

Q+A:

Acrobat	65
FrameMaker	68
Illustrator	70
PageMaker	72
PageMill SiteMill	76
Persuasion	78
Photoshop	80
Premiere After Effects	84

Your questions answered: solutions, tips, and techniques. Here are the answers to some questions recently asked about Adobe products, assembled by members of Adobe’s technical-support group and the staff of *Adobe Magazine*. Please contact Adobe technical support if you need help with one of the products covered here—support options are listed on pages 94-95 of this issue.

Acrobat

PC: Using Capture, I created several PDF files that contain bitmap images. The files are reasonably small, but I’d like to compress them even further so that they work better when I put them online. Can I?

Yes. If your Capture-created PDF files contain several images, or if you saved your PDFs as “Image only” or “Image + text” (in the “Output Folder Setup” dialog box), the resulting PDFs contain bitmap images that have probably been compressed and downsampled somewhat (see your Capture Help file for information on its default settings). But you can further downsample and compress images in your PDFs using Distiller, which has more advanced compression and downsampling capabilities than Capture (which uses the PDF Writer to create PDF files).

Before you use Distiller to further decrease the file size of your PDFs, make a backup copy of them, just in case further compressing and downsampling of your images degrades them more than you want. Then use the following method to re-create a PDF file using Distiller.

First, print your current file from Exchange or Reader to any PostScript printer, targeted to the “File” port, to create a PostScript file of your PDF. Then, in Distiller, open the PostScript file you just created. Before doing so, however, you may first want to look at the various compression options (choose “Job Options...” from the Distiller menu, then click the “Compression” tab).

LZW is best for images with large areas of single colors, like screen shots and simple images created with paint programs. We don’t recommend that you use this option for continuous-tone images such as photographs.

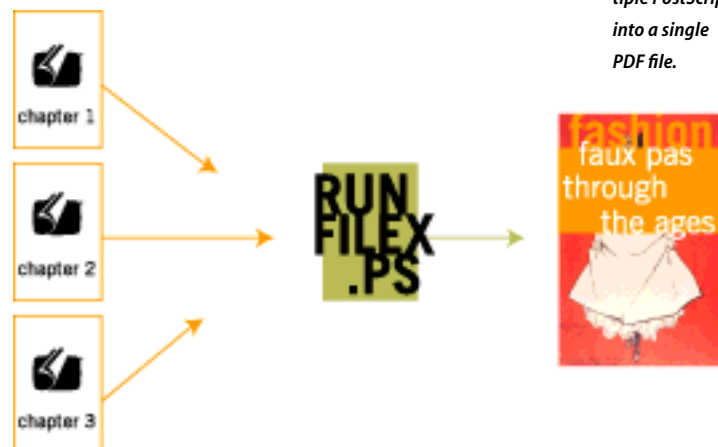
ZIP works well in the same circumstances as LZW, but can compress about 20 percent more efficiently than LZW. However, ZIP is not compatible with Acrobat Reader or Exchange version 2.1, so don’t use it unless you know everyone in your audience has version 3.0 of Acrobat Reader or Exchange.

JPEG is the better choice for halftone images like continuous-tone photographs. It is not recommended for images with large areas of single color, simple paint-type images, and drawings that have been converted to images. And remember that JPEG is a lossy compression scheme, meaning that it will discard some image data. Experiment with this format to see which of the five levels of JPEG is best for you, keeping in mind that images need not be as crisp for on-screen viewing as they would need to be if they were intended for high-end printout.

PC/Mac: I’ve heard that I may run into some problems with multiple font subsets or substitution when I combine PDFs. Is this true and, if so, is there a way around it?

Yes, it is true. And yes, there is a way around this problem—use the “RunFileEx.ps” file to combine your PDFs. You’ll get a double bonus from doing so—not only will the “RunFileEx.ps” file combine and distill several PostScript files into one PDF file, but in the pro-

Using the “RunFileEx.ps” file, you can distill multiple PostScript files into a single PDF file.



cess, it will create a single font subset for each font used in the batch of PostScript files you're distilling. (Having just one font subset for each font ensures that they'll display correctly and keeps your file size as small as possible.) You can use this method on PostScript files from any location (all in one batch), as long as Distiller has access to that location.

The "RunFile.ps" file is located in the "Xtras" folder in your Acrobat folder (if you have multiple parts of Acrobat under one umbrella folder, look in the Distiller folder). Open the file in a text editor and follow its directions. Save a copy of the file using the name you'll want to give your final PDF (for example, "Auction.ps" if you want your final PDF file to be called "Auction.pdf"), and then run it through Distiller. All the PostScript files you've listed in "RunFile.ps" will be combined in the order in which they're listed.

One of the things you'll need to do in the "RunFile.ps" file is type the complete paths to the PostScript files you want to distill jointly. "RunFile.ps" includes examples of proper path-naming syntax for Windows, the Macintosh, and UNIX, which, as you might imagine, are platform-specific. Here's a tip on the syntax for Windows path names. The "RunFile.ps" file for Distiller 3.0 tells you to specify Windows paths and filenames as follows:

```
(c:/mydir/file.ps)
```

The use of the forward slash in the Windows pathname may look strange to you, but it's what you need to use in Distiller 3.0. Do not use the backslash (\) character that you're probably used to seeing in Windows and DOS path names (e.g., c:\mydir\file.ps) because this will cause Distiller to misinterpret your path. Instead,

for the backslash in the pathname, in Distiller 3.0, use either a forward slash (/) or a quadruple backslash (\\\\), for example, c:/mydir/file.ps or c:\\\\mydir\\\\file.ps. If you're using Distiller 2.1, use the quadruple backslash.

PC/Mac: Is there a way that I can create a URL link to a specific page, or even a specific view, of a PDF file posted on the Web?

Yes. It's fairly simple—provided that you're somewhat familiar with HTML, PostScript, and the pdfmark operator. (If that hasn't scared you off, neither will the following explanation.)

The first thing you'll want to do is read up on named destinations in the PDFMARK.PDF file (in the Help folder in your Acrobat folder). In HTML you can use a named anchor tag to mark a specific location in an HTML file. Once named, that location can be the destination of a URL link that contains the anchor name appended after the pound symbol (e.g., www.mydomain.com/myfile.html#anchor). The same applies to linking to a PDF, except that the anchor name that follows the pound symbol is a named destination that describes a specific location within the PDF.

To create a named destination in your PDF file, add the pdfmark operator to your PostScript files. Put on your programmer's hat and follow these steps.

1. Create a PostScript file of your source document.
2. Open the PostScript file in an application that can save in the text-only format. The code you enter can go anywhere in the file, though we recommend placing it right after the setup information, before the actual code begins, so it's easy to locate.
3. Use your text editor's Find feature to locate the "EndSetup" line. Put your cursor after that line and press Enter (Windows) or Return (Mac) a few times.
4. Name your destination(s). The syntax for creating a named destination is as follows (as documented on page 15 of the PDFMARK.PDF file):

```
[ /Dest name
/Page pagenumber
/View view
/DEST pdfmark
```

For *name*, type whatever you would like your named destination to be called. Make sure you don't use any reserved characters such as "space" or "#". For *pagenumber*, use the page number that your destination will reference. And for *view*, enter the specific view you want to use. The various "views" you can choose from are listed beginning on page 29 of the PDFMARK.PDF file. (Note that you can skip the *view* key-value pair if you want to.) Here's an example of how your code might look.

```
[ /Dest /Page10
/Page 10
/DEST pdfmark
```

5. Distill the PostScript file.

The resulting PDF will not show any outward indication of what you've added, but will contain a coded reference to a named destination, *Page10*, that will reference the tenth physical page of your PDF file.

You can now create the URL link using the following format: www.mydomain.com/myfile.pdf#Page10. When a user clicks on this link, the PDF will open automatically to the tenth physical page of your PDF. You can enter as many named destinations as you like into your PostScript file. ♦

Tip: PC/Mac

Notes compilation

If you've ever used Acrobat's Notes feature, you probably know how handy it is for sharing feedback about the contents of a PDF document. If you have several people sharing feedback about the same document, you can use Acrobat's "Export Notes" and "Import Notes" commands to compile all notes into a single file.

When the notes are created, choose "Notes..." from the Export submenu of the File menu. Name your notes file and click "Save."

Collect all of the exported notes and choose "Notes..." from the Import submenu of the File menu. Locate and select the notes file(s) and click "Open."

If you have notes from several contributors, you might want to ask them to customize their notes with a unique color or with their name in the title bar. To add this customization, choose "Notes..." from the Preferences submenu of the File menu.

