

# EECS 2311 Group 1

## TAB2PDF - USER MANUAL

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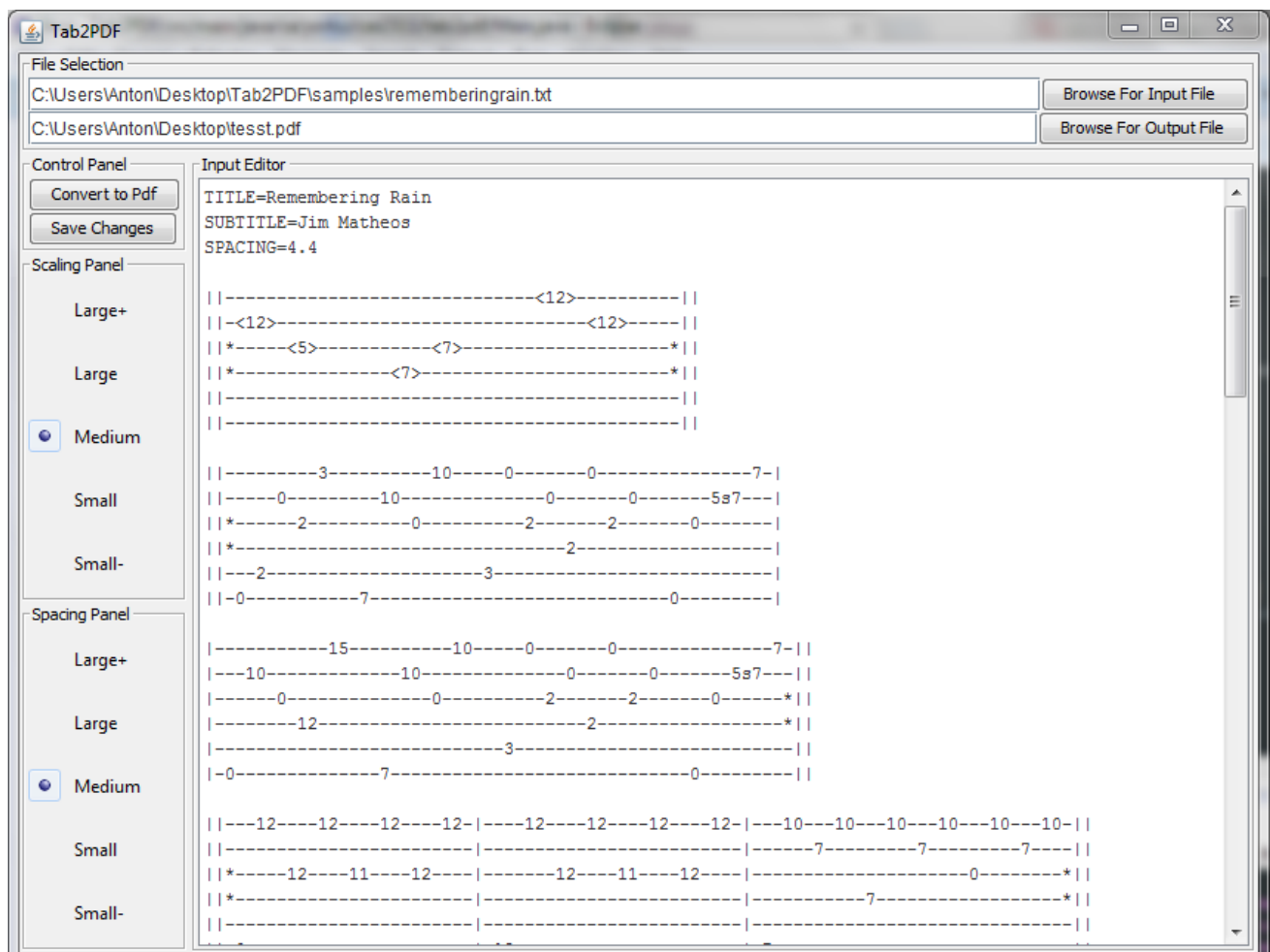
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## Installing and Opening the Program:

Once you have downloaded and saved the TAB2PDF.jar file to a directory on your computer, you can open it up by double clicking on the file. This will launch the program. This will work for Windows, Linux and OSX computers.

## The User Interface:

The interface is divided up into five panels. The upper panel is the file selection panel. On the left side there is a control panel, a scaling panel and a spacing panel. While the rest of the screen contains an input editor panel.

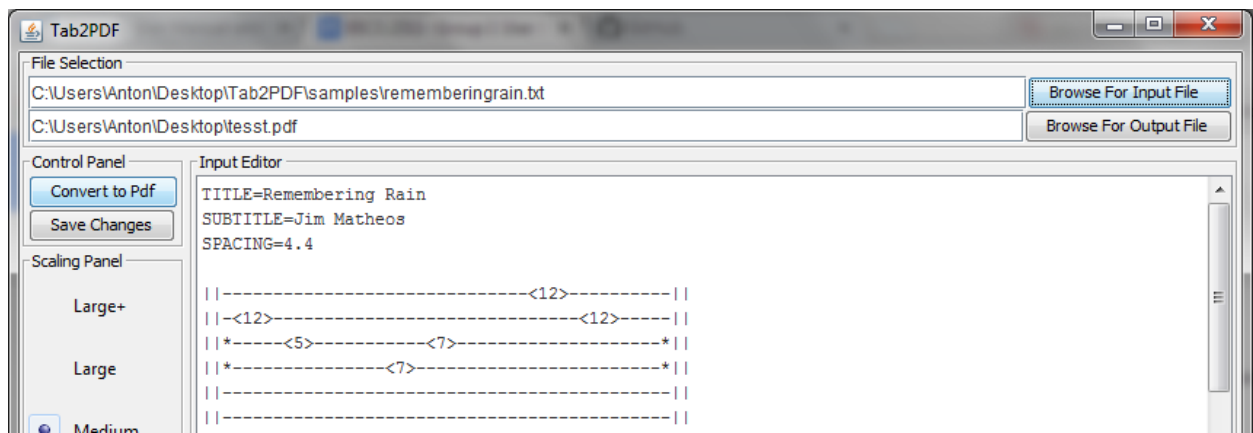


## Selecting a File for Conversion:

1. In the File Selection panel click “Browse for Input File” or paste the file path into the text box.
2. Browse your file system and locate the file to convert.
3. Double click the file or click once on the file and then click “Open”.
4. In the file path text box you should now see the path of the file you have chosen in plain text.
5. The content of the file is now shown in the input editor panel.

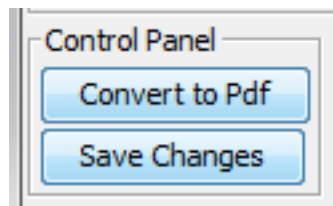
## Editing your File:

TAB2PDF allows the user to edit the file they have chosen with a text editor displayed on screen. This feature allows you to change the Title, Subtitle, Spacing and the rest of the file. Users can change text files and then save changes to the text file using the “Save Changes” button in the Control Panel.



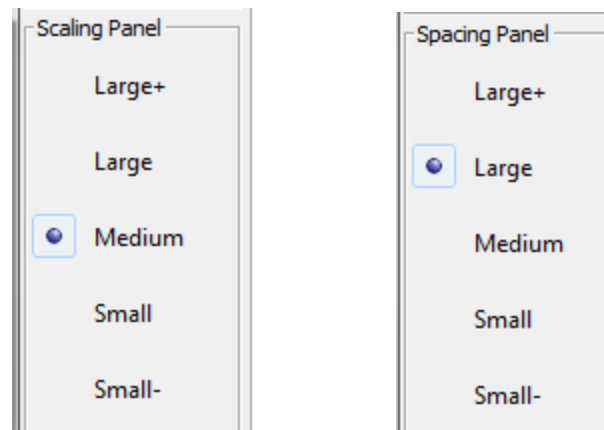
## Viewing your Output:

In the Control Panel, click the “Convert to Pdf” button to view the output PDF created. This will launch the default PDF reader on the user’s computer. The output file can also be viewed by finding and opening the file in the saved location.



## Customizing the Output

On the left side of the user interface there two panels below the Control Panel called Scaling Panel and Spacing Panel. Scaling Panel allows the user to alter the appearance of the PDF output, by changing the overall scale of the entire file with options of small- to large+. This will allow the user to make everything larger or smaller in the tabs. The Spacing Panel allows the user to choose how much horizontal space will exists between the fret notes in the PDF through options of small- to large+.



## Saving your File:

1. In the File Selection Panel click “Browse for Output File”.
2. Browse your file system and choose a place to save your PDF file.
3. Name your file.
4. Click “Save Changes”.

## Exiting the Program:

On the frame of the program window find your computer’s native close application button and press it.

## Troubleshooting:

If the program did not open make sure that Java is up to date on your computer.

## Accepted Syntax:

### Title, Subtitle, and Spacing

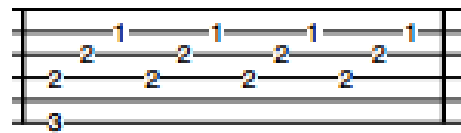
The program will look for the keywords “Title=”, “Subtitle=” and “Spacing=” and read whatever comes after the “=” and assign those to the arguments mentioned. The formatting is case insensitive and will work for keywords that are all capitalized, all lower case or a combination of upper and lower case. If the user chooses not to include anything for the title or subtitle, these will be assumed to be blank for the output. While if the spacing is not specified, it will be assigned a base value. This helps the user to display an efficient amount of tabs per page of music.

TITLE=Moonlight Sonata  
SUBTITLE=Ludwig van Beethoven  
SPACING=5

### String Lines:

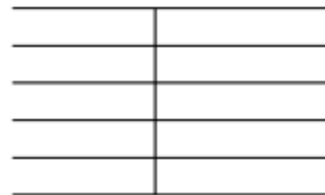
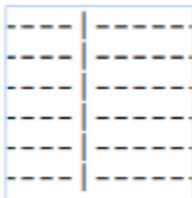
Use dashes to help you understand the location of fret notes. By using dashes you can create columns to understand when to play each note and the order of playing. By aligning the fret numbers along the dash entries, the program can determine when the user intends to play the notes. The location of notes in the input file will be saved and converted to be in the same location on the frets. Dashes need to be consistent everywhere in the file as this is how the program understands the form of the tabs.

```
|-----  
|---1---1---1---1---  
|---2---2---2---2---  
|-2---2---2---2---  
|-----  
|-3-----
```



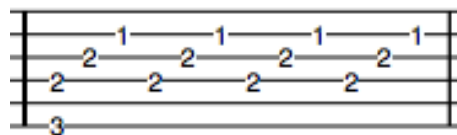
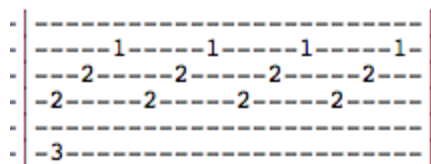
### Vertical Bar Lines:

The program will replace the '|' characters found in the input files with vertical bar lines in the same location. The user should try to keep the '|' aligned vertically. The program will still create a properly formed sheet of music but if the bar lines are very malformed then the output might become unattractive and hard to read.



### Fret Numbers:

The program will read all single or double-digit numbers from the input file within range of 0 - 24, these digits represent the fret numbers of a guitar tab. All numbers are outputted in the same order as they appeared in the input. Users should align frets that should be played together vertically and separate notes should be placed at least one dash away to clarify the sequence. In the example below it is evident that the first frets played are the 2 and 3 as they are in the same column, then after a 2 is played. When it comes to frets that are two digits in length the fret number will take up the space of two dashes and the digit will be separated from the next note by one dash.



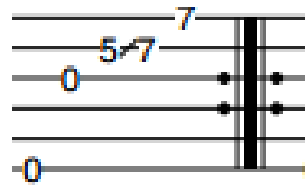
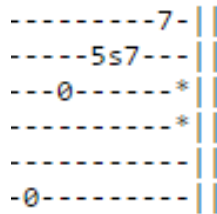
## Repeats:

The program allows the user to input tab repeat bars in multiple formats and convert them to a standard musical notation in the PDF output. This will notify the user on what kind of repeat is specified in the music and how many times a repeat is necessary. In order to display a repeat the input must contain '||' on all six lines of the bar as well as two '\*' on the 3rd and 4th lines. The '\*' can be on the left, right or both sides of the repeat symbol, this will be changed by the program into a solid circle. If the user wishes to have the section repeat a number of times, 'x' must be written on the first line of the repeat bars. The types of repeats include:

Tab Repeat Type	Sheet Music Repeat

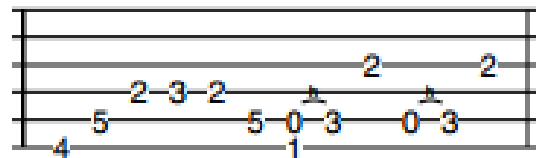
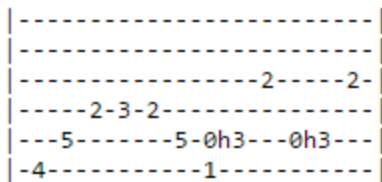
## Slides

To display a slide from one note to another, the input must contain this form: 'XsX', where X is any valid fret number. The 's' will then be converted to a '/' in the PDF. The same output will occur even if there exists any amount of '-' in 'XsX'.



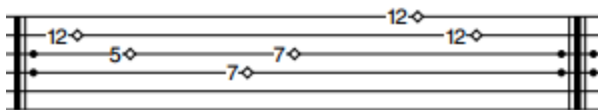
### Hammer-on, Pull-off

To display hammer-ons (pull-offs) the input must contain this form: 'XhX' ('XpX'), where 'X' is any valid fret number. The same output will occur even if there exists any amount of '-' in 'XhX' or 'XpX'. The program will take the input and produce a small arc over the two frets specified as well as a small 'x' over the arc for pull offs.



### Harmonics:

To display a harmonic the input must contain this form: <X>, where X is a any valid fret. The output will be converted to the fret number with a diamond symbol on the right side of the fret.



### Muted String:

To display a muted string the input must contain a 'x' on the fretboard for where the muted string is meant to be played. The output will also print a 'x' character in the same location.

### Triple Bar:

To display a triple bar, the input must contain the form: '|||'. When aligned vertically, the program will know that a triple bar must be printed in the PDF. The location of the triple bar in the input file will translate to the same location in the output file.

