

File Preparation

A PDF workflow, like any other, requires you to start with clean, printable files. Always proof your files carefully before sending them. While the PDF workflow can solve many prepress issues, it won't fix problems caused by bad source files.

Creating a PDF with a Postscript file

For all applications except the Adobe Creative Suite, the best way to create a press-ready PDF is to print to a Postscript file and then convert it in Distiller using our Acrobat settings. The settings used to produce the Postscript file will depend on your design program. Download the appropriate instructions for your program from our website: www.jsmcCarthy.com/pdf.asp

After the settings are downloaded, load them into Distiller, create a Postscript file in your design program using the settings from the instruction sheet and drag the Postscript file into Distiller to convert to PDF. Once the PDF has been created, check it carefully for problems before sending it to us.

Why use our Settings?

The PDF format was designed to have many different uses, not just for hi-res printing. Many of the settings that are available are for low-res proofing and aren't suitable for our press workflow. To create PDFs that are consistently printable, always use our approved joboptions settings.

Downloading our Settings

Download the Settings that corresponds to the version of Acrobat you are using. (Acrobat 8 and 9 users can download the settings for Acrobat 7):

www.jsmcCarthy.com/downloads/pdf/JSM-Acrobat7Settings.zip

www.jsmcCarthy.com/downloads/pdf/JSM-Acrobat6Settings.zip

www.jsmcCarthy.com/downloads/pdf/JSM-Acrobat5Settings.zip

www.jsmcCarthy.com/downloads/pdf/JSM-Acrobat4Settings.zip

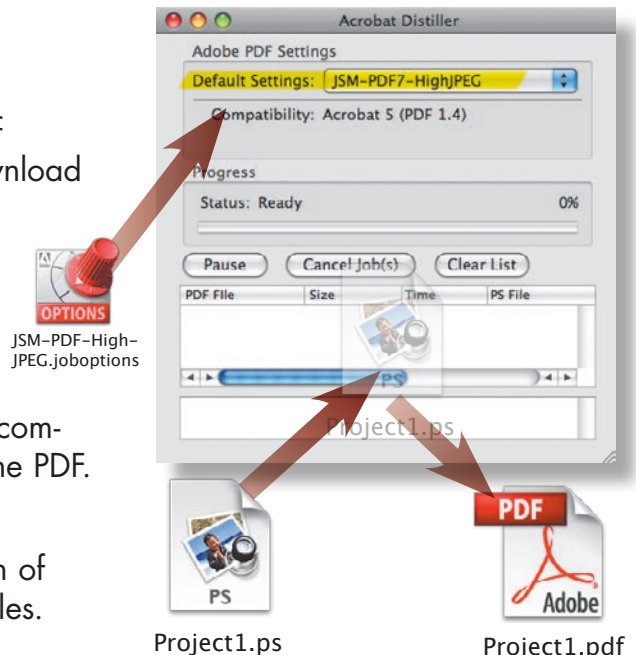
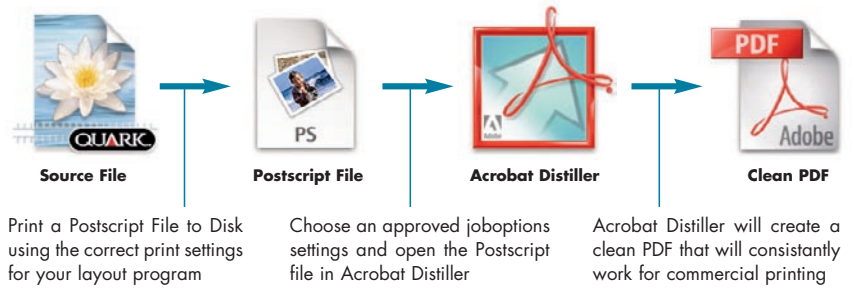
Kodak Distiller Assistant: This free tool is optional, but recommended to help properly create the trimbox settings in the PDF.

www.jsmcCarthy.com/downloads/pdf/KodakDistillerAssistant.zip

Once you have downloaded the settings for your version of Acrobat and the Distiller Assistant, decompress the zip files. Instructions for installing are on the next page.

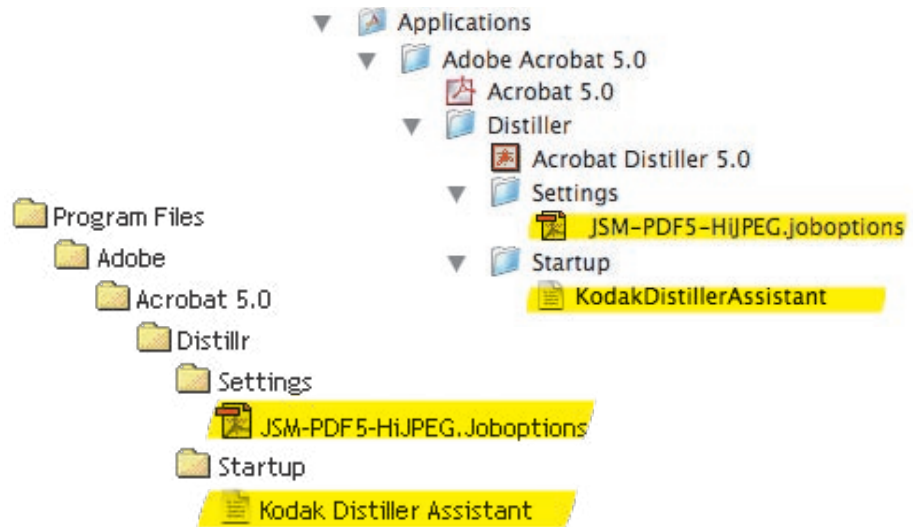
Steps for Creating a PDF

1. Download and install our settings and Kodak Distiller Assistant
2. Download the instructions for your design program
3. Check your files carefully
4. Print a Postscript file
5. Launch Acrobat Distiller and load the JSM settings.
6. Drag the postscript file onto Distiller to convert it to a press-ready PDF.



Installing Joboptions and Distiller Assistant in Acrobat 4 or 5

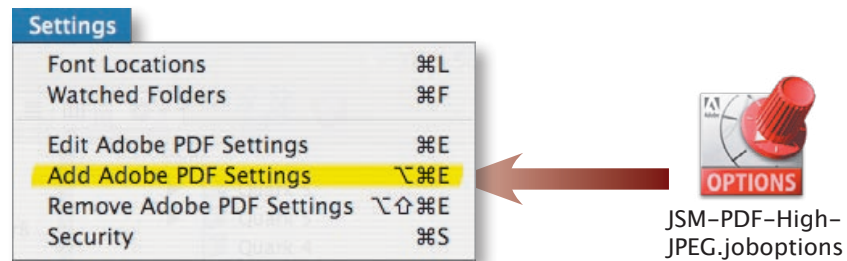
Locate the Adobe Acrobat program folder. In Mac OSX it's in the Applications folder. In Mac OS 9 it's in the Applications (Mac OS 9) folder. In Windows it's in the Program files folder (usually on the C: drive inside the Adobe folder).



Open the Distiller folder (Distillr in Windows) and copy the .joboptions file into the Settings folder and the Kodak Distiller Assistant into the Startup folder.

Installing Joboptions in Acrobat 6 and later

Open Distiller and choose Settings → Add Adobe PDF Settings... select the joboptions you downloaded and click on the Add button to bring them into Distiller. You can also install by dragging the joboptions file onto the main Distiller window.



Installing Distiller Assistant in Acrobat 6 and later

The Kodak Distiller Assistant folder could be located in several locations depending on the version you are using.

In Mac OS X install it in these folders:

- Users → Shared → Adobe PDF 6 → Startup
- Users → Shared → Adobe PDF 7 → Startup
- Library → Application Support → Adobe PDF → Startup

In Windows install it in one of these folders:

- Documents and Settings → All Users → Shared Documents → Adobe PDF 6 → Startup
- Documents and Settings → All Users → Shared Documents → Adobe PDF 7 → Startup
- Documents and Settings → All Users → Application Data → Adobe → Adobe PDF → Distiller → Startup

If applicable, delete any file named Example.ps from the Distiller Startup folder because this file can interfere with the proper operation of the Kodak Distiller Assistant.