

# StickyNotes V1.2

Acrobat plug-in for Print-Quality PDF files



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# Introduction

## Purpose

PDF files need to be small to reduce download time over the Internet. So, the default settings for Acrobat shrink PDF files as much as possible while still looking good on a computer screens. However, reducing file size for the Internet can sacrifice print quality. You may notice images that appear fuzzy and fonts that have changed.

StickyNotes is a plug-in for Distiller that updates settings for print. This can fix fuzzy images. StickyNotes reports fonts in a note colored like a traffic light: red, yellow (amber), or green. StickyNotes is compatible with any platform that runs Acrobat Distiller 3.0 including Macintosh, Windows-95, Windows-NT and UNIX.

## Adobe Acrobat background

Adobe Acrobat started as an on-line document viewer of PDF files. Acrobat PDF files are made by processing PostScript files with the Acrobat Distiller program. PDF files can be viewed with Acrobat Exchange program or a free viewer called Acrobat Reader. Since PostScript files are created by all DTP applications, Acrobat has become a universal solution for on-line document viewing.

Compared to PostScript files, Acrobat PDF files have many advantages:

- PDF files are smaller.
- PDF files are more reliable.
- PDF files can be created on Macs, PCs, and UNIX.
- PDF files are viewable on most computer platforms.
- PDF files can be printed on non-PostScript printers like inkjets.
- PostScript files better than the original can be generated from the PDF via the ExportPS plugin.

Since PDF files are reliable and device-independent, PDF files work great as digital masters. One PDF can be used for proof, demand-print, and web-offset print. Companies like AGFA and SCITEX and others are taking advantage of PDF master files in high-end printing systems.

# System Requirements

StickyNotes is platform independent and should work with any computer capable of running Acrobat Distiller 3.0 or later. The following environment is recommended:

- Macintosh, Windows-95, Windows-NT, or UNIX processor.

- 32 meg or more of free memory for Acrobat.
- Adobe Acrobat, only versions 3.0.x

Prior versions of Acrobat don't support the prologue.ps/epilogue.ps feature. Future versions of Acrobat will require a StickyNotes update.

- Enfocus Checkup

This plug-in for Acrobat Exchange is a diagnostic tool. It will locate problem fonts in a document and display them on screen. It is highly recommended for documents generated from Windows.

- Lantana CrackerJack and Level 3 PostScript Printer.

CrackerJack is an Acrobat Exchange plug-in. Installing CrackerJack enables Macintosh and Windows machines to print color separations on Level 3 PostScript printers. The speed of CrackerJack is approximately 16 times faster than EDMatic.

Note: Contrary to Crackerjack documentation, few Level 2 printers work with Crackerjack . To determine if Crackerjack will work with your printer, download the file RIPINFO.PS to your Level. If your printer will work with Crackerjack, the following line will be printed:

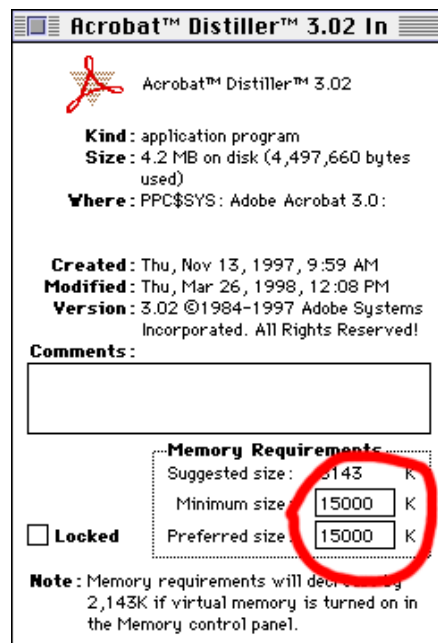
Built-in color separations: supported

Crackerjack is recommended for anyone who needs to proof color separations.

## Installation

1. Install Acrobat 3.0 (Distiller & Exchange).
2. Increase the memory allocation for Acrobat Distiller to 15 MB. Windows-95 and Windows-NT platforms do not need to perform this step.

On a Macintosh, this is done by selecting **Get Info** from the Finder's File menu. Set the Minimum size and Preferred size to 15000 K where circled in the figure below



3. Unpack the StickyNotes archive. On a Macintosh, use the freeware tool Stuffit Expander to expand StickyNotes.SIT. On Windows, use a program such as WinZIP to expand StickyNotes.ZIP. StickyNotes archive will expand to the following files:

*epilogue.ps*  
*prologue.ps*  
*ripinfo.ps*  
*FontSwap.txt*  
*StickyNotes.PDF*

- Move *prologue.ps* and *epilogue.ps* files to your *Adobe Acrobat 3.0* folder. This folder contains Acrobat Distiller.
- Save the *ripinfo.ps* file. Downloaded it to your PostScript printer. It will print a status page for your printer. e.g.

Printer name: EPPE 8500

Product name: LaserWriter 8500  
RIP source: Adobe  
PostScript Level: 3  
Version number: 3010.103  
Local VM: 13.1 MB  
RAM size: 48.0 MB  
Resolution: 600.0 x 600.0  
Standard 35 fonts: supported  
Built-in color separations: supported

It is important that your printer have at least Level 2 PostScript and support the Standard 35 fonts (see section titled "Print Quality PDF files"). If the Crackerjack plugin is used for color separations, the printer must also support Built-in color separations.

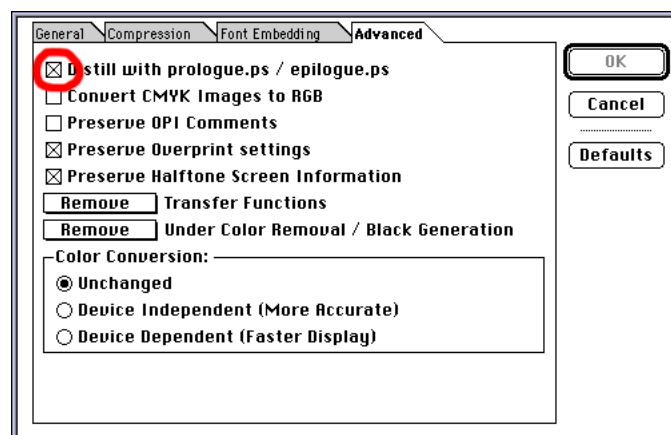
- Save the *FontSwap.txt* file in your *Adobe Acrobat 3.0* folder. It tells StickyNotes how to swap fonts. This is described later in the section titled "Font Swap".
- Save the *StickyNotes.PDF* file. It contains this document in PDF format. Open this file with Acrobat Exchange or Reader.

4 Remove any files in Acrobat's Startup folder.

- On a Macintosh, the Startup folder is located inside the Acrobat folder.
- On Windows, it is the */Acrobat/Distiller/Startup/* folder.

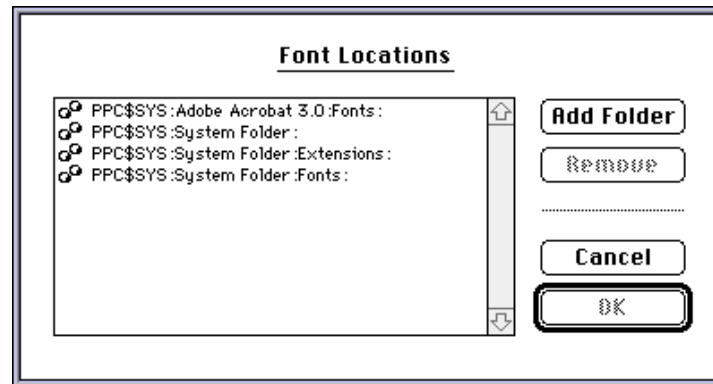
5. Initialize Distiller's Job Options.

Launch Acrobat Distiller. Select *Job Options...* from the Distiller menu, then click on the *Advanced* tab. You should see a dialog box similar to the following picture. Check the option labeled *Distill with prologue.ps / epilogue.ps* circled in the figure below. Checking this option turns on StickyNotes. There is no need to set the other options. StickyNotes will set them for you.



6. Install the PostScript fonts used in your documents in a folder of your choice.
  - On a Macintosh, PostScript fonts display in Finder as "PostScript™ font".
  - On Windows, PostScript fonts have a file type of ".pfb". Put them in a folder of your choice.

From the Distiller menu, select *Font Locations*. Add your font folder to the list of folders in the dialog box.



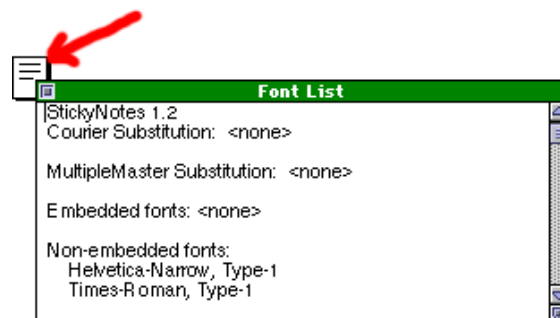
7. Distill a sample PostScript file with Acrobat Distiller. The ripinfo.ps file may be used as a sample. As the file distills, watch Distiller's info window:

(Loading Sticky Notes...)

This message indicates *prologue.ps* was successfully loaded. If the entire file distills without this notice, check that *prologue.ps* from StickyNotes is located in the same folder as Distiller and the job option *Distill with prologue.ps / epilogue.ps* is turned on.

8. Using Acrobat Exchange, open the PDF file just created. Two notes should appear on the first page of the PDF document. The note titled "Font List" is color coded: Red, Yellow, or Green.

There is a second note in white behind the Font List note. You need not worry about it. It records distiller settings made with StickyNotes..



9. This completes installation of StickyNotes.

## Print-Quality PDF Files

A print quality PDF file prints at the same quality as the original PostScript file. There is no degradation in image data and all needed document fonts are available.

- **Image Data**

StickyNotes changes Distiller settings to ensure maximum image quality.

- Down-sampling is turned off.
- Lossless ZIP-8 compression is used.

The actual settings used by StickyNotes may be viewed in the white note located behind the Font List note.

- **Type 1 fonts (Best)**

StickyNotes embeds PostScript Type-1 fonts needed for printing. This ensures fonts are available for printing anywhere in the world. An exception is made for the industry standard 35 fonts listed below. There is no need to include the 35 fonts because they come with all Level 2 PostScript printers.

AvantGarde-Book	Helvetica-Narrow-Oblique
AvantGarde-BookOblique	Helvetica-Oblique
AvantGarde-Demi	NewCenturySchlbk-Bold
AvantGarde-DemiOblique	NewCenturySchlbk-BoldItalic
Bookman-Demi	NewCenturySchlbk-Italic
Bookman-DemiItalic	NewCenturySchlbk-Roman
Bookman-Light	Palatino-Bold
Bookman-LightItalic	Palatino-BoldItalic
Courier	Palatino-Italic
Courier-Bold	Palatino-Roman
Courier-BoldOblique	Symbol
Courier-Oblique	Times-Bold
Helvetica	Times-BoldItalic
Helvetica-Bold	Times-Italic
Helvetica-BoldOblique	Times-Roman
Helvetica-Narrow	ZapfChancery-MediumItalic
Helvetica-Narrow-Bold	ZapfDingbats
Helvetica-Narrow-BoldOblique	

- **TrueType fonts (Just say NO)**

Documents created with Windows often include TrueType fonts. TrueType fonts will not print on many PostScript printers. As a result, they incur extra production costs. TrueType fonts should not be used in a print-quality PDF files.

Note: Digital Software Publishing cannot support TrueType fonts because there are no assurances that TrueType fonts can be produced by all supply



points at all global locations. i.e. Type 1 fonts are a requirement for world-wide publishing.

StickyNotes flags documents containing TrueType fonts with a yellow (amber) sticky note. The Checkup plugin can be used to locate TrueType fonts reported by StickyNotes.

- **Multiple Master fonts (OK)**

Multiple Master fonts are Type 1 fonts with adjustable font metrics. e.g. MyriadMM and MinionMM. Multiple Master fonts consume more memory than typical fonts but otherwise cause no difficulty. Multiple Master fonts print on Level 2 PostScript printers provided sufficient memory is installed.

- **Multiple Master Substitute fonts (Watch out!)**

If Type 1 fonts are not embedded in PDF files, Acrobat Exchange will create a substitute font from the Multiple Master fonts, AdobeSans or AdobeSerif. Multiple Master Substitutes cause special problems for print-quality documents:

- Multiple Master Substitute fonts are not output when using the ExportPS plugin to create PostScript files. (ExportPS outputs only fonts embedded in PDF files.) When the Exported PostScript file is printed, Courier substitution can occur because neither the original nor the substitute is embedded in the PostScript file.
- Multiple Master Substitutes may look significantly different when printed to paper. To illustrate, here is a sample of the Park Avenue font:

*Park Avenue*

If the Park Avenue font is not available, Acrobat creates a substitute font that looks like this:

*Park Avenue*

Note: The Multiple Master Substitute duplicates character widths. At small point sizes, you may not notice Multiple Master font substitution.

However, when the PDF is exported, Multiple Master Substitutes will not be embedded in the PostScript file. Your PostScript printer may then substitute the infamous Courier font.

Park Avenue

Note: Courier is a mono-spaced font and wider than the original:

- **Subsetted fonts**

Subsetted fonts are another feature that reduces PDF file size. However, if a font is subsetted, Acrobat Exchange will not allow text editing. i.e. Typographic errors cannot be edited.

Subsetted font names are often prefixed by random characters before the font name. e.g.

BCHEFG+Helvetica

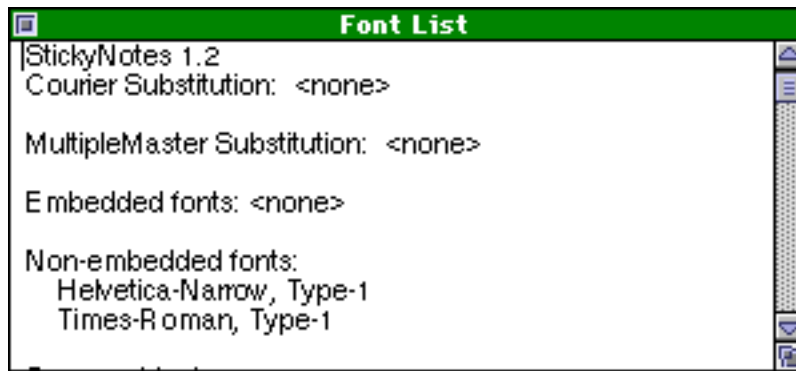
StickyNotes settings do not create subsetted fonts. However, subsetted fonts may be included with supplied PostScript files. Subsetted fonts can be repaired with the FontSwap.txt file.

## Font List

When a PostScript file is distilled with StickyNotes, a colored note titled "Font List" appears on the first page of the PDF file. The color indicates font quality.

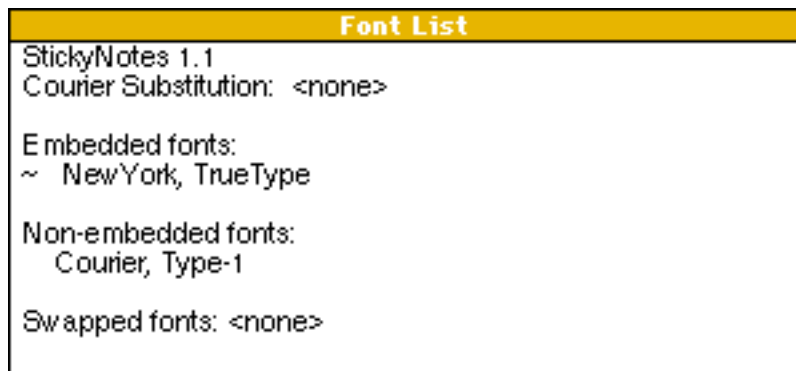
### Green Font List

Green indicates good, print-quality fonts. StickyNotes didn't detect any font problems.



### Yellow (Amber) Font List

Yellow indicates a font warning. In this version of StickyNotes, only TrueType fonts generate a warning. Each warning is marked with the tilde character ~ on the left side of the report.



### Red Font List

Red indicates a serious font problem. Each problem is marked with the asterisk character \* on the left side of the report.



### Font Loading

To understand the font reports, it helps to understand how Distiller loads fonts:

- 1) If a needed font is listed in FontSwap.txt, Distiller will swap it for a replacement (Ref. section on Font Swap). Distiller will then look to see if the replacement can be loaded.
- 2) Else, if a needed font is included in a PostScript file (Type-1 or TrueType), Distiller will use it.
- 3) Else, if a needed font is available in one of Distiller's *Font Location...* folders, Distiller will use it. Note: Distiller cannot load TrueType fonts from font folders.
- 4) Else, if a needed font is defined in Distiller's font database file, Distiller will create a Multiple Master Substitute from AdobeSans or AdobeSerif.

Note: Multiple Master Substitution can be disabled by removing the font database file: On a Macintosh, it is the superatm.db file in Acrobat's font folder. On Windows, it is the /Acrobat/data/distsdb.dos file.

- 5) Else as a last resort, if a needed font cannot be found by any of the previous techniques, Distiller will substitute the infamous Courier font.

### Details of the font report

Reports are divided in several sections:

#### 1) Courier Substitution

This section reports when missing fonts are converted to Courier. A print-quality PDF will list <none>. Any fonts that have Courier Substitution are marked with an asterisk, \*.

#### 2) Multiple Master Substitution:

This section displays missing fonts converted to a Multiple Master substitute. A print-quality PDF will list <none>. Any fonts that have Multiple Master Substitution are marked with an asterisk, \*.

3) Embedded fonts:

This section reports fonts that are embedded in the PDF. Any TrueType fonts will be marked with a tilde, ~.

4) Non-embedded fonts:

This section reports fonts needed for printing but not embedded. A good PDF can have the standard 35 fonts as non-embedded. This is considered OK. Other non-embedded fonts will be marked with an asterisk, \*.

5) Swapped fonts:

This section lists font replacements that occurred via the FontSwap.txt file.

Examples:

Replacing the ArialMT TrueType font with Arial (Type-1):

ArialMT => Arial

Fixing a Courier Substitution problem:

Helvetica\$5X1 => Helvetica

See section on Font Swap for more information.

6) end-of-report

Indicates the end of font listing report.

## Repairing Font Problems

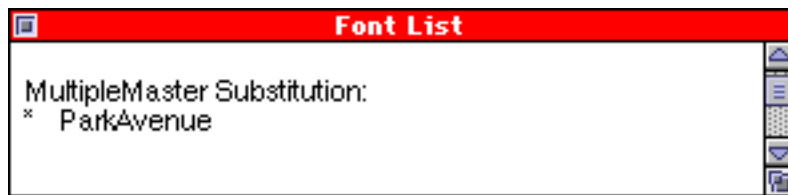
- 1) Font problems are minimized when Type-1 fonts are used in the native-application document. i.e. It is easier to repair a PDF file with a missing Type-1 font than a missing TrueType font.

Whenever possible, upgrade TrueType fonts in the document to Type-1 fonts. Most print suppliers have the Type-1 fonts on Adobe's Font Folio CD-ROM.

- 2) Regenerate the PostScript using the SSB.PPD file (alternative: the LaserWriter-Ilg PPD file). On Windows, you need to build a driver that uses one of these PPD files. Then configure the PostScript driver to embed Type 1 fonts not in printer. This will cause Type-1 fonts to be written to the PostScript file except for the standard 35 fonts.

Ref. SSB.PPD file.

- 3) Obtain any fonts listed under Courier Substitution or Multiple Master Substitution in the correct format for your machine, e.g. Mac font format or PC .pfb font. Install them in Distiller's font folder and re-Distill.



Note: If a TrueType font is being repaired, you must convert the TrueType font to a Type-1 font with a font utility such as Fontographer or FontMonger. Distiller will not recognize TrueType fonts in it's font folder, only Type-1 fonts.

- 4) Swap a problem font with a compatible Type-1 font via the FontSwap.txt file (ref. section on Font Swap).

Often a replacement is obvious:

- a) A Substitute Master font named Helvetica\$5X1:

Helvetica\$5X1 => Helvetica

- b) A TrueType font named ArialMT:

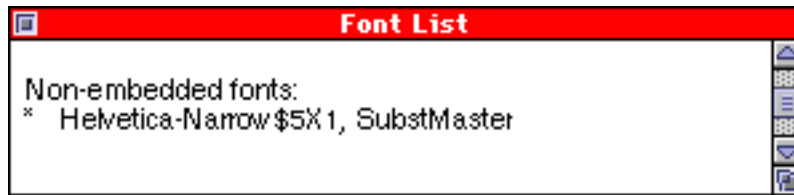
ArialMT => Arial

Note: Arial must be converted to Type-1 and installed in Distiller's font folder.

Note: If a replacement isn't obvious, care must be used to ensure the replacement has the same look as the original. If in doubt, laser proofs should be made and returned for customer approval.

## Font Swap

StickyNotes has a capability for font replacement. This is useful for problem fonts. There may be times when the font is not available and the replacement is obvious. In the following example, Helvetica-Narrow\$5X1 is a problem.



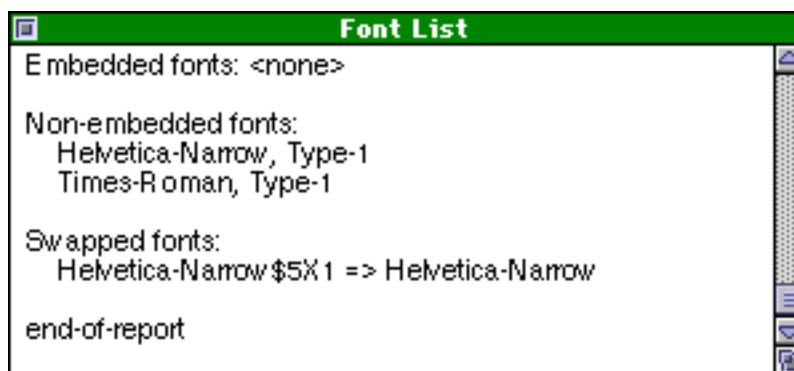
An obvious replacement is Helvetica. To perform this replacement, locate the FontSwap.txt file that came with the StickyNotes archive. Open the FontSwap.txt file with a text editor such as SimpleText or NotePad. If you cannot find FontSwap.txt, create a new text file and type in the following text.

```
/old-font    /new-font
```

Change /old-font to the font name you want to replace. Change /new-font to the replacement font name. Be sure to put slash characters in front of the font names. To fix the font problem shown above, you would make the following edit to FontSwap.txt:

```
/Helvetica-Narrow$5X1    /Helvetica-Narrow
```

You may enter as multiple lines of font replacements. When done, save the "FontSwap.txt" file to the same folder as the Distiller application. Distill the PostScript file again. The Font List Report should display the replacement in the Swapped fonts section.



Font swaps must be done with a Type-1 fonts. If you have a font converter such as Macromedia Fontographer, you can convert TrueType fonts to Type-1 fonts and then perform replacement with the Type-1 equivalent. Example:

ArialMT could be replaced with a Type-1 version of Arial.

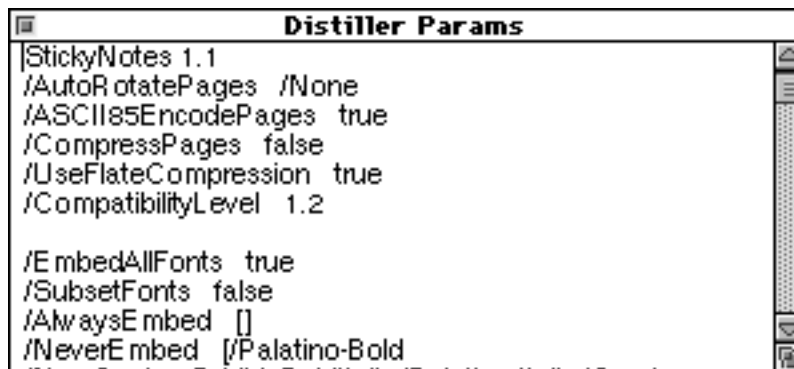


*Important:*

*Font replacement has the potential to corrupt. Be sure check with your graphic artist to validate the intended font replacement. Print a laser proof after font replacement.*

## Distiller Params

When a PostScript file is distilled with StickyNotes, a white Distiller Params note appears behind the color-coded Font List note. The Params note shows all the Distiller options that were set to create print quality PDF files. This information is useful to print suppliers. If you open the note, it will look like this:



## Limitations

Font reports generated by StickyNotes are an estimate of final font quality of the PDF. They are generated by examining the PostScript file being distilled and applying a set of rules to predict the font status of the PDF.

In cases of pathological PostScript files from legacy systems, StickyNotes may list fonts as embedded that don't show in the output PDF. Also random (mumble+) characters in front of subsetted font names may change.

Users should defer to the Checkup plugin by Enfocus for the final say on which fonts are embedded in PDF file. However, Checkup does not perform a couple actions provided by StickyNotes:

- Checkup does not update Distiller settings
- Checkup does not list Courier/Multiple Master Substitution.

A suggested procedure for checking PDF files would be to distill with StickyNotes. Examine the color of the Font List first. If it is Red, use Checkup to locate reported problem fonts.

## Software Suggestions

StickyNotes provides a platform independent method for creating print quality PDF files. The following commercial tools enhance your ability to produce print-quality PDF files.

### **Adobe Acrobat:**

The free Acrobat Reader is available from Adobe's web site <<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>>. It is also included with many commercial products.

The commercial version called Acrobat Pro is used with StickyNotes. It includes Acrobat Distiller and Exchange. Cost is about \$295 from most software sources.

### **PDF Preflight:**

Checkup is an Acrobat Exchange plug-in from Enfocus Software. Checkup enables Macintosh and Windows machines to locate problem fonts in PDF documents. Checkup costs \$195 US. For more information see web site <[www.enfocus.com](http://www.enfocus.com)>.

### **PDF Color Separation:**

CrackerJack is an Acrobat Exchange plug-in from Lantana Research Corporation. Installing CrackerJack enables Macintosh and Windows machines to color separate PDF files. Crackerjack is handy for separating PDF files originally created with Microsoft applications such as Word, Publisher, and Excel, a particularly sticky problem for graphic arts service providers. Speed of CrackerJack is about 16 times faster than EDMatic. Crackerjack costs \$495 US and requires a PostScript Level 3 printer. For more information see web site <[www.lantanarips.com](http://www.lantanarips.com)>.

### **PostScript Level 3:**

Level 3 PostScript printers have a built-in capability for color separations. LaserWriter 8500 is an example of a low cost Level 3 printer from Apple Computer. The 8500 has a base price of \$1995 US. An additional 32 MB of RAM is recommended. For information see web site

<<http://prod01.apple.com/productinfo/datasheets/im/laserwriter8500.html>>

The 8500 Level 3 PostScript printer has the following features.

- Built-in color separations via Crackerjack.
- 20 page per minute printing.
- Paper sizes to 12 x 20 inches.
- Support for optional duplexer.
- Support for fonts on external hard drive.

- Support for Mac OS, Windows, and UNIX systems

/end