



# Tech Info Library

## LW IIf, IIg, Pro: Switch to HP Emul via Parallel Port (4/93)

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TOPIC -----

I've directly connected a LaserWriter Pro to the parallel port of an MS-DOS compatible computer. How can I temporarily switch from PostScript mode to HP emulation mode so I can print jobs encoded in HP's Printer Control Language (PCL)?

DISCUSSION -----

If you've connected a LaserWriter IIf, IIg, or Pro to the parallel port of an MS-DOS compatible, the following information will allow you to switch your LaserWriter Pro from PostScript to HP LaserJet IIP emulation mode for the duration of the current job. The steps below must precede each print job that uses HP emulation.

Follow these steps:

- 1) Set the LaserWriter Pro communications thumbwheel switch to position 9; this will configure the parallel port for PostScript using Binary Serial Protocol (BSP). Note that the switch settings are listed on page 125 and 126 of the LaserWriter Pro User's Guide.
- 2) Embed the following line, which is case sensitive, into your PostScript code. This line will set the printer into HP emulation mode:

```
currentfile /LaserJetIIP statusdict /emulate get exec
```

- 3) You must put a CTRL-D character (End of File or EOF) at the end of the PostScript file. Here is a simple BASIC program which will create a file "CTRL-D.TXT" that contains the CTRL-D character.

```
10 OPEN "CTRL-D.TXT" FOR OUTPUT AS #1
20 PRINT #1, CHR$(04)
30 CLOSE #1
```

- 4) Use the MS-DOS COPY command to attach the CTRL-D to the PostScript file. If your PostScript code resides in a file named "PSFILE.TXT", the following command will attach the CTRL-D character and create a new file

named "NEWFILE.TXT". For example:

```
COPY PSFILE.TXT+CTRL-D.TXT NEWFILE.TXT
```

- 5) Send the PostScript file to the parallel port (LPT1:) of the LaserWriter with this command:

```
COPY NEWFILE.TXT LPT1:
```

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