

AdobeSM Customer Services

Obtaining PostScript™ Printer Description (PPD) files not found in the Adobe Illustrator PPD folder

PostScript Printer Description files (PPD files) are ASCII text files which provide important information about the special features on individual PostScript printers. PPD files are read and used by PostScript drivers, such as Adobe System's Printer Drivers for Macintosh and Windows, as well as by a number of applications, such as PageMaker™ from Aldus Corporation. If you own a driver or application that reads PPD files but does not ship with one for your printer, you may be able obtain a PPD file in one of the following ways:

- Your PostScript printer manufacturer should be able to provide you with a PPD file.
- Adobe Systems' Printer Drivers for Macintosh and Windows platforms ship with a large set of PPD files.
- Adobe System's Bulletin Board Service (BBS) may be accessed by modem to obtain a number of popular PPD files.
- Adobe Systems has a File Server, which contains all PPD files publicly available from Adobe. If you have internet FTP capabilities, you may FTP files from this server. If you do not know whether you have internet FTP access, contact your System Administrator.
- Adobe Systems' File Server also allows you to request PPD files over internet e-mail. If you do not have direct access to internet, you may be able to send e-mail to internet addresses via an online service, such as CompuServe. Check your online service's documentation for instructions on how to send e-mail to an internet address.

Where you go to retrieve a PPD file will depend on the resources available to you, the availability of the PPD file, and the purpose you have for the PPD file. If you are looking for a specific PPD file for your PostScript printer, you may contact the printer manufacturer or request a PPD from Adobe Systems' File Server via e-mail; for a set of PPDs for popular printers, you may wish to purchase Adobe's PostScript printer driver which ships with a number of PPDs; lastly, if you are looking for a set of all PPDs available from Adobe Systems, you can either access their BBS or FTP into their File Server. Note that Adobe Systems may not have the PPD file you are looking for, in which case it would only be available from the printer manufacturer.

PPD FILES FROM THE PRINTER MANUFACTURER

Your printer manufacturer should have a current set of PPD files for all of their PostScript printers. Most printer manufacturers have disks with PPD files ready to send out on demand to their users. Call your printer manufacturer to find out about their distribution methods for PPD files. As an interim solution, your printer manufacturer may be able to suggest a PPD file for a comparable printer that you may use.

PPD FILES THAT SHIP WITH ADOBE'S PRINTER DRIVERS

A large number of PPD files ship with Adobe's PostScript printer drivers for Macintosh and Windows platforms. These drivers may be purchased from Adobe Systems' Sales department for \$24.95 each, plus shipping and handling. Call 1-800-833-6687 to place your order. The driver is called PSPrinter on the Macintosh platform and AdobePS on the Windows platform. If you are looking for a specific PPD file, be sure to ask the sales representative if it ships with the driver before placing your order.

ADOBE SYSTEMS' BULLETIN BOARD SERVICE

All PPD files available from Adobe Systems can be obtained from Adobe's Bulletin Board Service. You will need a modem and a terminal emulation program that supports VT-100 or ANSI emulation, such as MicroPhone™ or WhiteKnight™ on the Macintosh or Terminal, which ships with Windows.

To log on and find out what's available:

- 1 Make sure that your modem is set to 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity, speeds up to 14.4 Kbs.
- 2 Dial (408) 562-6839.
- 3 Log in with your own name and select a password. Please note that Adobe BBS will not accept a blank as either USERID or PASSWORD.
- 4 Follow the instructions on the BBS to get Adobe Systems' front end to the BBS (FirstClass™). Macintosh users should download the FirstClass Client application and the Adobe Settings File; Windows users should download only the FirstClass Client for Windows application. These files are available in the "New User Info" – "FC Client Interface" conference.

RECEIVING PPD FILES VIA FTP FROM ADOBE SYSTEMS' FILE SERVER

If a PPD file is publicly available from Adobe Systems, it can be obtained through Adobe's automated server. This server is available via internet anonymous FTP or via e-mail.

For anonymous FTP access, use the following:

- hostname: ftp.adobe.com (130.248.1.4)
- username: anonymous
- password: any (use your e-mail address)

PPD files are located in the directory pub/adobe/PPDFiles. The directory also contains a text file, Filename.MAP, which is a list of the available PPD files and their corresponding filenames.

If your printer is not listed in Filename.MAP, Adobe Systems does not currently provide a PPD file for your printer. In this case, contact your printer manufacturer to obtain a PPD file.

RECEIVING PPD FILES VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

To obtain PPD files via e-mail, send a specially-formatted e-mail message requesting the PPD file(s).

- Internet and America Online users, should send an e-mail message to:
ps-file-server@adobe.com
- CompuServe users, should send an e-mail message to:
>INTERNET:ps-file-server@adobe.com
- uucp users should send an e-mail message to: {sun, decwrl, apple}!adobe!ps-file-server
- We recommend that AppleLink® users obtain their PPDs from Adobe's BBS. See section 3 for details.

To get PPDs via e-mail:

- 1 Send an e-mail message containing the following command: index PPDFiles

The mail server will mail you back a list of PPDs available from Adobe Systems. The list will contain the PPD filename, version number, and corresponding printer name in the following form:

APTOLLW1.PPD	3.0	Apple LaserWriter Pro 630 v2010.130
AP_NTXXJ1.PPD	3.1	Apple LaserWriter II NTX-J v50.5

If you do not find your printer on this list, a PPD file for that printer is not available from Adobe Systems; contact your printer manufacturer for a PPD file.

- 2 If you find your printer on the list, send an e-mail requesting the PPD file, as follows:

send PPDFiles AP_NTXXJ1.PPD

You can list more than one PPD file on a line, separated by spaces. The mail server will send you the requested PPD files via e-mail. The contents of the e-mail should then be copied and pasted into a text file, which will serve as the PPD file. You can give the file any name, but we recommend using the name that you obtained from the index list.

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