Creating PostScript

This section provides some tips on preparing images for Collage RIP using some common applications. Ask that the Mac operator follow these guidelines.

Tips on Creating PDF or PostScript for Collage

We recommend creating PDF instead of PostScript, as it is a more robust and stable format.

About Fonts

Fonts in the original image should be converted to **outlines** before the PDF/PostScript is created. If the image contains fonts (rather than outlines), the RIPped image may not be correct. The RIP software will substitute fonts for fonts used in the image if the same font doesn't exist on the RIP computer. Be aware that Mac fonts and Windows fonts with the same name are not identical, so results may not match.

About File Names

Windows allows file names of up to 255 characters (including spaces). However, the RIP removes spaces, and the Image List window in Collage truncates image names after 37 characters, so you are advised to keep names short.

Separated or Composite

The term *pre-separated* (or *single color separation*) refers to a separate file for each color. All separations are contained in a single file: think of sheets of paper in a file folder.

Collage requires pre-separated files.

The term *composite* refers to one file containing all colors, usually in grayscale. This is generally used for proofing, and cannot be used in Collage.

Creating PDF or PostScript for Collage

Three general rules:

- Use a PostScript PPD or printer.
- Select PostScript Level 2 or PostScript 3 when creating PDF/PostScript files.
- Create a separated PDF/PostScript, not a composite.

Important! Creating PDF/PostScript is different according to which Mac OS is used.
For OS 9, use the PREPS PPD provided by MDC.
For OS X, use the Adobe Acrobat Distiller PPD.

Setup for Mac with OS 9

Selecting the PREPS PPD

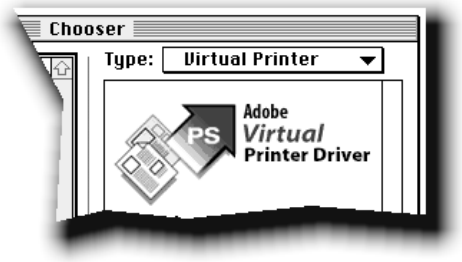
MDC provides a PPD, called PREPS (or PREPS-II) for use on a Macintosh. We recommend you use this PPD when preparing PDF/PostScript files for Collage.

To use the PREPS PPD in an application, you must first select it in the Chooser:

1. Open the Chooser from the Apple menu. The Chooser window appears, with the installed printers.

   Click on the PSPrinter icon.

   The right side of the window displays printer information. Make sure that the **Type** is **Virtual Printer**.



2. Click the **Setup** button. The Printer Description window appears. This should open to the folder containing Printer Descriptions.

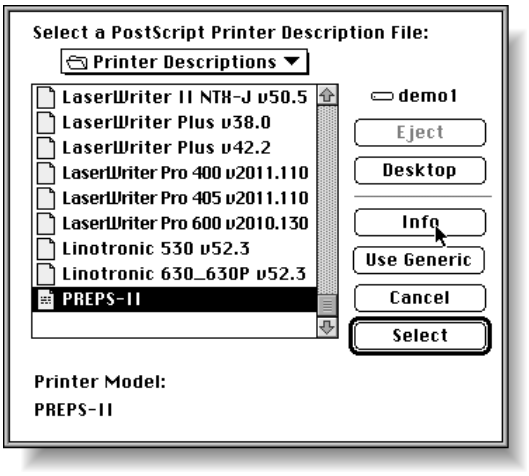
   If the window does not show the Printer Descriptions folder, do the following

   a. Use the menu and go to the hard-drive (not the Desktop).
   b. Open the System folder.
   c. Open the Extensions folder.
   d. Open the Printer Descriptions folder.

3. Scroll down the list until you see the **PREPS** PPD.

   Click **PREPS-II** once to highlight it.

   Click the **Select** button. A window appears with a message about the current Printer Description file selected. Click **OK** to accept and close this window. The Chooser displays.



   Check the text in the right of the Chooser window to be sure it says **Printer Model: PREPS-II**.

4. Click the button in the left corner of the Chooser to close it.

When you exit from the Chooser window, a message appears informing you that you have changed your current printer. Click **OK**. The PSPrinter is now the selected Driver and is using the PREPS PPD.

Setup for Mac with OS X

To configure your computer to create a PDF/PostScript file, create a virtual printer that uses the Acrobat Distiller PPD file. *This information is correct as of OS 10.5.x*

Download the Adobe Acrobat Distiller PPD

The Acrobat Distiller PPD can be used to make either PostScript or PDF.

1. Go to Adobe's web site at www.adobe.com/support/downloads/detail.jsp?ftpID=141
2. Click Proceed to Download. On the next page, click Download Now
3. After the file is downloaded, double-click the file Adobe.sit.hqx to unstuff it. An Adobe folder is created on the desktop.
6. Open the Adobe folder on the desktop and select Acrobat Distiller.
7. Choose Edit -> Copy Acrobat Distiller.
8. Navigate to the folder: Library/Printers/PPDs/Contents/Resources/en.lproj
9. Choose Edit -> Paste

Create a Virtual Printer *On Mac OS X v10.1.1--v10.3.9:*

1. Choose Go -> Applications.
2. Open the Utilities folder and double-click Print Center.
3. Click Add.

4 From the pop-up menu, choose IP Printing.

5 Type **localhost** in the LPR Printer Address text box.

6 Deselect Use Default Queue On Server, and then type **AcrobatDistiller** (no space) in the Queue Name text box.

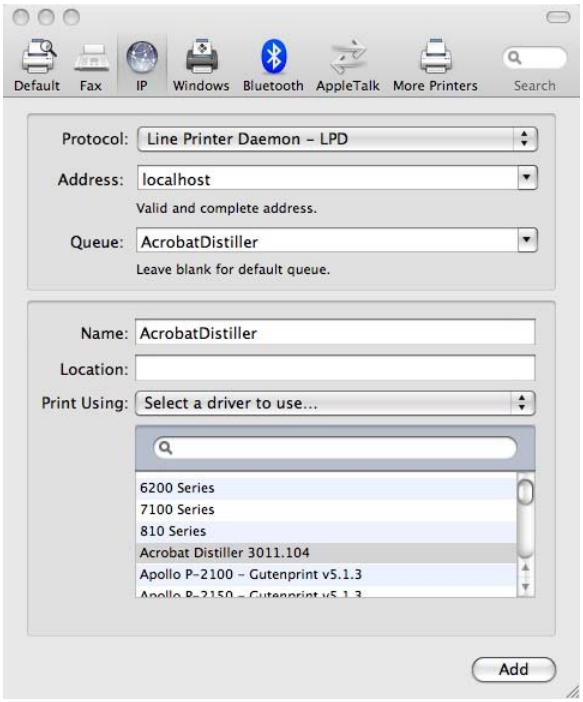
7 Select Acrobat Distiller PPD and finish installing the printer.

8 Choose Other from the Printer Model pop-up menu.
Navigate to Library/Printers/PPDs/Contents/Resources/en.lproj
Select Acrobat Distiller

9 Click Add

Create a Virtual Printer *On Mac OS X v10.5.x:*

1. Click on the System Preferences box in the Dock
2. Click on **Print and Fax**
3. Click on the + at the bottom left.
   a Click the IP Printing sphere at the top
   b Click **Add**
   c Type **localhost** in the **Address** box.
   d Type **AcrobatDistiller** (no space) in the **Queue** box.
   e Type **AcrobatDistiller** (no space) in the **Name** box.
   f For the printer driver, select **Acrobat Distiller**
   g Click **Add**



Creating a PDF

Creating PDF for Collage is virtually identical to creating PostScript (see following pages). In both cases, there are a couple of critical factors: create a pre-separated file, and use a resolution that is high enough to suit your requirements.

Separations

The PDF must be created as a **pre-separated** file, *not* a composite file. In some applications, there is a setting called "Print Separations". Other applications have a Color drop-down with "Separations" as one of the options. Consult the application documentation for information.

Also, if there are several different ways to create PDF in one application (such as Print or Export or Publish PDF), then you may need to check all the different ways to find the correct one. For example, in Adobe InDesign, you can either Export to PDF or Print to PDF. Only the Print option allows you to create a pre-separated file.

Be sure to use the correct settings to create a pre-separated file.

Image Resolution and Compression

Typically, the default settings for creating PDF files have been set to create small file sizes for emailing or web viewing the PDF. The smaller file size is created by compressing the images. This will not work for printing.

Carefully check compression settings, in your application or in Acrobat Distiller. Image compression is achieved by throwing out data, which can result in loss of image quality, thereby eroding the final printed result. In short, your PDF should include the highest quality image data possible.

Some applications have a setting that explicitly sets the resolution to be used when creating PostScript or PDF. Set this to the same resolution set in the Harlequin RIP.

High-quality PDF settings will create larger files. If you require smaller files, for example to transfer over a network, experiment with different settings to find the compromise between quality and size that you can accept.

Creating a PostScript File

The procedure varies slightly, depending on the OS X version you are running.

1. Open the document that you would like to save as PostScript.
2. Choose File -> Print.
3. From the Printer pop-up menu, choose AcrobatDistiller_on_localhost.
4. Save the file as a PostScript file:

   On Max OS 10.1.1--10.3.9

   a Choose Output Options from the pop-up menu.

   b Select Save as File, and choose PostScript from the Format pop-up menu.

   c Click Save.

   On Mac OS 10.4.x

   a Click the Save PDF button

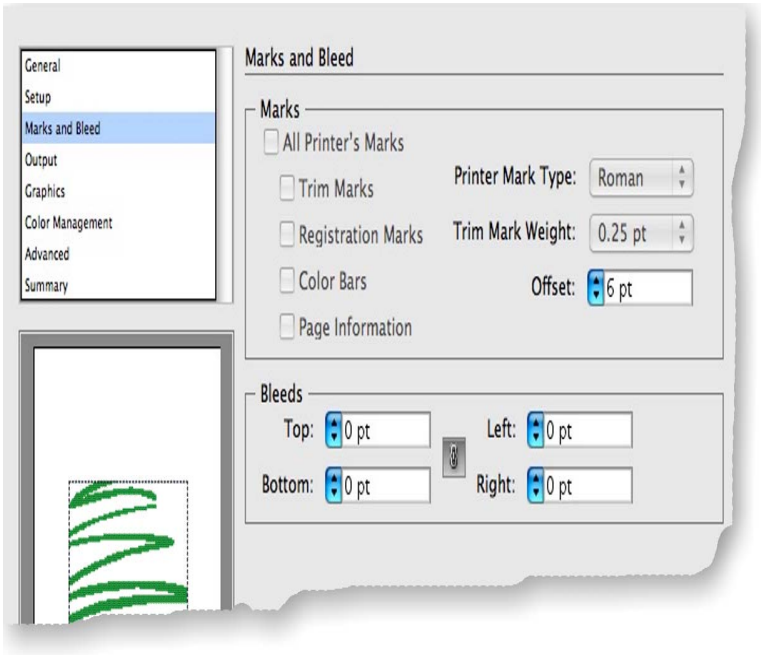
   b Click Save PDF as PostScript
5. In the Save As text box, enter a name for the file.
6. From the Where pop-up, choose a location for the saved file. Click Save.

Each application may have a different way to print a file to PostScript. Also, the steps may change with each version of the application. On the following pages are some examples.

Example 1: Creating a PostScript File in Illustrator CS3

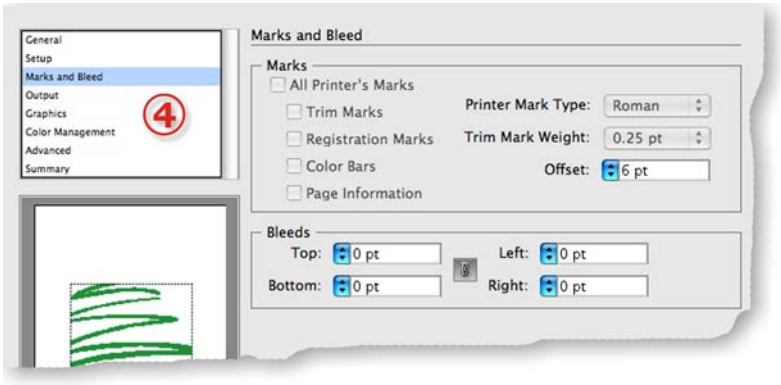
1. From the File menu, select Print.
2. In the Print window, from the Printer dropdown, select Adobe PostScript Printer.

   From the PPD dropdown. select Acrobat Distiller.
3. In the Media area, select Custom and set the correct size.



4. In the list on the left, select Marks and Bleed.

   Turn off any marks or bleeds.

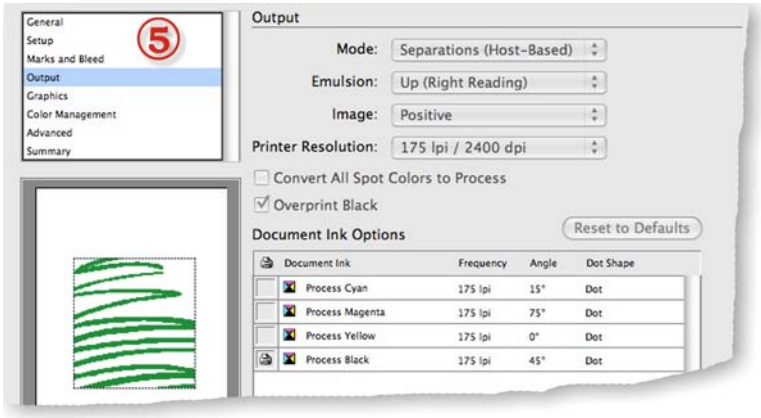


5. In the list on the left, select Output.

   From the Mode dropdown, select Separations (Host Based).

   From Printer Resolution, select the desired resolution.

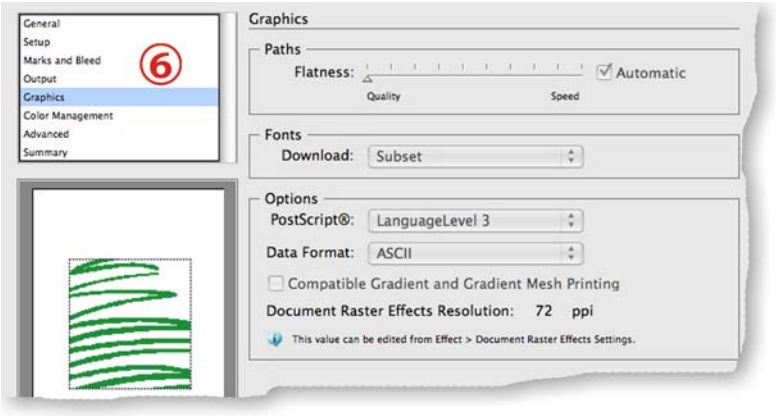
   Turn on Overprint Black.



6. In the list on the left, select Graphics.

   Under Options, for PostScript select LanguageLevel3

   Data Format should be set to ASCII



Click Save.

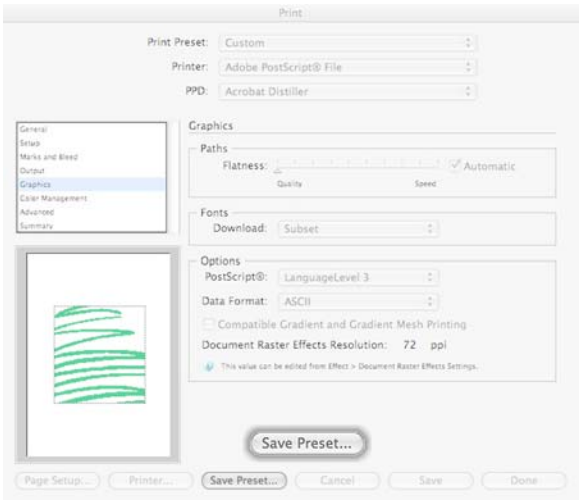
Saving Values as Preset

After setting all values, save as a Preset that can be loaded whenever needed.

Click the Page Setup button and save as Collage.

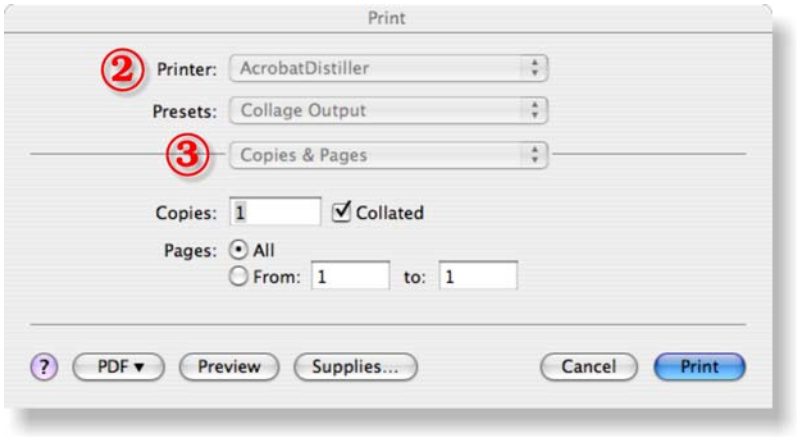
Using Preset

To use the values, from Print Preset at the top, select Collage.

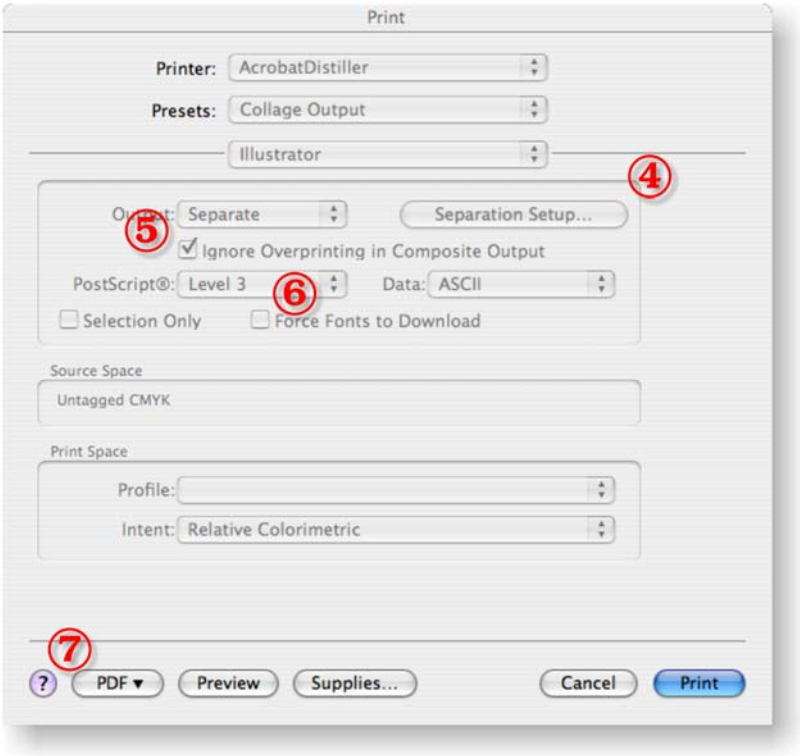


Example 2: Creating a PostScript File in Illustrator 10

1. From the File menu, select Print.
2. In the Print window, from the Printer dropdown, select AcrobatDistiller.
3. From the third dropdown. select Illustrator.



4. Click the Separation Setup button. When the window opens, just click OK to close it (don't change anything).
5. This causes the Output to change to Separate, which is what we want.
6 The PostScript defaults to Level 2. Change to Level 3.
7. Click the PDF button and from the dropdown, select Save PDF as PostScript



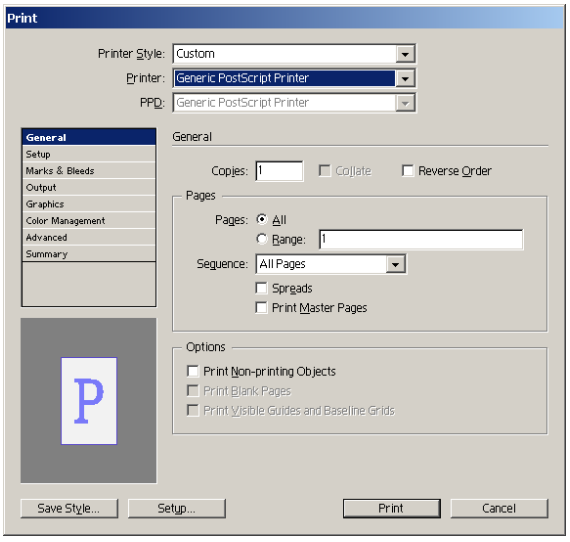
8. Select the location where you want to save the file. Enter the name for the file. You may want to add ".ps" to the file name, but it is not required.
9. Click Save.

Example 3: Creating PostScript in Adobe InDesign (PC version 5.5)

To print a PostScript file from InDesign:

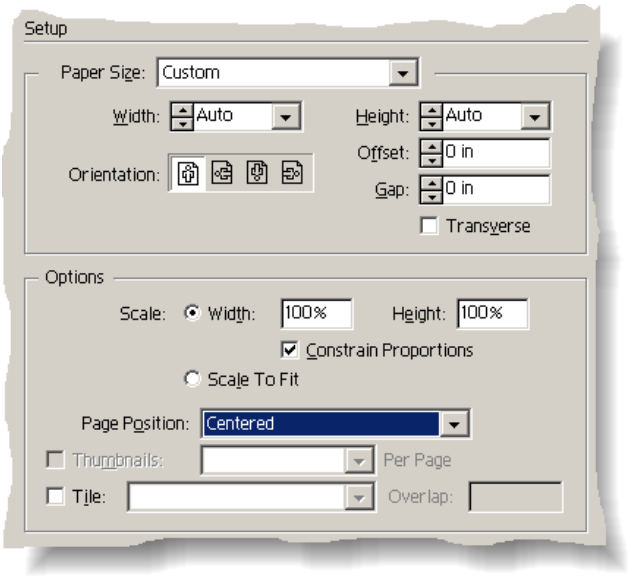
1. From the **File** menu, click **Print**.

   From the printer drop-down, select the **Generic PostScript Printer**.



2. Click **Setup** in the left menu.

   In the **Setup** area, set the **Paper Size**, the **Orientation**, and any other items required.

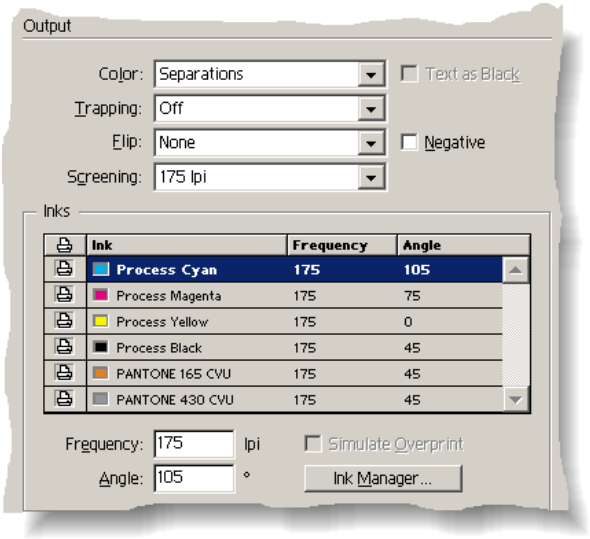


3. Click **Output** in the left menu. This page specifies how separations are created.

   On the **Color** dropdown, select **Separations**.

   Check the separations to be sure all of them are listed, including any spot colors used.

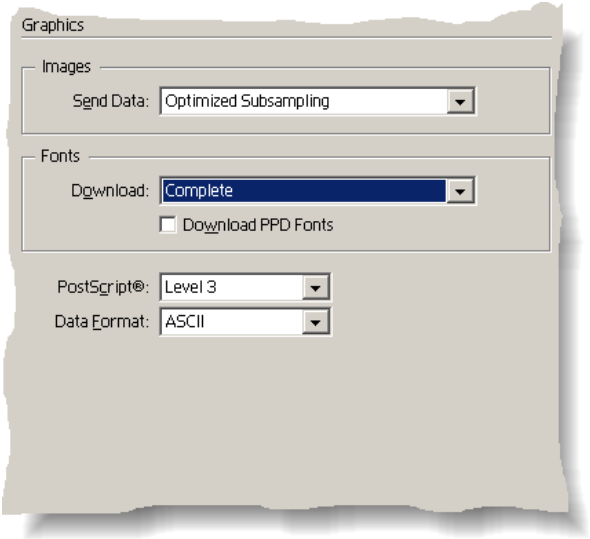
   The screening (**Frequency** and **Angle**) is not used.



4. Click **Graphics** in the left menu.

   Ensure that **PostScript level 3** is selected.

   Note: The fonts in the job should have been converted to **Outlines**, so the **Font** setting here will be ignored.



5. Optionally, you may set **Marks & Borders**. The **Color Management** and **Advanced** pages are not used.