

LilyPond

The music typesetter

Program usage

The LilyPond development team

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(For LilyPond version 2.11.31)

Table of Contents

1	Install	1
1.1	Precompiled binaries	1
1.1.1	Downloading	1
1.2	Compiling from source	1
1.2.1	Downloading source code	1
1.2.2	Requirements	1
	Compilation	1
	Running requirements	2
	Building documentation	2
1.2.3	Building LilyPond	2
	Compiling	3
	Compiling for multiple platforms	3
1.2.4	Building documentation without compiling LilyPond	3
1.2.5	Testing LilyPond	3
1.2.6	Problems	4
	Bison 1.875	4
	Solaris	4
	FreeBSD	4
	International fonts	4
2	Setup	6
2.1	Setup for specific Operating Systems	6
2.1.1	MacOS X on the command-line	6
2.2	Text editor support	6
2.2.1	Emacs mode	6
2.2.2	Vim mode	7
2.2.3	LilyPondTool	7
2.2.4	TexShop	7
2.2.5	TextMate	7
2.3	Point and click	7
3	Running LilyPond	9
3.1	Normal usage	9
3.2	Command-line usage	9
3.2.1	Invoking lilypond	9
3.2.2	Command line options	9
3.2.3	Environment variables	13
3.3	Error messages	13
3.4	Updating with <code>convert-ly</code>	14
3.4.1	Command line options	14
3.4.2	Problems with <code>convert-ly</code>	15
3.5	Reporting bugs	16

4	<code>lilypond-book</code>: Integrating text and music	17
4.1	An example of a musicological document	17
4.2	Integrating music and text	20
4.2.1	\LaTeX	20
4.2.2	Texinfo	21
4.2.3	HTML	22
4.2.4	DocBook	23
4.3	Music fragment options	23
4.4	Invoking <code>lilypond-book</code>	25
4.5	Filename extensions	27
4.6	Alternative methods of mixing text and music	27
4.6.1	Many quotes from a large score	27
4.6.2	Inserting LilyPond output into OpenOffice.org	27
4.6.3	Inserting LilyPond output into other programs	27
5	Converting from other formats	29
5.1	Invoking <code>midi2ly</code>	29
5.2	Invoking <code>musicxml2ly</code>	30
5.3	Invoking <code>abc2ly</code>	30
5.4	Invoking <code>etf2ly</code>	31
5.5	Generating LilyPond files	31
Appendix A	GNU Free Documentation License	32
A.0.1	ADDENDUM: How to use this License for your documents	37
Appendix B	LilyPond index	38

1 Install

There are two sets of releases for LilyPond: stable releases, and unstable development releases. Stable versions have an even-numbered ‘minor’ version number (i.e. 2.8, 2.10, 2.12, etc). Development versions have an odd-numbered ‘minor’ version number (i.e. 2.7, 2.9, 2.11, etc).

Building LilyPond is a very involved process, so we **highly** recommend using the precompiled binaries.

1.1 Precompiled binaries

1.1.1 Downloading

Check out <http://lilypond.org/web/install/> for up to date information on binary packages for your platform. If your operating system is not covered on that general page, please see the complete list at <http://download.linuxaudio.org/lilypond/binaries/>

We currently create binaries for

```
MacOS
darwin-ppc
darwin-x86
freebsd-64
freebsd-x86
linux-64
linux-arm
linux-ppc
linux-x86
mingw
```

1.2 Compiling from source

1.2.1 Downloading source code

Download source

- tarballs from <http://lilypond.org/download/> by HTTP.
- tarballs from <http://download.linuxaudio.org/lilypond/> by HTTP.
- GIT from git.sv.gnu.org

```
git clone git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git
```

The repository does not contain generated files. To create ‘configure’, run

```
./autogen.sh
```

For information on packaging, see <http://lilypond.org/devel>.

1.2.2 Requirements

Compilation

In addition to the packages needed for running Lilypond (see below), you need the following extra packages for building.

When installing a binary package FOO, you may need to install the FOO-devel, libFOO-dev or FOO-dev package too.

- **FontForge** 20060125 or newer.
- New Century Schoolbook fonts, as PFB files. These are shipped with X11 and Ghostscript, and are named ‘c0590331.pfb’ ‘c0590361.pfb’, ‘c0590131.pfb’ and ‘c0590161.pfb’

- **mftrace** (1.1.19 or newer); you may need to install some additional packages to get mftrace to work.
- **GUILE** (version 1.8.2 or newer). If you are installing binary packages, you may need to install guile-devel or guile-dev or libguile-dev too.
- **Texinfo** (version 4.8 or newer).
- **The GNU c++ compiler** (version 4.x or newer).
- **Python** (version 2.4 or newer)
- **GNU Make** (version 3.78 or newer).
- **gettext**.
- **Flex**
- **Perl**
- **GNU Bison**
- All packages required for running, including development packages with header files and libraries.

Running requirements

Running LilyPond requires proper installation of the following software

- **Freetype** (version 2.1.10 or newer).
- **FontConfig** (version 2.2).
- **Pango** (version 1.12 or newer).
- **GUILE** (version 1.8.2 or newer), or patch 1.8.1 with <http://lilypond.org/vc/gub.darcs/patches/guile>
- **Python** (version 2.4 or newer).
- **Ghostscript** (version 8.15 or newer. 8.50 recommended)
- **Dejavu**. (This is normally installed by default)

International fonts are required to create music with international text or lyrics.

Building documentation

You can view the documentation online at <http://lilypond.org/doc/>, but you can also build it locally. This process requires a successful compile of lilypond. The documentation is built by issuing

```
make web
```

Building the website requires some additional tools and packages

- The **netpbm utilities**
- ImageMagick
- International fonts (see input/regression/utf-8.ly for hints about which font packages are necessary for your platform)
- Ghostscript, 8.50 with the patch from http://bugs.ghostscript.com/show_bug.cgi?id=688154 and the patch from http://bugs.ghostscript.com/show_bug.cgi?id=688017.

The HTML files can be installed into the standard documentation path by issuing

```
make out=www web-install
```

1.2.3 Building LilyPond

Compiling

To install GNU LilyPond, type

```
gunzip -c lilypond-x.y.z | tar xf -
cd lilypond-x.y.z
./configure # run with --help for applicable options
make
make install
```

If you are not root, you should choose a `--prefix` argument that points into your home directory, e.g.

```
./configure --prefix=$HOME/usr
```

Compiling for multiple platforms

If you want to build multiple versions of LilyPond with different configuration settings, you can use the `--enable-config=CONF` option of `configure`. You should use `make conf=CONF` to generate the output in `out-CONF`. Example: Suppose you want to build with and without profiling, then use the following for the normal build

```
./configure --prefix=$HOME/usr/ --enable-checking
make
make install
```

and for the profiling version, specify a different configuration

```
./configure --prefix=$HOME/usr/ --enable-profiling --enable-config=prof --disable-checking
make conf=prof
make conf=prof install
```

1.2.4 Building documentation without compiling LilyPond

The documentation can be built locally without compiling lilypond from scratch.

From a fresh git checkout, do

```
./autogen.sh % ignore any warning messages
cp GNUmakefile.in GNUmakefile
make -C python
nice make LILYPOND_EXTERNAL_BINARY=/path/to/bin/lilypond web
% change the lilypond directory as appropriate
```

Please note that this may break sometimes – for example, if a new feature is added with a test file in `input/regression`, even the latest unstable Lily will fail to build the docs.

You may build the manual (`Documentation/user/`) without building all the `input/*` stuff.

1.2.5 Testing LilyPond

LilyPond comes with an extensive suite that exercises the entire program. This suite can be used to automatically check the impact of a change. This is done as follows

```
make test-baseline
## apply your changes, compile
make check
```

This will leave an HTML page `out/test-results/index.html`. This page shows all the important differences that your change introduced, whether in the layout, MIDI, performance or error reporting.

To rerun tests, use

```
make test-redo          ## redo files differing from baseline
make test-clean         ## remove all test results
```

and then run `make check` again.

For tracking memory usage as part of this test, you will need GUILE CVS; especially the following patch: <http://lilypond.org/vc/gub.darcs/patches/guile-1.9-gcstats.patch>.

For checking the coverage of the test suite, do the following

```
./buildscripts/build-coverage.sh
# uncovered files, least covered first
python ./buildscripts/coverage.py --summary out-cov/*.cc
# consecutive uncovered lines, longest first
python ./buildscripts/coverage.py --uncovered out-cov/*.cc
```

1.2.6 Problems

For help and questions use lilypond-user@gnu.org. Send bug reports to bug-lilypond@gnu.org.

Bugs that are not fault of LilyPond are documented here.

Bison 1.875

There is a bug in bison-1.875: compilation fails with "parse error before 'goto'" in line 4922 due to a bug in bison. To fix, please recompile bison 1.875 with the following fix

```
$ cd lily; make out/parser.cc
$ vi +4919 out/parser.cc
# append a semicolon to the line containing "__attribute__ ((__unused__))"
# save
$ make
```

Solaris

Solaris7, `./configure`

'`./configure`' needs a POSIX compliant shell. On Solaris7, '`/bin/sh`' is not yet POSIX compliant, but '`/bin/ksh`' or `bash` is. Run `configure` like

```
CONFIG_SHELL=/bin/ksh ksh -c ./configure
```

or

```
CONFIG_SHELL=/bin/bash bash -c ./configure
```

FreeBSD

To use system fonts, `dejavu` must be installed. With the default port, the fonts are installed in '`/usr/X11R6/lib/X11/fonts/dejavu`'.

Open the file '`$LILYPONDBASE/usr/etc/fonts/local.conf`' and add the following line just after the `<fontconfig>` line. (Adjust as necessary for your hierarchy.)

```
<dir>/usr/X11R6/lib/X11/fonts</dir>
```

International fonts

On MacOS X, all fonts are installed by default. However, finding all system fonts requires a bit of configuration; see [this post](#) on the `lilypond-user` mailing list.

On Linux, international fonts are installed by different means on every distribution. We cannot list the exact commands or packages that are necessary, as each distribution is different, and the exact package names within each distribution changes. Here are some hints, though:

Red Hat Fedora

```
taipeifonts fonts-xorg-truetype ttfonts-ja fonts-arabic \
```

```
ttfonts-zh_CN fonts-ja fonts-hebrew
```

Debian GNU/Linux

```
apt-get install emacs-intl-fonts xfonts-intl-.* \  
    ttf-kochi-gothic ttf-kochi-mincho \  
    xfonts-bolkhov-75dpi xfonts-cronyx-100dpi xfonts-cronyx-75dpi
```

2 Setup

This chapter discusses various post-install configuration options for LilyPond and various other programs. This chapter may be safely treated as a reference: only read a section if it applies to you.

2.1 Setup for specific Operating Systems

This section explains how to perform additional setup for specific operating systems.

2.1.1 MacOS X on the command-line

The scripts (such as `lilypond-book`, `convert-ly`, `abc2ly`, and even `lilypond` itself) are included inside MacOS X .app. They can be run from the command line by invoking them directly, e.g.

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

The same is true of the other scripts in that directory, including `lilypond-book`, `convert-ly`, `abc2ly`, etc.

Alternatively, you may create scripts which add the path automatically. Create a directory to store these scripts,

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

Create a file called `lilypond` which contains

```
exec path/to/LilyPond.app/Contents/Resources/bin/lilypond "$@"
```

Create similar files `lilypond-book`, `convert-ly`, and any other helper programs you use (`abc2ly`, `midi2ly`, etc). Simply replace the `bin/lilypond` with `bin/convert-ly` (or other program name) in the above file.

Make the file executable,

```
chmod u+x lilypond
```

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.

Note that `path/to` will generally be `/Applications/`.

2.2 Text editor support

There is support from different text editors for LilyPond.

2.2.1 Emacs mode

Emacs has a ‘`lilypond-mode`’, which provides keyword autocompletion, indentation, LilyPond specific parenthesis matching and syntax coloring, handy compile short-cuts and reading LilyPond manuals using Info. If ‘`lilypond-mode`’ is not installed on your platform, see below.

An Emacs mode for entering music and running LilyPond is contained in the source archive in the ‘`elisp`’ directory. Do make `install` to install it to `elispdir`. The file ‘`lilypond-init.el`’ should be placed to `load-path` ‘`site-start.d/`’ or appended to your ‘`~/.emacs`’ or ‘`~/.emacs.el`’.

As a user, you may want add your source path (e.g. ‘`~/site-lisp/`’) to your `load-path` by appending the following line (as modified) to your ‘`~/.emacs`’

```
(setq load-path (append (list (expand-file-name "~/site-lisp")) load-path))
```

2.2.2 Vim mode

For **VIM**, a ‘vimrc’ is supplied, along with syntax coloring tools. A Vim mode for entering music and running LilyPond is contained in the source archive in \$VIM directory.

The LilyPond file type is detected if the file ‘~/ .vim/filetype.vim’ has the following content

```
if exists("did_load_filetypes")
    finish
endif
augroup filetypedetect
    au! BufNewFile,BufRead *.ly          setf lilypond
augroup END
```

Please include this path by appending the following line to your ‘~/ .vimrc’

```
set runtimepath+="/usr/local/share/lilypond/${LILYPOND_VERSION}/vim/
```

where \${LILYPOND_VERSION} is your lilypond version. If Lilypond was not installed in ‘/usr/local/’, then change this path accordingly.

2.2.3 LilyPondTool

Created as a plugin for the **jEdit** text editor, LilyPondTool is the most feature-rich text-based tool for editing LilyPond scores. Its features include a Document Wizard with lyrics support to set up documents easier, and embedded PDF viewer with advanced point-and-click support. For screenshots, demos and installation instructions, visit <http://lilypondtool.orgnum.hu>

2.2.4 TexShop

The **TexShop** editor for Mac OS X can be extended to run LilyPond, lilypond-book and convert-ly from within the editor, using the extensions available at <http://www.dimi.uniud.it/vitacolo/freesoftware.html>.

2.2.5 TextMate

There is a LilyPond bundle for TextMate. It may be installed by running

```
mkdir -p /Library/Application\ Support/TextMate/Bundles
cd /Library/Application\ Support/TextMate/Bundles
svn co http://macromates.com/svn/Bundles/trunk/Bundles/Lilypond.tmbundle/
```

2.3 Point and click

Point and click lets you find notes in the input by clicking on them in the PDF viewer. This makes it easier to find input that causes some error in the sheet music.

When this functionality is active, LilyPond adds hyperlinks to the PDF file. These hyperlinks are sent to the web-browser, which opens a text-editor with the cursor in the right place.

To make this chain work, you should configure your PDF viewer to follow hyperlinks using the ‘lilypond-invoke-editor’ script supplied with LilyPond.

For Xpdf on Unix, the following should be present in ‘xpdfrc’¹

```
urlCommand      "lilypond-invoke-editor %s"
```

The program ‘lilypond-invoke-editor’ is a small helper program. It will invoke an editor for the special `textedit` URIs, and run a web browser for others. It tests the environment variable `EDITOR` for the following patterns,

```
emacs          this will invoke
                emacsclient --no-wait +line:column file
```

¹ On unix, this file is found either in ‘/etc/xpdfrc’ or as ‘.xpdfrc’ in your home directory.

`vim` this will invoke

```
gvim --remote +:line:normchar file
```

`nedit` this will invoke

```
nc -noask +line file'
```

The environment variable `LYEDITOR` is used to override this. It contains the command line to start the editor, where `%(file)s`, `%(column)s`, `%(line)s` is replaced with the file, column and line respectively. The setting

```
emacsclient --no-wait +%(line)s:%(column)s %(file)s
```

for `LYEDITOR` is equivalent to the standard `emacsclient` invocation.

The point and click links enlarge the output files significantly. For reducing the size of PDF and PS files, point and click may be switched off by issuing

```
#{ly:set-option 'point-and-click #f)
```

in a `‘.ly’` file. Alternately, you may pass this as an command-line option

```
lilypond -dno-point-and-click file.ly
```

3 Running LilyPond

This chapter details the technicalities of running LilyPond.

3.1 Normal usage

Most users run LilyPond through a GUI; see user manual, **First steps** if you have not read this already.

3.2 Command-line usage

This section contains extra information about using LilyPond on the command-line. This may be desirable to pass extra options to the program. In addition, there are certain extra ‘helper’ programs (such as `midi2ly`) which are only available on the command-line.

By ‘command-line’, we mean the command line in the operating system. Windows users might be more familiar with the terms ‘DOS shell’ or ‘command shell’; OSX users might be more familiar with the terms ‘terminal’ or ‘console’. OSX users should also consult [Section 2.1.1 \[MacOS X on the command-line\]](#), page 6.

Describing how to use this part of an operating system is outside the scope of this manual; please consult other documentation on this topic if you are unfamiliar with the command-line.

3.2.1 Invoking `lilypond`

The `lilypond` executable may be called as follows from the command line.

```
lilypond [option]... file...
```

When invoked with a filename that has no extension, the ‘.ly’ extension is tried first. To read input from stdin, use a dash (-) for *file*.

When ‘`filename.ly`’ is processed it will produce ‘`filename.tex`’ as output (or ‘`filename.ps`’ for PostScript output). If ‘`filename.ly`’ contains more than one `\score` block, then the rest of the scores will be output in numbered files, starting with ‘`filename-1.tex`’. Several files can be specified; they will each be processed independently.¹

In addition, the value of `output-suffix` will be inserted between the basename and the number. An input file containing

```
#(define output-suffix "violin")
\book { ... }
#(define output-suffix "cello")
\book { ... }
```

will output *base*‘-violin.ps’ and *base*‘-cello-1.ps’.

3.2.2 Command line options

The following options are supported:

`-e, --evaluate=expr`

Evaluate the Scheme *expr* before parsing any ‘.ly’ files. Multiple `-e` options may be given, they will be evaluated sequentially.

The expression will be evaluated in the `guile-user` module, so if you want to use definitions in *expr*, use

```
lilypond -e '(define-public a 42)'
```

on the command-line, and include

¹ The status of `GUILE` is not reset after processing a .ly file, so be careful not to change any system defaults from within Scheme.

```
    #(use-modules (guile-user))
```

at the top of the .ly file.

`-f, --format=format`

which formats should be written. Choices for `format` are `svg`, `ps`, `pdf`, `png`, `tex`, `dvi`.

Example: `lilypond -fpng filename.ly`

`-d, --define-default=var=val`

This sets the internal program option `var` to the Scheme value `val`. If `val` is not supplied, then `#t` is used. To switch off an option, `no-` may be prefixed to `var`, e.g.

```
-dno-point-and-click
```

is the same as

```
-dpoint-and-click='#f'
```

Here are a few interesting options.

`'help'` Running `lilypond -dhelp` will print all of the `-d` options available.

`'paper-size'`

This option sets the default paper-size,

```
-dpaper-size=\"letter\"
```

Note that the string must be enclosed in escaped quotes (`\`).

`'safe'` Do not trust the .ly input.

When LilyPond formatting is available through a web server, either the `--safe` or the `--jail` option **MUST** be passed. The `--safe` option will prevent inline Scheme code from wreaking havoc, for example

```

#(system "rm -rf /")
{
  c4^#(ly:export (ly:gulp-file "/etc/passwd"))
}

```

The `-dsafe` option works by evaluating in-line Scheme expressions in a special safe module. This safe module is derived from GUILE `'safe-r5rs'` module, but adds a number of functions of the LilyPond API. These functions are listed in `'scm/safe-lily.scm'`.

In addition, safe mode disallows `\include` directives and disables the use of backslashes in `TEX` strings.

In safe mode, it is not possible to import LilyPond variables into Scheme. safe does *not* detect resource overuse. It is still possible to make the program hang indefinitely, for example by feeding cyclic data structures into the backend. Therefore, if using LilyPond on a publicly accessible webserver, the process should be limited in both CPU and memory usage.

The safe mode will prevent many useful LilyPond snippets from being compiled. The `--jail` is a more secure alternative, but requires more work to set up.

`'backend'` the output format to use for the back-end. Choices for `format` are

`tex` for `TEX` output, to be processed with `LaTEX`. If present, the file `'file.textmetrics'` is read to determine text extents.

<code>texstr</code>	dump text strings to ‘ <code>.texstr</code> ’ file, which can be run through (La)TeX, resulting in a <code>.textmetrics</code> file, which contains the extents of strings of text. Warning: this functionality is currently missing due to heavy restructuring of the source code.
<code>ps</code>	for PostScript. Postscript files include TTF, Type1 and OTF fonts. No subsetting of these fonts is done. When using oriental character sets, this can lead to huge files.
<code>eps</code>	for encapsulated PostScript. This dumps every page (system) as a separate ‘EPS’ file, without fonts, and as one colated ‘EPS’ file with all pages (systems) including fonts. This mode is used by default by lilypond-book.
<code>svg</code>	for SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics). This dumps every page as a separate ‘SVG’ file, with embedded fonts. You need a SVG viewer which supports embedded fonts, or a SVG viewer which is able to replace the embedded fonts with OTF fonts. Under Unix, you may use Inkscape (version 0.42 or later), after copying the OTF fonts in directory ‘ <code>PATH/TO/share/lilypond/VERSION/fonts/otf/</code> ’ to ‘ <code>~/.fonts/</code> ’.
<code>scm</code>	for a dump of the raw, internal Scheme-based drawing commands.

Example: `lilypond -dbackend=svg filename.ly`

‘`preview`’ Generate an output file containing the titles and the first system

‘`print-pages`’

Generate the full pages, the default. `-dno-print-pages` is useful in combination with `-dpreview`.

`-h,--help`

Show a summary of usage.

`-H,--header=FIELD`

Dump a header field to file `BASENAME.FIELD`

`--include, -I=directory`

Add *directory* to the search path for input files.

`-i,--init=file`

Set init file to *file* (default: ‘`init.ly`’).

`-o,--output=FILE`

Set the default output file to *FILE*. The appropriate suffix will be added (ie `.pdf` for pdf, `.tex` for tex, etc).

`--ps` Generate PostScript.

`--dvi` Generate DVI files. In this case, the TeX backend should be specified, i.e., `-dbackend=tex`.

`--png` Generate pictures of each page, in PNG format. This implies `--ps`. The resolution in DPI of the image may be set with

`-dresolution=110`

`--pdf` Generate PDF. This implies `--ps`.

`-j, --jail=user,group,jail,dir`

Run LilyPond in a chroot jail.

The `--jail` option provides a more flexible alternative to `--safe` when LilyPond formatting is available through a web server or whenever LilyPond executes externally provided sources.

The `--jail` option works by changing the root of LilyPond to *jail* just before starting the actual compilation process. The user and group are then changed to match those provided, and the current directory is changed to *dir*. This setup guarantees that it is not possible (at least in theory) to escape from the jail. Note that for `--jail` to work LilyPond must be run as root, which is usually accomplished in a safe way using `sudo`.

Setting up a jail is a slightly delicate matter, as we must be sure that LilyPond is able to find whatever it needs to compile the source *inside the jail*. A typical setup comprises the following items:

Setting up a separate filesystem

A separate filesystem should be created for LilyPond, so that it can be mounted with safe options such as `noexec`, `nodelv`, and `nosuid`. In this way, it is impossible to run executables or to write directly to a device from LilyPond. If you do not want to create a separate partition, just create a file of reasonable size and use it to mount a loop device. A separate filesystem also guarantees that LilyPond cannot write more space than it is allowed.

Setting up a separate user

A separate user and group (say, ‘lily’/‘lily’) with low privileges should be used to run LilyPond inside the jail. There should be a single directory writable by this user, which should be passed in *dir*.

Preparing the jail

LilyPond needs to read a number of files while running. All these files are to be copied into the jail, under the same path they appear in the real root filesystem. The entire content of the LilyPond installation (e.g., ‘`/usr/share/lilypond`’) should be copied.

If problems arise, the simplest way to trace them down is to run LilyPond using `strace`, which will allow you to determine which files are missing.

Running LilyPond

In a jail mounted with `noexec` it is impossible to execute any external program. Therefore LilyPond must be run with a backend that does not require any such program. As we already mentioned, it must be also run with superuser privileges (which, of course, it will lose immediately), possibly using `sudo`. It is a good idea to limit the number of seconds of CPU time LilyPond can use (e.g., using `ulimit -t`), and, if your operating system supports it, the amount of memory that can be allocated.

`-v, --version`

Show version information.

`-V, --verbose`

Be verbose: show full paths of all files read, and give timing information.

`-w, --warranty`

Show the warranty with which GNU LilyPond comes. (It comes with **NO WARRANTY!**)

3.2.3 Environment variables

Lilypond recognizes the following environment variables:

`LILYPOND_DATADIR`

This specifies a directory where locale messages and data files will be looked up by default. The directory should contain subdirectories called ‘`ly/`’, ‘`ps/`’, ‘`tex/`’, etc.

`LANG`

This selects the language for the warning messages.

`LILYPOND_GC_YIELD`

With this variable the memory footprint and performance can be adjusted. It is a percentage tunes memory management behavior. With higher values, the program uses more memory, with smaller values, it uses more CPU time. The default value is 70.

3.3 Error messages

Different error messages can appear while compiling a file:

Warning Something looks suspect. If you are requesting something out of the ordinary then you will understand the message, and can ignore it. However, warnings usually indicate that something is wrong with the input file.

Error Something is definitely wrong. The current processing step (parsing, interpreting, or formatting) will be finished, but the next step will be skipped.

Fatal error

Something is definitely wrong, and LilyPond cannot continue. This happens rarely. The most usual cause is misinstalled fonts.

Scheme error

Errors that occur while executing Scheme code are caught by the Scheme interpreter. If running with the verbose option (`-V` or `--verbose`) then a call trace of the offending function call is printed.

Programming error

There was some internal inconsistency. These error messages are intended to help the programmers and debuggers. Usually, they can be ignored. Sometimes, they come in such big quantities that they obscure other output.

Aborted (core dumped)

This signals a serious programming error that caused the program to crash. Such errors are considered critical. If you stumble on one, send a bug-report.

If warnings and errors can be linked to some part of the input file, then error messages have the following form

```
filename:lineno:columnno: message
offending input line
```

A line-break is inserted in the offending line to indicate the column where the error was found. For example,

```
test.ly:2:19: error: not a duration: 5:
{ c'4 e'5
      g' }
```

These locations are LilyPond's best guess about where the warning or error occurred, but (by their very nature) warnings and errors occur when something unexpected happens. If you can't see an error in the indicated line of your input file, try checking one or two lines above the indicated position.

3.4 Updating with `convert-ly`

The LilyPond input syntax is routinely changed to simplify it or improve it in different ways. As a side effect of this, the LilyPond interpreter often is no longer compatible with older input files. To remedy this, the program `convert-ly` can be used to deal with most of the syntax changes between LilyPond versions.

It uses `\version` statements in the input files to detect the old version number. In most cases, to upgrade your input file it is sufficient to run

```
convert-ly -e myfile.ly
```

MacOS X users may execute this command under the menu entry 'Compile > Update syntax'.

If there are no changes to `myfile.ly` and file called `myfile.ly.NEW` is created, then `myfile.ly` is already updated.

3.4.1 Command line options

`convert-ly` always converts up to the last syntax change handled by it. This means that the `\version` number left in the file is usually lower than the version of `convert-ly` itself.

To upgrade LilyPond fragments in texinfo files, use

```
convert-ly --from=... --to=... --no-version *.itely
```

To see the changes in the LilyPond syntax between two versions, use

```
convert-ly --from=... --to=... -s
```

To upgrade many files at once, combine `convert-ly` with standard unix commands. This example will upgrade all `.ly` files in the current directory

```
for f in *.ly; do convert-ly -e $f; done;
```

In general, the program is invoked as follows:

```
convert-ly [option]... file...
```

The following options can be given:

`-e, --edit`

Do an inline edit of the input file. Overrides `--output`.

`-f, --from=from-patchlevel`

Set the version to convert from. If this is not set, `convert-ly` will guess this, on the basis of `\version` strings in the file.

`-n, --no-version`

Normally, `convert-ly` adds a `\version` indicator to the output. Specifying this option suppresses this.

`-s, --show-rules`

Show all known conversions and exit.

`--to=to-patchlevel`

Set the goal version of the conversion. It defaults to the latest available version.

`-h, --help`

Print usage help.

3.4.2 Problems with convert-ly

Not all language changes are handled. Only one output option can be specified. Automatically updating scheme and lilypond scheme interfaces is quite unlikely; be prepared to tweak scheme code manually.

There are a few things that the convert-ly cannot handle. Here's a list of limitations that the community has complained about.

This bug report structure has been chosen because convert-ly has a structure that doesn't allow to smoothly implement all needed changes. Thus this is just a wishlist, placed here for reference.

1.6->2.0:

Doesn't always convert figured bass correctly, specifically things like {<>}. Mats' comment on working around this:

To be able to run convert-ly on it, I first replaced all occurrences of '{<' to some dummy like '{#' and similarly I replaced '>}' with '&}'. After the conversion, I could then change back from '{ #' to '{ <' and from '& }' to '> }'.

Doesn't convert all text markup correctly. In the old markup syntax, it was possible to group a number of markup commands together within parentheses, e.g.

```
-#'(bold italic) "string"
This will incorrectly be converted into
-\markup{{\bold italic} "string"}
instead of the correct
-\markup{\bold \italic "string"}
```

2.0->2.2:

Doesn't handle \partcombine

Doesn't do \addlyrics => \lyricsto, this breaks some scores with multiple stanzas.

2.0->2.4:

\magnify isn't changed to \fontsize.

- \magnify #m => \fontsize #f, where $f = 6\ln(m)/\ln(2)$

remove-tag isn't changed.

- \applyMusic #(remove-tag '. . .) => \keepWithTag #'. . .

first-page-number isn't changed.

- first-page-number no => print-first-page-number = ##f

Line breaks in header strings aren't converted.

- \\\ as line break in \header strings => \markup \center-align <"First Line" "Second Line" >

Crescendo and decrescendo terminators aren't converted.

- \rced => \!

- \rc => \!

2.2->2.4:

\turnOff (used in \set Staff.VoltaBracket = \turnOff) is not properly converted.

2.4.2->2.5.9

\markup{ \center-align <{ ... }> } should be converted to:

\markup{ \center-align {\line { ... }} }

but now, \line is missing.

2.4->2.6

Special LaTeX characters such as $\$~\$$ in text are not converted to UTF8.
2.8

`\score{}` must now begin with a music expression. Anything else
(particularly `\header{}`) must come after the music.

3.5 Reporting bugs

If you have input that results in a crash or an erroneous output, then that is a bug. There is a list of current bugs on our google bug tracker,

<http://code.google.com/p/lilypond/issues/list>

If you have discovered a bug which is not listed, please report the bug by following the directions on

<http://lilypond.org/web/devel/participating/bugs>

Please construct submit user manual, Minimal examples, of bug reports. We do not have the resources to investigate reports which are not as small as possible.

4 lilypond-book: Integrating text and music

If you want to add pictures of music to a document, you can simply do it the way you would do with other types of pictures. The pictures are created separately, yielding PostScript output or PNG images, and those are included into a \LaTeX or HTML document.

`lilypond-book` provides a way to automate this process: This program extracts snippets of music from your document, runs `lilypond` on them, and outputs the document with pictures substituted for the music. The line width and font size definitions for the music are adjusted to match the layout of your document.

This is a separate programs from `lilypond` itself, and is run on the command-line; see [Section 3.2 \[Command-line usage\]](#), [page 9](#) for more information.

This procedure may be applied to \LaTeX , HTML, Texinfo or DocBook documents.

4.1 An example of a musicological document

Some texts contain music examples. These texts are musicological treatises, songbooks, or manuals like this. Such texts can be made by hand, simply by importing a PostScript figure into the word processor. However, there is an automated procedure to reduce the amount of work involved in HTML, \LaTeX , Texinfo and DocBook documents.

A script called `lilypond-book` will extract the music fragments, format them, and put back the resulting notation. Here we show a small example for use with \LaTeX . The example also contains explanatory text, so we will not comment on it further.

Input

```
\documentclass[a4paper]{article}

\begin{document}

Documents for @command{lilypond-book} may freely mix music and text.
For example,

\begin{lilypond}
\relative c' {
  c2 g'2 \times 2/3 { f8 e d } c'2 g4
}
\end{lilypond}

Options are put in brackets.

\begin[fragment,quote,staffsize=26,verbatim]{lilypond}
  c'4 f16
\end{lilypond}

Larger examples can be put into a separate file, and introduced with
\verb+\lilypondfile+.

\lilypondfile[quote,noindent]{screech-boink.ly}

\end{document}
```

Processing

Under Unix, you can view the results as follows

```
cd input/tutorial
mkdir -p out/
lilypond-book --output=out --psfonts lilybook.tex
lilypond-book (GNU LilyPond) 2.6.0
Reading lilybook.tex...
..lots of stuff deleted..
Compiling out/lilybook.tex...
cd out
latex lilybook
lots of stuff deleted
xdvi lilybook
```

To convert the file into a PDF document, run the following commands

```
dvips -o -Ppdf -h lilybook.psfonds lilybook
ps2pdf lilybook.ps
```

If you are running latex in twocolumn mode, remember to add `-t landscape` to the dvips options.

Running `lilypond-book` and `latex` creates a lot of temporary files, which would clutter up the working directory. To remedy this, use the `--output=dir` option. It will create the files in a separate subdirectory ‘`dir`’.

Running dvips will produce many warnings about fonts. They are not harmful; please ignore them.

Finally the result of the L^AT_EX example shown above.¹ This finishes the tutorial section.

¹ This tutorial is processed with Texinfo, so the example gives slightly different results in layout.

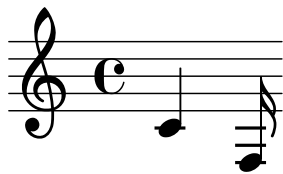
Output

Documents for lilypond-book may freely mix music and text. For example,



Options are put in brackets.

```
c'4 f16
```

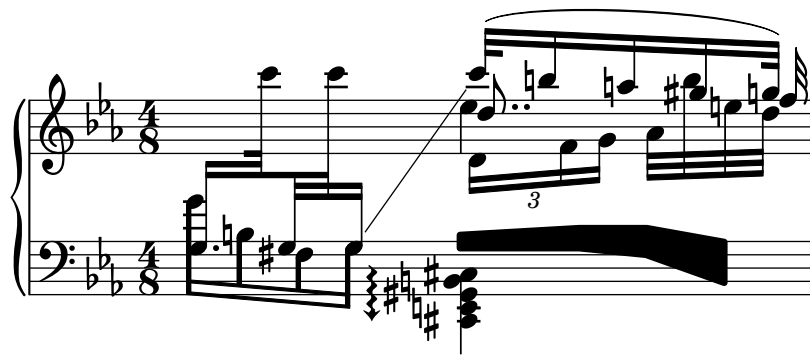


Larger examples can be put into a separate file, and introduced with `\lilypondfile`.

Screech and boink

Random complex notation

Han-Wen Nienhuys



4.2 Integrating music and text

Here we explain how to integrate LilyPond with various output formats.

4.2.1 \LaTeX

\LaTeX is the de-facto standard for publishing layouts in the exact sciences. It is built on top of the \TeX typesetting engine, providing the best typography available anywhere.

See *The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX* for an overview on how to use \LaTeX .

Music is entered using

```
\begin[options,go,here]{lilypond}
  YOUR LILYPOND CODE
\end{lilypond}
```

or

```
\lilypondfile[options,go,here]{filename}
```

or

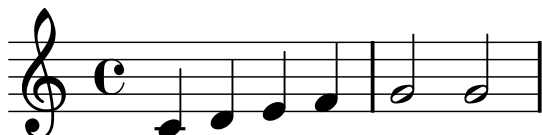
```
\lilypond{ YOUR LILYPOND CODE }
```

Running lilypond-book yields a file that can be further processed with \LaTeX .

We show some examples here. The lilypond environment

```
\begin[quote,fragment,staffsize=26]{lilypond}
  c' d' e' f' g'2 g'2
\end{lilypond}
```

produces



The short version

```
\lilypond[quote,fragment,staffsize=11]{<c' e' g'>}
```

produces



Currently, you cannot include { or } within \lilypond , so this command is only useful with the `fragment` option.

The default line width of the music will be adjusted by examining the commands in the document preamble, the part of the document before $\text{\begin{document}}$. The lilypond-book command sends these to \LaTeX to find out how wide the text is. The line width for the music fragments is then adjusted to the text width. Note that this heuristic algorithm can fail easily; in such cases it is necessary to use the `line-width` music fragment option.

Each snippet will call the following macros if they have been defined by the user:

$\text{\preLilyPondExample}$ called before the music

$\text{\postLilyPondExample}$ called after the music

$\text{\betweenLilyPondSystem[1]}$ is called between systems if lilypond-book has split the snippet into several postscript files. It must be defined as taking one parameter and will be passed the number of files already included in this snippet. The default is to simply insert a \linebreak .

For printing the L^AT_EX document you need a DVI to PostScript translator like `dvips`. To use `dvips` to produce a PostScript file, add the following options to the `dvips` command line:

```
-o -Ppdf -h file.psfonds
```

where the `filepsfonds` file is obtained from `lilypond-book`, See [Section 4.4 \[Invoking lilypond-book\]](#), page 25, for details. PDF can then be produced with a PostScript to PDF translator like `ps2pdf` (which is part of GhostScript). Running `dvips` will produce some warnings about fonts; these are harmless and may be ignored.

If you are running latex in twocolumn mode, remember to add `-t landscape` to the `dvips` options.

Sometimes it is useful to display music elements (such as ties and slurs) as if they continued after the end of the fragment. This can be done by breaking the staff and suppressing inclusion of the rest of the lilypond output.

In L^AT_EX, define `\betweenLilyPondSystem` in such a way that inclusion of other systems is terminated once the required number of systems are included. Since `\betweenLilyPondSystem` is first called **after** the first system, including only the first system is trivial.

```
\def\betweenLilyPondSystem#1{\endinput}

\begin[fragment]{lilypond}
  c'1\(\ e'( c'~ \break c' d) e f\ )
\end{lilypond}
```

If a greater number of systems is requested, a TeX conditional must be used before the `\endinput`. In this example, replace ‘2’ by the number of systems you want in the output,

```
\def\betweenLilyPondSystem#1{
  \ifnum##1<2\else\endinput\fi
}
```

Remember that the definition of `\betweenLilyPondSystem` is effective until T_EX quits the current group (such as the L^AT_EX environment) or is overridden by another definition (which is, in most cases, for the rest of the document). To reset your definition, write

```
\let\betweenLilyPondSystem\undefined
```

in your LaTeX source.

This may be simplified by defining a T_EX macro

```
\def\onlyFirstNSystems#1{
  \def\betweenLilyPondSystem##1{\ifnum##1<#1\else\endinput\fi}
}
```

and then saying only how many systems you want before each fragment,

```
\onlyFirstNSystems{3}
\begin{lilypond}...\end{lilypond}
\onlyFirstNSystems{1}
\begin{lilypond}...\end{lilypond}
```

4.2.2 Texinfo

Texinfo is the standard format for documentation of the GNU project. An example of a Texinfo document is this manual. The HTML, PDF, and Info versions of the manual are made from the Texinfo document.

In the input file, music is specified with

```
@lilypond[options,go,here]
  YOUR LILYPOND CODE
@end lilypond
```

or

```
@lilypond[options,go,here]{ YOUR LILYPOND CODE }
```

or

```
@lilypondfile[options,go,here]{filename}
```

When `lilypond-book` is run on it, this results in a Texinfo file (with extension `‘.texi’`) containing `@image` tags for HTML and info output. For the printed edition, the raw \TeX output of LilyPond is included in the main document.

We show two simple examples here. A `lilypond` environment

```
@lilypond[fragment]
c' d' e' f' g'2 g'
@end lilypond
```

produces



The short version

```
@lilypond[fragment,staffsize=11]{<c' e' g'>}
```

produces



Contrary to \LaTeX , `@lilypond{...}` does not generate an in-line image. It always gets a paragraph of its own.

When using the Texinfo output format, `lilypond-book` also generates bitmaps of the music (in PNG format), so you can make an HTML document with embedded music.

4.2.3 HTML

Music is entered using

```
<lilypond fragment relative=2>
\key c \minor c4 es g2
</lilypond>
```

`lilypond-book` then produces an HTML file with appropriate image tags for the music fragments:



For inline pictures, use `<lilypond ... />`, where the options are separated by a colon from the music, for example

```
Some music in <lilypond relative=2: a b c/> a line of text.
```

To include separate files, say

```
<lilypondfile option1 option2 ...>filename</lilypondfile>
```

4.2.4 DocBook

For inserting LilyPond snippets it is good to keep the conformity of our DocBook document, thus allowing us to use DocBook editors, validation etc. So we don't use custom tags, only specify a convention based on the standard DocBook elements.

Common conventions

For inserting all type of snippets we use the `mediaobject` and `inlinemediaobject` element, so our snippets can be formatted inline or not inline. The snippet formatting options are always provided in the `role` property of the innermost element (see in next sections). Tags are chosen to allow DocBook editors format the content gracefully. The DocBook files to be processed with `lilypond-book` should have the extension `'.lyxml'`.

Including a LilyPond file

This is the most simple case. We must use the `'.ly'` extension for the included file, and insert it as a standard `imageobject`, with the following structure:

```
<mediaobject>
  <imageobject>
    <imagedata fileref="music1.ly" role="printfilename" />
  </imageobject>
</mediaobject>
```

Note that you can use `mediaobject` or `inlinemediaobject` as the outermost element as you wish.

Including LilyPond code

Including LilyPond code is possible by using a `programlisting`, where the language is set to `lilypond` with the following structure:

```
<inlinemediaobject>
  <textobject>
    <programlisting language="lilypond" role="fragment verbatim staffsize=16 ragged-right">
\context Staff \with {
  \remove Time_signature_engraver
  \remove Clef_engraver}
{ c4( fis) }
    </programlisting>
  </textobject>
</inlinemediaobject>
```

As you can see, the outermost element is a `mediaobject` or `inlinemediaobject`, and there is a `textobject` containing the `programlisting` inside.

Processing the DocBook document

Running `lilypond-book` on our `'.lyxml'` file will create a valid DocBook document to be further processed with `'.xml'` extension. If you use `dblatex`, it will create a PDF file from this document automatically. For HTML (HTML Help, JavaHelp etc.) generation you can use the official DocBook XSL stylesheets, however, it is possible that you have to make some customization for it.

4.3 Music fragment options

In the following, a 'LilyPond command' refers to any command described in the previous sections which is handled by `lilypond-book` to produce a music snippet. For simplicity, LilyPond commands are only shown in L^AT_EX syntax.

Note that the option string is parsed from left to right; if an option occurs multiple times, the last one is taken.

The following options are available for LilyPond commands:

staffsize=ht

Set staff size to *ht*, which is measured in points.

ragged-right

Produce ragged-right lines with natural spacing (i.e., **ragged-right = ##t** is added to the LilyPond snippet). This is the default for the `\lilypond{}` command if no **line-width** option is present. It is also the default for the `lilypond` environment if the **fragment** option is set, and no line width is explicitly specified.

packed

Produce lines with packed spacing (i.e., **packed = ##t** is added to the LilyPond snippet).

line-width

line-width=size\unit

Set line width to *size*, using *unit* as units. *unit* is one of the following strings: `cm`, `mm`, `in`, or `pt`. This option affects LilyPond output (this is, the staff length of the music snippet), not the text layout.

If used without an argument, set line width to a default value (as computed with a heuristic algorithm).

If no **line-width** option is given, `lilypond-book` tries to guess a default for `lilypond` environments which don't use the **ragged-right** option.

notime

Do not print the time signature, and turns off the timing (key signature, bar lines) in the score.

fragment

Make `lilypond-book` add some boilerplate code so that you can simply enter, say,
`c'4`
 without `\layout`, `\score`, etc.

nofragment

Don't add additional code to complete LilyPond code in music snippets. Since this is the default, **nofragment** is redundant normally.

indent=size\unit

Set indentation of the first music system to *size*, using *unit* as units. *unit* is one of the following strings: `cm`, `mm`, `in`, or `pt`. This option affects LilyPond, not the text layout.

noindent

Set indentation of the first music system to zero. This option affects LilyPond, not the text layout. Since no indentation is the default, **noindent** is redundant normally.

quote

Reduce line length of a music snippet by 2×0.4 in and put the output into a quotation block. The value '0.4 in' can be controlled with the **exampleindent** option.

exampleindent

Set the amount by which the **quote** option indents a music snippet.

relative

relative=n

Use relative octave mode. By default, notes are specified relative to middle C. The optional integer argument specifies the octave of the starting note, where the default 1 is middle C.

LilyPond also uses `lilypond-book` to produce its own documentation. To do that, some more obscure music fragment options are available.

verbatim The argument of a LilyPond command is copied to the output file and enclosed in a verbatim block, followed by any text given with the `intertext` option (not implemented yet); then the actual music is displayed. This option does not work well with `\lilypond{}` if it is part of a paragraph.

texidoc (Only for Texinfo output.) If `lilypond` is called with the `--header=texidoc` option, and the file to be processed is called `'foo.ly'`, it creates a file `'foo.texidoc'` if there is a `texidoc` field in the `\header`. The `texidoc` option makes `lilypond-book` include such files, adding its contents as a documentation block right before the music snippet.

Assuming the file `'foo.ly'` contains

```
\header {
  texidoc = "This file demonstrates a single note."
}
{ c'4 }
```

and we have this in our Texinfo document `'test.texinfo'`

```
@lilypondfile[texidoc]{foo.ly}
```

the following command line gives the expected result

```
lilypond-book --process="lilypond --format=tex --tex \
  --header=texidoc test.texinfo
```

Most LilyPond test documents (in the `'input'` directory of the distribution) are small `'ly'` files which look exactly like this.

printfilename

If a LilyPond input file is included with `\lilypondfile`, print the file name right before the music snippet. For HTML output, this is a link.

fontload This option includes fonts in all of the generated EPS-files for this snippet. This should be used if the snippet uses any font that LaTeX cannot find on its own.

4.4 Invoking lilypond-book

`lilypond-book` produces a file with one of the following extensions: `'tex'`, `'texi'`, `'html'` or `'xml'`, depending on the output format. All of `'tex'`, `'texi'` and `'xml'` files need further processing.

`lilypond-book` can also create a PSFONTS file, which is required by `dvips` to produce Postscript and PDF files.

To produce PDF output from the `lilypond-book` file (here called `yourfile.lytex`) via LaTeX, you should do

```
lilypond-book --psfonts yourfile.lytex
latex yourfile.tex
dvips -o -h yourfile.psfonds -Ppdf yourfile.dvi
ps2pdf yourfile.ps
```

The `'dvi'` file created by this process will not contain noteheads. This is normal; if you follow the instructions, they will be included in the `'ps'` and `'pdf'` files.

To produce a PDF file through PDF(La)TeX, use

```
lilypond-book --pdf yourfile.pdfTeX
pdflatex yourfile.tex
```

To produce a Texinfo document (in any output format), follow the normal procedures for Texinfo (this is, either call `texi2dvi` or `makeinfo`, depending on the output format you want to create). See the documentation of Texinfo for further details.

`lilypond-book` accepts the following command line options:

-f *format*
--format=*format*
 Specify the document type to process: **html**, **latex**, **texi** (the default) or **docbook**. If this option is missing, **lilypond-book** tries to detect the format automatically. The **texi** document type produces a Texinfo file with music fragments in the DVI output only. For getting images in the HTML version, the format **texi-html** must be used instead.
 [Note: Currently, **texi** is the same as **texi-html**.]

-F *filter*
--filter=*filter*
 Pipe snippets through *filter*. **lilypond-book** will not **-filter** and **-process** at the same time.
 Example:
 lilypond-book --filter='convert-ly --from=2.0.0 -' my-book.tely

-h
--help Print a short help message.

-I *dir*
--include=*dir*
 Add *dir* to the include path.

-o *dir*
--output=*dir*
 Place generated files in directory *dir*. Running **lilypond-book** generates lots of small files that LilyPond will process. To avoid all that garbage in the source directory use the '**--output**' command line option, and change to that directory before running **latex** or **makeinfo**:
 lilypond-book --output=out yourfile.lytex
 cd out
 ...

--left-padding=*amount*
 Pad EPS boxes by this much. *amount* is measured in milimeters, and is 3.0 by default. This option should be used if the lines of music stick out of the right margin.
 The width of a tightly clipped systems can vary, due to notation elements that stick into the left margin, such as bar numbers and instrument names. This option will shorten each line and move each line to the right by the same amount.

-P *process*
--process=*command*
 Process LilyPond snippets using *command*. The default command is **lilypond**. **lilypond-book** will not **-filter** and **-process** at the same time.

--psfonts
 extract all PostScript fonts into '*file.psfonts*' for dvips. This is necessary for dvips **-h file.psfonts**.

-V
--verbose
 Be verbose.

-v
--version
 Print version information.

Bugs

The Texinfo command `@pagesizes` is not interpreted. Similarly, \LaTeX commands that change margins and line widths after the preamble are ignored.

Only the first `\score` of a LilyPond block is processed.

4.5 Filename extensions

You can use any filename extension for the input file, but if you do not use the recommended extension for a particular format you may need to manually specify the output format. See [Section 4.4 \[Invoking lilypond-book\], page 25](#), for details. Otherwise, `lilypond-book` automatically selects the output format based on the input filename's extension.

extension	output format
<code>' .html '</code>	HTML
<code>' .itely '</code>	Texinfo
<code>' .latex '</code>	\LaTeX
<code>' .lytex '</code>	\LaTeX
<code>' .lyxml '</code>	DocBook
<code>' .tely '</code>	Texinfo
<code>' .tex '</code>	\LaTeX
<code>' .texi '</code>	Texinfo
<code>' .texinfo '</code>	Texinfo
<code>' .xml '</code>	HTML

4.6 Alternative methods of mixing text and music

4.6.1 Many quotes from a large score

If you need to quote many fragments from a large score, you can also use the clip systems feature, see user manual, [Extracting fragments of notation](#).

4.6.2 Inserting LilyPond output into OpenOffice.org

LilyPond notation can be added to OpenOffice.org with [OOoLilyPond](#)

4.6.3 Inserting LilyPond output into other programs

To insert LilyPond output in other programs, use `lilypond` instead of `lilypond-book`. Each example must be created individually and added to the document; consult the documentation for that program. Most programs will be able to insert lilypond output in 'PNG', 'EPS', or 'PDF' formats.

To reduce the white space around your lilypond score, use the following options

```
\paper{
  indent=0\mm
  line-width=120\mm
  oddFooterMarkup=##f
  oddHeaderMarkup=##f
  bookTitleMarkup = ##f
  scoreTitleMarkup = ##f
}

{ c1 }
```

To produce a useful 'eps' file, use

```
lilypond -dbackend=eps -dno-gs-load-fonts -dininclude-eps-fonts myfile.ly
```

5 Converting from other formats

Music can be entered also by importing it from other formats. This chapter documents the tools included in the distribution to do so. There are other tools that produce LilyPond input, for example GUI sequencers and XML converters. Refer to the [website](#) for more details.

These are separate programs from lilypond itself, and are run on the command-line; see [Section 3.2 \[Command-line usage\]](#), [page 9](#) for more information.

Bugs

We unfortunately do not have the resources to maintain these programs; please consider them “as-is”. Patches are appreciated, but bug reports will almost certainly not be resolved.

5.1 Invoking midi2ly

`midi2ly` translates a Type 1 MIDI file to a LilyPond source file.

MIDI (Music Instrument Digital Interface) is a standard for digital instruments: it specifies cabling, a serial protocol and a file format. The MIDI file format is a de facto standard format for exporting music from other programs, so this capability may come in useful when importing files from a program that has a convertor for a direct format.

`midi2ly` converts tracks into **Staff** and channels into **Voice** contexts. Relative mode is used for pitches, durations are only written when necessary.

It is possible to record a MIDI file using a digital keyboard, and then convert it to ‘.ly’. However, human players are not rhythmically exact enough to make a MIDI to LY conversion trivial. When invoked with quantizing (`-s` and `-d` options) `midi2ly` tries to compensate for these timing errors, but is not very good at this. It is therefore not recommended to use `midi2ly` for human-generated midi files.

It is invoked from the command-line as follows,

```
midi2ly [option]... midi-file
```

Note that by ‘command-line’, we mean the command line of the operating system. See [Chapter 5 \[Converting from other formats\]](#), [page 29](#), for more information about this.

The following options are supported by `midi2ly`.

- `-a, --absolute-pitches`
Print absolute pitches.
- `-d, --duration-quant=DUR`
Quantize note durations on *DUR*.
- `-e, --explicit-durations`
Print explicit durations.
- `-h, --help`
Show summary of usage.
- `-k, --key=acc[:minor]`
Set default key. *acc* > 0 sets number of sharps; *acc* < 0 sets number of flats. A minor key is indicated by ‘:1’.
- `-o, --output=file`
Write output to *file*.
- `-s, --start-quant=DUR`
Quantize note starts on *DUR*.

```
-t, --allow-tuplet=DUR*NUM/DEN
    Allow tuplet durations DUR*NUM/DEN.

-V, --verbose
    Be verbose.

-v, --version
    Print version number.

-w, --warranty
    Show warranty and copyright.

-x, --text-lyrics
    Treat every text as a lyric.
```

Bugs

Overlapping notes in an arpeggio will not be correctly rendered. The first note will be read and the others will be ignored. Set them all to a single duration and add phrase markings or pedal indicators.

5.2 Invoking musicxml2ly

MusicXML is an XML dialect for representing music notation.

`musicxml2ly` extracts the notes from part-wise MusicXML files, and writes it to a `.ly` file. It is invoked from the command-line.

Note that by ‘command-line’, we mean the command line of the operating system. See [Chapter 5 \[Converting from other formats\], page 29](#), for more information about this.

The following options are supported by `musicxml2ly`:

```
-h, --help
    print usage and option summary.

-o, --output=file
    set output filename to file. (default: print to stdout)

-v, --version
    print version information.
```

5.3 Invoking abc2ly

ABC is a fairly simple ASCII based format. It is described at the ABC site:

<http://www.walshaw.plus.com/abc/abc2mtex/abc.txt>.

`abc2ly` translates from ABC to LilyPond. It is invoked as follows:

```
abc2ly [option]... abc-file
```

The following options are supported by `abc2ly`:

```
-h, --help
    this help

-o, --output=file
    set output filename to file.

-v, --version
    print version information.
```

There is a rudimentary facility for adding LilyPond code to the ABC source file. If you say:

```
%%LY voices \set autoBeaming = ##f
```

This will cause the text following the keyword ‘voices’ to be inserted into the current voice of the LilyPond output file.

Similarly,

```
%%LY slyrics more words
```

will cause the text following the ‘slyrics’ keyword to be inserted into the current line of lyrics.

Bugs

The ABC standard is not very ‘standard’. For extended features (e.g., polyphonic music) different conventions exist.

Multiple tunes in one file cannot be converted.

ABC synchronizes words and notes at the beginning of a line; `abc2ly` does not.

`abc2ly` ignores the ABC beaming.

5.4 Invoking `etf2ly`

ETF (Enigma Transport Format) is a format used by Coda Music Technology’s Finale product. `etf2ly` will convert part of an ETF file to a ready-to-use LilyPond file.

It is invoked from the command-line as follows.

```
etf2ly [option]... etf-file
```

Note that by ‘command-line’, we mean the command line of the operating system. See [Chapter 5 \[Converting from other formats\]](#), page 29, for more information about this.

The following options are supported by `etf2ly`:

```
-h,--help           this help
-o,--output=FILE    set output filename to FILE
-v,--version        version information
```

Bugs

The list of articulation scripts is incomplete. Empty measures confuse `etf2ly`. Sequences of grace notes are ended improperly.

5.5 Generating LilyPond files

LilyPond itself does not come with support for any other formats, but there are some external tools that also generate LilyPond files.

These tools include

- [Denemo](#), a graphical score editor.
- [Rumor](#), a realtime monophonic MIDI to LilyPond converter.
- [lyqi](#), an Emacs major mode.
- [xml2ly](#), which imports [MusicXML](#)
- [NoteEdit](#) which imports [MusicXML](#)
- [Rosegarden](#), which imports MIDI
- [FOMUS](#), a LISP library to generate music notation

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Appendix B LilyPond index

\		
<code>\header</code> in L ^A T _E X documents	20	
A		
ABC	30	
B		
bugs	16	
C		
call trace	13	
Coda Technology	31	
coloring, syntax	6	
command line options	9	
convert-ly	14	
D		
docbook	17	
DocBook, music in	17	
documents, adding music to	17	
dvips	20	
E		
editors	6	
emacs	6	
enigma	31	
error	13	
error messages	13	
errors, message format	13	
ETF	31	
External programs, generating LilyPond files	31	
Extracting fragments of notation	27	
F		
fatal error	13	
FDL, GNU Free Documentation License	32	
file searching	11	
file size, output	8	
Finale	31	
First steps	9	
H		
html	17	
HTML, music in	17	
I		
international characters	21	
invoking dvips	20	
Invoking LilyPond	9	
L		
LANG	13	
latex	17	
L ^A T _E X, music in	17	
latin1	21	
LILYPOND_DATADIR	13	
M		
MIDI	29	
Minimal examples	16	
modes, editor	6	
musicology	17	
O		
OpenOffice.org	27	
options, command line	9	
outline fonts	20	
output format, setting	11	
P		
point and click	7	
point and click, command line	10	
PostScript output	11	
preview image	22	
Programming error	13	
R		
reporting bugs	16	
S		
Scheme dump	11	
Scheme error	13	
search path	11	
Staff	29	
SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics)	11	
switches	9	
syntax coloring	6	
T		
texi	17	
texinfo	17	
Texinfo, music in	17	
thumbnail	22	
titling and lilypond-book	20	
titling in HTML	22	
trace, Scheme	13	
type1 fonts	20	
U		
Updating a LilyPond file	14	
V		
vim	6	
Voice	29	
W		
warning	13	