



**Note:** LilyPond is a **text-based** music engraver; it is more similar to a programming language than a graphical score editing program. Before downloading LilyPond, please read about our [Text input](#).

## Packages

### Download

# X

[MacOS X x86: LilyPond 2.18.2-1](#) For MacOS X 10.4 or higher, running on Intel CPUs (if in doubt, use this).

# X

[MacOS X PPC: LilyPond 2.18.2-1](#) For MacOS X 10.4 or higher, running on G3 and G4 CPUs (old Apple computers).

### Install

Double-click the downloaded file, then drag it to wherever you want.

### Uninstall

Delete the LilyPond.app folder.

## Running on the command-line

**Note:** If you are happy with the GUI instructions below, then please ignore these instructions.

### MacOS X on the command line

The most convenient way to run lilypond scripts is by setting up “helper” scripts of your own.

1. Create a directory to store these scripts,

```
mkdir -p ~/bin
cd ~/bin
```

2. Create a file called `lilypond` which contains

```
#!/bin/bash
exec DIR/LilyPond.app/Contents/Res
```

**Note:** *DIR* will generally be `/Applications/`

3. Create similar files `lilypond-book`, `convert-ly`, and any other scripts you wish to use, by replacing the `bin/lilypond` with `bin/convert-ly` (or other program name).
  4. Make the file executable,
- ```
chmod u+x lilypond
```
5. Now, add this directory to your path. Modify (or create) a file called `.profile` in your home

directory such that it contains

```
export PATH=$PATH:~/bin
```

This file should end with a blank line.

### Invoking individual scripts

The scripts — such as `lilypond-book`, `convert-ly`, `abc2ly`, and even `lilypond` itself — are included inside the `.app` file for MacOS X.

Scripts can also be run from the command line by invoking them directly:

```
path/to/LilyPond.app/Contents/Resources
```

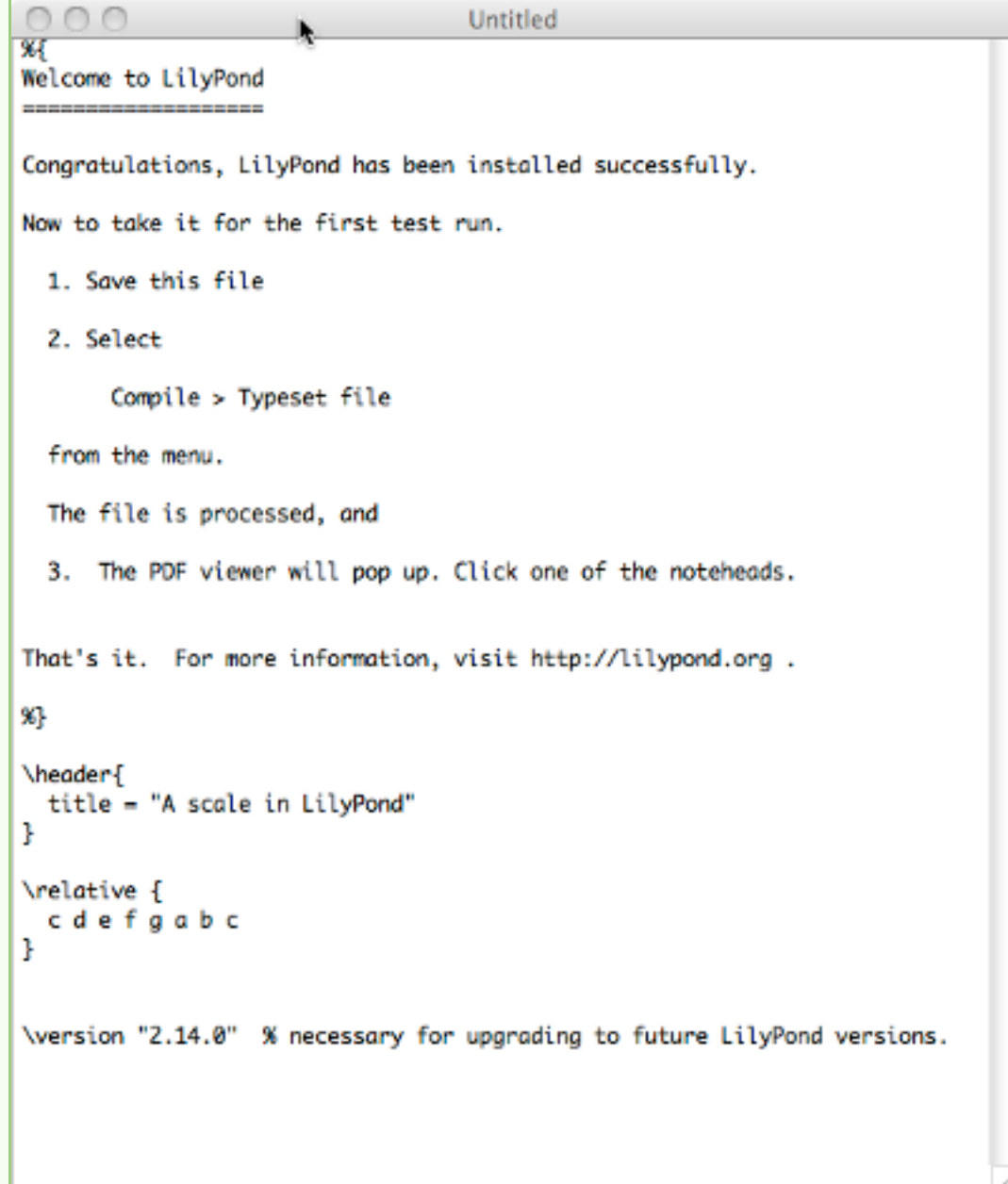
The same is true for all other scripts in that directory, such as `lilypond-book` and `convert-ly`.

## Compiling a file

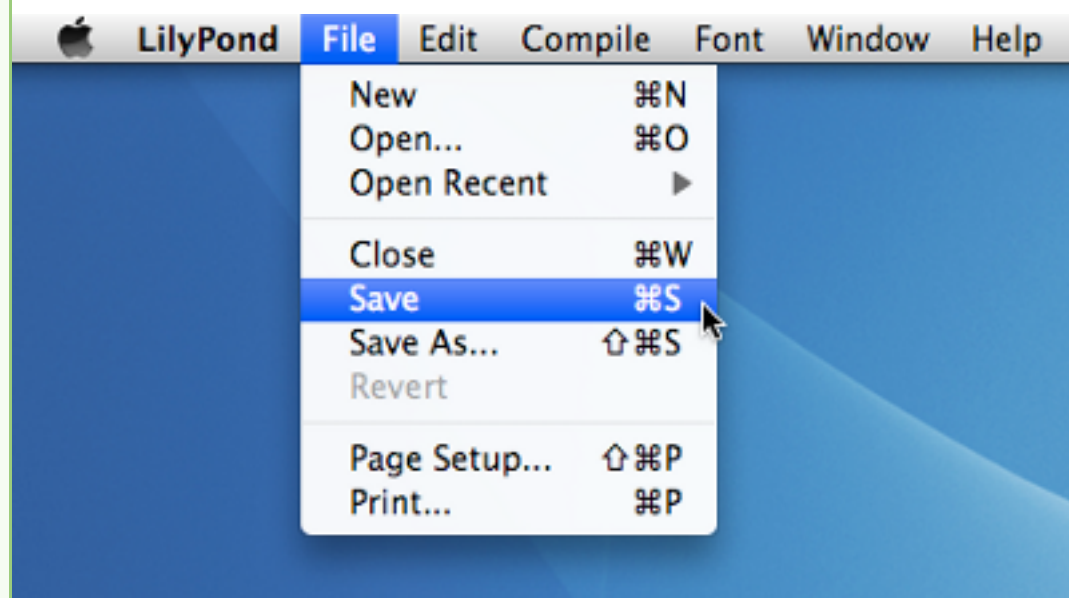
**Note:** These instructions assume that you are using the LilyPond application. If you are using any of the programs described in [Easier editing](#), consult the documentation for those programs should you have any problems.

### Step 1. Create your ‘.ly’ file

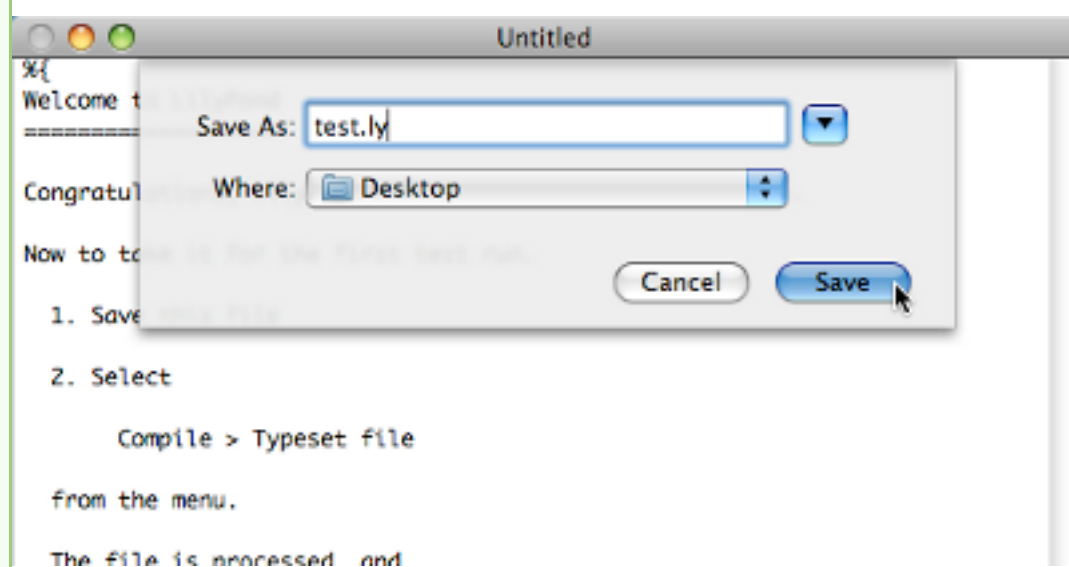
Double click the `LilyPond.app`, an example file will open.



From the menus along the top left of your screen, select **File** > **Save**.

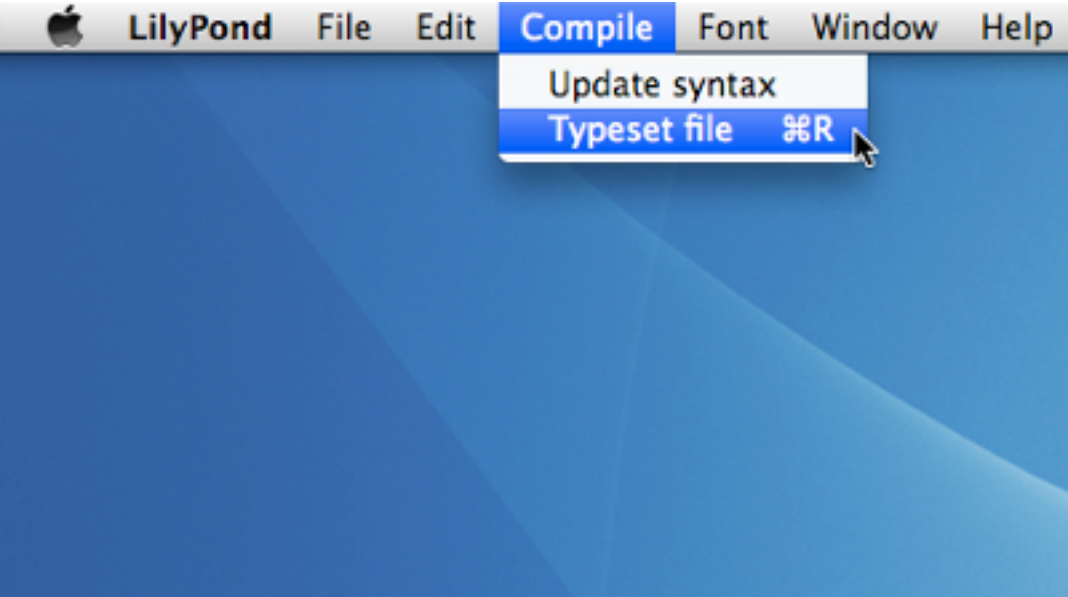


Choose a name for your file, for example 'test.ly'.

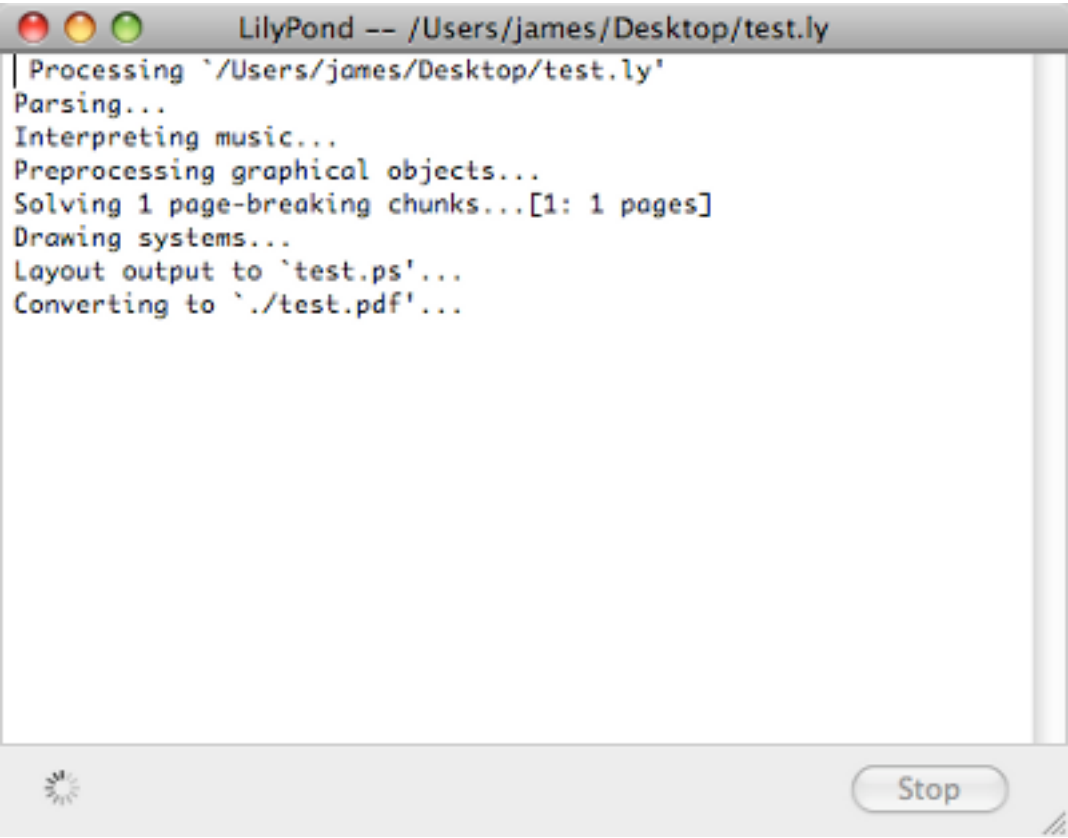


## Step 2. Compile (with LilyPad)

From the same menus, select Compile > Typeset.

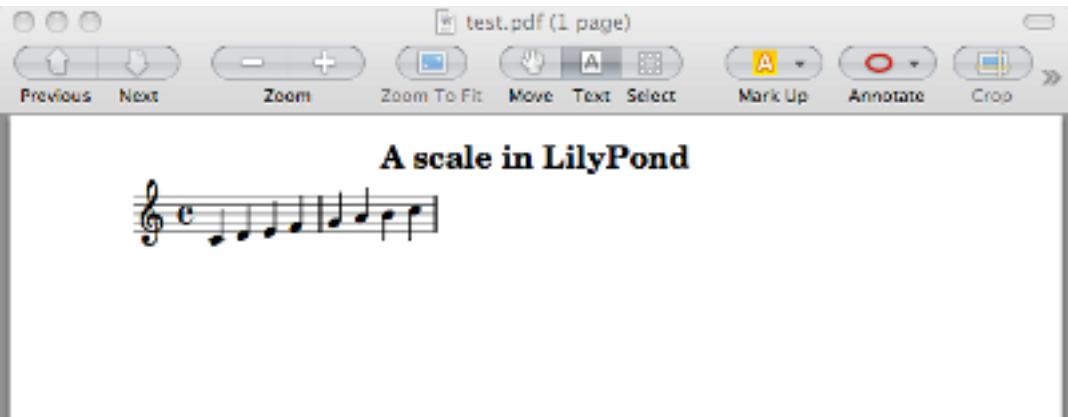


A new window will open showing a progress log of the compilation of the file you have just saved.



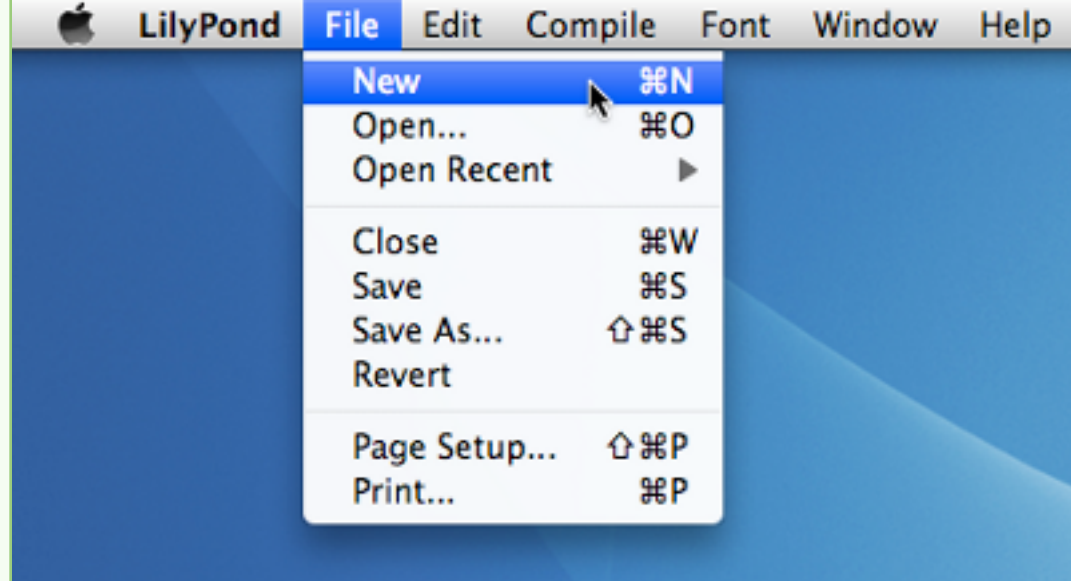
## Step 3. View output

Once the compilation has finished, a PDF file will be created with the same name as the original file and will be automatically opened in the default PDF viewer and displayed on your screen.

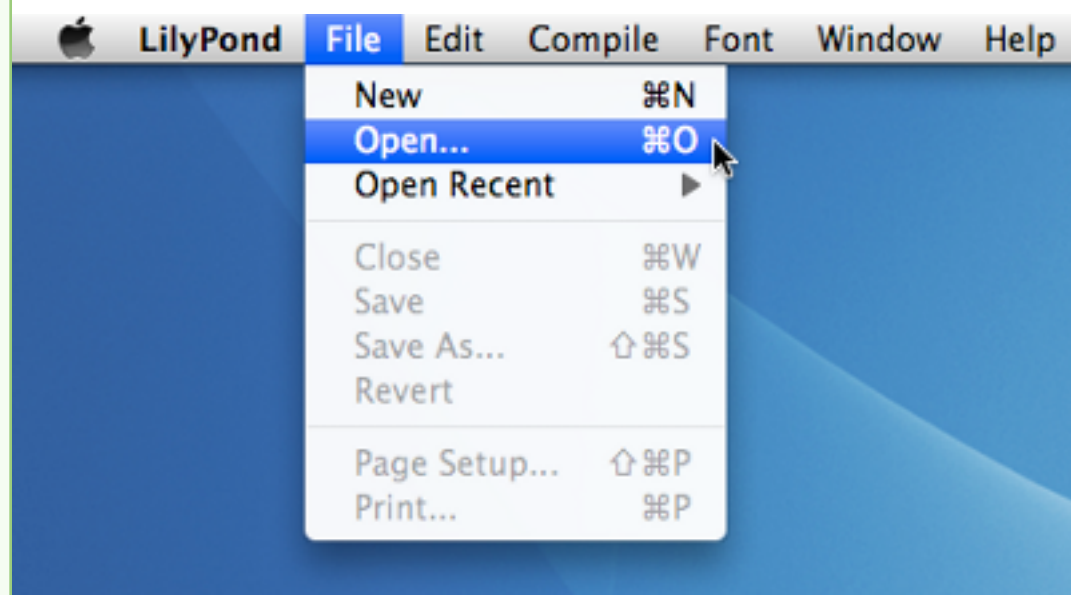


## Other commands

To create new files for LilyPond, begin by selecting File > New



or `File > Open` to open and edit existing files you have saved previously.



You must save any new edits you make to your file before you `Compile > Typeset` and if the PDF file is not displayed check the window with the progress log for any errors.

If you are not using the default Preview PDF viewer that comes with the Mac Operating system and you have the PDF file generated from a previous compilation open, then any further compilations may fail to generate an update PDF until you close the original.

## Legalese

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About [automatic language selection](#).

Thanks to [webdev.nl](#) for hosting `lilypond.org`.

