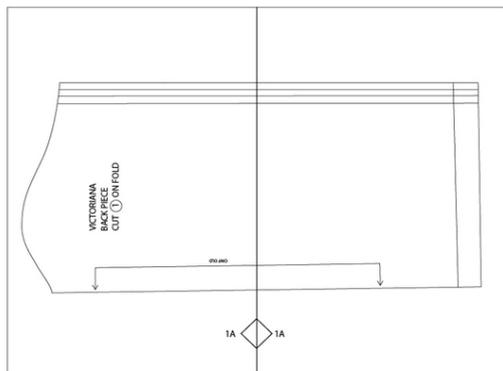


# Converting your patterns into a digital PDF

By: BurdaStyle

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/converting-your-patterns-into-a-digital-pdf>

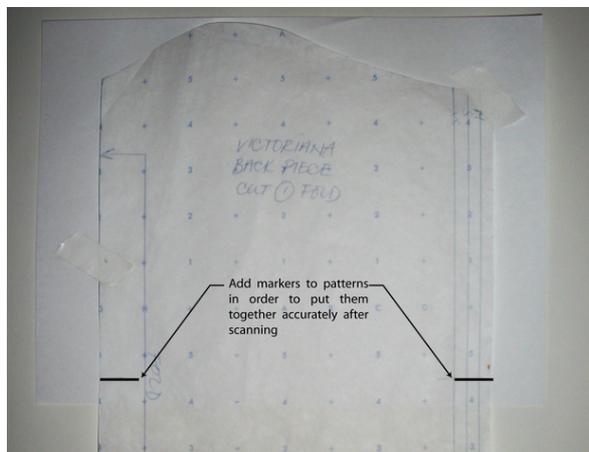
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Here is a great way for you to be able to share your patterns online as PDF's just the way we do it at BurdaStyle. Follow these steps and soon you will have professional looking patterns to share with everyone!

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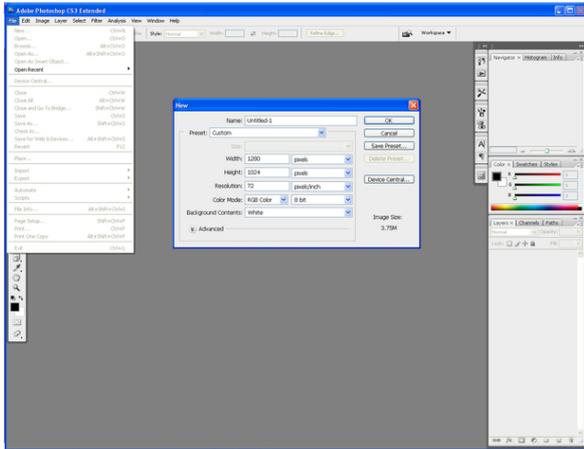
## Step 1 — Scanning your pattern pieces



The first step for digitizing your pattern is to scan it. The size of the scan will most likely be letter sized, so you need to make some markers or a grid on your pattern before you scan it. This way you will be able to put it back together easily and precisely.

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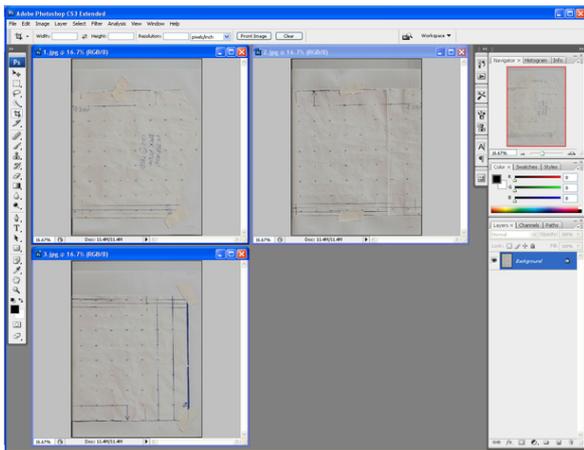
## Step 2 — Create base file



Once you have scanned your pattern, you need to put it together either on Illustrator or Photoshop. If your pattern has several pieces you need to create a file for each one. Even though you can use either program, Photoshop will give you more freedom when manipulating the image. Open the program you will be using and create a new document. Go to File> New and in the dialog box make type in the dimensions of your document. It should be a bit larger than the size of your pattern piece. This will be your piece base file, which should be named after your pattern and the piece number (ex: Pattern Name \_01.psd) so that if you have 3 pieces in your pattern you would create a file for each (ex: Pattern Name \_01.psd, Pattern Name \_02.psd, Pattern Name \_03.psd)

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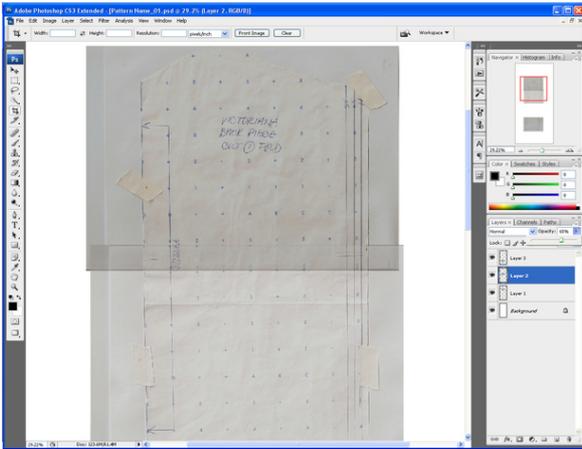
### Step 3 — Copy pattern pieces into your base file



Follow step 3 to 5 for each pattern piece. Go to File>Open and open the files that contain your scanned pattern piece images. (TIP: Another faster way to do this is to drag and drop them from the folder they are located into the program's window). For each of the files you will now need to select all (Select>Select All), then copy (Edit>Copy) and then go to your base file and paste it there (Edit>Paste).

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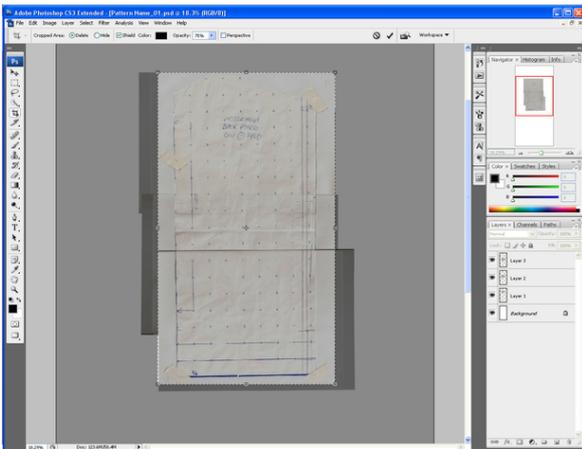
### Step 4 — Put together pattern pieces



When you have all your images in your base file, you need to put the pattern piece back together. This is where the markers you added to the pattern before you scanned it will come in handy. Each time you paste in a piece of your scan, a new layer will be created. You can then modify each layer's opacity to make sure the pieces are aligning correctly. If you don't have the Layers window on your screen go to Window>Layers. Then select the layer you want to modify and on the top of the menu you can slide the opacity control as you need. If you are working on Illustrator, you will need to open the Opacity control as well. Go to Window>Transparency. There are several tools that will make this step easier like: \*Deleting certain pieces of your images to match perfectly with the others. Use the select tools like Rectangular Marquee, or the Lasso Tool to select the area you want to delete and then click hit delete or go to Edit>Clear. \*Rotating the pages to match properly. Select the image and point to the corner where you will see an arc with arrows. If you click and move the mouse, the image will rotate. You can also go to Edit>Transform>Rotate.

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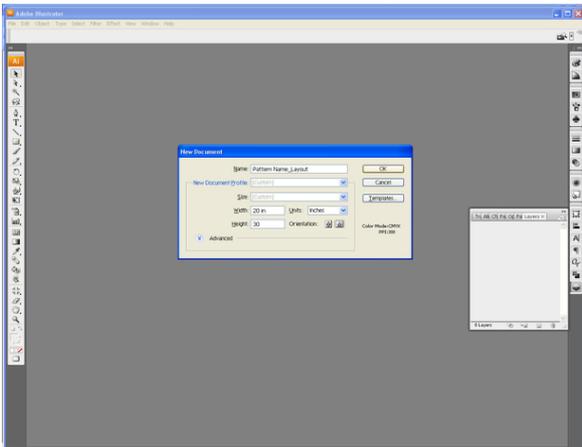
## Step 5 — Create merged image for each pattern piece



You now need to create an image without layers that contains each your pattern pieces. First save your file. Go to File>Save. In Photoshop crop the image to leave out all the extra space on your canvas. Click on 'C' and you will see the crop symbol on your mouse pointer. Click on two corners to select the cropping area and hit enter. Go to Layer>Merge Visible to flatten your layers into one. Then go to File>Save as to save a copy of your cropped and flattened image to a different file (ex: Pattern Name \_01\_flat.psd). You might want to go back and edit the file with all the separate images later which is why it is good to save as another file.

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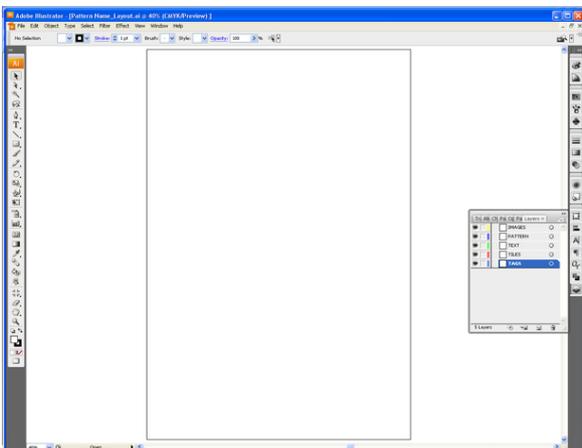
## Step 6 — Preparing your work file



Open Illustrator. Create a new file that will be big enough to fit all your pattern pieces. This will be your layout file, which should be named after your pattern (â'Pattern Name \_Layoutâ').

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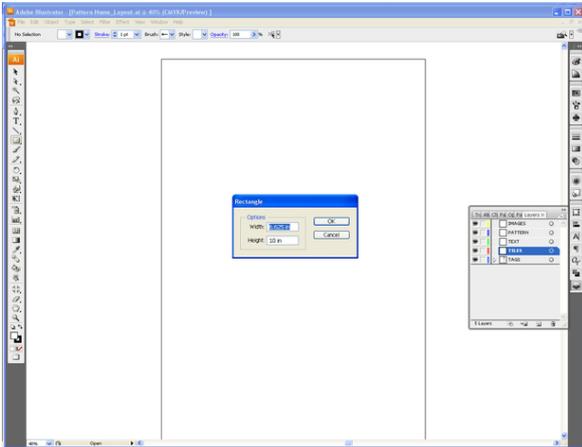
## Step 7 — Create layers



Create the following layers: a. Images b. Pattern c. Text d. Tiles e. Tags If you canâ't see the layers window press F7. On the lower part of the window you will see an icon for Deleting and Creating layers.

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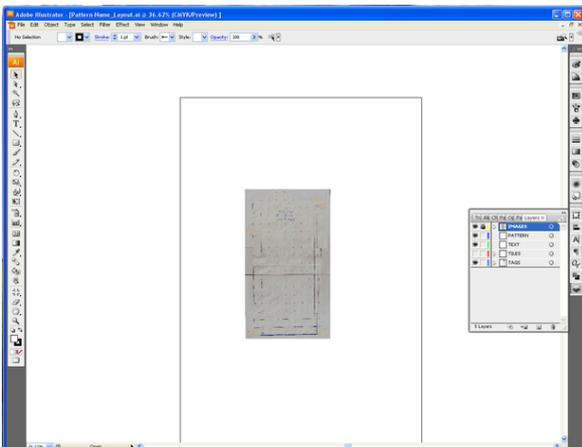
## Step 8 — Create base tiles



Click on your Tiles layer and create a 6-5/8' x 10' (6.625' x 10') box. Use the Rectangle Tool from the Tools Menu or type M and click anywhere on the document to get the options window where you can type the dimensions for your rectangle. This will be the sample tile. Select the tile and make sure the stroke (pen width) is at 1. Go to Window>Stroke to get the menu. Make sure the tile does not have a fill color. Turn off your Tiles layer.

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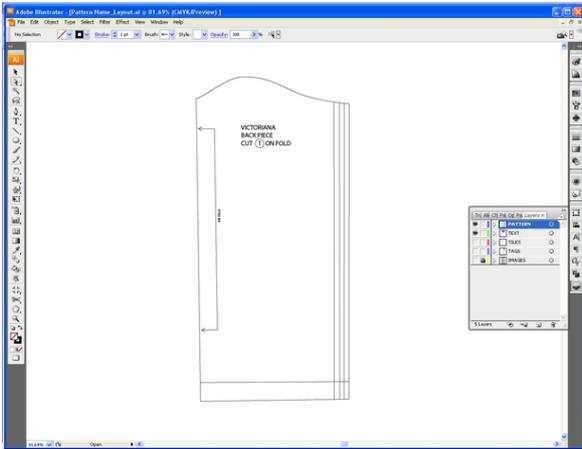
### Step 9 — Layout pieces



Copy all the pieces of your pattern into this file and lay out rotating and moving the pieces to fit in the least space possible but still leaving enough space between pieces to cut them out when printed. Select your pattern images and move it to the Images Layer if they aren't already. Lock the Images layer.

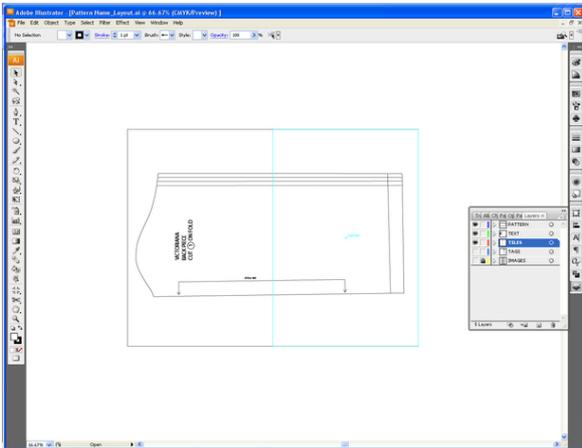
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### Step 10 — Digitize pattern



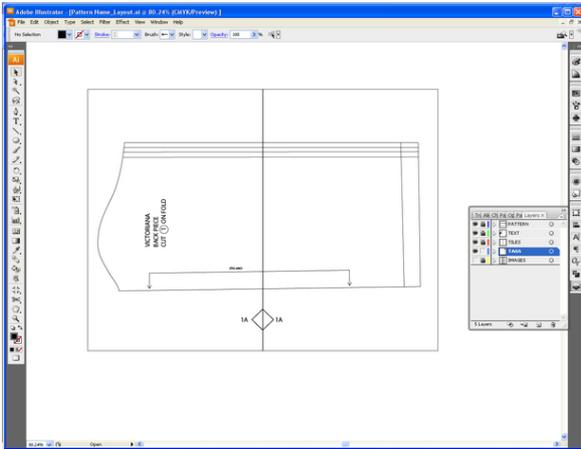
Go to your Pattern Layer and start tracing over the pattern image using the Pen Tool from the Tools Menu or type P. If you need to draw curved lines, drag the mouse maintaining the right click after you draw a point to create a Bezier handle which you can adjust later. Add any text you need to your Text Layer. Make sure your Pattern Layer is on the bottom of all the other layers in the Layer Manger so you can see the lines you are tracing.

### Step 11 — Create tile grid



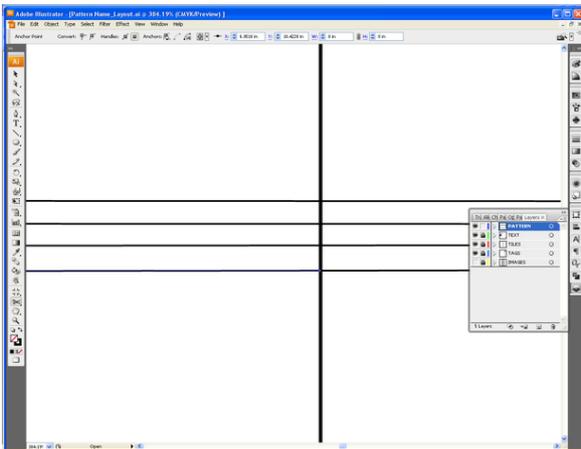
Turn on the Tiles layer if you had turned it off, and make a grid on the pattern duplicating the 6-5/8â' x 10â' box you created as many times as possible to cover the entire drawing. Rotate the pieces again as necessary, move around the pieces to avoid having any cut lines directly under the grid or any other necessary adjustments.

### Step 12 — Add tags



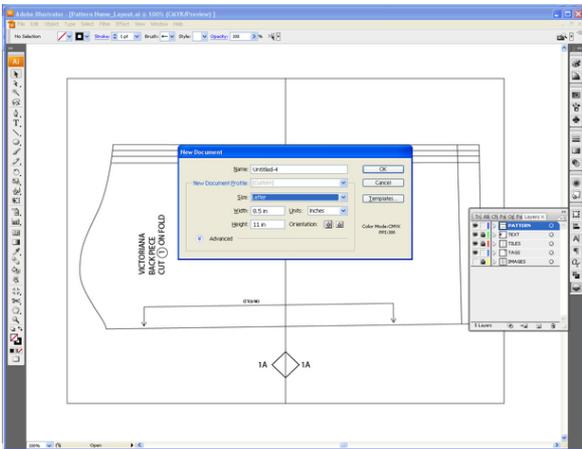
Lock all the layers except the Tags Layer. Add tags starting from the bottom row numbering alphanumerically the pages. Change the letters as you go up on each row and always start on the left side with #1. (Ex: 1A,1B..etc, 2A,2B,2C..etc.). Lock the Tags Layer.

### Step 13 — Separate pattern lines for each tile



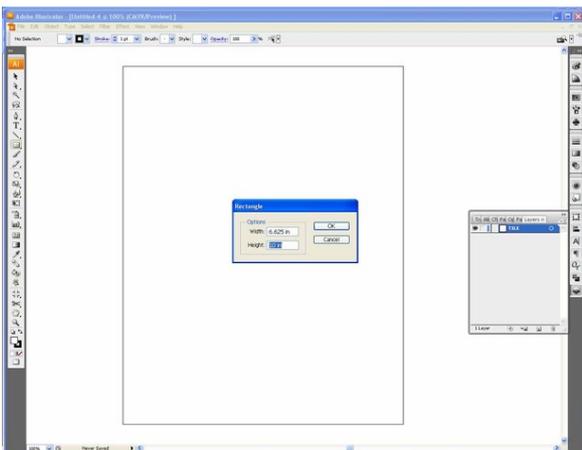
Unlock the Patterns Layer and using the Scissors Tool from the Tool Menu or type C cut each pattern line where they intersect the tile grid.

### Step 14 — Create file for PDF printing



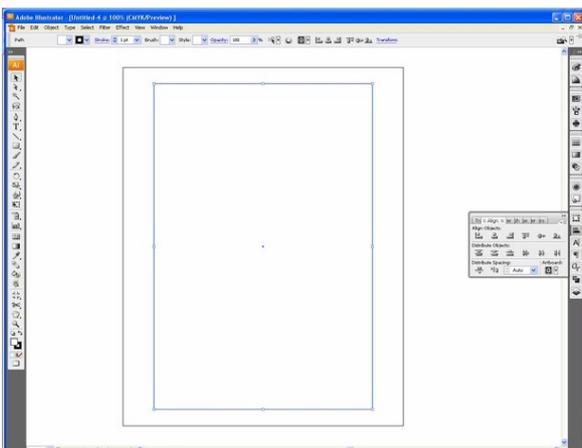
Create a new letter-sized illustrator file.

### Step 15 — Create base tile



Make a layer called Tile and create a 6-5/8" x 10" (6.625" x 10") box. Use the Rectangle Tool from the Tools Menu or type M and click anywhere on the document to get the options window where you can type the dimensions for your rectangle.

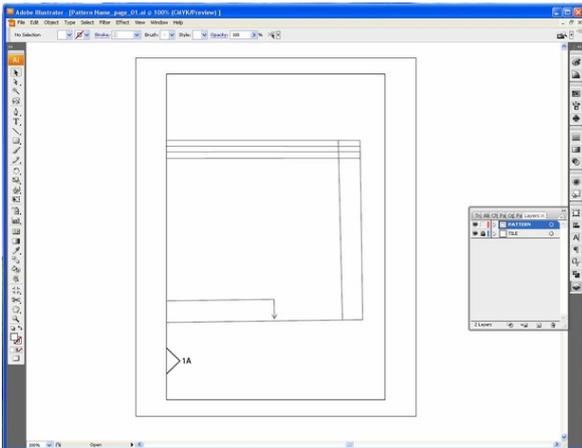
### Step 16 — Center the tile



Center it in the page. Open the Align Menu, go to Window>Align. While having your tile selected, on the bottom right corner of the Align Menu, click on the Artboard icon and then on the Horizontal Align Center and the Vertical Distribute Center icons. Lock the Tile Layer. Make a new layer called Pattern and make sure that is the current layer (click on it). Save the file as 'Tile Sample.ai' and leave the file open.

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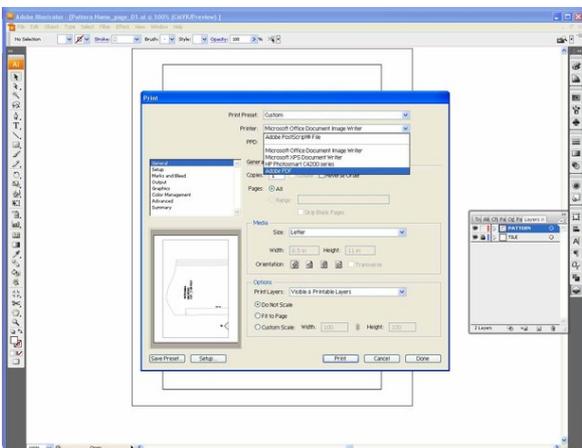
## Step 17 — Create tile files



Copy the first tile from the 'Pattern Name \_Layout' into the 'Tile Sample.ai' file having all the layers on. Start from the bottom right corner following your tag numbers. The pattern drawing, tile and tags should all be copied. Paste it and center it on your page created on step 16. Go to File>Save as and save as Pattern Name\_page\_01.ai and close the file. Open the 'Tile Sample' file and repeat this process for each page always saving at the end with the correct page number name.

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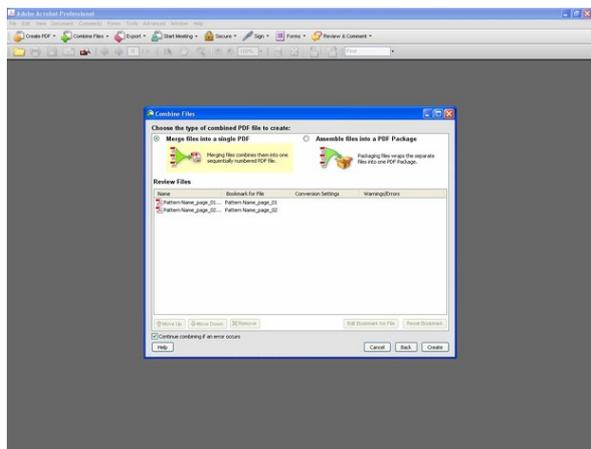
## Step 18 — Create PDF pages



Print each page as a PDF. Go to File>Print and select the Adobe PDF printer and the page size as letter. In the Options select 'Do not Scale' and click on Print. You will have an option to save your page in the location you prefer.

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## Step 19 — Combine PDF pages into one file



Combine all the PDF pages in Acrobat Professional making sure the order is correct. In Acrobat Professional go to File>Combine Files. Select the files you want to add and save as Pattern Name.pdf Note. You need to have Adobe PDF Professional in order to have the PDF printer. There are also other PDF printers you can download for free online.

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