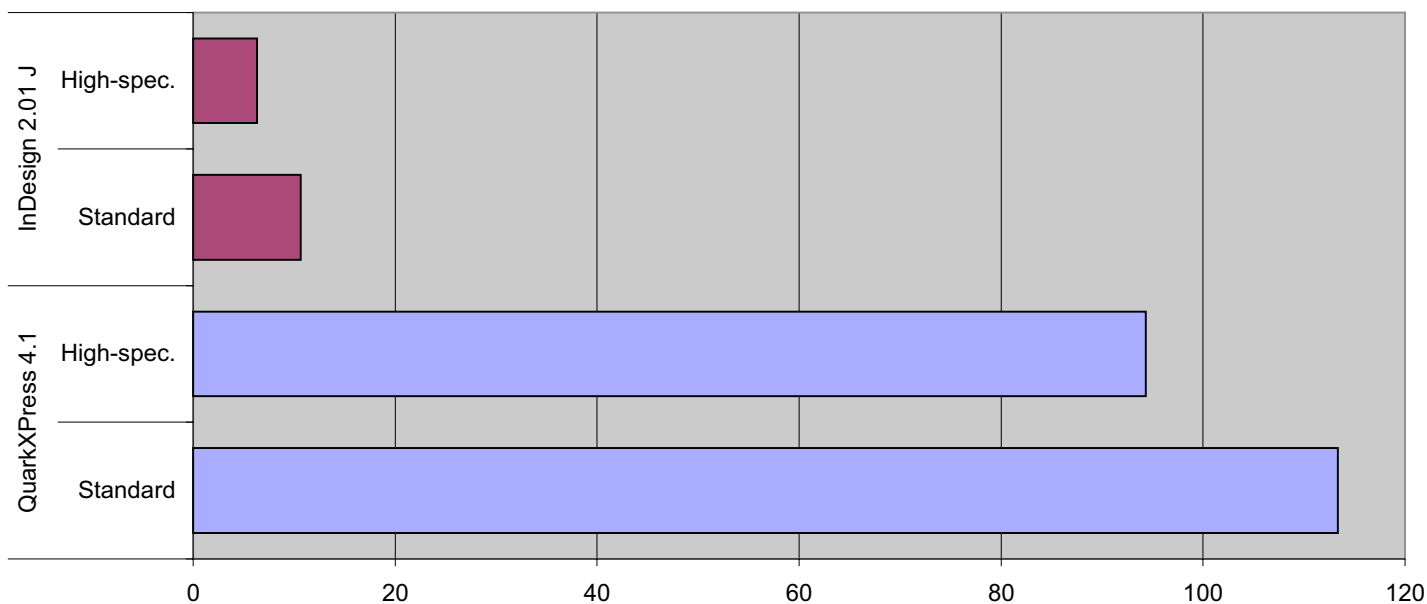
**Create Drop Shadow - Configuration Comparison - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



	High-spec.		Standard	
	QuarkXPress 4.1	InDesign 2.01 J	QuarkXPress 4.1	InDesign 2.01 J
■ Total	94	6	113	11

**Section: Results and Charts**

**Create Drop Shadow - Configuration Comparison - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

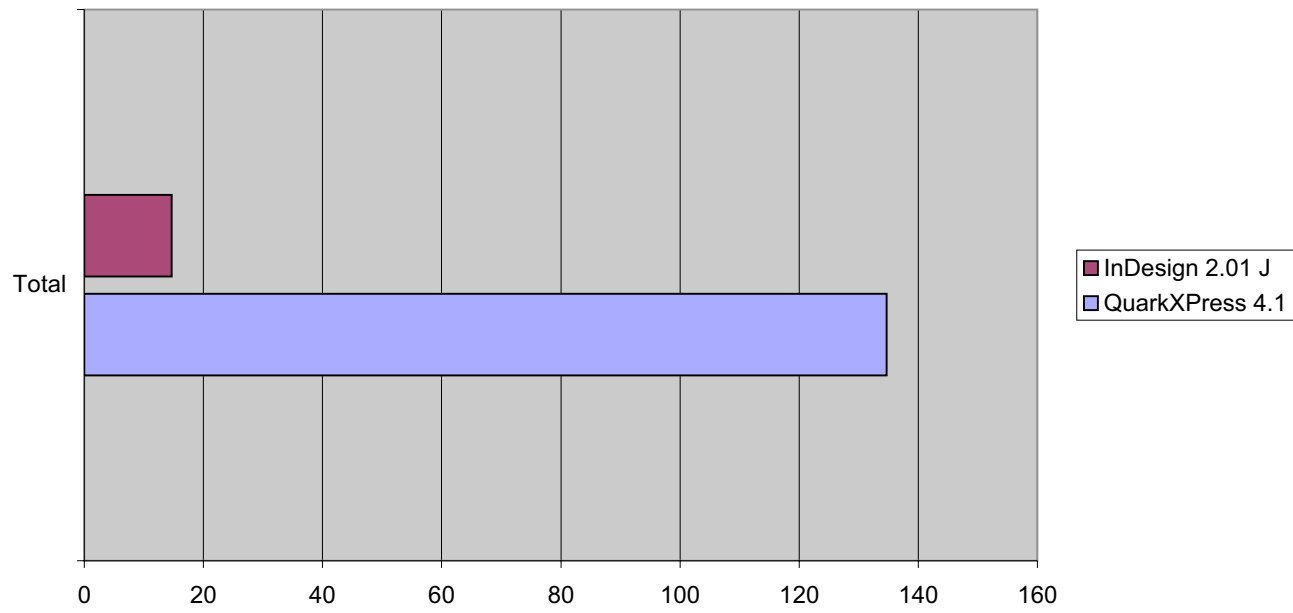


	QuarkXPress 4.1		InDesign 2.01 J	
	Standard	High-spec.	Standard	High-spec.
■ Total	113	94	11	6

## Create Transparency Effect: Results and Charts

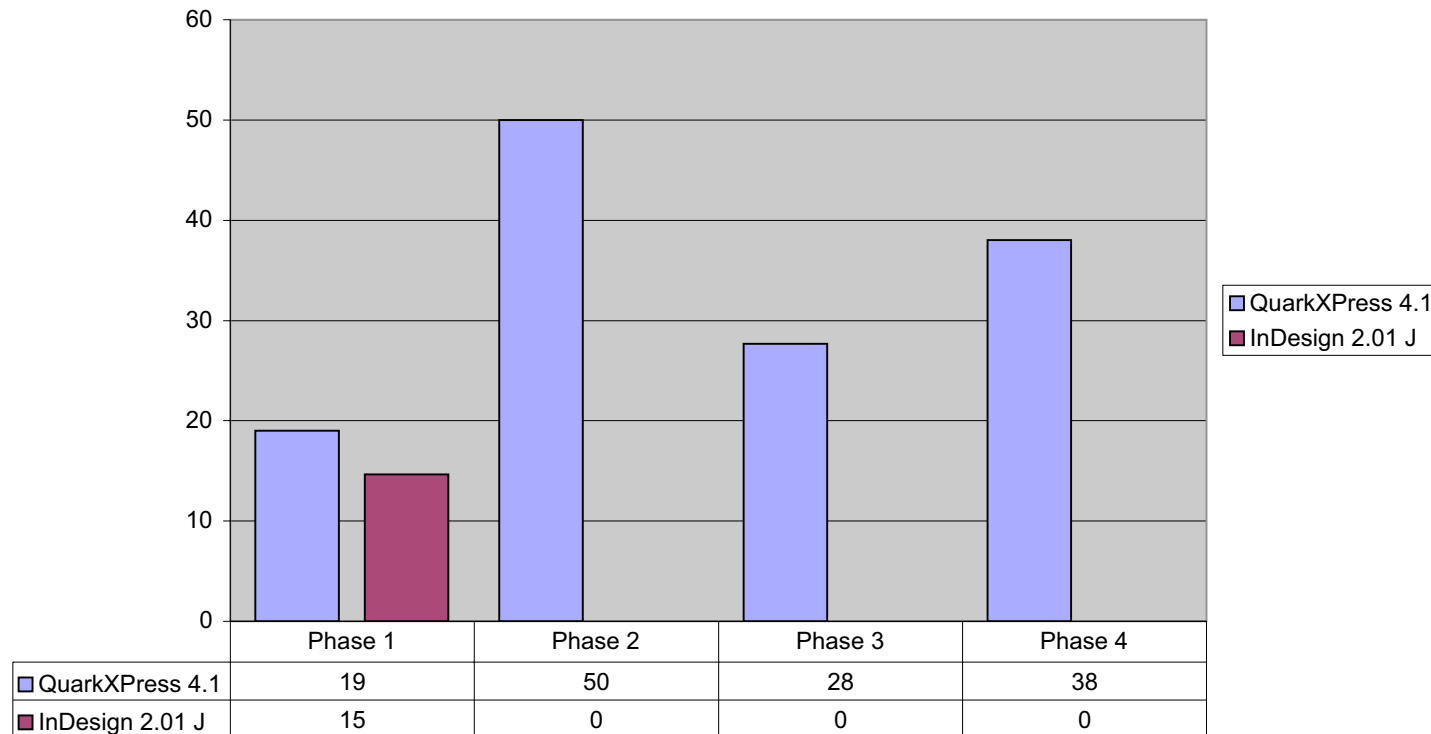
<b>Test: Transparency</b>		<b>Hardware: Standard</b>							
	English description of steps/phases	QuarkXPress 4.1				InDesign 2.01 J			
		Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Average	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Average
Phase 1	<b>QuarkXPress (4 phases):</b> Draw box at position and size of transparency effect Note position of rectangle on the picture. Switch to Photoshop	19	17	21	<b>19</b>	15	14	15	<b>15</b>
Phase 2	Open original Picture Save as .psd file Draw guidelines at position of desired transparency effect Create new transparent layer	53	48	49	<b>50</b>				<b>0</b>
Phase 3	Create white rectangle along guide-lines Set transparency of layer to 35% Save .psd file	29	27	27	<b>28</b>				<b>0</b>
Phase 4	Flatten Photoshop file Save as TIFF or EPS file Switch to QX Import TIFF file with transparency effect	38	39	37	<b>38</b>				<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>		139	131	134	<b>135</b>	15	14	15	<b>15</b>
<b>InDesign (1 Step only)</b>									
Draw rectangle of desired size Set Transparency to 35%									

**Transparency Effect - Standard Configuration - Total Time**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



	Total
InDesign 2.01 J	15
QuarkXPress 4.1	135

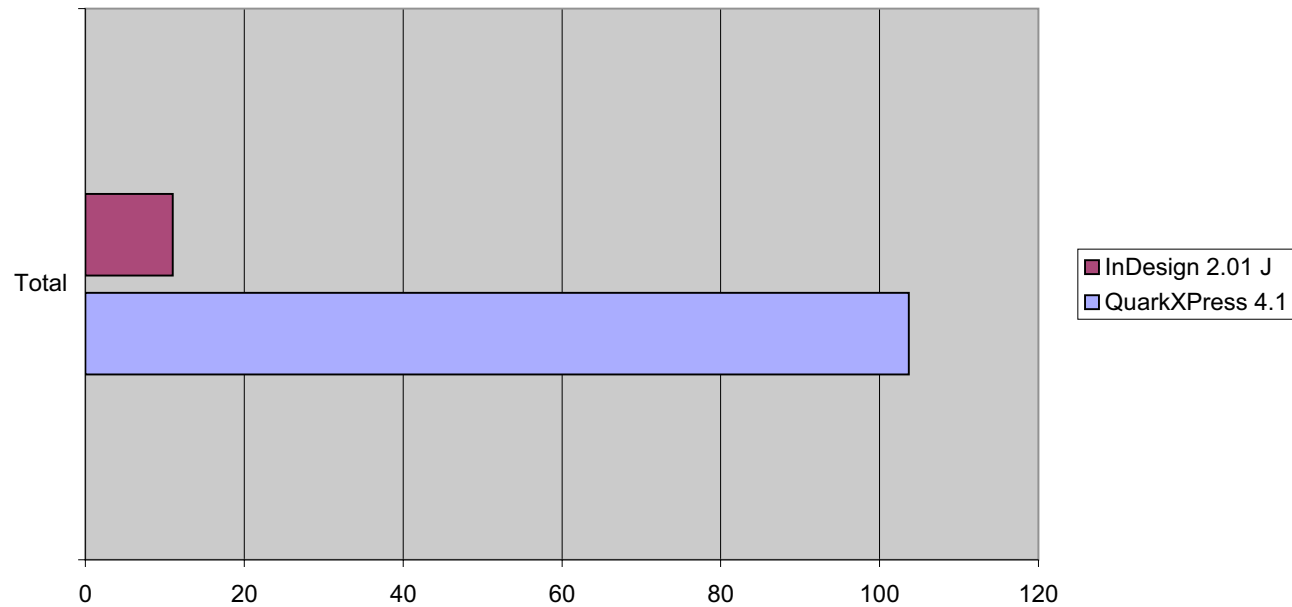
**Transparency Effect - Standard Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



<b>Test: Transparency</b>		<b>Hardware: High End</b>							
	<b>English description of steps/phases</b>	<b>QuarkXPress 4.1</b>				<b>InDesign 2.01 J</b>			
		Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Average	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Average
Phase 1	<b>QuarkXPress (4 phases):</b> Draw box at position and size of transparency effect Note position of rectangle on the picture. Switch to Photoshop	21	21	19	<b>20</b>	10	13	10	<b>11</b>
Phase 2	Open original Picture Save as .psd file Draw guidelines at position of desired transparency effect Create new transparent layer	40	34	33	<b>36</b>				<b>0</b>
Phase 3	Create white rectangle along guide-lines Set transparency of layer to 35% Save .psd file	19	19	18	<b>19</b>				<b>0</b>
Phase 4	Flatten Photoshop file Save as TIFF or EPS file Switch to QX Import TIFF file with transparency effect	31	28	28	<b>29</b>				<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>		111	102	98	<b>104</b>	10	13	10	<b>11</b>
<b>InDesign (1 Step only)</b>									
Draw rectangle of desired size Set Transparency to 35%									

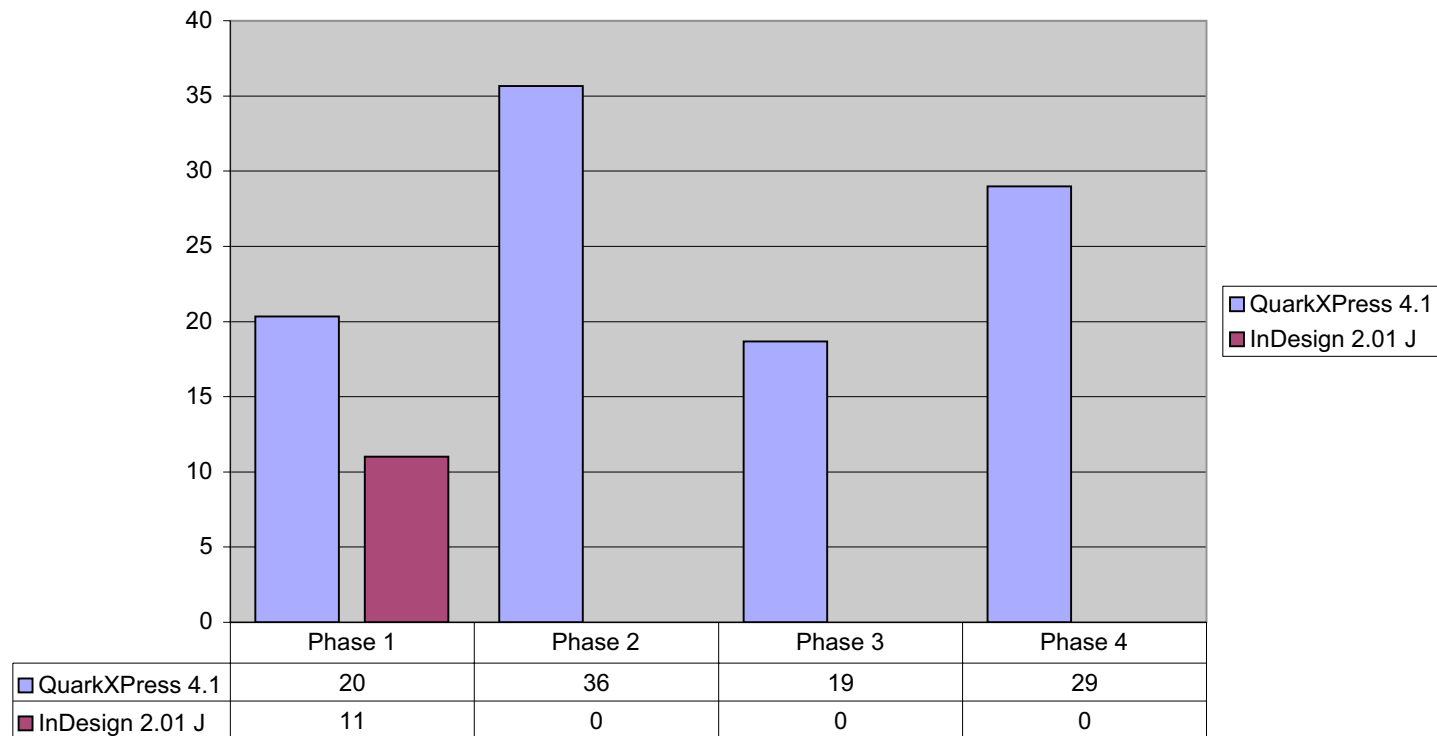
**Section: Results and Charts**

**Transparency Effect - High-spec Configuration - Total Time**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



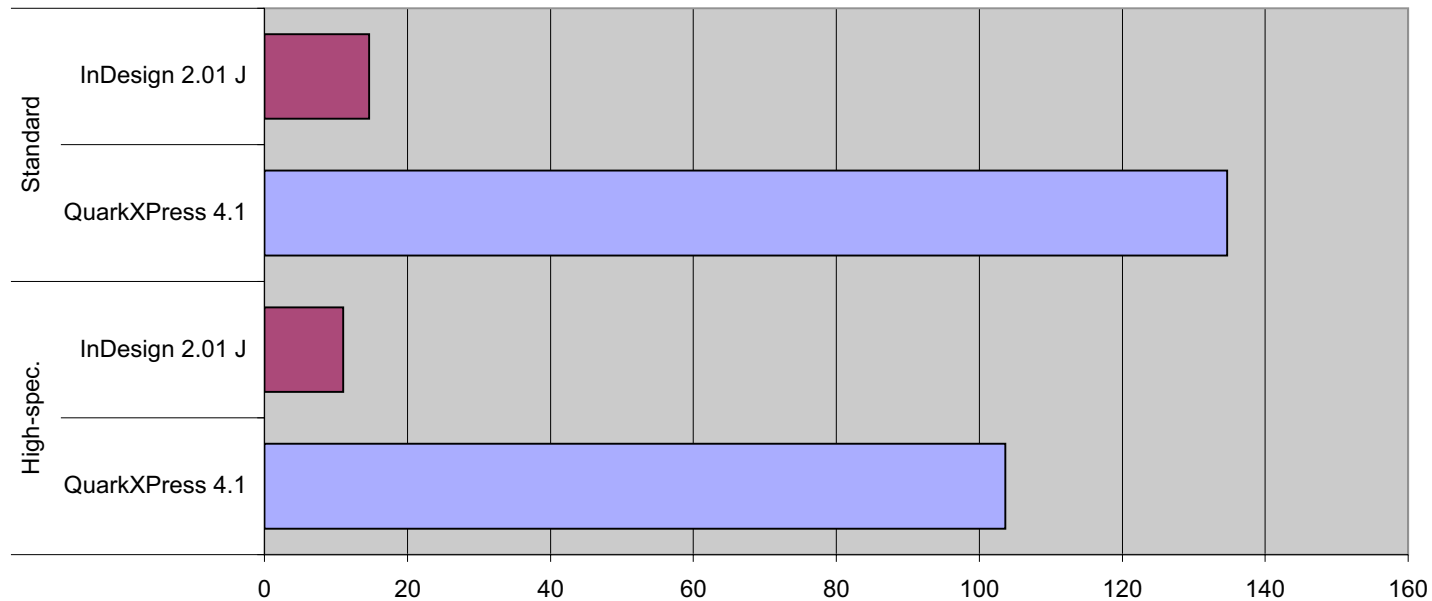
	Total
InDesign 2.01 J	11
QuarkXPress 4.1	104

**Transparency Effect - High-spec. Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



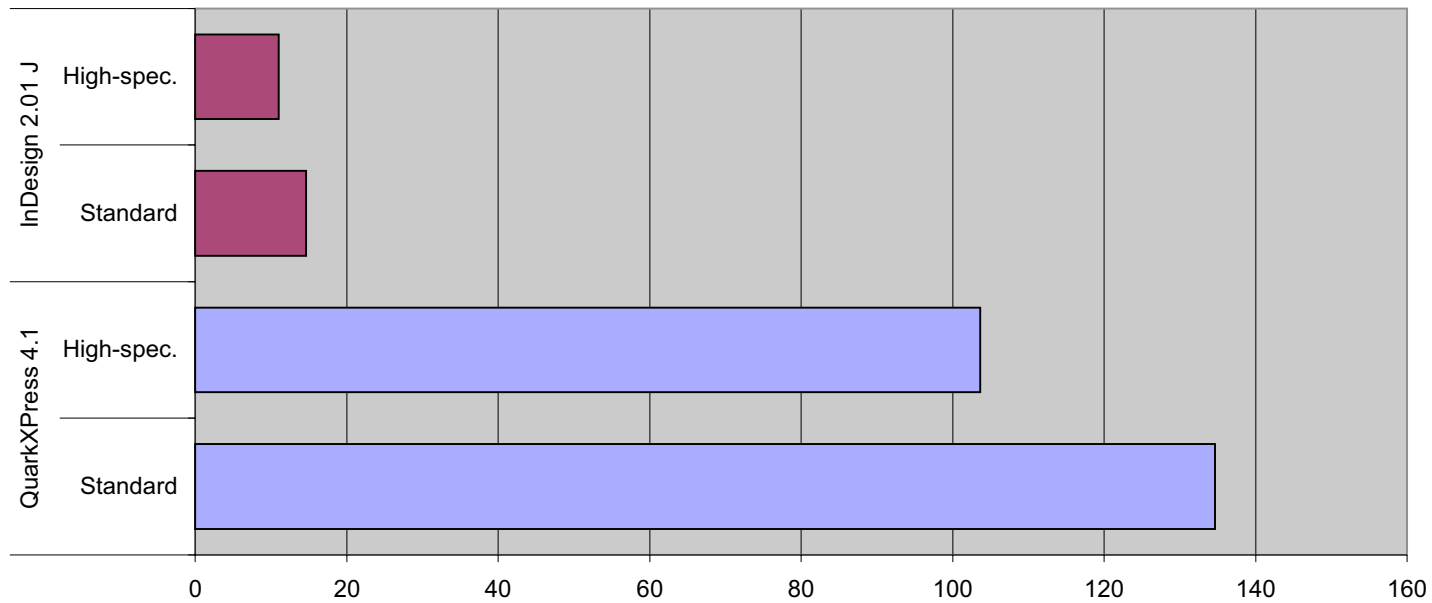
**Create Transparency Effect: Configuration Comparison**

**Transparency Effect - Configuration Comparison 1 - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



	High-spec.		Standard	
	QuarkXPress 4.1	InDesign 2.01 J	QuarkXPress 4.1	InDesign 2.01 J
■ Total	104	11	135	15

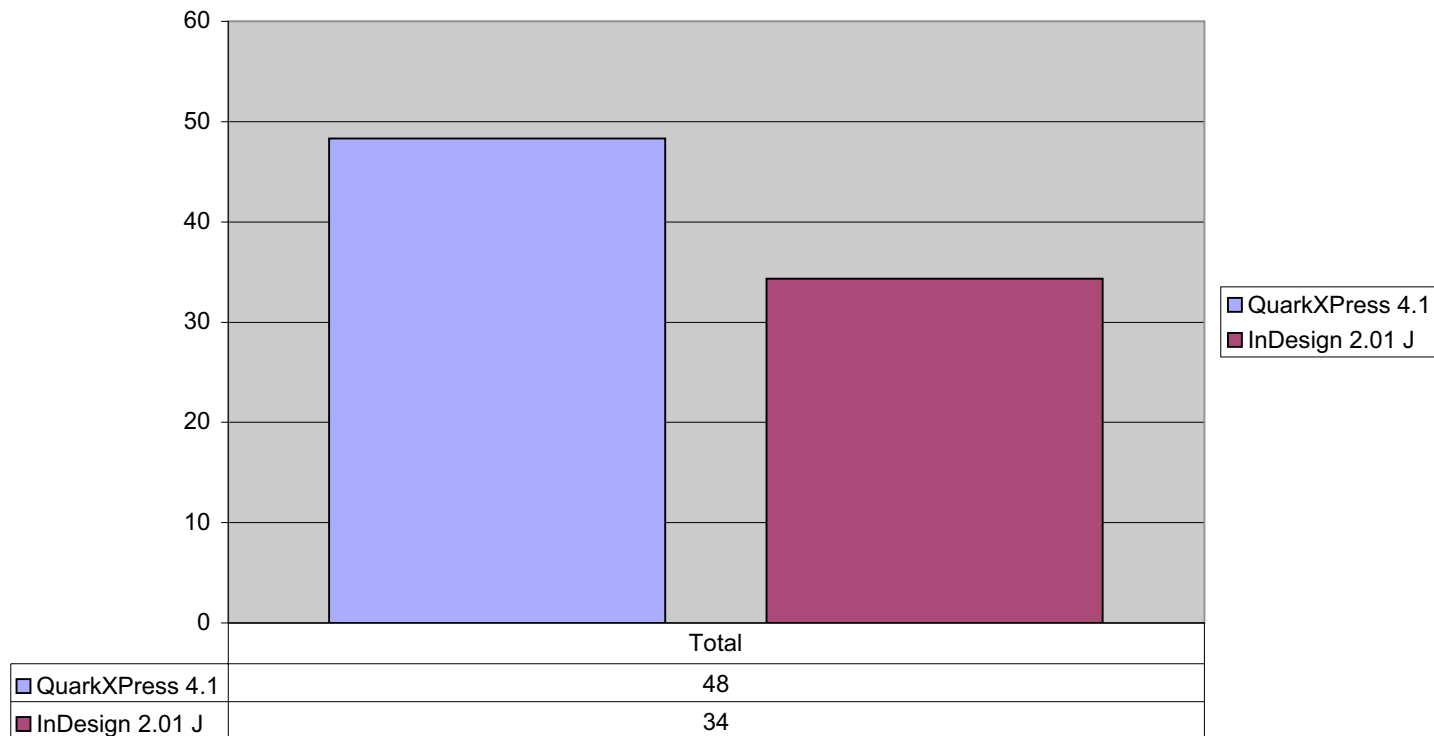
**Transparency Effect - Configuration Comparison 2 - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



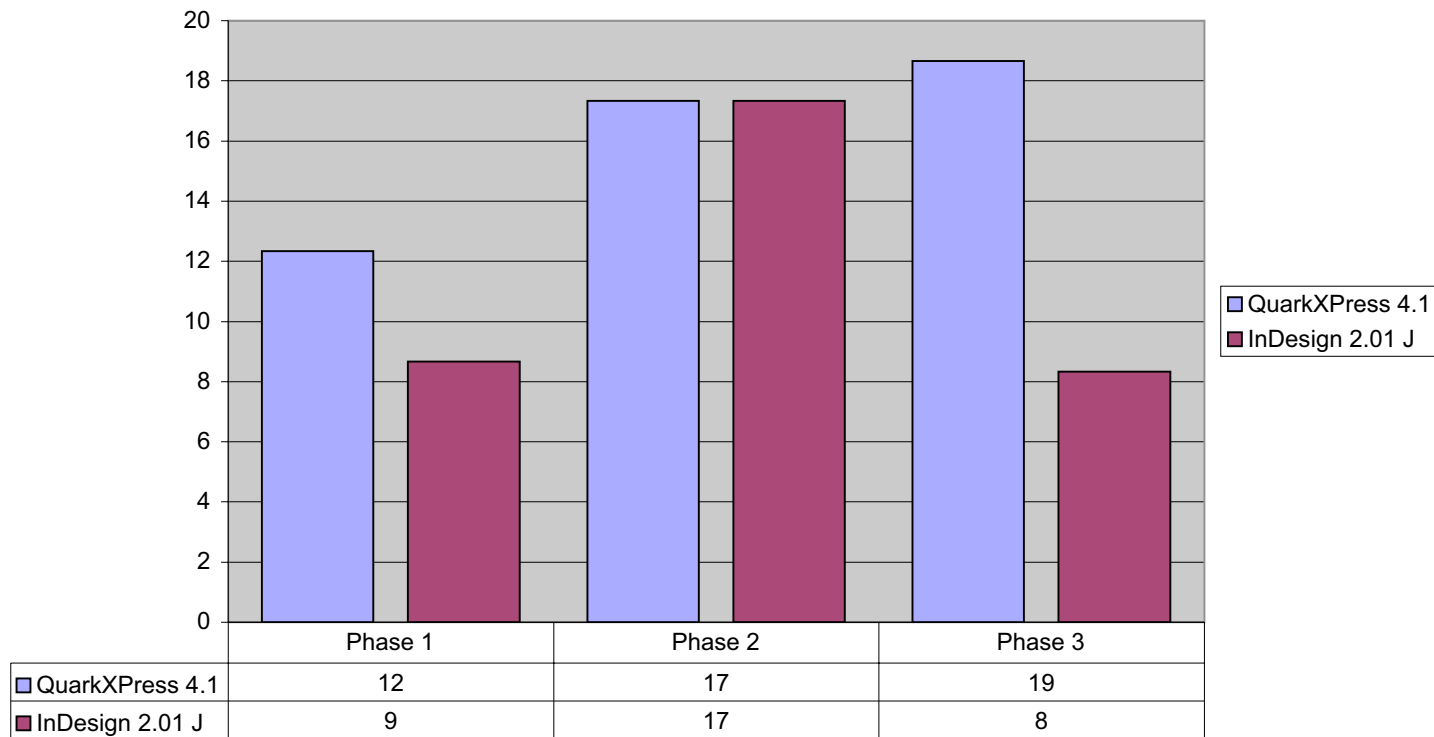
	QuarkXPress 4.1		InDesign 2.01 J	
	Standard	High-spec.	Standard	High-spec.
■ Total	135	104	15	11

**Photoshop Round-trip (20 MB File): Results and Charts**

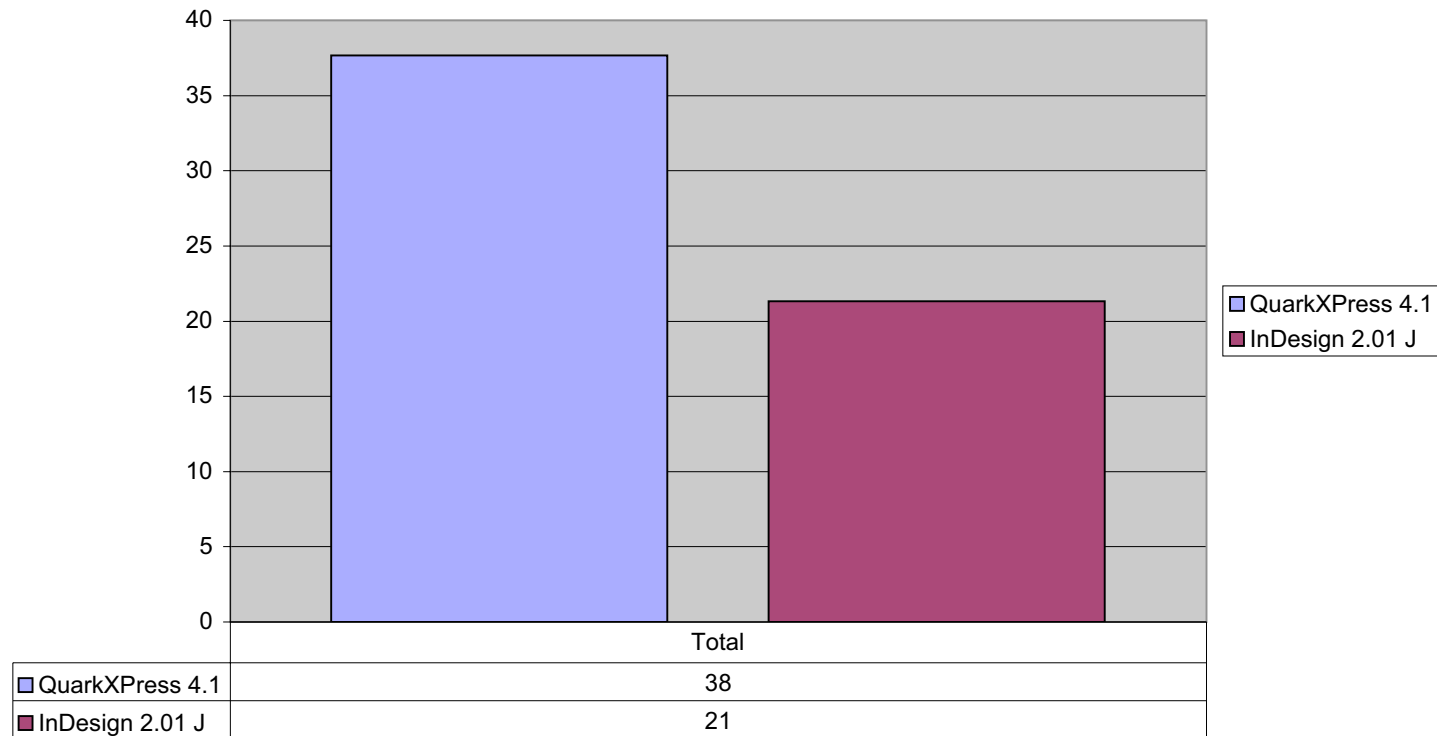
**PS Roundtrip (20MB) - Standard Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



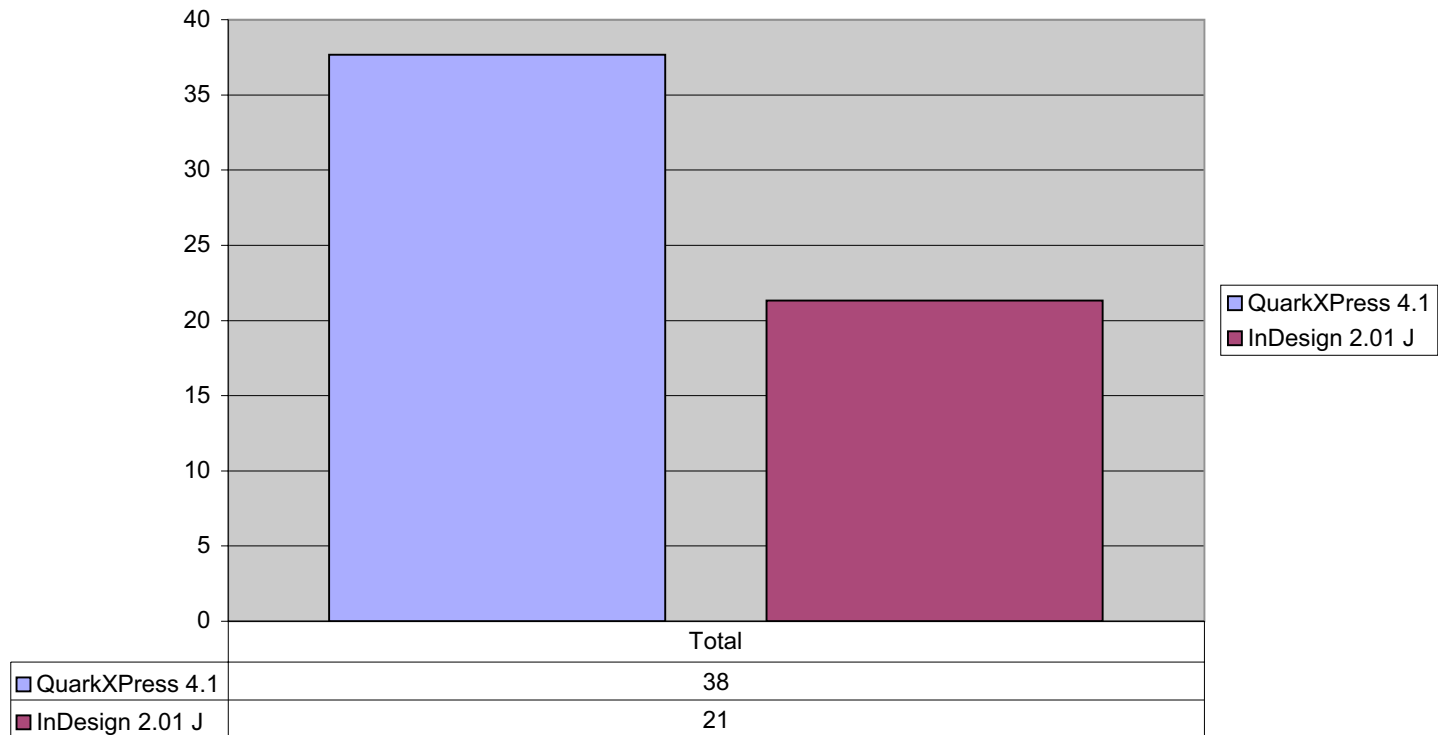
**PS Roundtrip (20MB) - Standard Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



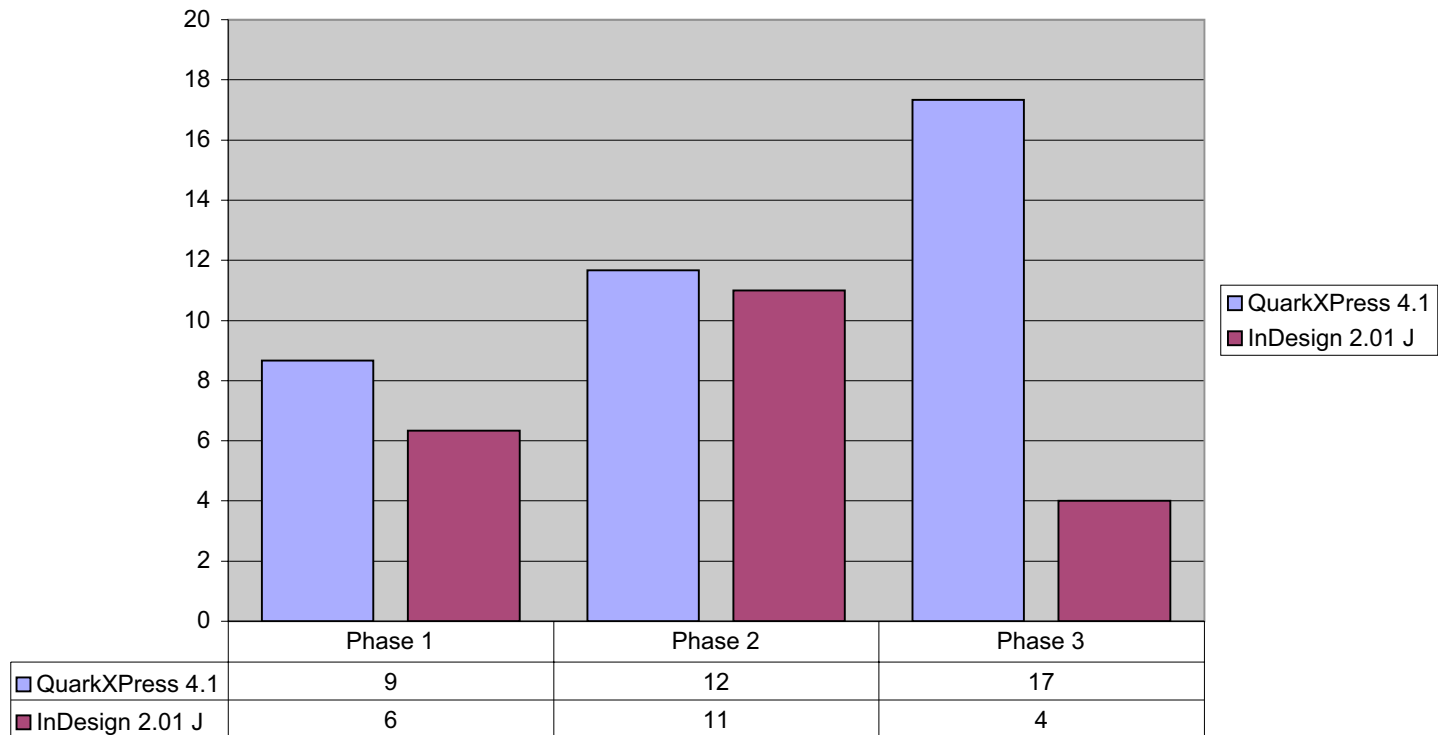
**PS Roundtrip (20MB) - High Spec. Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**PS Roundtrip (20MB) - High Spec. Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

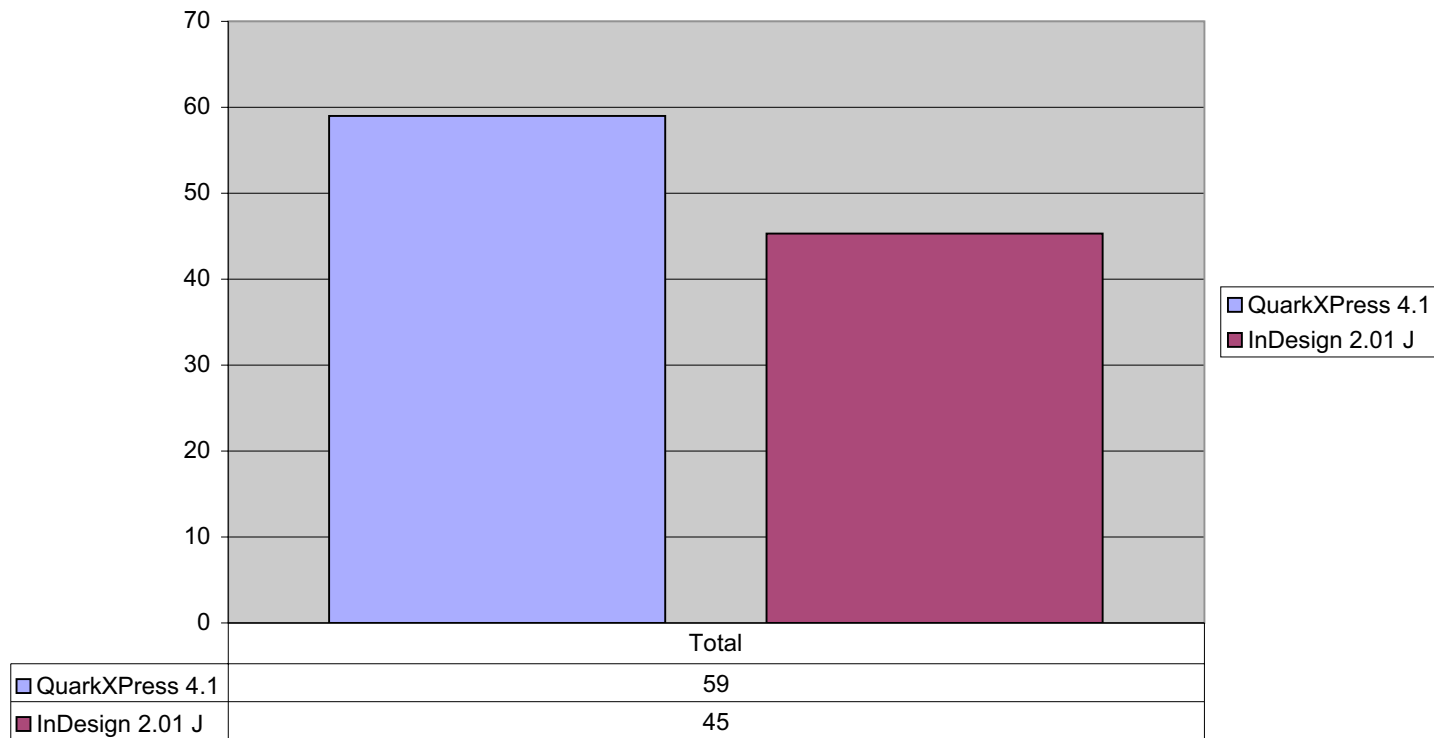


**PS Roundtrip (20MB) - High-Spec. Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

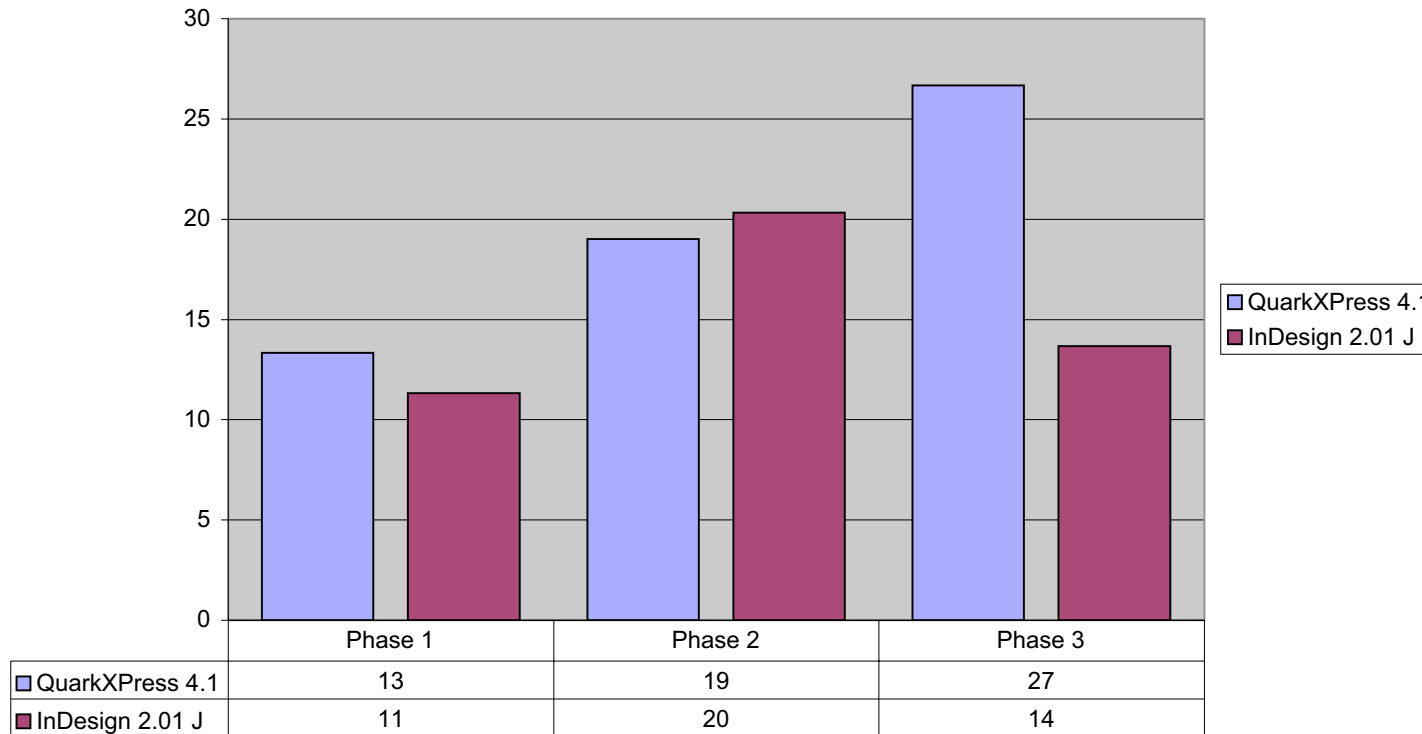


**Photoshop Round-trip (40 MB File): Results and Charts**

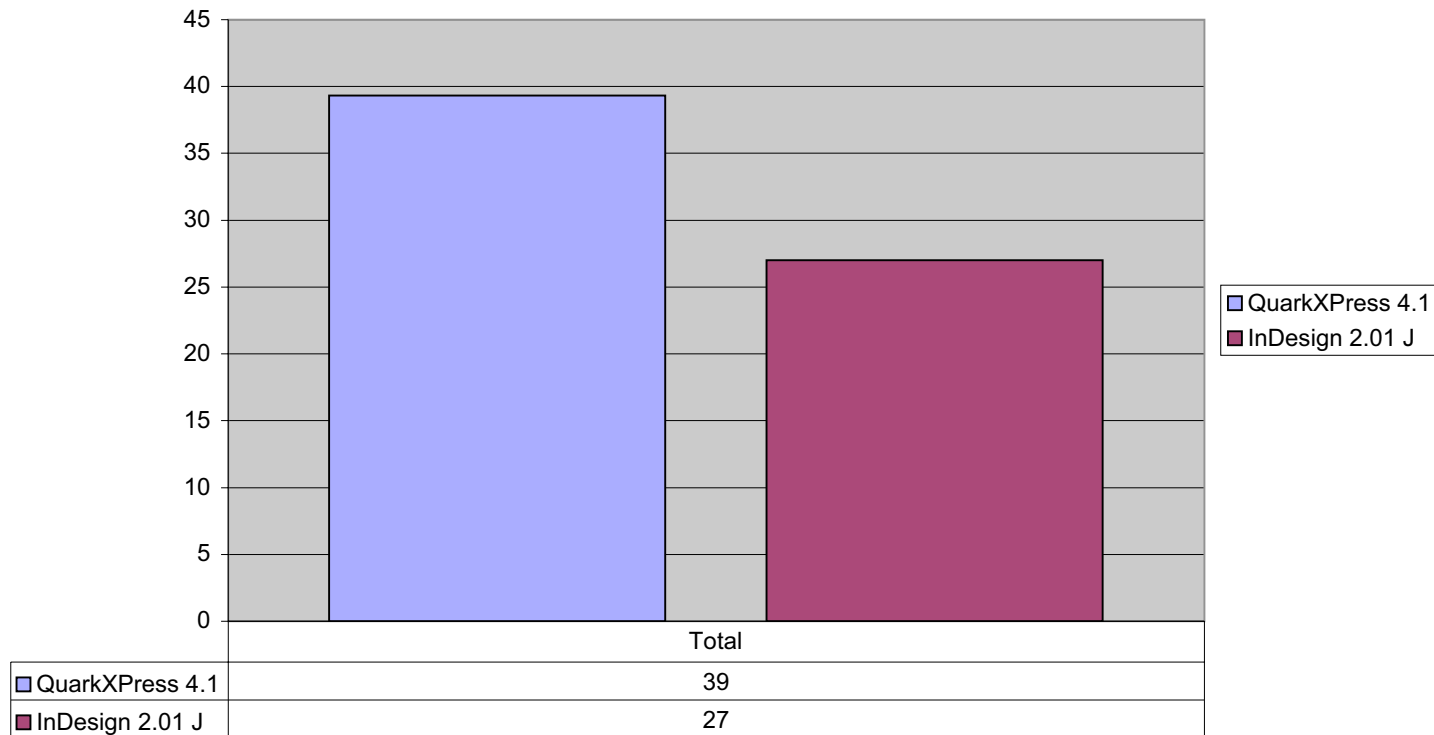
**PS Roundtrip (40MB) - Standard Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**PS Roundtrip (40MB) - Standard Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

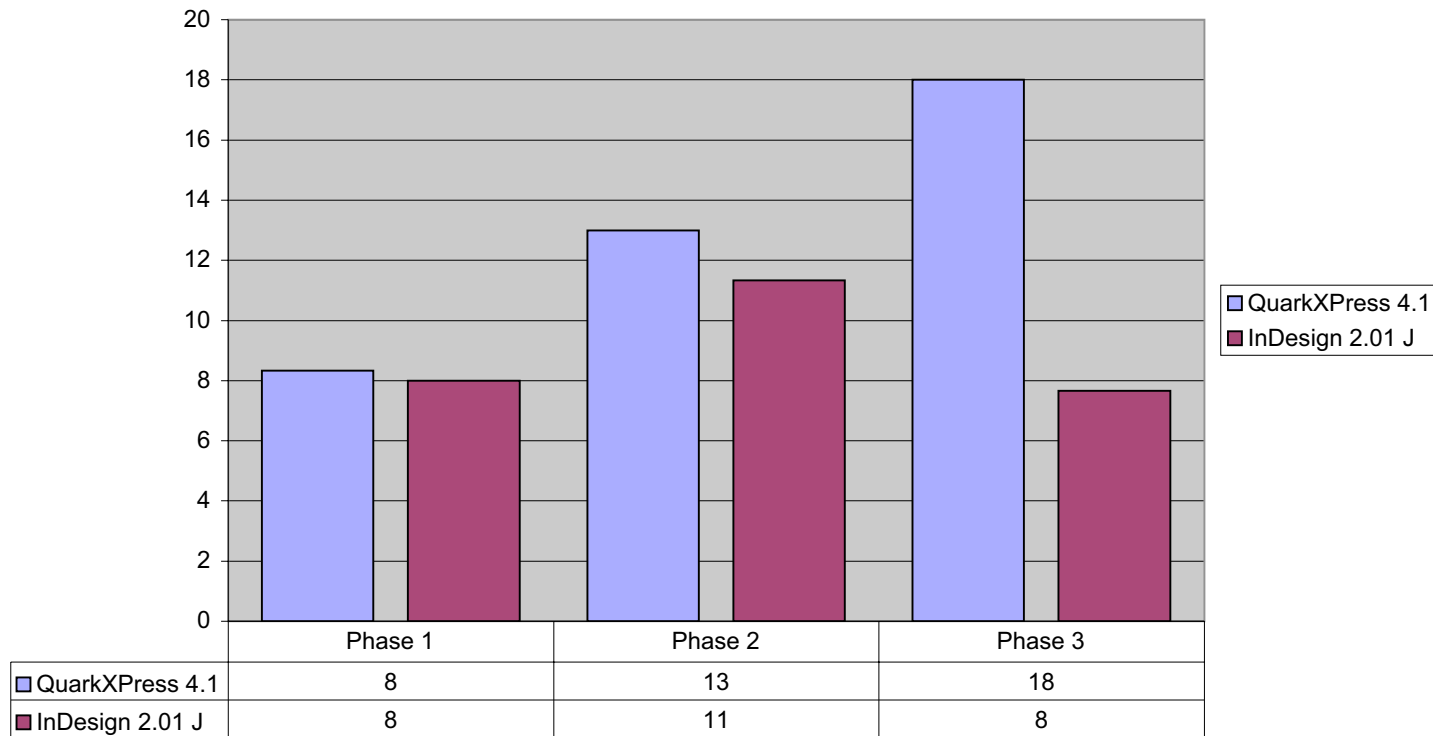


**PS Roundtrip (40MB) - High Spec. Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**PS Roundtrip (40MB) - High-Spec. Configuration - Detail**

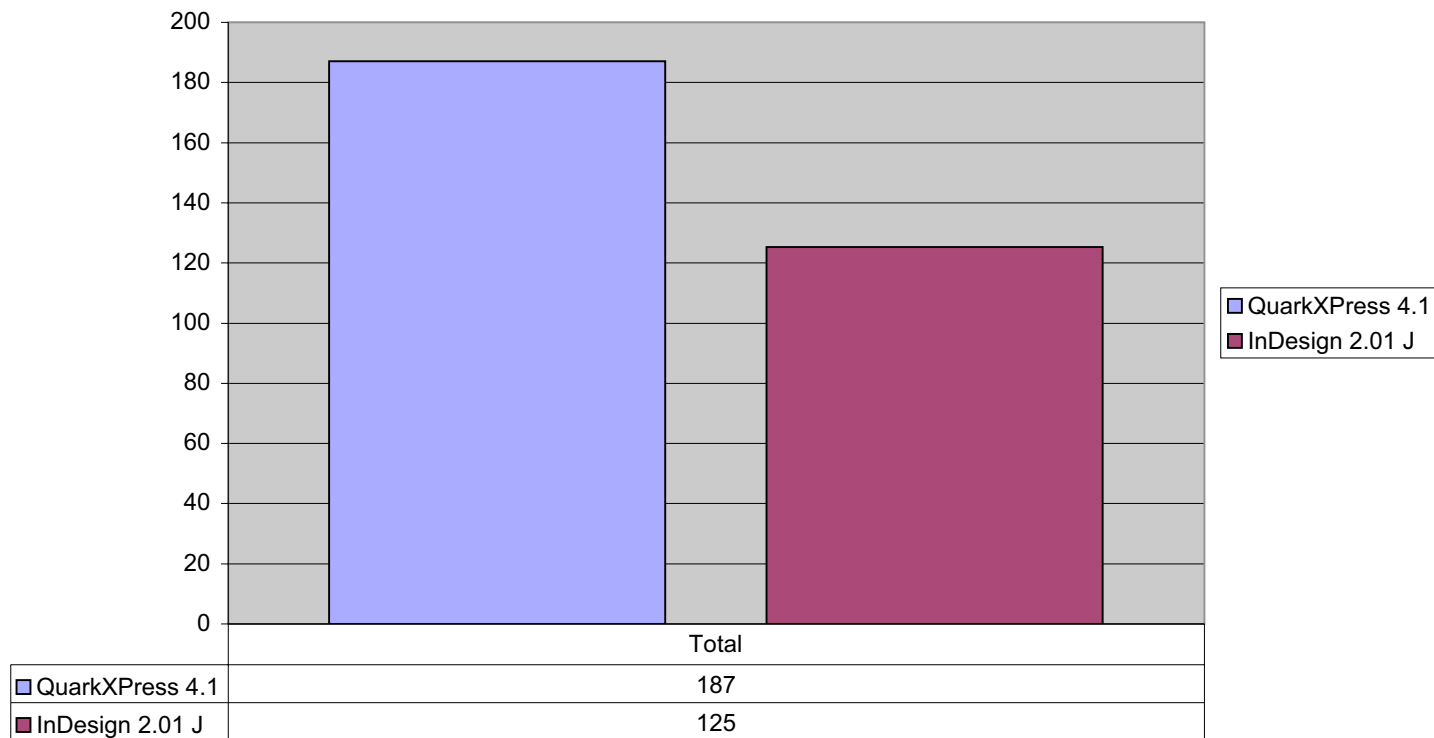
Time in seconds - shorter is better



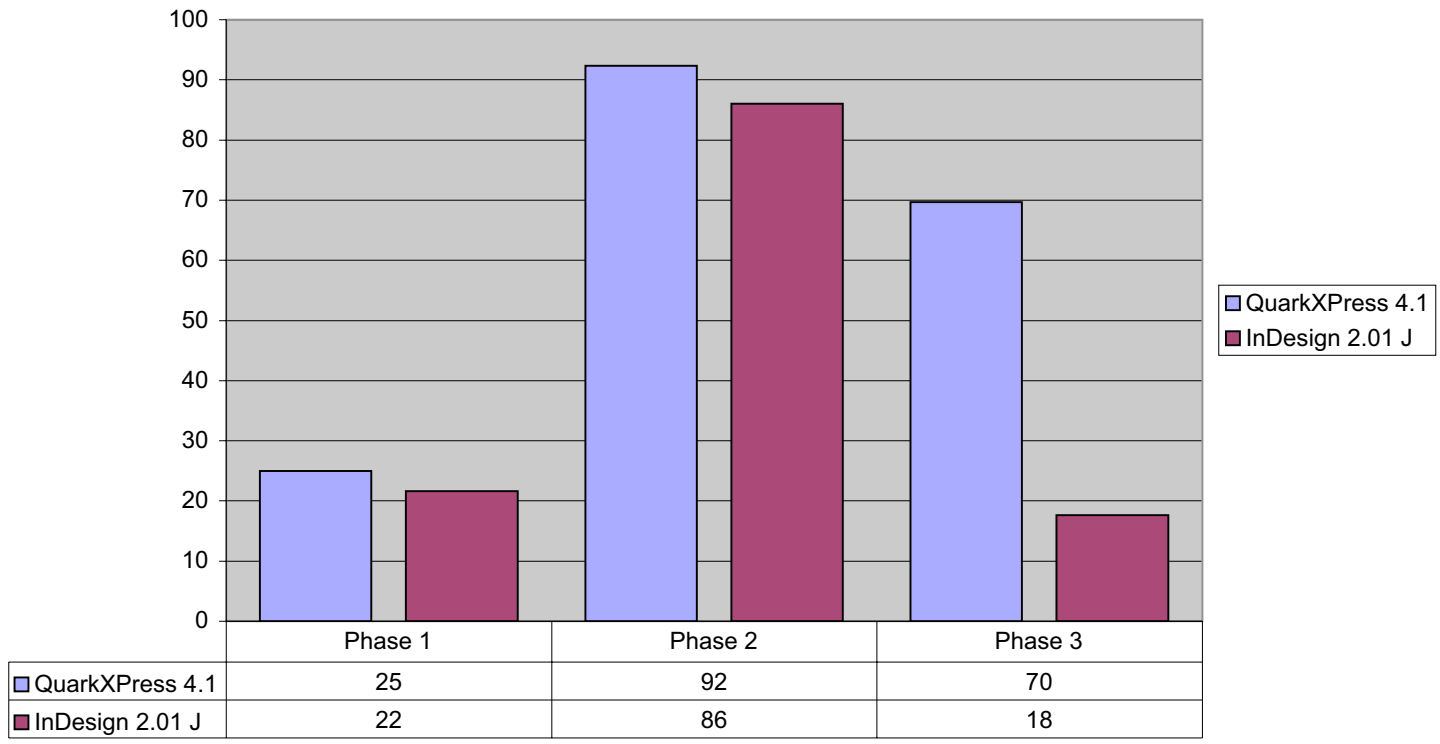
**Section: Results and Charts**

**Photoshop Round-trip (80 MB File): Results and Charts**

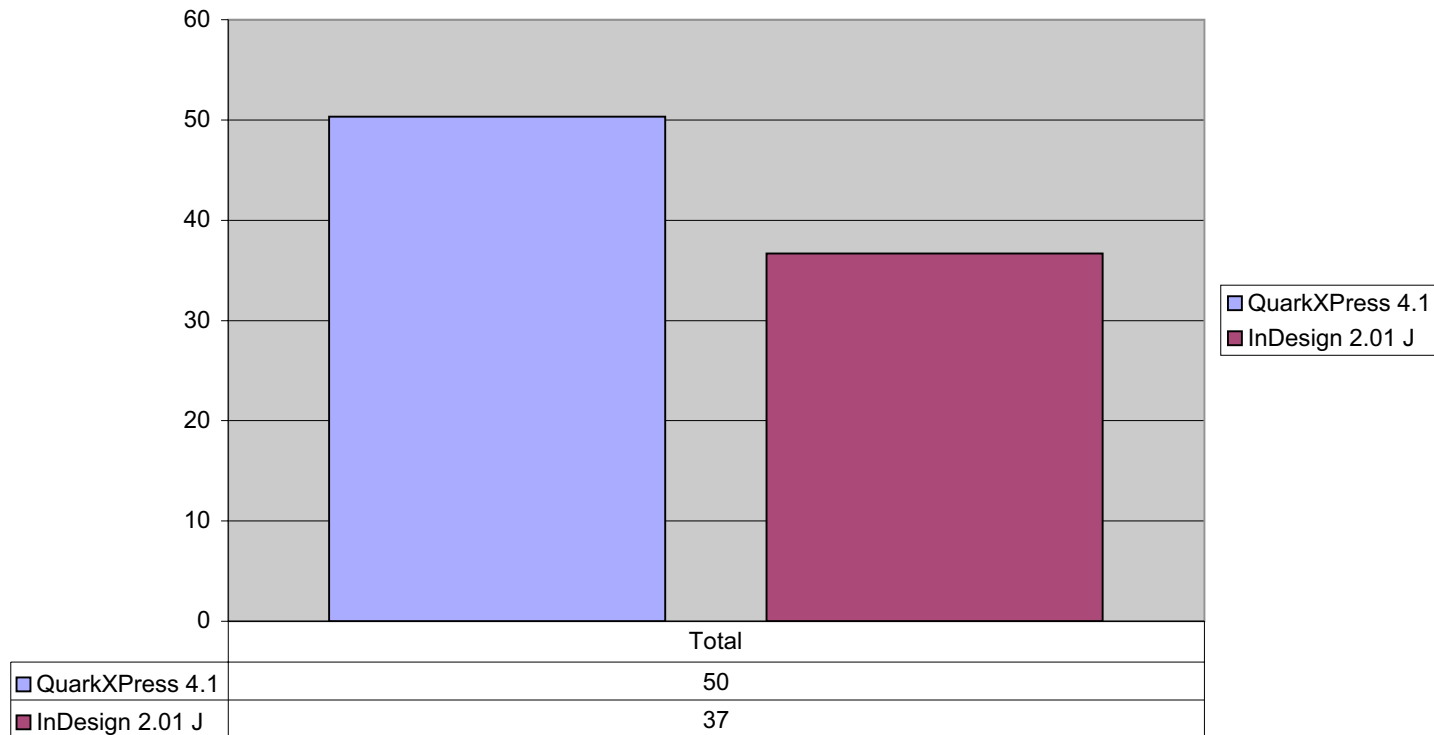
**PS Roundtrip (80MB) - Standard Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



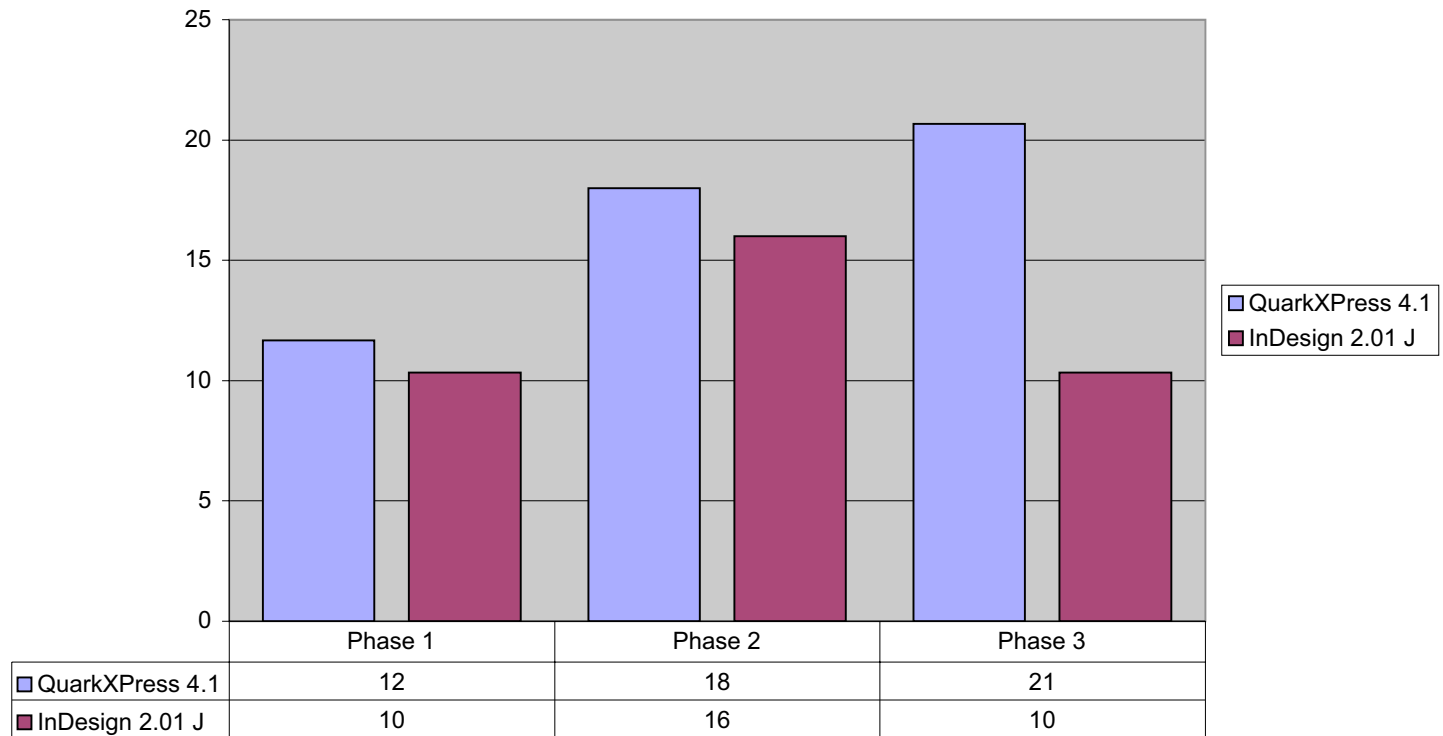
**PS Roundtrip (80MB) - Standard Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



**PS Roundtrip (80MB) - High Spec. Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better

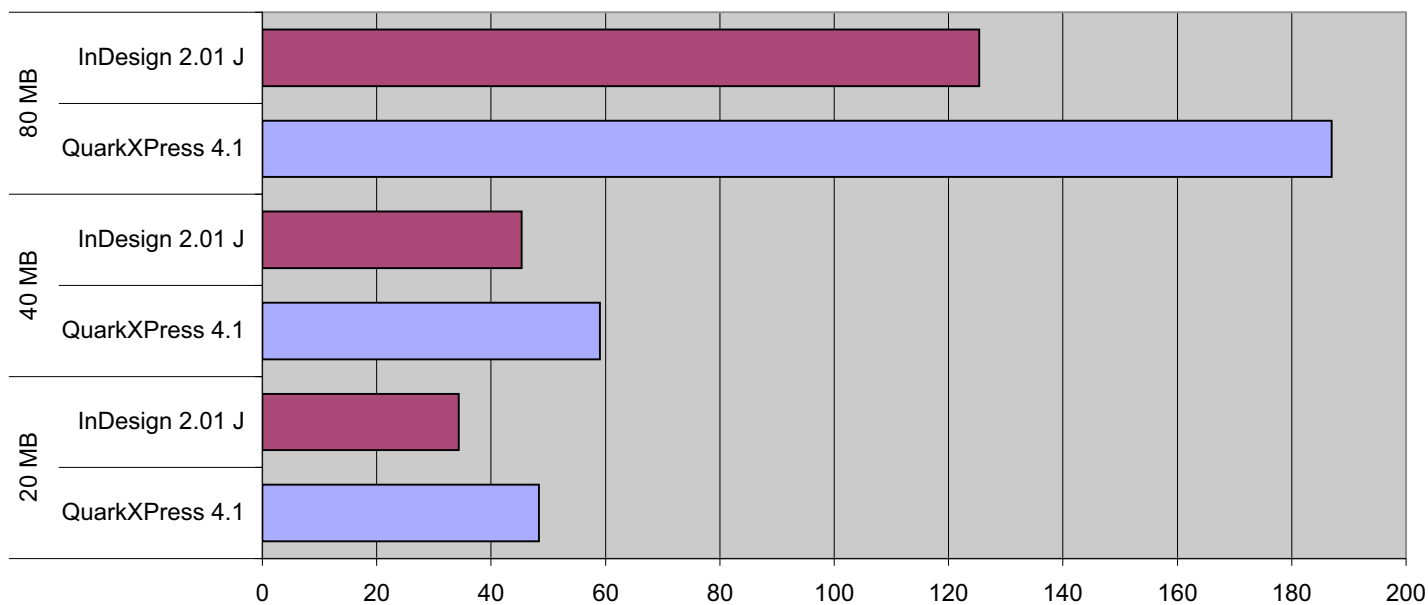


**PS Roundtrip (80MB) - High-Spec. Configuration - Detail**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



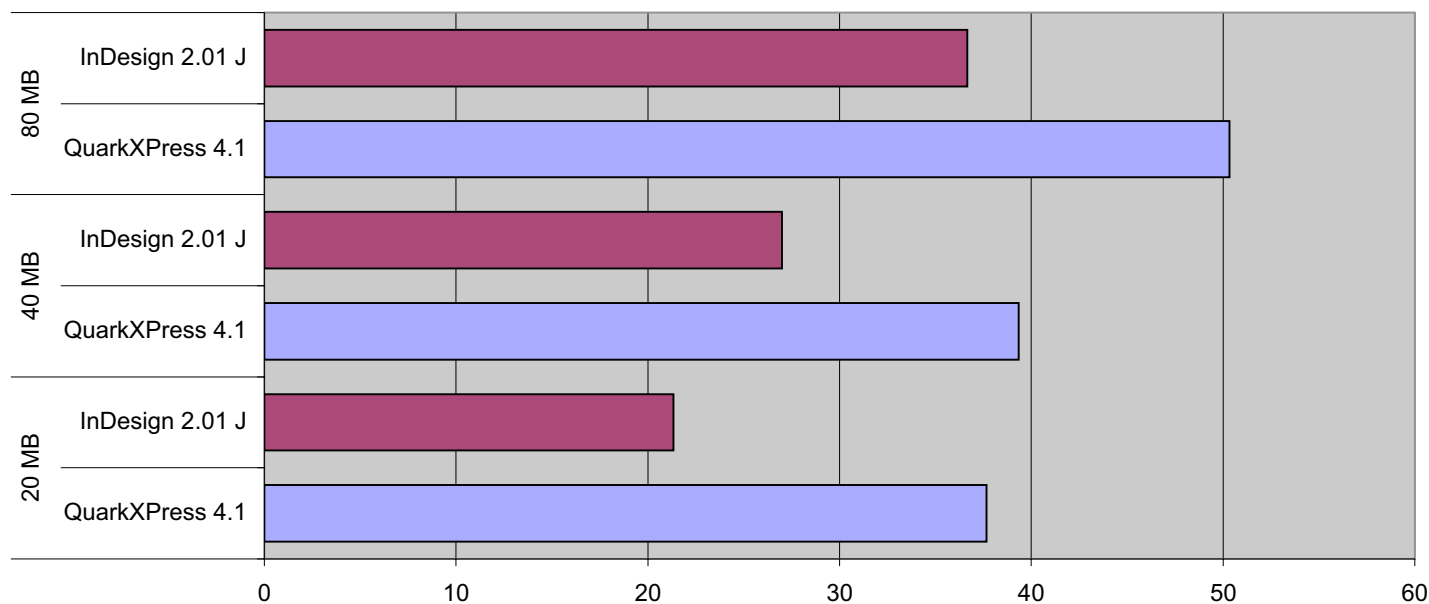
**Photoshop Round-trip: Configuration Comparison**

**PS Roundtrip - Standard Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



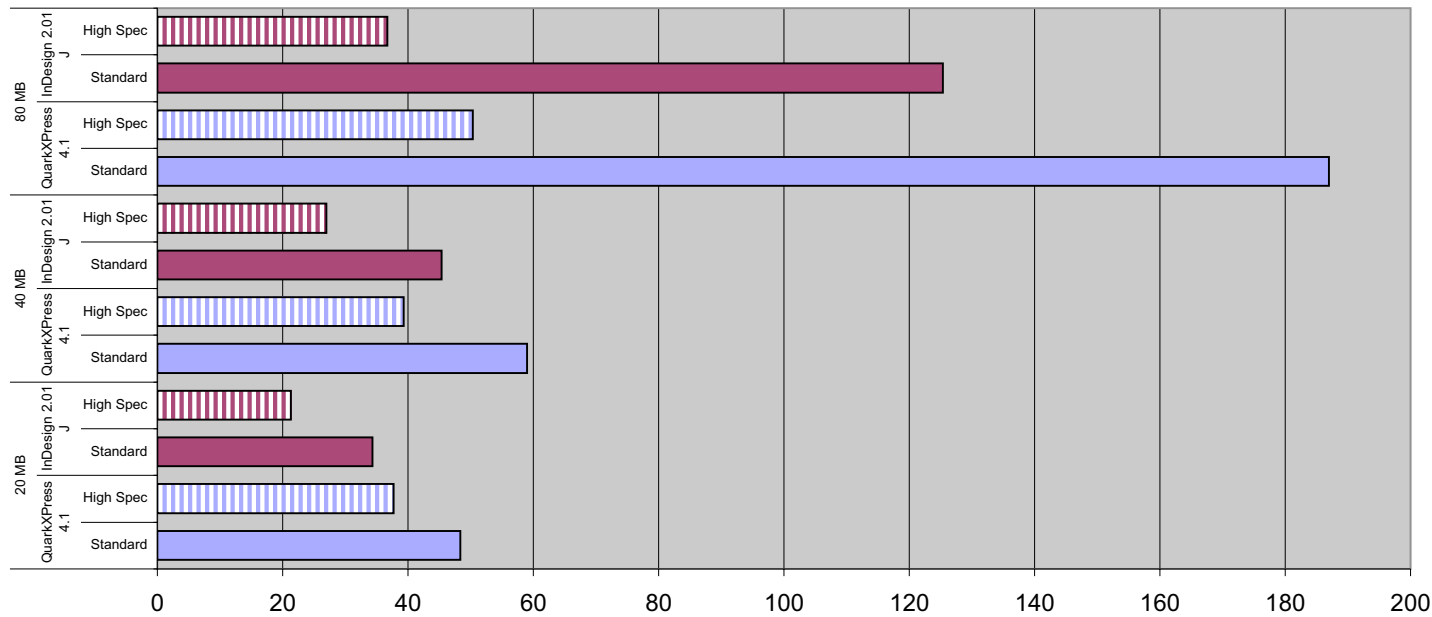
	20 MB		40 MB		80 MB	
	QuarkXPress 4.1	InDesign 2.0 J	QuarkXPress 4.1	InDesign 2.0 J	QuarkXPress 4.1	InDesign 2.0 J
■ Total	48	34	59	45	187	125

**PS Roundtrip - High Spec. Configuration - Total**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



	20 MB		40 MB		80 MB	
	QuarkXPress 4.1	InDesign 2.0 J	QuarkXPress 4.1	InDesign 2.0 J	QuarkXPress 4.1	InDesign 2.0 J
■ Total	38	21	39	27	50	37

**PS Roundtrip - Configuration comparisons**  
Time in seconds - shorter is better



Total	20 MB				40 MB				80 MB			
	QuarkXPress 4.1		InDesign 2.01 J		QuarkXPress 4.1		InDesign 2.01 J		QuarkXPress 4.1		InDesign 2.01 J	
	Standard	High Spec	Standard	High Spec	Standard	High Spec	Standard	High Spec	Standard	High Spec	Standard	High Spec
48	38	34	21	59	39	45	27	187	50	125	37	

**Section: Results and Charts**