

Here is a virtual comparison of the difference between PostScript and Non-PostScript output in Nightingale. PostScript output can be achieved by either using a PostScript compatible printer (best output, and done in one step) or by making a proper PDF file (still excellent output). On this page, we are comparing two methods of making a PDF file.

In the first example, a score file was saved as a PostScript file in Nightingale. This was opened in Apple's Preview Application and saved as a PDF file. In the second example, the same score was saved as a PDF in the print dialog for a non-PostScript printer. Notice the following differences in this second example: lines in general are thicker and less elegant, the slur is not smooth, the noteheads are not shaped as well, and the repeat and final barlines are not rendered well.

These images were taken from screen shots out of the Preview application, so they are not optimum, but they should be sufficient for purposes of comparison. Zoom in for optimum viewing of the PDF examples.

This PDF file is from the PostScript file, the preferred method:

A musical score for piano in 4/4 time, consisting of three staves labeled 'high', 'middle', and 'low'. The high staff is in treble clef and contains two measures of music with notes on the first and second lines, a sharp sign, and a slur over the second measure. The middle staff is in treble clef and contains two measures of eighth-note patterns. The low staff is in bass clef and contains two measures of music with notes on the first and second lines. Dynamics include *f* (forte) in the high staff, *mp* (mezzo-piano) in the middle staff, and *mf* (mezzo-forte) in the low staff. The score is rendered with clean, thin lines and smooth curves.

This next example simulates a non-PostScript output by making a PDF file from the print dialog:

A musical score for piano in 4/4 time, identical in notation to the first example. It consists of three staves labeled 'high', 'middle', and 'low'. The high staff is in treble clef, the middle in treble clef, and the low in bass clef. Dynamics include *f* (forte) in the high staff, *mp* (mezzo-piano) in the middle staff, and *mf* (mezzo-forte) in the low staff. The score is rendered with thicker, less elegant lines and a less smooth slur compared to the first example.