

LaserFix 2.0 Documentation

About LaserFix 2.0

If you ever use the 'Save as Postscript' feature of the Mac's LaserWriter driver, then you will likely find LaserFix useful. If you are unfamiliar with this feature, then read the note at the end of this documentation.

LaserFix is an INIT that provides a standard file interface to the 'Save as Postscript' capability. Thus you can name the postscript files you create and avoid having to deal with the generic Postscript0 - Postscript9 names that are otherwise used. LaserFix also replaces LaserWriter's Printing Dialog Box by a more useful version.

Generally, when the LaserWriter Dialog box appears it looks like this (or something close to it - the actual appearance may vary slightly among applications.). After running LaserFix 2.0 it will look like this:

Using LaserFix

Since LaserFix will alter the LaserWriter file in your system folder, it is a good idea to first make a backup copy of this file and place it in a folder other than the system folder.

Next, make sure that you have the LaserWriter Driver in your system folder. It is also important that you have not renamed this file since LaserFix will look for it by name. Place LaserFix 2.0 in your system folder and reboot the Macintosh. You will see the LaserFix icon displayed at the bottom of the screen.

Now, make sure that you first choose the LaserWriter via the Chooser Desk accessory (you don't actually have to have a Laser printer connected to your Macintosh).

Now to save a file as PostScript, choose the "Print..." menu item from whatever application you are in. The LaserWriter Dialog box will appear.

Now if you would ordinarily create a Postscript file by holding down the CMD+F keys after clicking 'OK', you need only check the box entitled Save PS File to Disk instead. You do not need to hold down Cmd+F. After a brief pause, you will see a standard file dialog box appear that asks you where you want to save your postscript file. It will supply a default file name of 'PostScript0'. Choose a folder and type in a name just like always and click on 'OK'.

The standard file dialog box will look like this:

If you would prefer to have the LaserPrep materials added to your Postscript file (which you would ordinarily achieve by holding down the CMD+K keys after clicking 'OK'), then simply check the box entitled Save PS file with LaserPrep before you click on the 'OK' button. You will then get the same standard file dialog box as in the previous case.

Automating the Checkboxes

When LaserFix 1.0 first appeared, many people asked if it would be possible to have the LaserWriter dialog box appear with one of the buttons checked as a default. LaserFix 2.0 lets you do this.

If you hold down the option key when you select either of the buttons Save PS file with LaserPrep or Save PS File to Disk, then that checkbox will henceforth be checked whenever you bring up the printing dialog box. This default condition will remain until you shut off your computer, or you manually clear the checkbox by clicking in it.

A Few Comments and Tips:

1. You can cancel the printing by selecting 'Cancel' in the standard file dialog box.

2. If you get the standard file message

"Replace existing <filename>?",

choose another name. The file in question will not be replaced but rather the last character in the name you just chose will be replaced by a digit.

3. Don't alter the string resource 'PostScript0' that appears in the LaserWriter resource file. If you do, then LaserFix won't work anymore.

4. After LaserFix has installed the new DITL and DLOG resources into your LaserWriter file (this happens the first time you boot up with LaserFix 2.0 in your system folder), you may customize these with ResEdit if you like. The only restriction is that you may not alter the Copyright string in the DITL with id -8191. If you do, LaserFix will not function properly.

5. If you hold down the SHIFT key after clicking on 'OK' in the LaserWriter Dialog, then no standard file dialog box will appear.

Instead the usual process of saving the file as Postscript0-PostScript9 will take place.

6. If LaserFix does not find the LaserWriter driver inside your system folder, it will emit a short beep, but will still install itself so that you can still use it by just placing LaserWriter in your system folder.

7. If you hold down the SHIFT key during powerup LaserFix will not install.

8. Do not alter LaserFix in any way.

Possible Errors

If an error occurs in loading, LaserFix will emit one to three short beeps. One beep means that the LaserWriter file was not found in the system folder. More than one beep means a resource error was encountered - drop me a line if this occurs. It most likely would mean that you have a bad copy of the LaserWriter file.

Note: Saving a Postscript file to disk may not work while using background printing.

Finally, LaserFix 2.0 is CharityWare. After two weeks, If you decide to keep this please make a contribution of \$20 (or more) to the American Cancer Society in the name of Marjorie Penney Sumner and/or Sandra Chappelle, and have a receipt sent to me. This will certify you as a registered owner. No support will be given to those who do not register. Any commercial use of

LaserFix 2.0 requires an agreement in writing from me.

You may use the form below to facillitate your contributions.

Address your contribution to:

American Cancer Society
128 Stonemark Lane
Columbia, SC 29210

You may distribute this anywhere you like. However, please include this documentation as well.

David P. Sumner
1009 Walters Lane
Columbia, SC 29208
(803)-783-2980

Dept of Mathematics
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
(803)-777-3976

Compuserve: 75515,1507
America Online: David Sumn
Internet: sumner@cs.scarolina.edu or
sumner@usceast.UUCP

In Case You're Not Familiar With 'Save as PostScript'

Sometimes it is desirable to have a copy of a file in PostScript format. The LaserWriter driver in the Macintosh allows you to do this. When you choose the LaserWriter under the Chooser Desk Accessory, and then choose print under a standard application like Microsoft Word, you will get a LaserWriter Dialog. If you hold down the CMD+F keys after clicking on the 'OK' button of this dialog, then your file will be saved to the disk as a PostScript file named "PostScript0", "PostScript1",...or "PostScript9". Exactly where it is saved is sometimes a mystery.

You can save the additional LaserPrep information to your Postscript file by holding down CMD+K instead of CMD+F.

LaserFix 2.0 allows you to enhance this operation by

1. Providing a friendlier printing dialog box that lets you select the type of postscript file you want to create by selecting options via checkboxes.
2. Providing a standard file interface so that you can save your postscript file wherever you like and with whatever name you desire.