

# PSAssembler

a PostScript File Merging Utility  
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*About PSAssembler* PSAssembler is a PostScript file merging utility for the Mac OS. PSAssembler can combine several PostScript files together and use Adobe Acrobat Distiller to create a single PDF file. NetCD is System 7 and OS 8 compatible, Appearance Manager compliant and supports Balloon Help.

*Requirements* To use PSAssembler, you must have a Mac OS Computer with a 68020 processor or better and Adobe Acrobat Distiller.

*Installing PSAssembler* If you have received PSAssembler as a compressed archive, double-click the archive to decompress the program.

*About PostScript Files* PSAssembler works by combining PostScript files together and instructing Adobe Acrobat Distiller to convert them to Portable Document Format. You can create PostScript files with a PostScript compatible printer. Simply choose *Print* from the File menu of any program and select "Save as PostScript File." Printer drivers may vary, so consult the documentation that came with your printer for specific directions.

*About PDF files* Portable Document Format (PDF) is a special universal format for exchanging documents. Since PDF files contain all the font and layout information needed, they can be viewed correctly on any computer system, regardless of what fonts or software is installed. PDF files are viewed using Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free utility from Adobe Systems.

*Starting PSAssembler* To use PSAssembler, double-click on the program's icon. A blank document window appears. If you have a previously saved PSAssembler document, you can open the document by double-clicking on it's icon in the Finder.

*The Document Window* For every document you have open, PSAssembler displays a document window. This is the window you use to construct your document from existing PostScript files. You can have as many documents open at once as you wish. The controls in the document window are described below.

*Page.* This box shows the number of the page you are building. This number corresponds to the page number of your finished product. You can enter a number here to go to that page, or you can use the arrows to the right to move between pages.

*Filename/Page(s)*. This box shows the PostScript files which comprise the currently displaying page. The right hand column shows the pages of each file used for this page. All pages of all files listed in this box will be merged together to form a single page in the assembled PDF file.

PostScript files can be added to this list by pressing the *Add* button or by choosing *Add File* from the Edit menu. You can also add files to the document by dragging them into this box from the Finder. You can edit how the pages are included by selecting a file from this list and clicking the *Edit* button or choosing *Edit File* from the Edit menu.

*First Page/Last Page*. These buttons will move you to the first and last pages of your document, respectively. You can also move to the first or last page by choosing *First Page* or *Last Page* from the Page menu.

*Add Page*. This button adds a new blank page to the end of your document. You can also add a new page by choosing *Add Page* from the Page menu.

*Insert Page*. This button inserts a new blank page before the currently displaying page. You can also insert a new page by choosing *Insert Page* from the Page menu.

*Remove Page*. This button removes the currently displaying page. Since the document must contain at least one page, this button is dimmed when the document has only one page. You can also remove the current page by choosing *Remove Page* from the Page menu.

*Add*. This button displays the File dialog box for you to add a new PostScript file to the current page. You can also add files to your document by choosing *Add File* from the Edit menu or by dragging a PostScript document into the File list.

*Edit*. This button displays the File dialog box for you to edit the way the selected file is included in your document. You can also edit files by choosing *Edit File* from the Edit menu or by double-clicking a file in the File list.

*Remove*. This button removes the currently selected file from the list of files. You can also remove the currently selected file by choosing *Remove File* from the Edit menu.

*Clear All*. This button removes all the files and all but the first page of the document. You can also clear the document by choosing *Clear All Files* from the Edit menu.

### *The PostScript File Dialog Box*

When you click *Add* in the main window or drag a file from the Finder to the file list, PSAssembler displays the PostScript File dialog box for you to select a PostScript file. The controls in this box are described below.

*File.* Click “Choose file...” to choose a PostScript file. If you added a file by dragging it to the PSAssembler window, the field above this button already shows the selection you made.

*Page Range.* In this area you can select which pages of the PostScript file you want to include in your document. The number of pages the PostScript file has is shown above the page number fields.

*Page Placement.* In this area you can choose how you want the PostScript file to be placed in your document. If you choose *Merge into One Page*, all the pages of this PostScript file will be included on the current page. If you choose *Place on Separate Pages*, PSAssembler will place the first page of the file on the current page, and subsequent pages will be placed on following pages. If there are not enough pages in your file, PSAssembler will automatically create enough pages to hold the incoming file.

*OK/Cancel.* Click OK to confirm your selection and add the file to your document. Click Cancel to return to the main window without adding the file.

### *Drag-and-Drop*

PSAssembler supports Drag-and-Drop, which allows files to be dragged from the Finder into the PSAssembler list window. When dragging a file to the PSAssembler list window, you can hold down modifier keys to affect the default settings in the PostScript File window: holding down the Option key will automatically select *Merge into One Page*, and holding down the Control key will automatically set the page range to include only the first page of the incoming document. In addition to these keys, holding down the Shift key will forgo the PostScript File dialog box and add the file according to the default settings.

### *Assembling Documents*

Once you have built your document, you can assemble it into a single PostScript document by clicking the Assemble button or choosing *Assemble...* from the File menu. PSAssembler combines the indicated PostScript documents into one document and automatically launches Acrobat Distiller to convert the document to a PDF file.

### *Preferences*

By choosing *Preferences...* from the Edit menu, you can customize how PSAssembler assembles your document. The Preferences dialog box contains two options:

*Launch Adobe Acrobat Distiller.* When this option is selected, PSAssembler will automatically instruct Distiller to open and convert your assembled file into a PDF file. If you do not want Distiller to convert the file, turn this option off by

deselecting the checkbox.

*Delete PostScript File After Distilling.* When this option is selected, PSAssembler will delete the PostScript file from your hard disk after it has been converted into a PDF file.

*Saving Documents* PSAssembler allows you to open, close and save documents like many other Macintosh programs. Note that saved documents are not PDF files, and they contain no PostScript code. They are simply lists of instructions on which files PSAssembler should combine and how they should be combined. You can manipulate documents by using commands in the File menu as described below:

*New.* Creates a new, empty document. Any other open documents are not closed or erased.

*Open.* Opens an existing PSAssembler document. This is not used to add PostScript files to your document; for that, click the *Add...* button, choose *Add File* from the Edit menu, or drag a file to the File list from the Finder.

*Close.* Closes the current document. If you have changed anything since you last saved the document, or if you have not yet saved the document, PSAssembler asks if you want to save your changes.

*Save.* Saves the current document to disk. If you have not previously saved this document, PSAssembler asks where you want to save it and what name you want to give it. Otherwise, PSAssembler saves it in the same location as before.

*Save As.* Saves the current document to disk. Unlike Save, Save As causes PSAssembler to ask you where you want to save the file and what you want to name it, regardless of whether or not you saved it previously.

*Quit.* Quits PSAssembler. If there are any unsaved open documents, PSAssembler asks whether or not you would like to save them before quitting.

### *Advanced Issues*

While the PSAssembler document window is meant to be simple and powerful, advanced users may wish to automate PSAssembler for more efficient use. This can be done using Apple Script.

PSAssembler responds to the four required Apple Events: Open Application, Open Document, Print Document and Quit Application. These events are described below:

*Open Application.* This event is sent from the Finder when you double-click on the PSAssembler application icon. PSAssembler responds to this event by starting up and creating a single blank document.

*Open Document.* This event is sent from the Finder when you double-click on a PSAssembler document or select a PSAssembler document and choose *Open* from the File menu. PSAssembler responds to this event by starting up and opening the selected document.

*Print Document.* This event is sent from the Finder when you select a PSAssembler document and choose Print from the File menu. Instead of printing the document to a printer, PSAssembler responds to this event by starting up and assembling the document into a PostScript file suitable for opening with Acrobat Distiller. Due to system software restraints, PSAssembler does not start Acrobat Distiller in this situation. The resulting file is saved with the same name as the PSAssembler document, with “.ps” added to the end of the filename. This file can be opened with Distiller to produce a PDF file.

*Quit Application.* This event causes PSAssembler to close all open documents, ask you if you want to save any recent changes, and quit.

PSAssembler documents are text files which can be constructed by any program capable of creating text files. The format is described below.

Each file consists of one or more lines of text, each of which represents a page in the final file. Lines are delimited by the return character (ASCII 13). Each line contains zero or more records of the following format:

```
pathname[tab]pageNumbers
```

In this record, `pathname` is the full pathname of a PostScript file to be included, `[tab]` is the tab character (ASCII 9) and `pageNumbers` is the range of file pages to be included in this document page. `pageNumbers` can be in one of two formats:

```
x           include page x
x-y         include all pages from x to y inclusive
```

Any number of records can be included on a line, and the records are tab-delimited.

An example file is shown and described below. In this example, the underscore character ( \_ ) represents the tab character (ASCII 9).

```
Hard Disk:Files:One_3-4_Hard Disk:Files:Two_4
Hard Disk:Files:One_1
Hard Disk:Files:Two_1-3_Hard Disk:Files:One_2
```

If this example were assembled by PSAssembler into a PDF file, page 1 of the resulting file would contain pages 3 and 4 of the file “One” and page 4 of the file “Two.” Page 2 of the resulting file would contain only page one of the file “One.” Page 3 of the resulting file would contain pages 1, 2 and 3 of the file “Two” and page 2 of the file “One.”

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PSAssembler uses an adaptation of the CSpinButton class by Einhugur Software.

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