

# LilyPond

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The music typesetter

## Contributor's Guide

### The LilyPond development team

This manual documents contributing to LilyPond version 2.16.1. It discusses technical issues and policies that contributors should follow.

This manual is not intended to be read sequentially; new contributors should only read the sections which are relevant to them. For more information about different jobs, see [Section “Help us”](#) in *General Information*.

For more information about how this manual fits with the other documentation, or to read this manual in other formats, see [Section “Manuals”](#) in *General Information*.

If you are missing any manuals, the complete documentation can be found at <http://www.lilypond.org/>.

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For LilyPond version 2.16.1

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# 1 Introduction to contributing

This chapter presents a quick overview of ways that people can help LilyPond.

## 1.1 Help us

### We need you!

Thank you for your interest in helping us — we would love to see you get involved! Your contribution will help a large group of users make beautifully typeset music.

Even working on small tasks can have a big impact: taking care of them allows experienced developers work on advanced tasks, instead of spending time on those simple tasks.

For a multi-faceted project like LilyPond, sometimes it's tough to know where to begin. In addition to the avenues proposed below, you can send an e-mail to the [Frog meister](#) letting him know your skill set and asking how you can help or proposing a project. He'll be able to give you guidance on how to get started.

### Simple tasks

**No programming skills** required!

- Mailing list support: answer questions from fellow users.
- Bug reporting: help users create proper [Section “Bug reports”](#) in *General Information*, and/or join the Bug Squad to organize [Section “Issues”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*.
- [Section “Grand Regression Test Checking”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*: verify that LilyPond works correctly by examining output of test snippets. Checking one snippet takes less than a minute!
- Documentation: small changes can be proposed by following the guidelines for [Section “Documentation suggestions”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*.
- LilyPond Snippet Repository (LSR): create and fix snippets following the guidelines in [Section “Adding and editing snippets”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*.
- Discussions, reviews, and testing: the developers often ask for feedback about new documentation, potential syntax changes, and testing new features. Please contribute to these discussions!

### Advanced tasks

These jobs generally require that you have the source code and can compile LilyPond.

**Note:** We suggest that contributors using Windows or MacOS X do **not** attempt to set up their own development environment; instead, use Lilydev as discussed in [Section “Quick start”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*.

Contributors using Linux or FreeBSD may also use Lilydev, but if they prefer their own development environment, they should read [Section “Working with source code”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*, and [Section “Compiling”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*.

Begin by reading [Section “Summary for experienced developers”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*.

- Documentation: for large changes, see [Section “Documentation work”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*.
- Website: the website is built from the normal documentation source. See the info about documentation, and also [Section “Website work”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*.
- Translations: see [Section “Translating the documentation”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*, and [Section “Translating the website”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*.

- Bugfixes or new features: the best way to begin is to join the Frogs, and read [Section “Programming work” in Contributor’s Guide](#).

## 1.2 Overview of work flow

**Advanced note:** Experienced developers should skip to [Section 1.3 \[Summary for experienced developers\]](#), page 2.

Git is a *version control system* that tracks the history of a program’s source code. The LilyPond source code is maintained as a Git repository, which contains:

- all of the source files needed to build LilyPond, and
- a record of the entire history of every change made to every file since the program was born.

The ‘official’ LilyPond Git repository is hosted by the GNU Savannah software forge at <http://git.sv.gnu.org>. Although, since Git uses a *distributed* model, technically there is no central repository. Instead, each contributor keeps a complete copy of the entire repository (about 116MB).

Changes made within one contributor’s copy of the repository can be shared with other contributors using *patches*. A patch is a simple text file generated by the `git` program that indicates what changes have been made (using a special format). If a contributor’s patch is approved for inclusion (usually through the mailing list), someone on the current development team will *push* the patch to the official repository.

The Savannah software forge provides two separate interfaces for viewing the LilyPond Git repository online: *cgit* and *gitweb*. The *cgit* interface should work faster than *gitweb* in most situations, but only *gitweb* allows you to search through the source code using `grep`, which you may find useful. The *cgit* interface is at <http://git.sv.gnu.org/cgit/lilypond.git/> and the *gitweb* interface is at <http://git.sv.gnu.org/gitweb/?p=lilypond.git>.

Git is a complex and powerful tool, but tends to be confusing at first, particularly for users not familiar with the command line and/or version control systems. We have created the *lily-git* graphical user interface to ease this difficulty.

*Compiling* (‘building’) LilyPond allows developers to see how changes to the source code affect the program itself. Compiling is also needed to package the program for specific operating systems or distributions. LilyPond can be compiled from a local Git repository (for developers), or from a downloaded tarball (for packagers). Compiling LilyPond is a rather involved process, and most contributor tasks do not require it.

Contributors can contact the developers through the ‘lilypond-devel’ mailing list. The mailing list archive is located at <http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/>. If you have a question for the developers, search the archives first to see if the issue has already been discussed. Otherwise, send an email to [lilypond-devel@gnu.org](mailto:lilypond-devel@gnu.org). You can subscribe to the developers’ mailing list here: <http://lists.gnu.org/mailman/listinfo/lilypond-devel>.

**Note:** Contributors on Windows or MacOS X wishing to compile code or documentation are strongly advised to use our Ubuntu LilyPond Developer Remix, as discussed in [Chapter 2 \[Quick start\]](#), page 5.

## 1.3 Summary for experienced developers

If you are already familiar with typical open-source tools, here’s what you need to know:

- **source repository:** hosted by GNU savannah.

<http://git.savannah.gnu.org/gitweb/?p=lilypond.git>

- **environment variables:** many maintenance scripts, and many instructions in this guide rely on predefined [Section 14.2 \[Environment variables\]](#), page 161.
- **mailing lists:** given on [Section “Contacts” in General Information](#).
- **branches:**
  - **master:** base your work from this, but do **not push** to it.
  - **staging:** after a successful review (see below), push here.
  - **translation:** translators should base their work from this, and also push to it.
  - **dev/foo:** feel free to push any new branch name under **dev/**.

- **regression tests:** also known as “regtests”; this is a collection of more than a thousand .ly files. We track the output of those files between versions.

If a patch introduces any unintentional changes to the regtests, we will likely reject it – make sure that you are aware and can explain any regtest changes. More info in [Chapter 9 \[Regression tests\]](#), page 96.

- **reviews:** after finishing work on a patch or branch:
  1. upload it with our custom `git-cl`. In addition to uploading it to the google rietveld code review tool, this adds a tracker issue so that we don’t lose your patch. The “status” of your patch is kept on the issue tracker; see [Chapter 8 \[Issues\]](#), page 88.

<https://github.com/gperciva/git-cl>

Your patch will be given **Patch-new** status. More info in [\[Uploading a patch for review\]](#), page 24.

2. If your patch passes some automatic tests, it will be given **Patch-review** status. This generally happens within 24 hours.
3. After that, the patch must wait for the next “patch countdown”, which occur 3 times a week. If there are a lot of patches waiting for a countdown, a subset of patches are chosen randomly. When your patch is put on a countdown, it will be given **Patch-countdown** status.
4. The countdown is a 48-hour period which gives other developers one last chance to review the patch. If no significant problems are found, your patch will be given **Patch-push** status.
5. You may now either push it to the **staging** branch, or email your patch (created with `git format-patch`) to somebody who will push it for you.

**Advanced note:** Yes, this process means that most patches wait between 60-120 hours before reaching **master**. This is unfortunate, but given our limited resources for reviewing patches and a history of unintended breakage in **master**, this is the best compromise we have found.

## 1.4 Mentors

We have a semi-formal system of mentorship, similar to the medieval “journeyman/master” training system. New contributors will have a dedicated mentor to help them “learn the ropes”.

**Note:** This is subject to the availability of mentors; certain jobs have more potential mentors than others.

## Contributor responsibilities

1. Ask your mentor which sections of the CG you should read.

2. If you get stuck for longer than 10 minutes, ask your mentor. They might not be able to help you with all problems, but we find that new contributors often get stuck with something that could be solved/explained with 2 or 3 sentences from a mentor.
3. If you have been working on a task much longer than was originally estimated, stop and ask your mentor. There may have been a miscommunication, or there may be some time-saving tips that could vastly simplify your task.
4. Send patches to your mentor for initial comments.
5. Inform your mentor if you're going to be away for a month, or if you leave entirely. Contributing to lilypond isn't for everybody; just let your mentor know so that we can reassign that work to somebody else.
6. Inform your mentor if you're willing to do more work – we always have way more work than we have helpers available. We try to avoid overwhelming new contributors, so you'll be given less work than we think you can handle.

## Mentor responsibilities

1. Respond to questions from your contributor(s) promptly, even if the response is just “sorry, I don't know” or “sorry, I'm very busy for the next 3 days; I'll get back to you then”. Make sure they feel valued.
2. Inform your contributor(s) about the expected turnaround for your emails – do you work on lilypond every day, or every weekend, or what? Also, if you'll be unavailable for longer than usual (say, if you normally reply within 24 hours, but you'll be at a conference for a week), let your contributors know. Again, make sure they feel valued, and that your silence (if they ask a question during that period) isn't their fault.
3. Inform your contributor(s) if they need to do anything unusual for the builds, such as doing a “make clean / doc-clean” or switching git branches (not expected, but just in case...)
4. You don't need to be able to completely approve patches. Make sure the patch meets whatever you know of the guidelines (for doc style, code indentation, whatever), and then send it on to the frog list or -devel for more comments. If you feel confident about the patch, you can push it directly (this is mainly intended for docs and translations; code patches should almost always go to -devel before being pushed).
5. Keep track of patches from your contributor. Either upload them to Rietveld yourself, or help+encourage them to upload the patches themselves. When a patch is on Rietveld, it's your responsibility to get comments for it, and to add a link to the patch to the google tracker. (tag it “patch-new”, or “patch-review” if you feel very confident in it)
6. Encourage your contributor to review patches, particularly your own! It doesn't matter if they're not familiar with C++ / scheme / build system / doc stuff – simply going through the process is valuable. Besides, anybody can find a typo!
7. Contact your contributor at least once a week. The goal is just to get a conversation started – there's nothing wrong with simply copy&pasting this into an email:

Hey there,

How are things going? If you sent a patch and got a review, do you know what you need to fix? If you sent a patch but have no reviews yet, do you know when you will get reviews? If you are working on a patch, what step(s) are you working on?

## 2 Quick start

Want to submit a patch for LilyPond? Great! Never created a patch before? Never compiled software before? No problem! This chapter is for you and will help you do this as quickly and easily as possible.

### 2.1 LilyDev

There is a disk image of a ‘remix’ of Ubuntu GNU/Linux available for download which includes all the necessary software and tools to compile both LilyPond and the documentation. Called the “Ubuntu LilyPond Developer Remix”, but known simply as “LilyDev” for short. Although it is not possible to compile LilyPond on Windows and extremely difficult on MacOS, LilyDev can be installed and run inside a ‘virtual machine’ on any of these operating systems without disturbing your main operating system. The LilyDev disk image can also be burnt to a DVD and installed like any other Ubuntu GNU/Linux distribution.

Most virtualization software can be used but we recommend VirtualBox as it is available for all major operating systems and is easy to install & configure.

If you are not familiar with GNU/Linux, it may be beneficial to read a couple of “introduction to Ubuntu” web pages.

Some contributors have recommended a free PDF:

<http://www.ubuntupocketguide.com/>

For those interested, the LilyDev remix is currently based on a 32bit version of 10.04 LTS Ubuntu (Lucid Lynx).

**Note:** Apart from installing and configuring LilyDev in VirtualBox, the rest of the chapter on assumes that you are comfortable using the command-line. While this chapter is intended for users who may have never created a patch or compiled software before, experienced developers (who prefer to use their own development environment) may still find it instructive to skim over this section.

### Where to get LilyDev

Download the Ubuntu LilyPond Developer Remix CD image file (approximately 1 GB) from here:

<http://www.philholmes.net/lilypond/LilyDev/ubuntu-LilyDev-remix-2.6.iso>

Some advanced users might want this file too:

<http://www.philholmes.net/lilypond/LilyDev/ubuntu-LilyDev-remix-2.6.iso.md5>

(If you don’t recognize what this file is, then you don’t need it.)

### Installing LilyDev in VirtualBox

This section discusses how to install and use LilyDev with VirtualBox.

**Note:** If you already know how to install a virtual machine using a disc image inside VirtualBox (or your own virtualization software) then you can skip this section and go straight to [Section 2.2 \[lily-git\]](#), page 7.

1. Download Virtualbox from here:

<http://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads>

**Note:** In virtualization terminology, the operating system where Virtualbox is installed, is the known as the **host**. LilyDev will be installed ‘inside’ Virtualbox as a **guest**.

2. Start the VirtualBox software and click ‘New’ to create a new “virtual machine”.  
The ‘New Virtual Machine Wizard’ will walk you through setting up your guest virtual machine. Choose an appropriate name for your LilyDev installation and select the ‘Linux’ operating system. When selecting the ‘version’ use ‘Ubuntu’ if available (but not the ‘64 bit’ option). If you do not have that specific option choose ‘Linux 2.6’ (again do not choose any option that has 64 bit next to it).
3. Select the amount of RAM you will allow the LilyDev guest to use from your host operating system when it is running. If possible, use at least 700 MB of RAM; the more RAM you can spare from your host the better, although LilyDev will currently use no more than 4 GB (4096 MB) even if you are able to assign more.
4. For your ‘Virtual Hard Disk’, leave the ‘Create new hard disk’ option checked, use the default ‘VDI’ and “Dynamically allocated” options for the virtual hard drive. A complete compile of everything (code, docs, regression tests) can reach 10 GB so size your virtual disk and its location accordingly.
5. Verify the summary details and click ‘Create’, when you are satisfied. Your new guest will be displayed in the Virtualbox window. Click the ‘Start’ button and the ‘First Run Wizard’ will prompt you for the installation media. Click the browse icon and locate the LilyDev disk image and click through the wizard to start the installation process.
6. When the LilyDev disk image boots, it shows a prompt:  

```
ISOLINUX boot:
```

Hit the Return key (or wait 30 seconds) and then when the installer screen loads, using the arrow keys select ‘Install - start the installer directly’ to begin the install process of LilyDev on your virtual hard disk. The Ubuntu software will walk you through the complete installation process.
7. At the “Prepare disk space” stage, do not be afraid to select “Erase and use the entire disk”, since this refers to your *virtual disk*, not your machine’s actual hard disk.
8. Click through the rest of the wizard, filling in any appropriate details when asked and wait for the install to complete.

**Note:** This will take anywhere from 10 minutes to up to an hour depending on the speed of your computer and if Ubuntu detects you are connected to the internet and needs to download any additional security updates or patches, although these updates are not required to compile LilyPond and it is possible to skip the additional downloads to speed up the install process.

9. When prompted by the Ubuntu installer wizard, restart the virtual machine and then when prompted to ‘eject the CD’ by virtual box, just click inside the virtual machine window and hit the return key to reboot the virtual machine. It will not try to restart the installer but start the virtual machine proper. LilyDev is now installed and running!

## Known issues and warnings

Not all hardware is supported in all virtualization tools. In particular, some contributors have reported problems with USB network adapters. If you have problems with network connection (for example Internet connection in the host system is lost when you launch virtual system), try installing and running LilyDev with your computer’s built-in network adapter used to connect to the network. Refer to the help documentation that comes with your virtualization software.

## Configuring LilyDev in VirtualBox

VirtualBox has extra ‘guest additions’ which although are not necessary to use LilyDev or compile Lilypond, do provide some additional features to your Virtual Machine to make it easier to work with. Such as being able to dynamically resize the LilyDev window, allow seamless interaction with your mouse pointer on both the host and guest and let you copy/paste between your host and guest if needed.

1. Select the ‘Devices’ menu from the virtual machine window and choose ‘Install Guest Additions...’. This will automount a CD which will prompt you to autorun it. Click OK and follow the instructions. It is recommended to reboot the guest when the installation is complete.

Other virtualization software will also have their own ‘guest’ additions, follow the normal procedures for your virtualization software with Ubuntu as the client.

2. Restart Ubuntu to complete the installation of the guest additions.

**Advanced note:** If you do any kernel upgrades, you may need to reinstall the additional software. Just follow the step above again and reboot when the reinstallation is complete.

Other items that may be helpful:

- In the settings for the virtual machine, set the network to Bridged mode to allow you to access shared folders when using Windows hosts.
- Set up any additional features, such as ‘Shared Folders’ between your main operating system and Ubuntu. This is distinct from the networked share folders in Windows. Consult the external documentation for this.

Some longtime contributors have reported that ‘shared folders’ are rarely useful and not worth the fuss, particularly since files can be shared over a network instead.

- Pasting into a terminal is done with **Ctrl+Shift+v**.
- The “Places” top-menu has shortcuts to a graphical “navigator” like Windows Explorer or the MacOS X Finder.
- Right-click allows you to edit a file with gedit. We recommend using gedit.
- One particular change from Windows and MacOS X is that most software should be installed with your “package manager”; this vastly simplifies the process of installing and configuring software. Go to Applications → Ubuntu Software Center.

## 2.2 lily-git

The ‘LilyPond Contributor’s Git Interface’ (otherwise known as `lily-git.tcl`) is a simple-to-use GUI to help you download and update the LilyPond source code as well as an aid to making software patches.

### Where to get lily-git

Depending on your development environment, lily-git may already be installed on your computer.

- If you are using LilyDev (see [Section 2.1 \[LilyDev\]](#), page 5) then lily-git is already installed and ready to run.
- For those not using LilyDev then lily-git can be obtained by downloading the software directly. See [Section 3.1 \[Manually installing lily-git.tcl\]](#), page 12.
- Finally, lily-git is always part of the LilyPond source code and is located in ‘`~/lilypond-git/scripts/auxillar/lily-git.tcl`’.

## Configuring lily-git and downloading the source code

**Note:** The rest of this manual assumes that you are using the command-line within a terminal.

1. Type (or copy&paste) into the Terminal:

```
lily-git.tcl
```

You will be prompted to enter your name and your email address. This information is used only to identify and label any patches you create. This information can be edited if required later. See [\[Configuring Git\], page 13](#). Click on the *Submit* button to update lily-git with this information.

2. Click on the “Get source” button.

A directory called ‘lilypond-git/’ is now created within your home directory and the complete source code will start to be downloaded into it.

**Note:** Be patient! The complete source is around 150 Mb.

When the source code has been downloaded, the “Command output” window in lily-git will update and display “Done” on the very last line. The button label will change to say “Update source”.

**Note:** Some contributors have reported that occasionally nothing happens at this step at all. If this occurs, then try again in a few minutes – it could be an intermittent network problem. If the problem persists, please ask for help.

3. Close the lily-git GUI and navigate to the ‘lilypond-git/’ directory to view and edit the source files.

If this is the first time you have compiled LilyPond then please go to [Section 2.3 \[Compiling with LilyDev\], page 10](#) before reading on.

## How to use lily-git

**Note:** Throughout the rest of this manual, most command-line input should be entered from ‘~/lilypond-git/’. This is known as the *top source directory* and is often referred to as `$LILYPOND_GIT`

**Note:** Only work on one set of changes at once. Do not start work on any new changes until your first set has been accepted.

### 1. Update source

At the beginning of each session of lilypond work, you should click the “Update source” button to get the latest changes to the source code.

**Note:** In some rare and unfortunate circumstances, this will result in a *merge conflict*. If this occurs, follow the instructions for “Abort changes”, below. Your work will not be lost.



## 2a. New local commit

A single commit typically represents one logical set of related changes (such as a bug-fix), and may incorporate changes to multiple files at the same time.

When you're finished making the changes for a commit, click the "New local commit" button. This will open the "Git Commit Message" window. The message header is required, and the message body is optional.

After entering a commit message, click "OK" to finalize the commit.

**Advanced note:** for more information regarding commits and commit messages, see [Section 3.3.4 \[Commits and patches\]](#), page 22.

## 2b. Amend previous commit

You can go back and make changes to the most recent commit with the "Amend previous commit" button. This is useful if a mistake is found after you have clicked the "New local commit" button.

To amend the most recent commit, re-edit the source files as needed and then click the "Amend previous commit" button. The earlier version of the commit is not saved, but is replaced by the new one.

**Note:** This does not update the patch files; if you have a patch file from an earlier version of the commit, you will need to make another patch set when using this feature. The old patch file will not be saved, but will be replaced by the new one after you click on "Make patch set".

## 3. Make patch set

Before making a patch set from any commits, you should click the "Update source" button to make sure the commits are based on the most recent remote snapshot.

When you click the "Make patch set" button, `lily-git.tcl` will produce patch files for any new commits, saving them to the current directory. The command output will display the name of the new patch files near the end of the output:

```
0001-CG-add-lily-git-instructions.patch
Done.
```

Send patch files to the appropriate place:

- If you have a mentor, send it to them via email.
- New contributors should send the patch attached to an email to [frogs@lilynet.net](mailto:frogs@lilynet.net). Please add "[PATCH]" to the subject line.
- Translators should send patches to [translations@lilynet.net](mailto:translations@lilynet.net).
- More experienced contributors should upload the patch for web-based review. This requires additional software and use of the command-line; see [\[Uploading a patch for review\]](#), page 24.

## The "Abort changes – Reset to origin" button

**Note:** Only use this if your local commit history gets hopelessly confused!

The button labeled "Abort changes – Reset to origin" will copy all changed files to a subdirectory of `'lilypond-git/'` named `'aborted_edits/'`, and will reset the repository to the current state of the remote repository (at [git.sv.gnu.org](http://git.sv.gnu.org)).

## 2.3 Compiling with LilyDev

LilyDev is our ‘remix’ of Ubuntu which contains all the necessary dependencies to do lilypond development; for more information, see [Section “LilyDev” in \*Contributor’s Guide\*](#).

### Preparing the build

To prepare the build directory, enter (or copy&paste) the below text. This should take less than a minute.

```
cd ~/lilypond-git/
sh autogen.sh --noconfigure
mkdir -p build/
cd build/
../configure
```

### Building lilypond

Compiling lilypond will likely take between 5 and 60 minutes, depending on your computer’s speed and available RAM. We recommend that you minimize the terminal window while it is building; this can have a non-negligible effect on compilation speed.

```
cd ~/lilypond-git/build/
make
```

You may run the compiled lilypond with:

```
cd ~/lilypond-git/build/
out/bin/lilypond my-file.ly
```

### Building the documentation

Compiling the documentation is a much more involved process, and will likely take 2 to 10 hours.

```
cd ~/lilypond-git/build/
make
make doc
```

The documentation is put in ‘out-www/offline-root/’. You may view the html files by entering the below text; we recommend that you bookmark the resulting page:

```
firefox ~/lilypond-git/build/out-www/offline-root/index.html
```

### Installing

Don’t. There is no reason to install lilypond within LilyDev. All development work can (and should) stay within the ‘\$HOME/lilypond-git/’ directory, and any personal composition or typesetting work should be done with an official GUB release.

### Problems and other options

To select different build options, or isolate certain parts of the build, or to use multiple CPUs while building, read [Chapter 4 \[Compiling\]](#), page 40.

In particular, contributors working on the documentation should be aware of some bugs in the build system, and should read the workarounds in [Section 4.6.2 \[Generating documentation\]](#), page 45.

## 2.4 Now start work!

LilyDev users may now skip to the chapter which is aimed at their intended contributions:

- [Chapter 5 \[Documentation work\]](#), page 52
- [Section 5.8 \[Translating the documentation\]](#), page 66

- Chapter 6 [Website work], page 78
- Chapter 9 [Regression tests], page 96
- Chapter 10 [Programming work], page 102

These chapters are mainly intended for people not using LilyDev, but they contain extra information about the “behind-the-scenes” activities. We recommend that you read these at your leisure, a few weeks after beginning work with LilyDev.

- Chapter 3 [Working with source code], page 12
- Chapter 4 [Compiling], page 40

## 3 Working with source code

**Note:** New contributors should read [Chapter 2 \[Quick start\]](#), page 5, and in particular [Section 2.2 \[lily-git\]](#), page 7, instead of this chapter.

Advanced contributors will find this material quite useful, particularly if they are working on major new features.

### 3.1 Manually installing lily-git.tcl

We have created an easy-to-use GUI to simplify git for new contributors. If you are comfortable with the command-line, then skip ahead to [Section 3.2 \[Starting with Git\]](#), page 12.

**Note:** These instructions are only for people who are *not* using [Section 2.1 \[LilyDev\]](#), page 5.

1. If you haven't already, download and install Git.
  - Windows users: download the .exe file labeled “Full installer for official Git” from:  
<http://code.google.com/p/msysgit/downloads/list>
  - Other operating systems: either install git with your package manager, or download it from the “Binaries” section of:

<http://git-scm.com/download>

2. Download the lily-git.tcl script from:

<http://git.sv.gnu.org/cgi/lilypond.git/plain/scripts/auxiliar/lily-git.tcl>

3. To run the program from the command line, navigate to the directory containing lily-git.tcl and enter:

```
wish lily-git.tcl
```

4. Click on the “Get source” button.

This will create a directory called ‘lilypond-git/’ within your home directory, and will download the source code into that directory (around 150 Mb). When the process is finished, the “Command output” window will display “Done”, and the button label will change to say “Update source”.

5. Navigate to the ‘lilypond-git/’ directory to view the source files.

**Note:** Throughout the rest of this manual, most command-line input should be entered from ‘~/lilypond-git/’. This is referred to as the *top source directory*.

Further instructions are in [\[How to use lily-git\]](#), page 8.

### 3.2 Starting with Git

Using the Git program directly (as opposed to using the lily-git.tcl GUI) allows you to have much greater control over the contributing process. You should consider using Git if you want to work on complex projects, or if you want to work on multiple projects concurrently.

### 3.2.1 Setting up

**Note:** These instructions assume that you are using the command-line version of Git 1.5 or higher. Windows users should skip to [Section 3.5 \[Git on Windows\]](#), page 33.

#### Installing Git

If you are using a Unix-based machine, the easiest way to download and install Git is through a package manager such as `rpm` or `apt-get` – the installation is generally automatic. The only required package is (usually) called `git-core`, although some of the auxiliary `git*` packages are also useful (such as `gitk`).

Alternatively, you can visit the Git website (<http://git-scm.com/>) for downloadable binaries and tarballs.

#### Initializing a repository

Once Git is installed, get a copy of the source code:

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

The above command will put the it in ‘~/lilypond-git’, where ~ represents your home directory.

#### Technical details

This creates (within the ‘~/lilypond-git/’ directory) a subdirectory called ‘.git/’, which Git uses to keep track of changes to the repository, among other things. Normally you don’t need to access it, but it’s good to know it’s there.

#### Configuring Git

**Note:** Throughout the rest of this manual, all command-line input should be entered from the top directory of the Git repository being discussed (eg. ‘~/lilypond-git/’). This is referred to as the *top source directory*.

Before working with the copy of the main LilyPond repository, you should configure some basic settings with the `git config` command. Git allows you to set both global and repository-specific options.

To configure settings that affect all repositories, use the ‘--global’ command line option. For example, the first two options that you should always set are your *name* and *email*, since Git needs these to keep track of commit authors:

```
git config --global user.name "John Smith"
git config --global user.email john@example.com
```

To configure Git to use colored output where possible, use:

```
git config --global color.ui auto
```

The text editor that opens when using `git commit` can also be changed. If none of your editor-related environment variables are set (`$GIT_EDITOR`, `$VISUAL`, or `$EDITOR`), the default editor is usually `vi` or `vim`. If you’re not familiar with either of these, you should probably change the default to an editor that you know how to use. For example, to change the default editor to `nano`, enter:

```
git config --global core.editor nano
```

Finally, and in some ways most importantly, let's make sure that we know what branch we're on. If you're not using LilyDev, add this to your `~/ .bashrc`:

```
export PS1="\u@\h \w\${__git_ps1})$ "
```

If you are not using LilyDev, you may need to install the additional `git-completion` package, but it is definitely worth it.

## Technical details

Git stores the information entered with `git config --global` in the file  `.gitconfig`, located in your home directory. This file can also be modified directly, without using `git config`. The  `.gitconfig` file generated by the above commands would look like this:

```
[user]
    name = John Smith
    email = john@example.com

[color]
    ui = auto

[core]
    editor = nano
```

Using the `git config` command *without* the `--global` option configures repository-specific settings, which are stored in the file  `.git/config`. This file is created when a repository is initialized (using `git init`), and by default contains these lines:

```
[core]
    repositoryformatversion = 0
    filemode = true
    bare = false
    logallrefupdates = true
```

However, since different repository-specific options are recommended for different development tasks, it is best to avoid setting any now. Specific recommendations will be mentioned later in this manual.

### 3.2.2 Git for the impatient

**Advanced note:** The intent of this subsection is to get you working on lilypond as soon as possible. If you want to learn about git, go read [Section 3.7 \[Other Git documentation\]](#), page 39.

Also, these instructions are designed to eliminate the most common problems we have found in using git. If you already know git and have a different way of working, great! Feel free to ignore the advice in this subsection.

Ok, so you've been using `lily-git.tcl` for a while, but it's time to take the next step. Since our review process delays patches by 60-120 hours, and you want to be able to work on other stuff while your previous work is getting reviewed, you're going to use **branches**.

You can think of a branch as being a separate copy of the source code. But don't worry about it.

### Start work: make a new branch

Let's pretend you want to add a section to the Contributor's Guide about using branches.

Start by updating the repository, then making a new branch. Call the branch anything you want as long as the name starts with `dev/`. Branch names that don't begin with `dev/` are reserved for special things in lilypond.

```
git checkout master
git pull -r origin master
git branch dev/cg
```

## Switch to that branch

Nothing has happened to the files yet. Let's change into the new branch. You can think of this as "loading a file", although in this case it's really "loading a directory and subdirectories full of files".

```
git checkout dev/cg
```

Your prompt now shows you that you're on the other branch:

```
gperciva@LilyDev:~/lilypond-git (dev/cg)$
```

To be able to manage multiple lilypond issues at once, you'll need to switch branches. You should have each lilypond issue on a separate branch. Switching branches is easy:

```
git checkout master
git checkout origin/staging
git checkout origin/release/unstable
git checkout dev/cg
```

Branches that begin with `origin/` are part of the remote repository, rather than your local repository, so when you check them out you get a temporary local branch. You should never make changes directly on a branch beginning with `origin/`. You get changes into the remote repository by making them in local branches, and then pushing them to `origin/staging` as described below.

## Make your changes

Edit files, then commit them.

```
git commit -a
```

Remember how I said that switching to a branch was like "loading a directory"? Well, you've just "saved a directory", so that you can "load" it later.

**Advanced note:** If you have used `cvs` or `svn`, you may be very confused: those programs use "commit" to mean "upload my changes to the shared source repository". Unfortunately, just to be different, `git commit` means "save my changes to the files".

When you create a new file, you need to add it to git, then commit it:

```
git add input/regression/avoid-crash-on-condition.ly
git commit -a
```

Edit more files. Commit them again. Edit yet more files, commit them again. Go eat dinner. Switch to `master` so you can play with the latest changes from other developers. Switch back to your branch and edit some more. Commit those changes.

At this stage, don't worry about how many commits you have.

## Save commits to external files

Branches are nerve-wracking until you get used to them. You can save your hard work as individual '.patch' files. Be sure to commit your changes first.

```
git commit -a
git format-patch master
```

I personally have between 4 and 20 of those files saved in a special folder at any point in time. Git experts might laugh at that behavior, but I feel a *lot* better knowing that I've got those backups.

## Prepare your branch for review

After committing, you can update your branch with the latest master:

```
git commit -a
git checkout master
git pull -r origin master
git checkout dev/cg
git rebase master
```

Due to the speed of lilypond development, sometimes `master` has changed so much that your branch can no longer be applied to it. In that happens, you will have a merge conflict. Stop for a moment to either cry or have a stiff drink, then proceed to [Section 3.4.1 \[Merge conflicts\]](#), page 26.

## Upload your branch

Finally, you're finished your changes. Time to upload for review. Make sure that you're on your branch, then upload:

```
git checkout dev/cg
git-cl upload master
```

## Wait for reviews

While you're waiting for a countdown and reviews, go back to master, make a `dev/doc-beams` branch, and start adding doc suggestions from issue 12345 from the tracker. Or make a `dev/page-breaks` and fix bug in page breaking. Or whatever. Don't worry, your `dev/cg` is safe.

## Combining commits (optional unless you have broken commits)

Does the history of your branch look good?

```
gitk
```

If you have a lot of commits on your branch, you might want to combine some of them. Alternately, you may like your commits, but want to edit the commit messages.

```
git rebase -i master
```

Follow instructions on the screen.

**Note:** This step gives you the power to completely lose your work. Make a backup of your commits by saving them to `.patch` files before playing with this. If you do lose your work, don't despair. You can get it back by using `git reflog`. The use of `git reflog` is not covered here.

**Note:** If any of the commits on your branch represent partial work that will not pass *make && make doc*, you **must** squash these commits into a working commit. Otherwise, your push will break staging and will not be able to be merged to master. In general, you will be safer to have one commit per push.

## Push to staging

When you've got the coveted Patch-push status, time to prepare your upload:

```
git fetch
git rebase origin/staging dev/cg~0
```



```
gitk HEAD
```

**Note:** Do not skip the `gitk` step; a quick 5-second check of the visual history can save a great deal of frustration later on. You should see a set of your commits that are ahead of `origin/staging`, with no label for the top commit – only a SHA1 id.

**Note:** If `origin/staging` and `origin/master` are the same commit, your branch (`dev/cg` in the example) will also be at the top of the `gitk` tree. This is normal.

If everything looks good, push it:

```
git push origin HEAD:staging
```

Then change back to your working branch:

```
git checkout dev/cg
```

**Note:** It is a best practice to avoid rebasing any of your branches to `origin/staging`. If `origin/staging` is broken, it will be deleted and rebuilt. If you have rebased one of your branches to `origin/staging`, the broken commits can end up in your branch. The commands given above do the rebase on a temporary branch, and avoid changing your working branch.

## Delete your branch (safe)

After a few hours, if there's nothing wrong with your branch, it should be automatically moved to `origin/master`. Update, then try removing your branch:

```
git checkout master
git pull -r origin master
git branch -d dev/cg
```

The last command will fail if the contents of `dev/cg` are not present in `origin/master`.

## Delete your branch (UNSAFE)

Sometimes everything goes wrong. If you want to remove a branch even though it will cause your work to be lost (that is, if the contents of `dev/cg` are **not** present in master), follow the instructions in “Delete your branch (safe)”, but replace the `-d` on the final line with a `-D`.

### 3.2.3 Other repositories

We have a few other code repositories.

#### **lilypond-extra**

There is a separate repository for general administrative scripts, as well as pictures and media files for the website. People interested in working on the website should download this repository, and set their `$LILYPOND_WEB_MEDIA_GIT` environment variable to point to that repository.

<https://github.com/gperciva/lilypond-extra>

To configure an environment variable in bash (the default for most GNU/Linux distributions),

```
export LILYPOND_WEB_MEDIA_GIT=$HOME/dir/of/lilypond-extra/
```

## Grand Unified Builder (GUB)

Another item of interest might be the Grand Unified Builder, our cross-platform building tool. Since it is used by other projects as well, it is not stored in our gub repository. For more info, see <http://lilypond.org/gub>.

There are two locations for this repository: the version being used to build lilypond, which is at

<http://github.com/gperciva/gub>

and the original version by Jan Nieuwenhuizen, kept at

<http://github.com/janneke/gub>

## lilypad

Our binary releases on MacOS X and Windows contain a lightweight text editor. This code is here:

<https://github.com/gperciva/lilypad>

## yet more repositories

There are a few other repositories floating around, which will hopefully be documented in the near future.

### 3.2.4 Downloading remote branches

**Note:** contains obsolete + misleading info

## Organization of remote branches

The main LilyPond repository is organized into *branches* to facilitate development. These are often called *remote* branches to distinguish them from *local* branches you might create yourself (see [Section 3.3.3 \[Using local branches\]](#), page 21).

The **master** branch contains all the source files used to build LilyPond, which includes the program itself (both stable and development releases), the documentation (and its translations), and the website. Generally, the **master** branch is expected to compile successfully.

The **translation** branch is a side branch that allows translators to work without needing to worry about compilation problems. Periodically, the Translation Meister (after verifying that it doesn't break compilation), will *merge* this branch into **staging** to incorporate recent translations. Similarly, the **master** branch is usually merged into the **translation** branch after significant changes to the English documentation. See [Section 5.8 \[Translating the documentation\]](#), page 66 for details.

## LilyPond repository sources

The recommended source for downloading a copy of the main repository is:

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

However, if your internet router filters out connections using the GIT protocol, or if you experience difficulty connecting via GIT, you can try these other sources:

`ssh://git.sv.gnu.org/srv/git/lilypond.git`

`http://git.sv.gnu.org/r/lilypond.git`

The SSH protocol can only be used if your system is properly set up to use it. Also, the HTTP protocol is slowest, so it should only be used as a last resort.

## Downloading individual branches

**Note:** obsolete, should be deleted!

Once you have initialized an empty Git repository on your system (see [\[Initializing a repository\]](#), page 13), you can download a remote branch into it. Make sure you know which branch you want to start with.

To download the `master` branch, enter the following:

```
git remote add -ft master -m master \
  origin git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git/
```

To download the `translation` branch, enter:

```
git remote add -ft translation -m \
  translation origin git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git/
```

The `git remote add` process could take up to ten minutes, depending on the speed of your connection. The output will be something like this:

```
Updating origin
remote: Counting objects: 235967, done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (42721/42721), done.
remote: Total 235967 (delta 195098), reused 233311 (delta 192772)
Receiving objects: 100% (235967/235967), 68.37 MiB | 479 KiB/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (195098/195098), done.
From git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond
* [new branch]      master      -> origin/master
From git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond
* [new tag]         flower/1.0.1 -> flower/1.0.1
* [new tag]         flower/1.0.10 -> flower/1.0.10

* [new tag]         release/2.9.6 -> release/2.9.6
* [new tag]         release/2.9.7 -> release/2.9.7
```

When `git remote add` is finished, the remote branch should be downloaded into your repository—though not yet in a form that you can use. In order to browse the source code files, you need to *create* and *checkout* your own local branch. In this case, however, it is easier to have Git create the branch automatically by using the `checkout` command on a non-existent branch. Enter the following:

```
git checkout -b branch origin/branch
```

where *branch* is the name of your tracking branch, either `master` or `translation`.

Git will issue some warnings; this is normal:

```
warning: You appear to be on a branch yet to be born.
warning: Forcing checkout of origin/master.
Branch master set up to track remote branch master from origin.
Already on 'master'
```

By now the source files should be accessible—you should be able to edit any files in the `‘lilypond-git/’` directory using a text editor of your choice. But don’t start just yet! Before editing any source files, learn how to keep your changes organized and prevent problems later—read [Section 3.3 \[Basic Git procedures\]](#), page 20.

## Technical Details

The `git remote add` command should add some lines to your local repository’s `‘.git/config’` file:

```
[remote "origin"]
  url = git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git/
  fetch = +refs/heads/master:refs/remotes/origin/master
```

## Downloading all remote branches

To download all remote branches at once, you can **clone** the entire repository:

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

## Other branches

Most contributors will never need to touch the other branches. If you wish to do so, you will need more familiarity with Git; please see [Section 3.7 \[Other Git documentation\], page 39](#).

- **dev/XYZ**: These branches are for individual developers. They store code which is not yet stable enough to be added to the **master** branch.
- **stable/XYZ**: The branches are kept for archival reasons.
- **archive/XYZ**: The branches are kept for archival reasons.

## 3.3 Basic Git procedures

### 3.3.1 The Git contributor's cycle

Here is a simplified view of the contribution process on Git:

1. Update your local repository by *pulling* the most recent updates from the remote repository.
2. Edit source files within your local repository's *working directory*.
3. *Commit* the changes you've made to a local *branch*.
4. Generate a *patch* to share your changes with the developers.

### 3.3.2 Pulling and rebasing

When developers push new patches to the `git.sv.gnu.org` repository, your local repository is **not** automatically updated. It is important to keep your repository up-to-date by periodically *pulling* the most recent *commits* from the remote branch. Developers expect patches to be as current as possible, since outdated patches require extra work before they can be used.

Occasionally you may need to rework some of your own modifications to match changes made to the remote branch (see [Section 3.4.3 \[Resolving conflicts\], page 27](#)), and it's considerably easier to rework things incrementally. If you don't update your repository along the way, you may have to spend a lot of time resolving branch conflicts and reconfiguring much of the work you've already done.

Fortunately, Git is able to resolve certain types of branch conflicts automatically with a process called *rebasing*. When rebasing, Git tries to modify your old commits so they appear as new commits (based on the latest updates). For a more involved explanation, see the `git-rebase` man page.

To pull without rebasing (recommended for translators), use the following command:

```
git pull    # recommended for translators
```

If you're tracking the remote **master** branch, you should add the `'-r'` option (short for `'--rebase'`) to keep commits on your local branch current:

```
git pull -r # use with caution when translating
```

If you don't edit translated documentation and don't want to type `'-r'` every time, configure the master branch to rebase by default with this command:

```
git config branch.master.rebase true
```

If pull fails because of a message like

```
error: Your local changes to 'Documentation/learning/tutorial.itely'
would be overwritten by merge.  Aborting.
```

or

```
Documentation/learning/tutorial.itely: needs update
refusing to pull with rebase: your working tree is not up-to-date
```

it means that you have modified some files in you working tree without committing changes (see [Section 3.3.4 \[Commits and patches\], page 22](#)); you can use the `git stash` command to work around this:

```
git stash      # save uncommitted changes
git pull -r    # pull using rebase (translators omit "-r")
git stash pop  # reapply previously saved changes
```

Note that `git stash pop` will try to apply a patch, and this may create a conflict. If this happens, see [Section 3.4.3 \[Resolving conflicts\], page 27](#).

TODO: I think the next paragraph is confusing. Perhaps prepare the reader for new terms ‘committish’ and ‘head’? -mp

**Note:** translators and documentation editors, if you have changed committishes in the head of translated files using commits you have not yet pushed to `git.sv.gnu.org`, please do not rebase. If you want to avoid wondering whether you should rebase each time you pull, please always use committishes from master and/or translation branch on `git.sv.gnu.org`, which in particular implies that you must push your changes to documentation except committishes updates (possibly after having rebased), then update the committishes and push them.

TODO: when committishes automatic conditional update have been tested and documented, append the following to the warning above: Note that using update-committishes make target generally touches committishes.

## Technical details

The `git config` command mentioned above adds the line `rebase = true` to the master branch in your local repository’s `.git/config` file:

```
[branch "master"]
    remote = origin
    merge = refs/heads/master
    rebase = true
```

### 3.3.3 Using local branches

#### Creating and removing branches

Local branches are useful when you’re working on several different projects concurrently. To create a new branch, enter:

```
git branch name
```

To delete a branch, enter:

```
git branch -d name
```

Git will ask you for confirmation if it sees that data would be lost by deleting the branch. Use `-D` instead of `-d` to bypass this. Note that you cannot delete a branch if it is currently checked out.

## Listing branches and remotes

You can get the exact path or URL of all remote branches by running:

```
git remote -v
```

To list Git branches on your local repositories, run

```
git branch      # list local branches only
git branch -r   # list remote branches
git branch -a   # list all branches
```

## Checking out branches

To know the currently checked out branch, i.e. the branch whose source files are present in your working tree, read the first line of the output of

```
git status
```

The currently checked out branch is also marked with an asterisk in the output of `git branch`.

You can check out another branch *other\_branch*, i.e. check out *other\_branch* to the working tree, by running

```
git checkout other_branch
```

Note that it is possible to check out another branch while having uncommitted changes, but it is not recommended unless you know what you are doing; it is recommended to run `git status` to check this kind of issue before checking out another branch.

## Merging branches

To merge branch *foo* into branch *bar*, i.e. to “add” all changes made in branch *foo* to branch *bar*, run

```
git checkout bar
git merge foo
```

If any conflict happens, see [Section 3.4.3 \[Resolving conflicts\]](#), page 27.

There are common usage cases for merging: as a translator, you will often want the Translations meister to merge `master` into `translation`; on the other hand, the Translations meister wants to merge `translation` into `staging` whenever he has checked that `translation` builds successfully.

### 3.3.4 Commits and patches

#### Understanding commits

Technically, a *commit* is a single point in the history of a branch, but most developers use the term to mean a *commit object*, which stores information about a particular revision. A single commit can record changes to multiple source files, and typically represents one logical set of related changes (such as a bug-fix). You can list the ten most recent commits in your current branch with this command:

```
git log -10 --oneline
```

If you’re using an older version of Git and get an ‘unrecognized argument’ error, use this instead:

```
git log -10 --pretty=oneline --abbrev-commit
```

More interactive lists of the commits on the remote `master` branch are available at <http://git.sv.gnu.org/gitweb/?p=lilypond.git;a=shortlog> and <http://git.sv.gnu.org/cgit/lilypond.git/log/>.

## Making commits

Once you have modified some source files in your working directory, you can make a commit with the following procedure:

1. Make sure you've configured Git properly (see [\[Configuring Git\], page 13](#)). Check that your changes meet the requirements described in [Section 10.5 \[Code style\], page 106](#) and/or [Section 5.4 \[Documentation policy\], page 61](#). For advanced edits, you may also want to verify that the changes don't break the compilation process.
2. Run the following command:

```
git status
```

to make sure you're on the right branch, and to see which files have been modified, added or removed, etc. You may need to tell Git about any files you've added by running one of these:

```
git add file # add untracked file individually
git add .    # add all untracked files in current directory
```

After `git add`, run `git status` again to make sure you got everything. You may also need to modify 'GNUmakefile'.

3. Preview the changes about to be committed (to make sure everything looks right) with:

```
git diff HEAD
```

The `HEAD` argument refers to the most recent commit on the currently checked-out branch.

4. Generate the commit with:

```
git commit -a
```

The `-a` is short for `--all` which includes modified and deleted files, but only those newly created files that have previously been added.

## Commit messages

When you run the `git commit -a` command, Git automatically opens the default text editor so you can enter a *commit message*. If you find yourself in a foreign editing environment, you're probably in `vi` or `vim`. If you want to switch to an editor you're more familiar with, quit by typing `:q!` and pressing `<Enter>`. See [\[Configuring Git\], page 13](#) for instructions on changing the default editor.

In any case, Git will open a text file for your commit message that looks like this:

```
# Please enter the commit message for your changes. Lines starting
# with '#' will be ignored, and an empty message aborts the commit.
# On branch master
# Changes to be committed:
#   (use "git reset HEAD <file>..." to unstage)
#
# modified:   working.itexi
#
```

Your commit message should begin with a one-line summary describing the change (no more than 50 characters long), and if necessary a blank line followed by several lines giving the details:

```
Doc: add Baerenreiter and Henle solo cello suites
```

```
Added comparison of solo cello suite engravings to new essay with
high-res images, fixed cropping on Finale example.
```

Commit messages often start with a short prefix describing the general location of the changes. If a commit affects the documentation in English (or in several languages simultaneously) the



commit message should be prefixed with “Doc: ”. If the commit affects only one of the translations, the commit message should be prefixed with “Doc-\*\*: ”, where \*\* is the two-letter language code. Commits that affect the website should use “Web: ” for English, and “Web-\*\*: ” for the other languages. Also, changes to a single file are often prefixed with the name of the file involved. Visit the links listed in [Understanding commits], page 22 for examples.

## Making patches

If you want to share your changes with other contributors and developers, you need to generate *patches* from your commits. We prefer it if you follow the instructions in [Uploading a patch for review], page 24. However, we present an alternate method here.

You should always run `git pull -r` (translators should leave off the ‘-r’) before doing this to ensure that your patches are as current as possible.

Once you have made one or more commits in your local repository, and pulled the most recent commits from the remote branch, you can generate patches from your local commits with the command:

```
git format-patch origin
```

The `origin` argument refers to the remote tracking branch at `git.sv.gnu.org`. This command generates a separate patch for each commit that’s in the current branch but not in the remote branch. Patches are placed in the current working directory and will have names that look something like this:

```
0001-Doc-Fix-typos.patch
0002-Web-Remove-dead-links.patch
```

Send an email (must be less than 64 KB) to `lilypond-devel@gnu.org` briefly explaining your work, with the patch files attached. Translators should send patches to `translations@lilynet.net`. After your patches are reviewed, the developers may push one or more of them to the main repository or discuss them with you.

## Uploading a patch for review

Any non-trivial change should be uploaded to our “Rietveld” code review website:

<http://codereview.appspot.com/>

## git-cl install

LilyDev users should skip over these ‘install’ instructions.

1. Install `git-cl` by entering:

```
git clone https://github.com/gperciva/git-cl.git
```

If that command fails for some reason, try this instead:

```
git clone git://github.com/gperciva/git-cl.git
```

2. Add the ‘`git-cl/`’ directory to your `PATH`, or create a symbolic link to the `git-cl` and `upload.py` scripts in one of your `PATH` directories (such as ‘`$HOME/bin`’).

In Ubuntu (and LilyDev), you can add directories to `PATH` by adding this line to a hidden file ‘`.bashrc`’, located in your home directory:

```
PATH=~ /type-here-directory-containing-git-cl:"${PATH}"
```

## git-cl configuration

LilyDev users should perform these ‘configuration’ instructions.

1. You must have a google account; please create one if you do not have one already.

Note that a google account does not need to be a gmail account; you can use any email address for your google account when you sign up.



2. Move into the top source directory and then configure `git cl` with the following commands. If you do not understand any question, just answer with a newline (CR).

```
cd $HOME/lilypond-git/  
git cl config
```

The “CC list” question should be answered with:

```
lilypond-devel@gnu.org
```

## Uploading patch set

**Note:** Unless you are familiar with branches, only work on one set of changes at once.

There are two methods, depending on your git setup.

- **Master branch:** (easy option, and used in `lily-git.tcl`)

If you added your patch to `master`, then:

```
git pull -r  
git cl upload origin/master
```

If you have git push ability, make sure that you *remove* your patch (with `git rebase` or `git reset`) before pushing other stuff.

Notifications of patches are automatically added to our issue tracker to reduce the chance of patches getting lost. To suppress this (not recommended), add the `-n / --no-code-issue` option.

- **Separate branch:** (complicated option)

Ensure your changes are committed in a separate branch, which should differ from the reference branch to be used by just the changes to be uploaded. If the reference branch is to be `origin/master`, ensure this is up-to-date. If necessary, use `git rebase` to rebase the branch containing the changes to the head of `origin/master`. Finally, check out branch with the changes and enter the command:

```
git cl upload <reference SHA1 ID>
```

where `<reference SHA1 ID>` is the SHA1 ID of the commit to be used as a reference source for the patch. Generally, this will be the SHA1 ID of `origin/master`, and in that case the command:

```
git cl upload origin/master
```

can be used.

After prompting for your Google email address and password, the patch set will be posted to Rietveld, and you will be given a URL for your patch.

**Note:** Some installations of `git-cl` fail when uploading a patch with certain filename extensions. If this happens, it can generally be fixed by editing the list of exceptions at top of `'git-cl.py'`.

## Announcing your patch set

You should then announce the patch by logging into the code review issue webpage and using “Publish + Mail Comments” to add a (mostly bogus) comment to your issue. The text of your comment will be sent to our developer mailing list.

**Note:** There is no automatic notification of a new patch; you must add a comment yourself.

## Revisions

As revisions are made in response to comments, successive patch sets for the same issue can be uploaded by reissuing the `git-cl` command with the modified branch checked out.

Sometimes in response to comments on revisions, the best way to work may require creation of a new branch in git. In order to associate the new branch with an existing Rietveld issue, the following command can be used:

```
git cl issue issue-number
```

where `issue-number` is the number of the existing Rietveld issue.

## Resetting git cl

If `git cl` becomes confused, you can “reset” it by running:

```
git cl issue 0
```

## Wait for a countdown

Your patch will be available for reviews for the next few hours or days. Three times a week, patches with no known problems are gathered into a “patch countdown” and their status changed to `patch-countdown`. The countdown is a 48-hour waiting period in which any final reviews or complaints should be made.

During the countdown, your patch may be set to `patch-needs_work`, indicating that you should fix something (or at least discuss why the patch needs no modification). If no problems are found, the patch will be set to `patch-push`.

Once a patch has `patch-push`, it should be sent to your mentor for uploading. If you have `git push` ability, look at [Section 3.4.11 \[Pushing to staging\]](#), page 32.

## 3.4 Advanced Git procedures

**Note:** This section is not necessary for normal contributors; these commands are presented for information for people interested in learning more about git.

It is possible to work with several branches on the same local Git repository; this is especially useful for translators who may have to deal with both `translation` and a stable branch, e.g. `stable/2.12`.

Some Git commands are introduced first, then a workflow with several Git branches of LilyPond source code is presented.

### 3.4.1 Merge conflicts

To be filled in later, and/or moved to a different section. I just wanted to make sure that I had a stub ready somewhere.

### 3.4.2 Advanced Git concepts

A bit of Git vocabulary will be explained below. The following is only introductory; for a better understanding of Git concepts, you may wish to read [Section 3.7 \[Other Git documentation\]](#), page 39.

The `git pull origin` command above is just a shortcut for this command:

```
git pull git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git/ branch:origin/branch
```

where **branch** is typically **master** or **translation**; if you do not know or remember, see [Section 3.2.4 \[Downloading remote branches\]](#), page 18 to remember which commands you issued or which source code you wanted to get.

A *commit* is a set of changes made to the sources; it also includes the committish of the parent commit, the name and e-mail of the *author* (the person who wrote the changes), the name and e-mail of the *committer* (the person who brings these changes into the Git repository), and a commit message.

A *committish* is the SHA1 checksum of a commit, a number made of 40 hexadecimal digits, which acts as the internal unique identifier for this commit. To refer to a particular revision, don't use vague references like the (approximative) date, simply copy and paste the committish.

A *branch* is nothing more than a pointer to a particular commit, which is called the *head* of the branch; when referring to a branch, one often actually thinks about its head and the ancestor commits of the head.

Now we will explain the two last commands you used to get the source code from Git—see [\[Downloading individual branches\]](#), page 19.

```
git remote add -ft branch -m branch \
    origin git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git/
```

```
git checkout -b branch origin/branch
```

The `git remote` has created a branch called **origin/branch** in your local Git repository. As this branch is a copy of the remote branch web from `git.sv.gnu.org` LilyPond repository, it is called a *remote branch*, and is meant to track the changes on the branch from `git.sv.gnu.org`: it will be updated every time you run `git pull origin` or `git fetch origin`.

The `git checkout` command has created a branch named **branch**. At the beginning, this branch is identical to **origin/branch**, but it will differ as soon as you make changes, e.g. adding newly translated pages or editing some documentation or code source file. Whenever you pull, you merge the changes from **origin/branch** and **branch** since the last pulling. If you do not have push (i.e. “write”) access on `git.sv.gnu.org`, your **branch** will always differ from **origin/branch**. In this case, remember that other people working like you with the remote branch **branch** of `git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git/` (called **origin/branch** on your local repository) know nothing about your own **branch**: this means that whenever you use a committish or make a patch, others expect you to take the latest commit of **origin/branch** as a reference.

Finally, please remember to read the man page of every Git command you will find in this manual in case you want to discover alternate methods or just understand how it works.

### 3.4.3 Resolving conflicts

Occasionally an update may result in conflicts – this happens when you and somebody else have modified the same part of the same file and git cannot figure out how to merge the two versions together. When this happens, you must manually merge the two versions.

If you need some documentation to understand and resolve conflicts, see paragraphs *How conflicts are presented* and *How to resolve conflicts* in `git merge` man page.

If all else fails, you can follow the instructions in [Section 3.4.4 \[Reverting all local changes\]](#), page 27. Be aware that this eliminates any changes you have made!

### 3.4.4 Reverting all local changes

Sometimes git will become hopelessly confused, and you just want to get back to a known, stable state. This command destroys any local changes you have made in the currently checked-out branch, but at least you get back to the current online version:

```
git reset --hard origin/master
```

### 3.4.5 Working with remote branches

#### Fetching new branches from git.sv.gnu.org

To fetch and check out a new branch named *branch* on git.sv.gnu.org, run from top of the Git repository

```
git config --add remote.origin.fetch \
+refs/heads/branch:refs/remotes/origin/branch
```

```
git checkout --track -b branch origin/branch
```

After this, you can pull *branch* from git.sv.gnu.org with:

```
git pull
```

Note that this command generally fetches all branches you added with `git remote add` (when you initialized the repository) or `git config --add`, i.e. it updates all remote branches from remote *origin*, then it merges the remote branch tracked by the current branch into the current branch. For example, if your current branch is *master*, *origin/master* will be merged into *master*.

#### Local clones, or having several working trees

If you play with several Git branches, e.g. *master*, *translation*, *stable/2.12*), you may want to have one source and build tree for each branch; this is possible with subdirectories of your local Git repository, used as local cloned subrepositories. To create a local clone for the branch named *branch*, run

```
git checkout branch
git clone -lsn . subdir
cd subdir
git reset --hard
```

Note that *subdir* must be a directory name which does not already exist. In *subdir*, you can use all Git commands to browse revisions history, commit and uncommit changes; to update the cloned subrepository with changes made on the main repository, cd into *subdir* and run `git pull`; to send changes made on the subrepository back to the main repository, run `git push` from *subdir*. Note that only one branch (the currently checked out branch) is created in the subrepository by default; it is possible to have several branches in a subrepository and do usual operations (checkout, merge, create, delete...) on these branches, but this possibility is not detailed here.

When you push *branch* from *subdir* to the main repository, and *branch* is checked out in the main repository, you must save uncommitted changes (see `git stash`) and do `git reset --hard` in the main repository in order to apply pushed changes in the working tree of the main repository.

### 3.4.6 Git log

The commands above don't only bring you the latest version of the sources, but also the full history of revisions (revisions, also called commits, are changes made to the sources), stored in the `.git` directory. You can browse this history with

```
git log      # only shows the logs (author, committish and commit message)
git log -p   # also shows diffs
gitk        # shows history graphically
```

**Note:** The `gitk` command may require a separate `gitk` package, available in the appropriate distribution's repositories.

### 3.4.7 Applying remote patches

TODO: Explain how to determine if a patch was created with `git format-patch`.

Well-formed git patches created with `git format-patch` should be committed with the following command:

```
git am patch
```

Patches created without `git format-patch` can be applied in two steps. The first step is to apply the patch to the working tree and the index:

```
git apply --index patch
```

The second step is to commit the changes and give credit to the author of the patch. This can be done with the following command:

```
git commit --author="John Smith <john@example.com>"
```

Please note that using the `--index` option for patching is quite important here and *cannot* reliably be replaced by using the `-a` option when committing: that would only commit files from the working tree that are already registered with git, so every file that the patch actually *adds*, like a regtest for a fixed bug, would get lost. For the same reason, you should not use the git-independent ‘patch’ program for applying patches.

### 3.4.8 Sending and receiving patches via email

The default `x-diff` MIME type associated with patch files (i.e., files whose name ends in `.patch`) means that the encoding of line endings may be changed from UNIX to DOS format when they are sent as attachments. Attempting to apply such an inadvertently altered patch will cause git to fail with a message about ‘whitespace errors’.

The solution to such problems is surprisingly simple—just change the default file extension of patches generated by git to end in `.txt`, for example:

```
git config format.suffix '.patch.txt'
```

This should cause email programs to apply the correct base64 encoding to attached patches.

If you receive a patch with DOS instead of UNIX line-endings, it can be converted back using the `dos2unix` utility.

Lots of useful information on email complications with patches is provided on the Wine wiki at <http://wiki.winehq.org/GitWine>.

### 3.4.9 Cleaning up multiple patches

If you have been developing on your own branch for a while, you may have more commits than is really sensible. To revise your work and condense commits, use:

```
git rebase origin/master
git rebase -i origin/master
```

**Note:** Be a bit cautious – if you completely remove commits during the interactive session, you will... err... completely remove those commits.

### 3.4.10 Commit access

Most contributors are not able to commit patches directly to the main repository—only members of the LilyPond development team have *commit access*. If you are a contributor and are interested in joining the development team, contact the Project Manager through the mailing list ([lilypond-devel@gnu.org](mailto:lilypond-devel@gnu.org)). Generally, only contributors who have already provided a number of patches which have been pushed to the main repository will be considered for membership.

If you have been approved by the Project Manager, use the following procedure to obtain commit access:

1. If you don't already have one, set up a Savannah user account at <https://savannah.gnu.org/account/register.php>. If your web browser responds with an “untrusted connection” message when you visit the link, follow the steps for including the CAcert root certificate in your browser, given at <http://savannah.gnu.org/tls/tutorial/>.

**Note:** Savannah will silently put your username in lower-case – do not try to use capital letters.

2. After registering, if you are not logged in automatically, login at <https://savannah.gnu.org/account/login.php>—this should take you to your “my” page (<https://savannah.gnu.org/my/>).
3. Click on the “My Groups” link to access the “My Group Membership” page. From there, find the “Request for Inclusion” box and search for “LilyPond”. Among the search results, check the box labeled “GNU LilyPond Music Typesetter” and write a brief (required) message for the Project Manager (“Hey it’s me!” should be fine).

Note that you will not have commit access until the Project Manager activates your membership. Once your membership is activated, LilyPond should appear under the heading “Groups I’m Contributor of” on your “My Group Membership” page.

4. Generate an SSH ‘rsa’ key pair. Enter the following at the command prompt:

```
ssh-keygen -t rsa
```

When prompted for a location to save the key, press <ENTER> to accept the default location (`~/.ssh/id_rsa`).

Next you are asked to enter an optional passphrase. On most systems, if you use a passphrase, you will likely be prompted for it every time you use `git push` or `git pull`. You may prefer this since it can protect you from your own mistakes (like pushing when you mean to pull), though you may find it tedious to keep re-entering it.

You can change/enable/disable your passphrase at any time with:

```
ssh-keygen -f ~/.ssh/id_rsa -p
```

Note that the GNOME desktop has a feature which stores your passphrase for you for an entire GNOME session. If you use a passphrase to “protect you from yourself”, you will want to disable this feature, since you’ll only be prompted once. Run the following command, then logout of GNOME and log back in:

```
gconftool-2 --set -t bool \
  /apps/gnome-keyring/daemon-components/ssh false
```

After setting up your passphrase, your private key is saved as `~/.ssh/id_rsa` and your public key is saved as `~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub`.

5. Register your public SSH ‘rsa’ key with Savannah. From the “My Account Configuration” page, click on “Edit SSH Keys”, then paste the contents of your `~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub` file into one of the “Authorized keys” text fields, and click “Update”.

Savannah should respond with something like:

```
Success: Key #1 seen Keys registered
```

6. Configure Git to use the SSH protocol (instead of the GIT protocol). From your local Git repository, enter:

```
git config remote.origin.url \
  ssh://user@git.sv.gnu.org/srv/git/lilypond.git
```

replacing *user* with your Savannah username.

7. After your membership has been activated and you’ve configured Git to use SSH, test the connection with:

```
git pull --verbose
```

SSH should issue the following warning:

```
The authenticity of host 'git.sv.gnu.org (140.186.70.72)' can't
be established.
RSA key fingerprint is
80:5a:b0:0c:ec:93:66:29:49:7e:04:2b:fd:ba:2c:d5.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)?
```

Make sure the RSA key fingerprint displayed matches the one above. If it doesn't, respond "no" and check that you configured Git properly in the previous step. If it does match, respond "yes". SSH should then issue another warning:

```
Warning: Permanently added 'git.sv.gnu.org,140.186.70.72' (RSA) to
the list of known hosts.
```

The list of known hosts is stored in the file `~/.ssh/known_hosts`.

At this point, you are prompted for your passphrase if you have one, then Git will attempt a pull.

If `git pull --verbose` fails, you should see error messages like these:

```
Permission denied (publickey).
fatal: The remote end hung up unexpectedly
```

If you get the above error, you may have made a mistake when registering your SSH key at Savannah. If the key is properly registered, you probably just need to wait for the Savannah server to activate it. It usually takes a few minutes for the key to be active after registering it, but if it still doesn't work after an hour, ask for help on the mailing list.

If `git pull --verbose` succeeds, the output will include a 'From' line that shows 'ssh' as the protocol:

```
From ssh://git.sv.gnu.org/srv/git/lilypond
```

If the protocol shown is not 'ssh', check that you configured Git properly in the previous step.

8. Test your commit access with a dry run:

**Note:** Do not push directly to master; instead, push to staging. See [Section 3.4.11 \[Pushing to staging\]](#), page 32.

```
git push --dry-run --verbose
```

Note that recent versions of Git (Git 1.6.3 or later) will issue a big warning if the above command is used. The simplest solution is to tell Git to push all matching branches by default:

```
git config push.default matching
```

Then `git push` should work as before. For more details, consult the `git push` man page.

9. Repeat the steps from generating an RSA key through to testing your commit access, for each machine from which you will be making commits, or you may simply copy the files from your local `~/.ssh` folder to the same folder on the other machine.

## Technical details

- On Firefox, to view or remove the CAcert root certificate, go to: Edit > Preferences > Advanced > Encryption > View Certificates > Authorities > Certificate Name > Root CA > CA Cert Signing Authority.
- The `git config` commands above should modify your local repository's `.git/config` file. These lines:

```
[remote "origin"]
    url = git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git/
```

should now be changed to:

```
[remote "origin"]
    url = ssh://user@git.sv.gnu.org/srv/git/lilypond.git
```

where *user* is your login name on Savannah.

- Similarly, the `git config push.default matching` command should add these lines to `'.git/config'`:

```
[push]
    default = matching
```

## Known issues and warnings

Encryption protocols, including ssh, generally do not permit packet fragmentation to avoid introducing a point of insecurity. This means that the maximum packet size must not exceed the smallest MTU (Maximum Transmission Unit) set in the routers along the path. This smallest MTU is determined by a procedure during call set-up which relies on the transmission over the path of ICMP packets. If any of the routers in the path block ICMP packets this mechanism fails, resulting in the possibility of packets being transmitted which exceed the MTU of one of the routers. If this happens the packet is discarded, causing the ssh session to hang, timeout or terminate with the error message

```
ssh: connect to host <host ip addr> port 22: Bad file number
fatal: The remote end hung up unexpectedly
```

depending on precisely when in the proceedings the first large packet is transmitted. Most routers on the internet have MTU set to 1500, but routers installed in homes to connect via broadband may use a slightly smaller MTU for efficient transmission over ATM. If this problem is encountered a possible work-around is to set the MTU in the local router to 1500.

### 3.4.11 Pushing to staging

Do not push directly to the git **master** branch. Instead, push to **staging**.

You will not see your patch on **origin/master** until some automatic tests have been run. These tests are run every couple of hours; please wait at least 12 hours before wondering if your patch has been lost. Note that you can check the commits on **origin/staging** by looking at the git web interface on savannah.

It may happen occasionally that the staging branch breaks automated testing. In this case the automatic move of staging material to master gets halted in order to avoid broken material entering master. This is a safety net. Please do not try breaking out from it by adding fixes on top of staging; in that case the whole sequence will end up in master after all, defeating the purpose of the system. The proper fix usually involves rewriting the staging branch and is best left to core developers after discussion on the developer list.

## If your work is in a patch file

Assuming that your patch is in a file called `'0001-my-patch.patch'`, and you are currently on git master, do:

```
git checkout staging
git pull -r
git am 0001-my-patch.patch
gitk
git push origin staging
git checkout master
```



**Note:** Do not skip the `gitk` step; a quick 5-second check of the visual history can save a great deal of frustration later on. You should only see that `staging` is only 1 commit ahead of `origin/staging`.

## If your work is in a branch

If you are working on branches and your work in is `my_branch_name`, then do:

```
git checkout staging
git pull -r
git merge my_branch_name
gitk
git push origin staging
```

**Note:** Do not skip the `gitk` step; a quick 5-second check of the visual history can save a great deal of frustration later on. You should see that `staging` is only ahead of `origin/staging` by the commits from your branch.

## 3.5 Git on Windows

**Note:** We heavily recommend that development be done with our virtual machine [Section 2.1 \[LilyDev\]](#), page 5.

TODO: Decide what to do with this... Pare it down? Move paragraphs next to analogous Unix instructions? -mp

### 3.5.1 Background to nomenclature

Git is a system for tracking the changes made to source files by a distributed set of editors. It is designed to work without a master repository, but we have chosen to have a master repository for LilyPond files. Editors hold a local copy of the master repository together with any changes they have made locally. Local changes are held in a local ‘branch’, of which there may be several, but these instructions assume you are using just one. The files visible in the local repository always correspond to those on the currently ‘checked out’ local branch.

Files are edited on a local branch, and in that state the changes are said to be ‘unstaged’. When editing is complete, the changes are moved to being ‘staged for commit’, and finally the changes are ‘committed’ to the local branch. Once committed, the changes (called a ‘commit’) are given a unique 40-digit hexadecimal reference number called the ‘Committish’ or ‘SHA1 ID’ which identifies the commit to Git. Such committed changes can be sent to the master repository by ‘pushing’ them (if you have write permission) or by sending them by email to someone who has, either as a complete file or as a ‘diff’ or ‘patch’ (which send just the differences from the master repository).

### 3.5.2 Installing git

Obtain Git from <http://code.google.com/p/msysgit/downloads/list> (note, not `msysGit`, which is for Git developers and not `PortableGit`, which is not a full git installation) and install it.

Note that most users will not need to install SSH. That is not required until you have been granted direct push permissions to the master git repository.

Start Git by clicking on the desktop icon. This will bring up a command line bash shell. This may be unfamiliar to Windows users. If so, follow these instructions carefully. Commands are entered at a `$` prompt and are terminated by keying a newline.

### 3.5.3 Initialising Git

Decide where you wish to place your local Git repository, creating the folders in Windows as necessary. Here we call the folder to contain the repository `[path]/Git`, but if you intend using Git for other projects a directory name like `lilypond-git` might be better. You will need to have space for around 100Mbytes.

Start the Git bash shell by clicking on the desk-top icon installed with Git and type

```
cd [path]/Git
```

to position the shell at your new Git repository.

Note: if `[path]` contains folders with names containing spaces use

```
cd "[path]/Git"
```

Then type

```
git init
```

to initialize your Git repository.

Then type (all on one line; the shell will wrap automatically)

```
git remote add -ft master origin git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git
```

to download the lilypond master files.

**Note:** Be patient! Even on a broadband connection this can take 10 minutes or more. Wait for lots of `[new tag]` messages and the `$` prompt.

We now need to generate a local copy of the downloaded files in a new local branch. Your local branch needs to have a name. It is usual to call it ‘master’ and we shall do that here.

To do this, type

```
git checkout -b master origin/master
```

This creates a second branch called ‘master’. You will see two warnings (ignore these), and a message advising you that your local branch ‘master’ has been set up to track the remote branch. You now have two branches, a local branch called ‘master’, and a tracking branch called ‘origin/master’, which is a shortened form of ‘remotes/origin/master’.

Return to Windows Explorer and look in your Git repository. You should see lots of folders. For example, the LilyPond documentation can be found in `[path]/Git/Documentation/`.

The Git bash shell is terminated by typing `exit` or by clicking on the usual Windows close-window widget.

### 3.5.4 Git GUI

Almost all subsequent work will use the Git Graphical User Interface, which avoids having to type command line commands. To start Git GUI first start the Git bash shell by clicking on the desktop icon, and type

```
cd [path]/Git
git gui
```

The Git GUI will open in a new window. It contains four panels and 7 pull-down menus. At this stage do not use any of the commands under Branch, Commit, Merge or Remote. These will be explained later.

The top panel on the left contains the names of files which you are in the process of editing (Unstaged Changes), and the lower panel on the left contains the names of files you have finished editing and have staged ready for committing (Staged Changes). At present, these panels will be empty as you have not yet made any changes to any file. After a file has been edited and

saved the top panel on the right will display the differences between the edited file selected in one of the panels on the left and the last version committed on the current branch.

The panel at bottom right is used to enter a descriptive message about the change before committing it.

The Git GUI is terminated by entering CNTL-Q while it is the active window or by clicking on the usual Windows close-window widget.

### 3.5.5 Personalising your local git repository

Open the Git GUI, click on

**Edit -> Options**

and enter your name and email address in the left-hand (Git Repository) panel. Leave everything else unchanged and save it.

Note that Windows users must leave the default setting for line endings unchanged. All files in a git repository must have lines terminated by just a LF, as this is required for Merge to work, but Windows files are terminated by CRLF by default. The git default setting causes the line endings of files in a Windows git repository to be flipped automatically between LF and CRLF as required. This enables files to be edited by any Windows editor without causing problems in the git repository.

### 3.5.6 Checking out a branch

At this stage you have two branches in your local repository, both identical. To see them click on

**Branch -> Checkout**

You should have one local branch called ‘master’ and one tracking branch called ‘origin/master’. The latter is your local copy of the ‘remotes/origin/master’ branch in the master LilyPond repository. The local ‘master’ branch is where you will make your local changes.

When a particular branch is selected, i.e., checked out, the files visible in your repository are changed to reflect the state of the files on that branch.

### 3.5.7 Updating files from ‘remote/origin/master’

Before starting the editing of a file, ensure your local repository contains the latest version of the files in the remote repository by first clicking

**Remote -> Fetch from -> origin**

in the Git GUI.

This will place the latest version of every file, including all the changes made by others, into the ‘origin/master’ branch of the tracking branches in your git repository. You can see these files by checking out this branch, but you must *never* edit any files while this branch is checked out. Check out your local ‘master’ branch again.

You then need to merge these fetched files into your local ‘master’ branch by clicking on

**Merge -> Local Merge**

and if necessary select the local ‘master’ branch.

Note that a merge cannot be completed if you have made any local changes which have not yet been committed.

This merge will update all the files in the ‘master’ branch to reflect the current state of the ‘origin/master’ branch. If any of the changes conflict with changes you have made yourself recently you will be notified of the conflict (see below).

### 3.5.8 Editing files

First ensure your ‘master’ branch is checked out, then simply edit the files in your local Git repository with your favourite editor and save them back there. If any file contains non-ASCII characters ensure you save it in UTF-8 format. Git will detect any changes whenever you restart Git GUI and the file names will then be listed in the Unstaged Changes panel. Or you can click the Rescan button to refresh the panel contents at any time. You may break off and resume editing any time.

The changes you have made may be displayed in diff form in the top right-hand panel of Git GUI by clicking on the file name shown in one of the left panels.

When your editing is complete, move the files from being Unstaged to Staged by clicking the document symbol to the left of each name. If you change your mind it can be moved back by clicking on the ticked box to the left of the name.

Finally the changes you have made may be committed to your ‘master’ branch by entering a brief message in the Commit Message box and clicking the Commit button.

If you wish to amend your changes after a commit has been made, the original version and the changes you made in that commit may be recovered by selecting

```
Commit -> Amend Last Commit
```

or by checking the Amend Last Commit radio button at bottom right. This will return the changes to the Staged state, so further editing made be carried out within that commit. This must only be done *before* the changes have been Pushed or sent to your mentor for Pushing - after that it is too late and corrections have to be made as a separate commit.

### 3.5.9 Sending changes to ‘remotes/origin/master’

If you do not have write access to ‘remotes/origin/master’ you will need to send your changes by email to someone who does.

First you need to create a diff or patch file containing your changes. To create this, the file must first be committed. Then terminate the Git GUI. In the git bash shell first cd to your Git repository with

```
cd [path]/Git
```

if necessary, then produce the patch with

```
git format-patch origin
```

This will create a patch file for all the locally committed files which differ from ‘origin/master’. The patch file can be found in [path]/Git and will have a name formed from the commit message.

### 3.5.10 Resolving merge conflicts

As soon as you have committed a changed file your local **master** branch has diverged from **origin/master**, and will remain diverged until your changes have been committed in **remotes/origin/master** and Fetched back into your **origin/master** branch. Similarly, if a new commit has been made to **remotes/origin/master** by someone else and Fetched, your local **master** branch is divergent. You can detect a divergent branch by clicking on

```
Repository -> Visualise all branch history
```

This opens up a very useful new window called ‘gitk’. Use this to browse all the commits made by yourself and others.

If the diagram at top left of the resulting window does not show your **master** tag on the same node as the **remotes/origin/master** tag your branch has diverged from **origin/master**. This is quite normal if files you have modified yourself have not yet been Pushed to **remotes/origin/master** and Fetched, or if files modified and committed by others have been Fetched since you last Merged **origin/master** into your local **master** branch.

If a file being merged from `origin/master` differs from one you have modified in a way that cannot be resolved automatically by git, Merge will report a Conflict which you must resolve by editing the file to create the version you wish to keep.

This could happen if the person updating `remotes/origin/master` for you has added some changes of his own before committing your changes to `remotes/origin/master`, or if someone else has changed the same file since you last fetched the file from `remotes/origin/master`.

Open the file in your editor and look for sections which are delimited with ...

[to be completed when I next have a merge conflict to be sure I give the right instructions  
-td]

### 3.5.11 Other actions

The instructions above describe the simplest way of using git on Windows. Other git facilities which may usefully supplement these include

- Using multiple local branches (Create, Rename, Delete)
- Resetting branches
- Cherry-picking commits
- Pushing commits to remote/origin/master
- Using gitk to review history

Once familiarity with using git on Windows has been gained the standard git manuals can be used to learn about these.

## 3.6 Repository directory structure

Prebuilt Documentation and packages are available from:

<http://www.lilypond.org>

LilyPond development is hosted at:

<http://savannah.gnu.org/projects/lilypond>

Here is a simple explanation of the directory layout for LilyPond's source files.

```

.                                Toplevel READMEs, ChangeLog,
|                                build bootstrapping, patches
|                                for third party programs
|
|-- Documentation/              Top sources for manuals
| |
| |
| |   INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS FOR EACH MANUAL:
| |
| |   |-- contributor/         Contributor's Guide
| |   |-- essay/               Essay on automated music engraving
| |   |-- extending/           Extending
| |   |-- learning/            Learning Manual
| |   |-- notation/            Notation Reference
| |   |-- usage/               Usage

```

```

|  |-- web/                The website
|  |
|  |
|  |  TRANSLATED MANUALS:
|  |    Each language's directory can contain...
|  |    1) translated versions of:
|  |        * top sources for manuals
|  |        * individual chapters for each manual
|  |    2) a texidocs/ directory for snippet translations
|  |
|  |-- cs/                 Czech
|  |-- de/                 German
|  |-- es/                 Spanish
|  |-- fr/                 French
|  |-- hu/                 Hungarian
|  |-- it/                 Italian
|  |-- ja/                 Japanese
|  |-- nl/                 Dutch
|  |-- zh/                 Chinese
|  |
|  |
|  |  MISCELLANEOUS DOC STUFF:
|  |
|  |-- css/                CSS files for HTML docs
|  |-- included/           .ly files used in the manuals
|  |-- logo/               Web logo and "note" icon
|  |-- ly-examples/        .ly files for the "Examples" webpage
|  |-- misc/               Old announcements, ChangeLogs and NEWS
|  |-- pictures/           Images used (eps/jpg/png/svg)
|  |  |-- pdf/             (pdf)
|  |-- po/                 Translated build/maintenance scripts
|  |-- snippets/           Auto-generated .ly snippets (from the LSR)
|  |  |-- new/             Snippets too new for the LSR
|  |-- topdocs/            AUTHORS, INSTALL, README
|  |
|  |
|  C++ SOURCES:
|  |
|  |-- flower/             A simple C++ library
|  |-- lily/               C++ sources for the LilyPond binary
|  |
|  |
|  LIBRARIES:
|  |
|  |-- ly/                 .ly \include files
|  |-- mf/                 MetaFont sources for Emmentaler fonts
|  |-- ps/                 PostScript library files
|  |-- scm/                Scheme sources for LilyPond and subroutine files
|  |-- tex/                TeX and texinfo library files
|  |
|  |
|  SCRIPTS:

```

```

|
|-- python/           Python modules, MIDI module
|   |-- auxiliar/     Python modules for build/maintenance
|-- scripts/         End-user scripts (--> lilypond/usr/bin/)
|   |-- auxiliar/     Maintenance and non-essential build scripts
|   |-- build/        Essential build scripts
|
|
|   BUILD PROCESS:
|   (also see SCRIPTS section above)
|
|-- make/             Specific make subroutine files
|-- stepmake/         Generic make subroutine files
|
|
|   REGRESSION TESTS:
|
|-- input/
|   |-- regression/   .ly regression tests
|       |-- abc2ly/   .abc regression tests
|       |-- lilypond-book/ lilypond-book regression tests
|       |-- midi/     midi2ly regression tests
|       |-- musicxml/ .xml and .itexi regression tests
|
|
|   MISCELLANEOUS:
|
|-- elisp/            Emacs LilyPond mode and syntax coloring
|-- vim/              Vi(M) LilyPond mode and syntax coloring
|-- po/               Translations for binaries and end-user scripts

```

### 3.7 Other Git documentation

- Official git man pages: <http://www.kernel.org/pub/software/scm/git/docs/>
- More in-depth tutorials: <http://git-scm.com/documentation>
- Book about git: [Pro Git](#)
- Github help: <http://help.github.com/> (very highly recommended by Graham)

## 4 Compiling

This chapter describes the process of compiling the LilyPond program from source files.

### 4.1 Overview of compiling

Compiling LilyPond from source is an involved process, and is only recommended for developers and packagers. Typical program users are instead encouraged to obtain the program from a package manager (on Unix) or by downloading a precompiled binary configured for a specific operating system. Pre-compiled binaries are available on the [Section “Download” in \*General Information\*](#) page.

Compiling LilyPond from source is necessary if you want to build, install, or test your own version of the program.

A successful compile can also be used to generate and install the documentation, incorporating any changes you may have made. However, a successful compile is not a requirement for generating the documentation. The documentation can be built using a Git repository in conjunction with a locally installed copy of the program. For more information, see [\[Building documentation without compiling\]](#), page 48.

Attempts to compile LilyPond natively on Windows have been unsuccessful, though a workaround is available (see [Section “LilyDev” in \*Contributor’s Guide\*](#)).

### 4.2 Requirements

#### 4.2.1 Requirements for running LilyPond

Running LilyPond requires proper installation of the following software:

- [DejaVu fonts](#) (normally installed by default)
- [FontConfig](#) (2.4.0 or newer)
- [Freetype](#) (2.1.10 or newer)
- [Ghostscript](#) (8.60 or newer)
- [Guile](#) (1.8.2 or newer)
- [Pango](#) (1.12 or newer)
- [Python](#) (2.4 or newer)

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

#### 4.2.2 Requirements for compiling LilyPond

Below is a full list of packages needed to build LilyPond. However, for most common distributions there is an easy way of installing most all build dependencies in one go:

Distribution	Command
Debian, Ubuntu	<code>sudo apt-get build-dep lilypond</code>
Fedora, RHEL	<code>sudo yum-builddep lilypond</code>
openSUSE, SLED	<code>sudo zypper --build-deps-only source-install lilypond</code>

- Everything listed in [Section 4.2.1 \[Requirements for running LilyPond\]](#), page 40
  - Development packages for the above items (which should include header files and libraries).
- Red Hat Fedora:



```
guile-devel-version
fontconfig-devel-version
freetype-devel-version
pango-devel-version
python-devel-version
```

Debian GNU/Linux:

```
guile-version-dev
libfontconfig1-dev
libfreetype6-dev
libpango1.0-dev
pythonversion-dev
```

- **Flex**
- **FontForge** (20060125 or newer; 20100501 or newer is recommended; must be compiled with ‘`--enable-double`’. Failure to do so can lead to poor intersection calculations and poorly-rendered glyphs.)
- **GNU Bison**
- **GNU Compiler Collection** (3.4 or newer, 4.x recommended)
- **GNU gettext** (0.17 or newer)
- **GNU Make** (3.78 or newer)
- **MetaFont** (mf-nowin, mf, mfw or mfont binaries), usually packaged with **T<sub>E</sub>X**.
- **MetaPost** (mpost binary), usually packaged with **T<sub>E</sub>X**.
- **Perl**
- **Texinfo** (4.11 or newer)
- **Type 1 utilities** (1.33 or newer recommended)

### 4.2.3 Requirements for building documentation

You can view the documentation online at <http://www.lilypond.org/doc/>, but you can also build it locally. This process requires some additional tools and packages:

- Everything listed in **Section 4.2.2 [Requirements for compiling LilyPond]**, page 40
- **ImageMagick**
- **Netpbm**
- **gzip**
- **rsync**
- **Texi2HTML** (1.82)
- International fonts

Red Hat Fedora:

```
fonts-arabic
fonts-hebrew
fonts-ja
fonts-xorg-truetype
taipeifonts
ttfonts-ja
ttfonts-zh_CN
```

Debian GNU/Linux:

```
emacs-intl-fonts
ttf-kochi-gothic
```

```

ttf-kochi-mincho
xfonts-bolkhov-75dpi
xfonts-cronyx-75dpi
xfonts-cronyx-100dpi
xfonts-intl-.*

```

## 4.3 Getting the source code

### Downloading the Git repository

In general, developers compile LilyPond from within a local Git repository. Setting up a local Git repository is explained in [Section “Starting with Git” in \*Contributor’s Guide\*](#).

### Downloading a source tarball

Packagers are encouraged to use source tarballs for compiling.

The tarball for the latest stable release is available on the [Section “Source” in \*General Information\*](#) page.

The latest [source code snapshot](#) is also available as a tarball from the GNU Savannah Git server. All tagged releases (including legacy stable versions and the most recent development release) are available here:

<http://download.linuxaudio.org/lilypond/source/>

Download the tarball to your ‘~/src/’ directory, or some other appropriate place.

**Note:** Be careful where you unpack the tarball! Any subdirectories of the current folder named ‘lilypond/’ or ‘lilypond-x.y.z/’ (where x.y.z is the release number) will be overwritten if there is a name clash with the tarball.

Unpack the tarball with this command:

```
tar -xzf lilypond-x.y.z.tar.gz
```

This creates a subdirectory within the current directory called ‘lilypond-x.y.z/’. Once unpacked, the source files occupy about 40 MB of disk space.

Windows users wanting to look at the source code may have to download and install the free-software [7zip archiver](#) to extract the tarball.

## 4.4 Configuring make

### 4.4.1 Running ./autogen.sh

After you unpack the tarball (or download the Git repository), the contents of your top source directory should be similar to the current source tree listed at <http://git.sv.gnu.org/gitweb/?p=lilypond.git;a=tree>.

Next, you need to create the generated files; enter the following command from your top source directory:

```
./autogen.sh --noconfigure
```

This will generate a number of files and directories to aid configuration, such as ‘configure’, ‘README.txt’, etc.

Next, create the build directory with:

```
mkdir build/
cd build/
```

We heavily recommend building lilypond inside a separate directory with this method.

### 4.4.2 Running `../configure`

#### Configuration options

**Note:** make sure that you are in the ‘build/’ subdirectory of your source tree.

The `../configure` command (generated by `./autogen.sh`) provides many options for configuring `make`. To see them all, run:

```
../configure --help
```

#### Checking build dependencies

**Note:** make sure that you are in the ‘build/’ subdirectory of your source tree.

When `../configure` is run without any arguments, it will check to make sure your system has everything required for compilation:

```
../configure
```

If any build dependency is missing, `../configure` will return with:

```
ERROR: Please install required programs:  foo
```

The following message is issued if you are missing programs that are only needed for building the documentation:

```
WARNING: Please consider installing optional programs:  bar
```

If you intend to build the documentation locally, you will need to install or update these programs accordingly.

**Note:** `../configure` may fail to issue warnings for certain documentation build requirements that are not met. If you experience problems when building the documentation, you may need to do a manual check of [Section 4.2.3 \[Requirements for building documentation\]](#), page 41.

#### Configuring target directories

**Note:** make sure that you are in the ‘build/’ subdirectory of your source tree.

If you intend to use your local build to install a local copy of the program, you will probably want to configure the installation directory. Here are the relevant lines taken from the output of `../configure --help`:

By default, ‘make install’ will install all the files in ‘/usr/local/bin’, ‘/usr/local/lib’ etc. You can specify an installation prefix other than ‘/usr/local’ using “--prefix”, for instance “--prefix=\$HOME”.

A typical installation prefix is ‘\$HOME/usr’:

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

Note that if you plan to install a local build on a system where you do not have root privileges, you will need to do something like this anyway—`make install` will only succeed if the

installation prefix points to a directory where you have write permission (such as your home directory). The installation directory will be automatically created if necessary.

The location of the `lilypond` command installed by this process will be `'prefix/bin/lilypond'`; you may want to add `'prefix/bin/'` to your `$PATH` if it is not already included.

It is also possible to specify separate installation directories for different types of program files. See the full output of `../configure --help` for more information.

If you encounter any problems, please see [Section 4.7 \[Problems\]](#), page 48.

## 4.5 Compiling LilyPond

### 4.5.1 Using make

**Note:** make sure that you are in the `'build/'` subdirectory of your source tree.

LilyPond is compiled with the `make` command. Assuming `make` is configured properly, you can simply run:

```
make
```

'make' is short for 'make all'. To view a list of `make` targets, run:

```
make help
```

TODO: Describe what `make` actually does.

#### See also

[Section 4.6.2 \[Generating documentation\]](#), page 45 provides more info on the `make` targets used to build the LilyPond documentation.

### 4.5.2 Saving time with the '-j' option

If your system has multiple CPUs, you can speed up compilation by adding `'-jX'` to the `make` command, where `'X'` is one more than the number of cores you have. For example, a typical Core2Duo machine would use:

```
make -j3
```

If you get errors using the `'-j'` option, and `'make'` succeeds without it, try lowering the `X` value.

Because multiple jobs run in parallel when `'-j'` is used, it can be difficult to determine the source of an error when one occurs. In that case, running `'make'` without the `'-j'` is advised.

### 4.5.3 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'`. For 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
```

and for the profiling version, specify a different configuration

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

If you wish to install a copy of the build with profiling, don't forget to use `conf=CONF` when issuing `make install`:

```
make conf=prof install
```

## See also

[Section 4.6.1 \[Installing LilyPond from a local build\], page 45](#)

### 4.5.4 Useful make variables

If a less verbose build output is desired, the variable `QUIET_BUILD` may be set to 1 on `make` command line, or in `'local.make'` at top of the build tree.

## 4.6 Post-compilation options

### 4.6.1 Installing LilyPond from a local build

If you configured `make` to install your local build in a directory where you normally have write permission (such as your home directory), and you have compiled LilyPond by running `make`, you can install the program in your target directory by running:

```
make install
```

If instead, your installation directory is not one that you can normally write to (such as the default `'/usr/local/'`, which typically is only writeable by the superuser), you will need to temporarily become the superuser when running `make install`:

```
sudo make install
```

or...

```
su -c 'make install'
```

If you don't have superuser privileges, then you need to configure the installation directory to one that you can write to, and then re-install. See [\[Configuring target directories\], page 43](#).

### 4.6.2 Generating documentation

#### Documentation editor's edit/compile cycle

- Initial documentation build:

```
make [-jX]
make [-jX CPU_COUNT=X] doc          ## can take an hour or more
make [-jX CPU_COUNT=X] doc-stage-1  ## to build only PDF documentation
```

- Edit/compile cycle:

```
## edit source files, then...

make [-jX]          ## needed if editing outside
                    ## Documentation/, but useful anyway
                    ## for finding Texinfo errors.
make [-jX CPU_COUNT=X] doc  ## usually faster than initial build.
```

- Reset:

It is generally possible to remove the compiled documentation from your system with `'make doc-clean'`, but this method is not 100% guaranteed. Instead, if you want to be sure you have a clean system, we recommend that you delete your `'build/'` directory, and begin compiling from scratch. Since the documentation compile takes much longer than the non-documentation compile, this does not increase the overall time by a great deal.

## Building documentation

After a successful compile (using `make`), the documentation can be built by issuing:

```
make doc
```

or, to build only the PDF documentation and not the HTML,

```
make doc-stage-1
```

**Note:** The first time you run `make doc`, the process can easily take an hour or more with not much output on the command line.

After this initial build, `make doc` only makes changes to the documentation where needed, so it may only take a minute or two to test changes if the documentation is already built.

If `make doc` succeeds, the HTML documentation tree is available in ‘out-www/offline-root/’, and can be browsed locally. Various portions of the documentation can be found by looking in ‘out/’ and ‘out-www’ subdirectories in other places in the source tree, but these are only *portions* of the docs. Please do not complain about anything which is broken in those places; the only complete set of documentation is in ‘out-www/offline-root/’ from the top of the source tree.

`make doc` sends the output from most of the compilation to logfiles. If the build fails for any reason, it should prompt you with the name of a logfile which will provide information to help you work out why the build failed. These logfiles are not deleted with `make doc-clean`. To remove all the logfiles generated by the compilation process, use:

```
make log-clean
```

`make doc` compiles the documents for all languages. To save some compile time, the English language documents can be compiled on their own with:

```
make LANGS='' doc
```

Similarly, it is possible to compile a subset of the translated documentation by specifying their language codes on the command line. For example, the French and German translations are compiled with:

```
make LANGS='de fr' doc
```

Note that this will also compile the English version.

Compilation of documentation in Info format with images can be done separately by issuing:

```
make info
```

An issue when switching branches between master and translation is the appearance/disappearance of translated versions of some manuals. If you see such a warning from `make`:

```
No rule to make target `X', needed by `Y'
```

Your best bet is to delete the file Y.dep and to try again.

## Building a single document

It's possible to build a single document. For example, to rebuild only ‘contributor.pdf’, do the following:

```
cd build/
cd Documentation/
touch ../../Documentation/contributor.texi
make out=www out-www/contributor.pdf
```

If you are only working on a single document, test-building it in this way can give substantial time savings - recreating ‘contributor.pdf’, for example, takes a matter of seconds.

## Saving time with CPU\_COUNT

The most time consuming task for building the documentation is running LilyPond to build images of music, and there cannot be several simultaneously running `lilypond-book` instances, so the `-j` `make` option does not significantly speed up the build process. To help speed it up, the makefile variable `CPU_COUNT` may be set in `local.make` or on the command line to the number of `.ly` files that LilyPond should process simultaneously, e.g. on a bi-processor or dual core machine:

```
make -j3 CPU_COUNT=3 doc
```

The recommended value of `CPU_COUNT` is one plus the number of cores or processors, but it is advisable to set it to a smaller value unless your system has enough RAM to run that many simultaneous LilyPond instances. Also, values for the `-j` option that pose problems with `make` are less likely to pose problems with `make doc` (this applies to both `-j` and `CPU_COUNT`). For example, with a quad-core processor, it is possible for `make -j5 CPU_COUNT=5 doc` to work consistently even if `make -j5` rarely succeeds.

## AJAX search

To build the documentation with interactive searching, use:

```
make doc AJAX_SEARCH=1
```

This requires PHP, and you must view the docs via a http connection (you cannot view them on your local filesystem).

**Note:** Due to potential security or load issues, this option is not enabled in the official documentation builds. Enable at your own risk.

## Installing documentation

The HTML, PDF and if available Info files can be installed into the standard documentation path by issuing

```
make install-doc
```

This also installs Info documentation with images if the installation prefix is properly set; otherwise, instructions to complete proper installation of Info documentation are printed on standard output.

To install the Info documentation separately, run:

```
make install-info
```

Note that to get the images in Info documentation, `install-doc` target creates symbolic links to HTML and PDF installed documentation tree in `'prefix/share/info'`, in order to save disk space, whereas `install-info` copies images in `'prefix/share/info'` subdirectories.

It is possible to build a documentation tree in `'out-www/online-root/'`, with special processing, so it can be used on a website with content negotiation for automatic language selection; this can be achieved by issuing

```
make WEB_TARGETS=online doc
```

and both `'offline'` and `'online'` targets can be generated by issuing

```
make WEB_TARGETS="offline online" doc
```

Several targets are available to clean the documentation build and help with maintaining documentation; an overview of these targets is available with

```
make help
```

from every directory in the build tree. Most targets for documentation maintenance are available from `'Documentation/'`; for more information, see [Section “Documentation work”](#) in *Contributor's Guide*.

The makefile variable `QUIET_BUILD` may be set to 1 for a less verbose build output, just like for building the programs.

## Building documentation without compiling

The documentation can be built locally without compiling LilyPond binary, if LilyPond is already installed on your system.

From a fresh Git checkout, do

```
./autogen.sh    # ignore any warning messages
cp GNUmakefile.in GNUmakefile
make -C scripts && make -C python
nice make LILYPOND_EXTERNAL_BINARY=/path/to/bin/lilypond doc
```

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 development release of LilyPond will fail to build the docs.

You may build the manual without building all the `'input/*'` stuff (i.e. mostly regression tests): change directory, for example to `'Documentation/'`, issue `make doc`, which will build documentation in a subdirectory `'out-www'` from the source files in current directory. In this case, if you also want to browse the documentation in its post-processed form, change back to top directory and issue

```
make out=www WWW-post
```

## Known issues and warnings

You may also need to create a script for `pngtopnm` and `pnmtopng`. On GNU/Linux, I use this:

```
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/usr/lib
exec /usr/bin/pngtopnm "$@"
```

On MacOS X with fink, I use this:

```
export DYLD_LIBRARY_PATH=/sw/lib
exec /sw/bin/pngtopnm "$@"
```

On MacOS X with macports, you should use this:

```
export DYLD_FALLBACK_LIBRARY_PATH=/opt/local/lib
exec /opt/local/bin/pngtopnm "$@"
```

### 4.6.3 Testing LilyPond binary

LilyPond comes with an extensive suite that exercises the entire program. This suite can be used to test that the binary has been built correctly.

The test suite can be executed with:

```
make test
```

If the test suite completes successfully, the LilyPond binary has been verified.

More information on the regression test suite is found at [Section “Regression tests” in Contributor’s Guide](#).

## 4.7 Problems

For help and questions use [lilypond-user@gnu.org](mailto:lilypond-user@gnu.org). Send bug reports to [bug-lilypond@gnu.org](mailto: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
```

## Compiling on MacOS X

Here are special instructions for compiling under MacOS X. These instructions assume that dependencies are installed using **MacPorts**. The instructions have been tested using OS X 10.5 (Leopard).

First, install the relevant dependencies using MacPorts.

Next, add the following to your relevant shell initialization files. This is `~/.profile` by default. You should create this file if it does not exist.

```
export PATH=/opt/local/bin:/opt/local/sbin:$PATH
export DYLD_FALLBACK_LIBRARY_PATH=/opt/local/lib:$DYLD_FALLBACK_LIBRARY_PATH
```

Now you must edit the generated 'config.make' file. Change

```
FLEXLEXER_FILE = /usr/include/FlexLexer.h
```

to:

```
FLEXLEXER_FILE = /opt/local/include/FlexLexer.h
```

At this point, you should verify that you have the appropriate fonts installed with your ghostscript installation. Check `ls /opt/local/share/ghostscript/fonts` for: 'c0590\*' files (.pfb, .pfb and .afm). If you don't have them, run the following commands to grab them from the ghostscript SVN server and install them in the appropriate location:

```
svn export http://svn.ghostscript.com/ghostscript/tags/urw-fonts-1.0.7pre44/
sudo mv urw-fonts-1.0.7pre44/* /opt/local/share/ghostscript/fonts/
rm -rf urw-fonts-1.07pre44
```

Now run the `./configure` script. To avoid complications with automatic font detection, add

```
--with-ncsb-dir=/opt/local/share/ghostscript/fonts
```

## 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 Mac OS 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
```

## Using lilypond python libraries

If you want to use lilypond's python libraries (either running certain build scripts manually, or using them in other programs), set `PYTHONPATH` to `'python/out'` in your build directory, or `'.../usr/lib/lilypond/current/python'` in the installation directory structure.

## 4.8 Concurrent stable and development versions

It can be useful to have both the stable and the development versions of Lilypond available at once. One way to do this on GNU/Linux is to install the stable version using the precompiled binary, and run the development version from the source tree. After running `make all` from the top directory of the Lilypond source files, there will be a binary called `lilypond` in the `out` directory:

```
<path to>/lilypond/out/bin/lilypond
```

This binary can be run without actually doing the `make install` command. The advantage to this is that you can have all of the latest changes available after pulling from git and running `make all`, without having to uninstall the old version and reinstall the new.

So, to use the stable version, install it as usual and use the normal commands:

```
lilypond foobar.ly
```

To use the development version, create a link to the binary in the source tree by saving the following line in a file somewhere in your `$PATH`:

```
exec <path to>/lilypond/out/bin/lilypond "$@"
```

Save it as `Lilypond` (with a capital L to distinguish it from the stable `lilypond`), and make it executable:

```
chmod +x Lilypond
```

Then you can invoke the development version this way:

```
Lilypond foobar.ly
```

TODO: ADD

- other compilation tricks for developers

## 4.9 Build system

We currently use make and stepmake, which is complicated and only used by us. Hopefully this will change in the future.

### Version-specific texinfo macros

- made with `scripts/build/create-version-itexi.py` and `scripts/build/create-weblinks-itexi.py`
- used extensively in the `WEBSITE_ONLY_BUILD` version of the website (made with `'website.make'`, used on [lilypond.org](http://lilypond.org))
- not (?) used in the main docs?
- the numbers in `VERSION` file: `MINOR_VERSION` should be 1 more than the last release, `VERSION_DEVEL` should be the last **online** release. Yes, `VERSION_DEVEL` is less than `VERSION`.

## 5 Documentation work

There are currently 11 manuals for LilyPond, not including the translations. Each book is available in HTML, PDF, and info. The documentation is written in a language called `texinfo` – this allows us to generate different output formats from a single set of source files.

To organize multiple authors working on the documentation, we use a Version Control System (VCS) called git, previously discussed in [Section 3.2 \[Starting with Git\]](#), page 12.

### 5.1 Introduction to documentation work

Our documentation tries to adhere to our [Section 5.4 \[Documentation policy\]](#), page 61. This policy contains a few items which may seem odd. One policy in particular is often questioned by potential contributors: we do not repeat material in the Notation Reference, and instead provide links to the “definitive” presentation of that information. Some people point out, with good reason, that this makes the documentation harder to read. If we repeated certain information in relevant places, readers would be less likely to miss that information.

That reasoning is sound, but we have two counter-arguments. First, the Notation Reference – one of *five* manuals for users to read – is already over 500 pages long. If we repeated material, we could easily exceed 1000 pages! Second, and much more importantly, LilyPond is an evolving project. New features are added, bugs are fixed, and bugs are discovered and documented. If features are discussed in multiple places, the documentation team must find every instance. Since the manual is so large, it is impossible for one person to have the location of every piece of information memorized, so any attempt to update the documentation will invariably omit a few places. This second concern is not at all theoretical; the documentation used to be plagued with inconsistent information.

If the documentation were targeted for a specific version – say, LilyPond 2.10.5 – and we had unlimited resources to spend on documentation, then we could avoid this second problem. But since LilyPond evolves (and that is a very good thing!), and since we have quite limited resources, this policy remains in place.

A few other policies (such as not permitting the use of tweaks in the main portion of NR 1+2) may also seem counter-intuitive, but they also stem from attempting to find the most effective use of limited documentation help.

Before undertaking any large documentation work, contributors are encouraged to contact the [Section 14.3 \[Meisters\]](#), page 161.

### 5.2 Documentation suggestions

#### Small additions

For additions to the documentation,

1. Tell us where the addition should be placed. Please include both the section number and title (i.e. "LM 2.13 Printing lyrics").
2. Please write exact changes to the text.
3. A formal patch to the source code is *not* required; we can take care of the technical details.
4. Send the suggestions to the `bug-lilypond` mailing list as discussed in [Section “Contact” in General Information](#).
5. Here is an example of a perfect documentation report:

```
To: bug-lilypond@gnu.org
From: helpful-user@example.net
Subject: doc addition
```

In LM 2.13 (printing lyrics), above the last line ("More options, like..."), please add:

----

To add lyrics to a divided part, use `blah blah blah`. For example,

```
\score {
  \notes {blah <<blah>> }
  \lyrics {blah <<blah>> }
  blah blah blah
}
```

----

In addition, the second sentence of the first paragraph is confusing. Please delete that sentence (it begins "Users often...") and replace it with this:

----

To align lyrics with something, do this thing.

----

Have a nice day,  
Helpful User

## Larger contributions

To replace large sections of the documentation, the guidelines are stricter. We cannot remove parts of the current documentation unless we are certain that the new version is an improvement.

1. Ask on the lilypond-devel mailing list if such a rewrite is necessary; somebody else might already be working on this issue!
2. Split your work into small sections; this makes it much easier to compare the new and old documentation.
3. Please prepare a formal git patch.

Once you have followed these guidelines, please send a message to lilypond-devel with your documentation submissions. Unfortunately there is a strict "no top-posting" check on the mailing list; to avoid this, add:

> I'm not top posting.

(you must include the > ) to the top of your documentation addition.

We may edit your suggestion for spelling, grammar, or style, and we may not place the material exactly where you suggested, but if you give us some material to work with, we can improve the manual much faster. Thanks for your interest!

## 5.3 Texinfo introduction and usage policy

### 5.3.1 Texinfo introduction

The language is called Texinfo; you can see its manual here:

<http://www.gnu.org/software/texinfo/manual/texinfo/>

However, you don't need to read those docs. The most important thing to notice is that text is text. If you see a mistake in the text, you can fix it. If you want to change the order of something, you can cut-and-paste that stuff into a new location.

**Note:** Rule of thumb: follow the examples in the existing docs. You can learn most of what you need to know from this; if you want to do anything fancy, discuss it on `lilypond-devel` first.

### 5.3.2 Documentation files

All manuals live in ‘Documentation/’.

In particular, there are four user manuals, their respective master source files are ‘`learning.tely`’ (LM, Learning Manual), ‘`notation.tely`’ (NR, Notation Reference), ‘`music-glossary.tely`’ (MG, Music Glossary), and ‘`lilypond-program`’ (AU). Each chapter is written in a separate file, ending in ‘`.itely`’ for files containing lilypond code, and ‘`.itexi`’ for files without lilypond code, located in a subdirectory associated to the manual (‘`learning/`’ for ‘`learning.tely`’, and so on); list the subdirectory of each manual to determine the filename of the specific chapter you wish to modify.

Developer manuals live in ‘Documentation/’ too. Currently there is only one: the Contributor’s Guide ‘`contrib-guide.texi`’ you are reading.

Snippet files are part of documentation, and the Snippet List (SL) lives in ‘Documentation/’ just like the manuals. For information about how to modify the snippet files and SL, see [Chapter 7 \[LSR work\]](#), page 82.

### 5.3.3 Sectioning commands

The Notation Reference uses section headings at four, occasionally five, levels.

- Level 1: `@chapter`
- Level 2: `@section`
- Level 3: `@subsection`
- Level 4: `@unnumberedsubsubsec`
- Level 5: `@subsubsubheading`

The first three levels are numbered in html, the last two are not. Numbered sections correspond to a single html page in the split html documents.

The first four levels always have accompanying nodes so they can be referenced and are also included in the ToC in html.

Most of the manual is written at level 4 under headings created with

```
@node Foo
@unnumberedsubsubsec Foo
```

Level 3 subsections are created with

```
@node Foo
@subsection Foo
```

- Please leave two blank lines above a `@node`; this makes it easier to find sections in texinfo.
- Do not use any `@` commands for a `@node`. They may be used for any `@sub...` sections or headings however.

```
not:
@node @code{Foo} Bar
@subsection @code{Foo} Bar
```

```
but instead:
@node Foo Bar
@subsection @code{Foo} Bar
```

- With the exception of `@` commands, the section name must match the node name exactly.
- No commas may be used in the node names.

- If a heading is desired without creating a `@node`, please use:

```
@subsubsubheading Foo
```

- Sectioning commands (`@node` and `@section`) must not appear inside an `@ignore`. Separate those commands with a space, ie `@n ode`.

Nodes must be included inside a

```
@menu
* foo::
* bar::
@end menu
```

construct. These are easily constructed with automatic tools; see [Section 5.6 \[Scripts to ease doc work\]](#), page 65.

### 5.3.4 LilyPond formatting

- Most LilyPond examples throughout the documentation can be produced with:

```
@lilypond[verbatim,quote,relative=1]
```

or

```
@lilypond[verbatim,quote,relative=2]
```

If using any combination of `\header{}`, `\score{}` or `\layout{}` in your example, then you must omit the `relative` variable and either use absolute entry mode or an explicit `\relative{}` construction.

If using `\book{}` in your example then you must also omit the `relative` variable and either use absolute entry mode or an explicit `\relative{}` construction. However, you must also include the `papersize=X` variable, where `X` is a defined paper size from within `'scm/paper.scm'`. This is to avoid the default a4 paper size being used and leaving too much unnecessary whitespace and potentially awkward page breaks in the PDFs.

The preferred `papersizes` are `a5`, `a6` or `a8landscape`.

`a8landscape` works best for a single measure with a single title and/or single `tagline`:

```
@lilypond[papersize=a8landscape,verbatim]
\book {
  \header {
    title = "A scale in LilyPond"
  }
  \relative {
    c d e f
  }
}
@end lilypond
```

and can also be used to easily show features that require page breaks (i.e. page numbers) without taking large amounts of space within the documentation. Do not use the `quote` option with this paper size.

`a5` or `a6` paper sizes are best used for examples that have more than two measures of music or require multiple staves (i.e. to illustrate cross-staff features, RH and LH parts etc.) and where `\book{}` constructions are required or where `a8landscape` produces an example that is too cramped. Depending on the example the `quote` option may need to be omitted.

In rare cases, other options may be used (or omitted), but ask first.

- Please avoid using extra spacing either after or within the `@lilypond` parameters.

```
not:          @lilypond [verbatim, quote, relative=1]
but instead:  @lilypond[verbatim,quote,relative=1]
```

- Inspirational headwords are produced with:

```
@lilypondfile[quote,ragged-right,line-width=16\cm,staffsize=16]
{pitches-headword.ly}
```

- LSR snippets are linked with:

```
@lilypondfile[verbatim,quote,ragged-right,texidoc,doctitle]
{filename.ly}
```

- Use two spaces for indentation in lilypond examples (no tabs).
- All engravers should have double-quotes around them:

```
\consists "Spans_arpeggio_engraver"
```

LilyPond does not strictly require this, but it is a useful convention to follow.

- All context or layout object strings should be prefaced with #. Again, LilyPond does not strictly require this, but it is helpful to get users accustomed to this scheme construct, i.e. `\set Staff.instrumentName = #"cello"`
- Try to avoid using #' or #` within when describing context or layout properties outside of an `@example` or `@lilypond`, unless the description explicitly requires it.  
i.e. “...setting the `transparent` property leaves the object where it is, but makes it invisible.”
- If possible, only write one bar per line.
- If you only have one bar per line, omit bar checks. If you must put more than one bar per line (not recommended), then include bar checks.
- Tweaks should, if possible, also occur on their own line.

```
not:          \override TextScript #'padding = #3 c1^"hi"
but instead:  \override TextScript #'padding = #3
              c1^"hi"
```

excepted in Templates, where ‘doctitle’ may be omitted.

- Avoid long stretches of input code. Nobody is going to read them in print. Create small examples. However, this does not mean it has be minimal.
- Specify durations for at least the first note of every bar.
- If possible, end with a complete bar.
- Comments should go on their own line, and be placed before the line(s) to which they refer.
- For clarity, always use { } marks even if they are not technically required; i.e.

not:

```
\context Voice \repeat unfold 2 \relative c' {
  c2 d
}
```

but instead:

```
\context Voice {
  \repeat unfold 2 {
    \relative c' {
      c2 d
    }
  }
}
```

- Add a space around { } marks; i.e.



```
not:          \chordmode{c e g}
but instead:  \chordmode { c e g }
```

- Use { } marks for additional \markup format commands; i.e.

```
not:          c^\markup \tiny\sharp
but instead:  c^\markup { \tiny \sharp }
```

- Remove any space around < > marks; i.e.

```
not:          < c e g > 4
but instead:  <c e g>4
```

- Beam, slur and tie marks should begin immediately after the first note with beam and phrase marks ending immediately after the last.

```
a8\(\ ais16[ b cis( d] b) cis4~ b' cis,\)
```

- If you want to work on an example outside of the manual (for easier/faster processing), use this header:

```
\paper {
  indent = 0\mm
  line-width = 160\mm - 2.0 * 0.4\in
  line-width = #(- line-width (* mm 3.000000))
}

\layout {
}
```

You may not change any of these values. If you are making an example demonstrating special \paper{} values, contact the Documentation Editor.

### 5.3.5 Text formatting

- Lines should be less than 72 characters long. (We personally recommend writing with 66-char lines, but do not bother modifying existing material). Also see the recommendations for fixed-width fonts in the [Section 5.3.6 \[Syntax survey\]](#), page 57.
- Do not use tabs.
- Do not use spaces at the beginning of a line (except in @example or @verbatim environments), and do not use more than a single space between words. ‘makeinfo’ copies the input lines verbatim without removing those spaces.
- Use two spaces after a period.
- In examples of syntax, use @var{musicexpr} for a music expression.
- Don’t use @rinternals{} in the main text. If you’re tempted to do so, you’re probably getting too close to “talking through the code”. If you really want to refer to a context, use @code{} in the main text and @rinternals{} in the @seealso.

### 5.3.6 Syntax survey

#### Comments

- @c ... — single line comment. ‘@c NOTE.’ is a comment which should remain in the final version. (gp only command ;)
- @ignore — multi-line comment:

```
@ignore
...
@end ignore
```

## Cross references

Enter the exact `@node` name of the target reference between the brackets (eg. `@ref{Syntax survey}`). Do not split a cross-reference across two lines – this causes the cross-reference to be rendered incorrectly in html documents.

- `@ref{...}` — link within current manual.
- `@rchanges{...}` — link to Changes.
- `@rcontrib{...}` — link to Contributor’s Guide.
- `@ressay{...}` — link to Engraving Essay.
- `@rextend{...}` — link to Extending LilyPond.
- `@rglos{...}` — link to the Music Glossary.
- `@rinternals{...}` — link to the Internals Reference.
- `@rlearning{...}` — link to Learning Manual.
- `@rlsr{...}` — link to a Snippet section.
- `@rprogram{...}` — link to Application Usage.
- `@ruser{...}` — link to Notation Reference.
- `@rweb{...}` — link to General Information.

## External links

- `@email{...}` — create a `mailto:` E-mail link.
- `@uref{URL[, link text]}` — link to an external url. Use within an `@example ... @end example`.
 

```

      @example
      @uref{URL [, link text ]}
      @end example
      
```

## Fixed-width font

- `@code{...}`, `@samp{...}` —

Use the `@code{...}` command when referring to individual language-specific tokens (keywords, commands, engravers, scheme symbols, etc.) in the text. Ideally, a single `@code{...}` block should fit within one line in the PDF output.

Use the `@samp{...}` command when you have a short example of user input, unless it constitutes an entire `@item` by itself, in which case `@code{...}` is preferable. Otherwise, both should only be used when part of a larger sentence within a paragraph or `@item`. Do not use `@code{...}` or `@samp{...}` inside an `@example` block, and do not use either as a free-standing paragraph; use `@example` instead.

A single unindented line in the PDF has space for about 79 fixed-width characters (76 if indented). Within an `@item` there is space for about 75 fixed-width characters. Each additional level of `@itemize` or `@enumerate` shortens the line by about 4 columns.

However, even short blocks of `@code{...}` and `@samp{...}` can run into the margin if the Texinfo line-breaking algorithm gets confused. Additionally, blocks that are longer than this may in fact print nicely; it all depends where the line breaks end up. If you compile the docs yourself, check the PDF output to make sure the line breaks are satisfactory.

The Texinfo setting `@allowcodebreaks` is set to `false` in the manuals, so lines within `@code{...}` or `@samp{...}` blocks will only break at spaces, not at hyphens or underscores. If the block contains spaces, use `@w{@code{...}}` or `@w{@samp{...}}` to prevent unexpected line breaks.

The Texinfo settings `txicodequoteundirected` and `txicodequotebacktick` are both set in the manuals, so backticks (``) and apostrophes (') placed within blocks of `@code`, `@example`, or `@verbatim` are not converted to left- and right-angled quotes (‘ ’) as they normally are within the text, so the apostrophes in `@w{@code{\relative c'}}` will display correctly. However, these settings do not affect the PDF output for anything within a `@samp` block (even if it includes a nested `@code` block), so entering `@w{@samp{\relative c'}}` wrongly produces `\relative c''` in PDF. Consequently, if you want to use a `@samp{...}` block which contains backticks or apostrophes, you should instead use `@q{@code{...}}` (or `@q{@w{@code{...}}}` if the block also contains spaces). Note that backslashes within `@q{...}` blocks must be entered as `@bs{}`, so the example above would be coded as `@q{@w{@code{@bs{}}relative c'}}`.

- `@command{...}` — Use when referring to command-line commands within the text (eg. `@command{convert-ly}`). Do not use inside an `@example` block.
- `@example` — Use for examples of program code. Do not add extraneous indentation (i.e. don't start every line with whitespace). Use the following layout (notice the use of blank lines). Omit the `@noindent` if the text following the example starts a new paragraph:

```
...text leading into the example...
```

```
@example
```

```
...
```

```
@end example
```

```
@noindent
```

```
continuation of the text...
```

Individual lines within an `@example` block should not exceed 74 characters; otherwise they will run into the margin in the PDF output, and may get clipped. If an `@example` block is part of an `@item`, individual lines in the `@example` block should not exceed 70 columns. Each additional level of `@itemize` or `@enumerate` shortens the line by about 4 columns.

For long command line examples, if possible, use a trailing backslash to break up a single line, indenting the next line with 2 spaces. If this isn't feasible, use `@smallexample ... @end smallexample` instead, which uses a smaller fontsize. Use `@example` whenever possible, but if needed, `@smallexample` can fit up to 90 characters per line before running into the PDF margin. Each additional level of `@itemize` or `@enumerate` shortens a `@smallexample` line by about 5 columns.

- `@file{...}` — Use when referring to filenames and directories in the text. Do not use inside an `@example` block.
- `@option{...}` — Use when referring to command-line options in the text (eg. `@option{--format}`). Do not use inside an `@example` block.
- `@verbatim` — Prints the block exactly as it appears in the source file (including whitespace, etc.). For program code examples, use `@example` instead. `@verbatim` uses the same format as `@example`.

Individual lines within an `@verbatim` block should not exceed 74 characters; otherwise they will run into the margin in the PDF output, and may get clipped. If an `@verbatim` block is part of an `@item`, individual lines in the `@verbatim` block should not exceed 70 columns. Each additional level of `@itemize` or `@enumerate` shortens the line by about 4 columns.

## Indexing

- `@cindex ...` — General index. Please add as many as you can. Don't capitalize the first word.
- `@funindex ...` — is for a `\lilycommand`.

## Lists

- `@enumerate` — Create an ordered list (with numbers). Always put ‘`@item`’ on its own line. As an exception, if all the items in the list are short enough to fit on single lines, placing them on the ‘`@item`’ lines is also permissible. ‘`@item`’ and ‘`@end enumerate`’ should always be preceded by a blank line.

```
@enumerate
```

```
@item
```

```
A long multi-line item like this one must begin
on a line of its own and all the other items in
the list must do so too.
```

```
@item
```

```
Even short ones
```

```
@end enumerate
```

```
@enumerate
```

```
@item Short item
```

```
@item Short item
```

```
@end enumerate
```

- `@itemize` — Create an unordered list (with bullets). Use the same format as `@enumerate`. Do not use ‘`@itemize @bullet`’.

## Special characters

- `--`, `---` — Create an en dash (–) or an em dash (—) in the text. To print two or three literal hyphens in a row, wrap one of them in a `@w{...}` (eg. ‘`–@w{-}-`’).
- `@@`, `@{`, `@}` — Create an at-sign (@), a left curly bracket ({), or a right curly bracket (}).
- `@bs{}` — Create a backslash within a `@q{...}`, `@qq{...}`, or `@warning{...}` block. This is a custom LilyPond macro, not a builtin @-command in Texinfo. Texinfo would also allow ‘`\\`’, but this breaks the PDF output.
- `@tie{}` — Create a *variable-width* non-breaking space in the text (use ‘`@w{ }`’ for a single *fixed-width* non-breaking space). Variables or numbers which consist of a single character (probably followed by a punctuation mark) should be tied properly, either to the previous or the next word. Example: ‘The letter`@tie{}``@q{I}` is skipped’

## Miscellany

- `@notation{...}` — refers to pieces of notation, e.g. ‘`@notation{clef}`’. Also use for specific lyrics (‘the `@notation{A - men}` is centered’). Only use once per subsection per term.
- `@q{...}` — Single quotes. Used for ‘vague’ terms. To get a backslash (\), you must use ‘`@bs{}`’.
- `@qq{...}` — Double quotes. Used for actual quotes (“he said”) or for introducing special input modes. To get a backslash (\), you must use ‘`@bs{}`’.
- `@var{...}` — Use for metasyntactic variables (such as *foo*, *bar*, *arg1*, etc.). In most cases, when the `@var{...}` command appears in the text (and not in an `@example` block) it should be wrapped with an appropriate texinfo code-highlighting command (such as `@code`, `@samp`,

@file, @command, etc.). For example: ‘@code{@var{foo}}’, ‘@file{@var{myfile.ly}}’, ‘@samp{git checkout @var{branch}}’, etc. This improves readability in the PDF and HTML output.

- @version{} — Return the current LilyPond version string. Use ‘@w{@version{}}’ if it’s at the end of a line (to prevent an ugly line break in PDF); use ‘@w{"@version{}}"’ if you need it in quotes.
- @w{...} — Do not allow any line breaks.
- @warning{...} — produces a “Note:” box. Use for important messages. To get a backslash (\), you must use ‘@bs{}

### 5.3.7 Other text concerns

- References must occur at the end of a sentence, for more information see the [texinfo manual](#). Ideally this should also be the final sentence of a paragraph, but this is not required. Any link in a doc section must be duplicated in the @seealso section at the bottom.
- Introducing examples must be done with
 

```
. (i.e. finish the previous sentence/paragraph)
: (i.e. `in this example:')
, (i.e. `may add foo with the blah construct,')
```

The old “sentence runs directly into the example” method is not allowed any more.

- Abbrevs in caps, e.g., HTML, DVI, MIDI, etc.
- Colon usage
  1. To introduce lists
  2. When beginning a quote: “So, he said,...”.  
This usage is rarer. Americans often just use a comma.
  3. When adding a defining example at the end of a sentence.
- Non-ASCII characters which are in utf-8 should be directly used; this is, don’t say ‘Ba@ss{}tuba’ but ‘Baßtuba’. This ensures that all such characters appear in all output formats.

## 5.4 Documentation policy

### 5.4.1 Books

There are four parts to the documentation: the Learning Manual, the Notation Reference, the Program Reference, and the Music Glossary.

- Learning Manual:

The LM is written in a tutorial style which introduces the most important concepts, structure and syntax of the elements of a LilyPond score in a carefully graded sequence of steps. Explanations of all musical concepts used in the Manual can be found in the Music Glossary, and readers are assumed to have no prior knowledge of LilyPond. The objective is to take readers to a level where the Notation Reference can be understood and employed to both adapt the templates in the Appendix to their needs and to begin to construct their own scores. Commonly used tweaks are introduced and explained. Examples are provided throughout which, while being focussed on the topic being introduced, are long enough to seem real in order to retain the readers’ interest. Each example builds on the previous material, and comments are used liberally. Every new aspect is thoroughly explained before it is used.

Users are encouraged to read the complete Learning Manual from start-to-finish.

- **Notation Reference:** a (hopefully complete) description of LilyPond input notation. Some material from here may be duplicated in the Learning Manual (for teaching), but consider the NR to be the "definitive" description of each notation element, with the LM being an "extra". The goal is *not* to provide a step-by-step learning environment – do not avoid using notation that has not been introduced previously in the NR (for example, use `\break` if appropriate). This section is written in formal technical writing style.

Avoid duplication. Although users are not expected to read this manual from start to finish, they should be familiar with the material in the Learning Manual (particularly “Fundamental Concepts”), so do not repeat that material in each section of this book. Also watch out for common constructs, like `^ - _` for directions – those are explained in NR 3. In NR 1, you can write: DYNAMICS may be manually placed above or below the staff, see `@ref{Controlling direction and placement}`.

Most tweaks should be added to LSR and not placed directly in the `‘.itely’` file. In some cases, tweaks may be placed in the main text, but ask about this first.

Finally, you should assume that users know what the notation means; explaining musical concepts happens in the Music Glossary.

- **Application Usage:** information about using the program lilypond with other programs (lilypond-book, operating systems, GUIs, convert-ly, etc). This section is written in formal technical writing style.

Users are not expected to read this manual from start to finish.

- **Music Glossary:** information about the music notation itself. Explanations and translations about notation terms go here.

Users are not expected to read this manual from start to finish.

- **Internals Reference:** not really a documentation book, since it is automatically generated from the source, but this is its name.

## 5.4.2 Section organization

- The order of headings inside documentation sections should be:

```
main docs
@predefined
@endpredefined
@snippets
@seealso
@knownissues
```

- You *must* include a `@seealso`.

- The order of items inside the `@seealso` section is

```
Music Glossary:
@rglos{foo},
@rglos{bar}.

Learning Manual:
@rlearning{baz},
@rlearning{foozle}.

Notation Reference:
@ruser{faazle},
@ruser{boo}.
```

```
Application Usage:
```

```
@rprogram{blah}.
```

```
Essay on automated music engraving:
@ressay{yadda}.
```

```
Extending LilyPond:
@rextend{frob}.
```

```
Installed Files:
@file{path/to/dir/blahz}.
```

```
Snippets: @rlsr{section}.
```

```
Internals Reference:
@rinternals{fazzle},
@rinternals{booar}.
```

- If there are multiple entries, separate them by commas but do not include an ‘and’.
- Always end with a period.
- Place each link on a new line as above; this makes it much easier to add or remove links. In the output, they appear on a single line.  
(“Snippets” is REQUIRED; the others are optional)
- Any new concepts or links which require an explanation should go as a full sentence(s) in the main text.
- Don’t insert an empty line between @seealso and the first entry! Otherwise there is excessive vertical space in the PDF output.
- To create links, use @ref{} if the link is within the same manual.
- @predefined ... @endpredefined is for commands in ‘ly/\*-init.ly’
- Do not include any real info in second-level sections (i.e. 1.1 Pitches). A first-level section may have introductory material, but other than that all material goes into third-level sections (i.e. 1.1.1 Writing Pitches).
- The @knownissues should not discuss any issues that are in the tracker, unless the issue is Priority-Postponed. The goal is to discuss any overall architecture or syntax decisions which may be interpreted as bugs. Normal bugs should not be discussed here, because we have so many bugs that it would be a huge task to keep the @knownissues current and accurate all the time.

### 5.4.3 Checking cross-references

Cross-references between different manuals are heavily used in the documentation, but they are not checked during compilation. However, if you compile the documentation, a script called `check_texi_refs` can help you with checking and fixing these cross-references; for information on usage, `cd` into a source tree where documentation has been built, `cd` into Documentation and run:

```
make check-xrefs
make fix-xrefs
```

Note that you have to find yourself the source files to fix cross-references in the generated documentation such as the Internals Reference; e.g. you can `grep scm/` and `lily/`.

Also of interest may be the linkdoc checks on [kainhofer.com](http://kainhofer.com/~lilypond/linkdoc/). Be warned that these docs are not completely rebuilt every day, so it might not accurately reflect the current state of the docs.

<http://kainhofer.com/~lilypond/linkdoc/>

### 5.4.4 General writing

- Do not forget to create `@cindex` entries for new sections of text. Enter commands with `@funindex`, i.e.

```
@cindex pitches, writing in different octaves
@funindex \relative
```

Do not bother with the `@code{}` (they are added automatically). These items are added to both the command index and the unified index. Both index commands should go in front of the actual material.

- `@cindex` entries should not be capitalized, i.e.

```
@cindex time signature
```

is preferred instead of “Time signature”. Only use capital letters for musical terms which demand them, e.g. “D.S. al Fine”.

- For scheme function index entries, only include the final part, i.e.

```
@funindex modern-voice-cautionary
and NOT
@funindex #(set-accidental-style modern-voice-cautionary)
```

- Use American spelling. LilyPond’s internal property names use this convention.
- Here is a list of preferred terms to be used:
  - *Simultaneous* NOT concurrent.
  - *Measure*: the unit of music.
  - *Bar line*: the symbol delimiting a measure NOT barline.
  - *Note head* NOT notehead.
  - *Chord construct* NOT just chord (when referring to `< ... >`)
  - *Staff* NOT stave.
  - *Staves* NOT Staffs: Phrases such as ‘multiple `@internalsref{Staff}`s’ should be rephrased to ‘multiple `@internalsref{Staff}` contexts’.

### 5.4.5 Technical writing style

These refer to the NR. The LM uses a more gentle, colloquial style.

- Do not refer to LilyPond in the text. The reader knows what the manual is about. If you do, capitalization is LilyPond.
- If you explicitly refer to ‘lilypond’ the program (or any other command to be executed), write `@command{lilypond}`.
- Do not explicitly refer to the reader/user. There is no one else besides the reader and the writer.
- Avoid contractions (don’t, won’t, etc.). Spell the words out completely.
- Avoid abbreviations, except for commonly used abbreviations of foreign language terms such as etc. and i.e.
- Avoid fluff (“Notice that,” “as you can see,” “Currently,”).
- The use of the word ‘illegal’ is inappropriate in most cases. Say ‘invalid’ instead.

## 5.5 Tips for writing docs

In the NR, I highly recommend focusing on one subsection at a time. For each subsection,

- check the mundane formatting. Are the headings (`@predefined`, `@seealso`, etc.) in the right order?



- add any appropriate index entries.
- check the links in the @seealso section – links to music glossary, internal references, and other NR sections are the main concern. Check for potential additions.
- move LSR-worthy material into LSR. Add the snippet, delete the material from the ‘.itely’ file, and add a @lilypondfile command.
- check the examples and descriptions. Do they still work? **Do not** assume that the existing text is accurate/complete; some of the manual is highly out of date.
- is the material in the @knownissues still accurate?
- can the examples be improved (made more explanatory), or is there any missing info? (feel free to ask specific questions on -user; a couple of people claimed to be interesting in being “consultants” who would help with such questions)

In general, I favor short text explanations with good examples – “an example is worth a thousand words”. When I worked on the docs, I spent about half my time just working on those tiny lilypond examples. Making easily-understandable examples is much harder than it looks.

## Tweaks

In general, any \set or \override commands should go in the “select snippets” section, which means that they should go in LSR and not the ‘.itely’ file. For some cases, the command obviously belongs in the “main text” (i.e. not inside @predefined or @seealso or whatever) – instrument names are a good example of this.

```
\set Staff.instrumentName = #"foo"
```

On the other side of this,

```
\override Score.Hairpin #'after-line-breaking = ##t
```

clearly belongs in LSR.

I’m quite willing to discuss specific cases if you think that a tweaks needs to be in the main text. But items that can go into LSR are easier to maintain, so I’d like to move as much as possible into there.

It would be “nice” if you spent a lot of time crafting nice tweaks for users... but my recommendation is **not** to do this. There’s a lot of doc work to do without adding examples of tweaks. Tweak examples can easily be added by normal users by adding them to the LSR.

One place where a documentation writer can profitably spend time writing or upgrading tweaks is creating tweaks to deal with known issues. It would be ideal if every significant known issue had a workaround to avoid the difficulty.

## See also

[Section 7.2 \[Adding and editing snippets\]](#), page 82.

## 5.6 Scripts to ease doc work

### Building only one section of the documentation

In order to save build time, a script is available to build only one section of the documentation in English with a default html appearance.

You can build a section of the documentation with:

```
scripts/auxiliar/doc-section.sh MANUAL SECTION
```

where SECTION is the name of the file containing the section to be built, and MANUAL is replaced by the name of the directory containing the section. So, for example, to build section 1.1 of the Notation Reference, use the command:

```
scripts/auxiliar/doc-section.sh notation pitches
```

You can then see the generated document for the section at

```
tempdocs/pitches/out/pitches.html
```

According to [Lilypond issue 1236](#), the location of the lilypond git tree is taken from `$LILYPOND_GIT` if specified, otherwise it is auto-detected.

It is assumed that compilation takes place in the ‘build/’ subdirectory, but this can be overridden by setting the environment variable `LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR`.

Similarly, output defaults to ‘build/tempdocs/’ but this can be overridden by setting the environment variable `LILYPOND_TEMPDOCS`.

This script will not work for building sections of the Contributors’ guide. For building sections of the Contributors’ Guide, use:

```
scripts/auxiliar/cg-section.sh SECTION
```

where `SECTION` is the name of the file containing the sections to be built. For example, to build section 4 of the Contributors’ guide, use:

```
scripts/auxiliar/cg-section.sh doc-work
```

`cg-section.sh` uses the same environment variables and corresponding default values as `doc-section.sh`.

## Stripping whitespace and generating menus

**Note:** This script assumes that the file conforms to our doc policy; a few files still need work in this regard.

To automatically regenerate @menu portions and strip whitespace, use:

```
scripts/auxiliar/node-menuify.py FILENAME
```

### Stripping whitespace only

To remove extra whitespace from the ends of lines, run

```
scripts/auxiliar/strip-whitespace.py Documentation/FILENAME
```

### Updating doc with convert-ly

Don’t. This should be done by programmers when they add new features. If you notice that it hasn’t been done, complain to `lilypond-devel`.

## 5.7 Docstrings in scheme

Material in the Internals reference is generated automatically from our source code. Any doc work on Internals therefore requires modifying files in ‘`scm/*.scm`’. Texinfo is allowed in these docstrings.

Most documentation writers never touch these, though. If you want to work on them, please ask for help.

## 5.8 Translating the documentation

The mailing list `translations@lilynet.net` is dedicated to LilyPond web site and documentation translation; on this list, you will get support from the Translations Meister and experienced translators, and we regularly discuss translation issues common to all languages. All people interested in LilyPond translations are invited to subscribe to this list regardless of the amount of their contribution, by sending an email to `translations-request@lilynet.net` with subject

`subscribe` and an empty message body. Unless mentioned explicitly, or except if a translations coordinator contacts you privately, you should send questions, remarks and patches to the list `translations@lilynet.net`. Please note that traffic is high on the English-speaking list `lilypond-user@gnu.org`, so it may take some time before your request or contribution is handled.

### 5.8.1 Getting started with documentation translation

First, get the sources of branch `translation` from the Git repository, see [Section 3.2 \[Starting with Git\]](#), page 12.

#### Translation requirements

Working on LilyPond documentation translations requires the following pieces of software, in order to make use of dedicated helper tools:

- Python 2.4 or higher,
- GNU Make,
- Gettext,
- Git.

It is not required to build LilyPond and the documentation to translate the documentation. However, if you have enough time and motivation and a suitable system, it can be very useful to build at least the documentation so that you can check the output yourself and more quickly; if you are interested, see [Chapter 4 \[Compiling\]](#), page 40.

Before undertaking any large translation work, contributors are encouraged to contact the [Section 14.3 \[Meisters\]](#), page 161.

#### Which documentation can be translated

The makefiles and scripts infrastructure currently supports translation of the following documentation:

- the web site, the Learning Manual, the Notation Reference and Application Usage – Texinfo source, PDF and HTML output; Info output might be added if there is enough demand for it;
- the Changes document.

Support for translating the following pieces of documentation should be added soon, by decreasing order of priority:

- automatically generated documentation: markup commands, predefined music functions;
- the Snippets List;
- the Internals Reference.

#### Starting translation in a new language

At top of the source directory, do

```
./autogen.sh
```

or (if you want to install your self-compiled LilyPond locally)

```
./autogen.sh --prefix=$HOME
```

If you want to compile LilyPond – which is almost required to build the documentation, but is not required to do translation only – fix all dependencies and rerun `./configure` (with the same options as for `autogen.sh`).

Then `cd` into `'Documentation/'` and run

```
make ISOLANG=MY-LANGUAGE new-lang
```

where *MY-LANGUAGE* is the ISO 639 language code.

Finally, add a language definition for your language in ‘python/langdefs.py’.

## 5.8.2 Documentation translation details

Please follow all the instructions with care to ensure quality work.

All files should be encoded in UTF-8.

### Files to be translated

Translation of ‘Documentation/foo/bar’ should be ‘Documentation/LANG/foo/bar’. Unmentioned files should not be translated.

Priorities:

- 1. delivery,
- 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. later,
- 7. optional.

Files of priority 1 should be submitted along all files generated by starting a new language in the same commit and thus a unique patch, and the translation of files marked with priority 2 should be committed to Git at the same time and thus sent in a single patch. Files marked with priority 3 or more may be submitted individually. Word counts (excluding LilyPond snippets) are given for each file. For knowing how to commit your work to Git, then make patches of your new translations as well as corrections and updates, see [Section 3.3 \[Basic Git procedures\]](#), [page 20](#).

```
-1- Web site
616  web.texi
4753 web/introduction.itexi
1211 web/download.itexi
1139 macros.itexi
7977 po/lilypond-doc.pot (translate to po/MY-LANGUAGE.po)
0    search-box.ihtml
---  lilypond-texi2html.init (section TRANSLATIONS)
15696 total
```

```
-2- Tutorial
1214 web/manuals.itexi
124  learning.tely
2535 learning/tutorial.itely
4187 learning/common-notation.itely
8060 total
```

```
-3- Fundamental Concepts, starting of Usage and Community
11130 learning/fundamental.itely -- Fundamental concepts
135  usage.tely
4615 usage/running.itely
1209 usage/updating.itely
3006 web/community.itexi
20095 total
```

```
-4- Rest of Learning manual and Suggestions on writing LilyPond files
15468 learning/tweaks.itely -- Tweaking output
```

```

219  learning/templates.itely -- Templates
2694 usage/suggestions.itely -- Suggestions on writing LilyPond files
18381 total

-5- Notation reference
355  notation.tely
91   notation/notation.itely -- Musical notation
4530 notation/pitches.itely
6352 notation/rhythms.itely
1712 notation/expressive.itely
1011 notation/repeats.itely
2640 notation/simultaneous.itely
2392 notation/staff.itely
949  notation/editorial.itely
2729 notation/text.itely
81   notation/specialist.itely -- Specialist notation
4758 notation/vocal.itely
2022 notation/chords.itely
702  notation/piano.itely
812  notation/percussion.itely
826  notation/guitar.itely
66   notation/strings.itely
242  notation/bagpipes.itely
4752 notation/ancient.itely
8701 notation/input.itely -- Input syntax
2164 notation/non-music.itely -- Non-musical notation
11234 notation/spacing.itely -- Spacing issues
12679 notation/changing-defaults.itely -- Changing defaults
5187 notation/programming-interface.itely -- Interfaces for programmers
2177 notation/notation-appendices.itely -- Notation manual tables
252  notation/cheatsheet.itely -- Cheat sheet
79416 total

-6- Rest of Application Usage
4137 usage/lilypond-book.itely -- LilyPond-book
1122 usage/converters.itely -- Converting from other formats
5259 total

-7- Appendices whose translation is optional
326  essay/literature.itely
1222 learning/scheme-tutorial.itely (should be revised first)
1548 total

```

In addition, not listed above, Snippets' titles and descriptions should be translated; they are a part of the Notation Reference and therefore their priority is 5.

## Translating the Web site and other Texinfo documentation

Every piece of text should be translated in the source file, except Texinfo comments, text in `@lilypond` blocks and a few cases mentioned below.

Node names are translated, but the original node name in English should be kept as the argument of `@translationof` put after the section title; that is, every piece in the original file like

```
@node Foo bar
@section_command Bar baz
```

should be translated as

```
@node translation of Foo bar
@section_command translation of Bar baz
@translationof Foo bar
```

The argument of `@rglos` commands and the first argument of `@rglosnamed` commands must not be translated, as it is the node name of an entry in Music Glossary.

Every time you translate a node name in a cross-reference, i.e. the argument of commands `@ref`, `@rprogram`, `@rlearning`, `@rlsr`, `@ruser` or the first argument of their *\*named* variants, you should make sure the target node is defined in the correct source file; if you do not intend to translate the target node right now, you should at least write the node definition (that is, the `@node @section_command @translationof` trio mentioned above) in the expected source file and define all its parent nodes; for each node you have defined this way but have not translated, insert a line that contains `@untranslated`. That is, you should end up for each untranslated node with something like

```
@node translation of Foo bar
@section_command translation of Bar baz
@translationof Foo bar
```

```
@untranslated
```

**Note:** you do not have to translate the node name of a cross-reference to a node that you do not have translated. If you do, you must define an “empty” node like explained just above; this will produce a cross-reference with the translated node name in output, although the target node will still be in English. On the opposite, if all cross-references that refer to an untranslated node use the node name in English, then you do not have to define such an “empty” node, and the cross-reference text will appear in English in the output. The choice between these two strategies implies its particular maintenance requirements and is left to the translators, although the opinion of the Translation meister leans towards not translating these cross-references.

Please think of the fact that it may not make sense translating everything in some Texinfo files, and you may take distance from the original text; for instance, in the translation of the web site section Community, you may take this into account depending on what you know the community in your language is willing to support, which is possible only if you personally assume this support, or there exists a public forum or mailing list listed in Community for LilyPond in your language:

- **Section “Bug reports” in *General Information*:** this page should be translated only if you know that every bug report sent on your language’s mailing list or forum will be handled by someone who will translate it to English and send it on bug-lilypond or add an issue in the tracker, then translate back the reply from developers.
- **Section “Help us” in *General Information*:** this page should be translated very freely, and possibly not at all: ask help for contributing to LilyPond for tasks that LilyPond community in your language is able and going to handle.

In any case, please mark in your work the sections which do not result from the direct translation of a piece of English translation, using comments i.e. lines starting with ‘@c’.

Finally, press in Emacs `C-c C-u C-a` to update or generate menus. This process should be made easier in the future, when the helper script `texi-langutils.py` and the makefile target are updated.

Some pieces of text manipulated by build scripts that appear in the output are translated in a `.po` file – just like LilyPond output messages – in `Documentation/po`. The Gettext domain is named `lilypond-doc`, and unlike `lilypond` domain it is not managed through the Free Translation Project.

Take care of using typographic rules for your language, especially in `macros.itexi`.

If you wonder whether a word, phrase or larger piece of text should be translated, whether it is an argument of a Texinfo command or a small piece sandwiched between two Texinfo commands, try to track whether and where it appears in PDF and/or HTML output as visible text. This piece of advice is especially useful for translating `macros.itexi`.

Please keep verbatim copies of music snippets (in `@lilypond` blocs). However, some music snippets containing text that shows in the rendered music, and sometimes translating this text really helps the user to understand the documentation; in this case, and only in this case, you may as an exception translate text in the music snippet, and then you must add a line immediately before the `@lilypond` block, starting with

```
@c KEEP LY
```

Otherwise the music snippet would be reset to the same content as the English version at next `make snippet-update` run – see [\[Updating documentation translation\]](#), page 73.

When you encounter

```
@lilypondfile[<number of fragment options>,texidoc]{filename.ly}
```

in the source, open `Documentation/snippets/filename.ly`, translate the `texidoc` header field it contains, enclose it with `texidocMY-LANGUAGE = "` and `"`, and write it into `Documentation/MY-LANGUAGE/texidocs/filename.texidoc`. Additionally, you may translate the snippet's title in `doctitle` header field, in case `doctitle` is a fragment option used in `@lilypondfile`; you can do this exactly the same way as `texidoc`. For instance, `Documentation/MY-LANGUAGE/texidocs/filename.texidoc` may contain

```
doctitlees = "Spanish title baz"
texidoces = "
Spanish translation blah
"
```

`@example` blocks need not be verbatim copies, e.g. variable names, file names and comments should be translated.

Finally, please carefully apply every rule exposed in [Section 5.3 \[Texinfo introduction and usage policy\]](#), page 53, and [Section 5.4 \[Documentation policy\]](#), page 61. If one of these rules conflicts with a rule specific to your language, please ask the Translation meister on [translations@lilynet.net](mailto:translations@lilynet.net) list and/or the Documentation Editors on [lilypond-devel@gnu.org](mailto:lilypond-devel@gnu.org) list.

## Adding a Texinfo manual

In order to start translating a new manual whose basename is *FOO*, do

```
cd Documentation/MY-LANGUAGE
cp ../FOO.tely .
mkdir FOO
cp web/GNUMakefile FOO
```

then append *FOO* to variable `SUBDIRS` in `Documentation/MY-LANGUAGE/GNUMakefile`, then translate file `MY-LANGUAGE/FOO.tely` and run `skeleton-update`:

```
cd Documentation/
make ISOLANG=MY_LANGUAGE TEXI_LANGUTIL_FLAGS=--head-only skeleton-update
```

You are now ready to translate the new manual exactly like the web site or the Learning Manual.

### 5.8.3 Documentation translation maintenance

Several tools have been developed to make translations maintenance easier. These helper scripts make use of the power of Git, the version control system used for LilyPond development.

You should use them whenever you would like to update the translation in your language, which you may do at the frequency that fits your and your cotranslators' respective available times. In the case your translation is up-to-date (which you can discover in the first subsection below), it is enough to check its state every one or two weeks. If you feel overwhelmed by the quantity of documentation to be updated, see [\[Maintaining without updating translations\]](#), page 74.

#### Check state of translation

First pull from Git – see [Section 3.3.2 \[Pulling and rebasing\]](#), page 20, but DO NOT rebase unless you are sure to master the translation state checking and updating system – then cd into 'Documentation/' (or at top of the source tree, replace make with make -C Documentation) and run

```
make ISOLANG=MY_LANGUAGE check-translation
```

This presents a diff of the original files since the most recent revision of the translation. To check a single file, cd into 'Documentation/' and run

```
make CHECKED_FILES=MY_LANGUAGE/manual/foo.itely check-translation
```

In case this file has been renamed since you last updated the translation, you should specify both old and new file names, e.g. CHECKED\_FILES=MY\_LANGUAGE/{manual,user}/foo.itely.

To see only which files need to be updated, do

```
make ISOLANG=MY_LANGUAGE check-translation | grep 'diff --git'
```

To avoid printing terminal colors control characters, which is often desirable when you redirect output to a file, run

```
make ISOLANG=MY_LANGUAGE NO_COLOR=1 check-translation
```

You can see the diffs generated by the commands above as changes that you should make in your language to the existing translation, in order to make your translation up to date.

**Note:** do not forget to update the committish in each file you have completely updated, see [\[Updating translation committishes\]](#), page 74.

Global state of the translation is recorded in 'Documentation/translations.itexi', which is used to generate Translations status page. To update that page, do from 'Documentation/'

```
make translation-status
```

This will also leave 'out/translations-status.txt', which contains up-to-dateness percentages for each translated file, and update word counts of documentation files in this Guide.

#### See also

[\[Maintaining without updating translations\]](#), page 74.



## Updating documentation translation

Instead of running `check-translation`, you may want to run `update-translation`, which will run your favorite text editor to update files. First, make sure environment variable `EDITOR` is set to a text editor command, then run from `'Documentation/'`

```
make ISOLANG=MY_LANGUAGE update-translation
```

or to update a single file

```
make CHECKED_FILES=MY_LANGUAGE/manual/foo.itely update-translation
```

For each file to be updated, `update-translation` will open your text editor with this file and a diff of the file in English; if the diff cannot be generated or is bigger than the file in English itself, the full file in English will be opened instead.

**Note:** do not forget to update the committish in each file you have completely updated, see [\[Updating translation committishes\]](#), page 74.

Texinfo skeleton files, i.e. `'.itely'` files not yet translated, containing only the first node of the original file in English can be updated automatically: whenever `make check-translation` shows that such files should be updated, run from `'Documentation/'`

```
make ISOLANG=MY_LANGUAGE skeleton-update
```

`'.po'` message catalogs in `'Documentation/po/'` may be updated by issuing from `'Documentation/'` or `'Documentation/po/'`

```
make po-update
```

**Note:** if you run `po-update` and somebody else does the same and pushes before you push or send a patch to be applied, there will be a conflict when you pull. Therefore, it is better that only the Translation meister runs this command.

Updating music snippets can quickly become cumbersome, as most snippets should be identical in all languages. Fortunately, there is a script that can do this odd job for you (run from `'Documentation/'`):

```
make ISOLANG=MY_LANGUAGE snippet-update
```

This script overwrites music snippets in `'MY_LANGUAGE/foo/every.itely'` with music snippets from `'foo/every.itely'`. It ignores skeleton files, and keeps intact music snippets preceded with a line starting with `@c KEEP LY`; it reports an error for each `'.itely'` that has not the same music snippet count in both languages. Always use this script with a lot of care, i.e. run it on a clean Git working tree, and check the changes it made with `git diff` before committing; if you don't do so, some @lilypond snippets might be broken or make no sense in their context.

Finally, a command runs the three update processes above for all enabled languages (from `'Documentation/'`):

```
make all-translations-update
```

Use this command with caution, and keep in mind it will not be really useful until translations are stabilized after the end of GDP and GOP.

## See also

[\[Maintaining without updating translations\]](#), page 74, Section 7.2 [\[Adding and editing snippets\]](#), page 82.

## Updating translation committishes

At the beginning of each translated file except PO files, there is a committish which represents the revision of the sources which you have used to translate this file from the file in English.

When you have pulled and updated a translation, it is very important to update this committish in the files you have completely updated (and only these); to do this, first commit possible changes to any documentation in English which you are sure to have done in your translation as well, then replace in the up-to-date translated files the old committish by the committish of latest commit, which can be obtained by doing

```
git rev-list HEAD |head -1
```

## See also

[Chapter 7 \[LSR work\]](#), page 82.

## 5.8.4 Translations management policies

These policies show the general intent of how the translations should be managed, they aim at helping translators, developers and coordinators work efficiently.

## Maintaining without updating translations

Keeping translations up to date under heavy changes in the documentation in English may be almost impossible, especially as during the former Grand Documentation Project (GDP) or the Grand Organization Project (GOP) when a lot of contributors brings changes. In addition, translators may be — and that is a very good thing — involved in these projects too.

it is possible — and even recommended — to perform some maintenance that keeps translated documentation usable and eases future translation updating. The rationale below the tasks list motivates this plan.

The following tasks are listed in decreasing priority order.

1. Update `macros.itexi`. For each obsolete macro definition, if it is possible to update macro usage in documentation with an automatic text or regexp substitution, do it and delete the macro definition from `'macros.itexi'`; otherwise, mark this macro definition as obsolete with a comment, and keep it in `'macros.itexi'` until the documentation translation has been updated and no longer uses this macro.
2. Update `*.tely` files completely with `make check-translation` — you may want to redirect output to a file because of overwhelming output, or call `check-translation.py` on individual files, see [\[Check state of translation\]](#), page 72.
3. In `'*.itelys'`, match sections and `.itely` file names with those from English docs, which possibly involves moving nodes contents in block between files, without updating contents itself. In other words, the game is catching where has gone each section. In Learning manual, and in Notation Reference sections which have been revised in GDP, there may be completely new sections: in this case, copy `@node` and `@section`-command from English docs, and add the marker for untranslated status `@untranslated` on a single line. Note that it is not possible to exactly match subsections or subsubsections of documentation in English, when contents has been deeply revised; in this case, keep obsolete (sub)subsections in the translation, marking them with a line `@c obsolete` just before the node.

Emacs with Texinfo mode makes this step easier:

- without Emacs AucTeX installed, `C-c C-s` shows structure of current Texinfo file in a new buffer `*Occur*`; to show structure of two files simultaneously, first split Emacs window in 4 tiles (with `C-x 1` and `C-x 2`), press `C-c C-s` to show structure of one file (e.g. the translated file), copy `*Occur*` contents into `*Scratch*`, then press `C-c C-s` for the other file.

If you happen to have installed AucTeX, you can either call the macro by doing `M-x texinfo-show-structure` or create a key binding in your `~/.emacs`, by adding the four following lines:

```
(add-hook 'Texinfo-mode-hook
  '(lambda ()
    (define-key Texinfo-mode-map "\C-cs"
      'texinfo-show-structure)))
```

and then obtain the structure in the `*Occur*` buffer with `C-c s`.

- Do not bother updating `@menus` when all menu entries are in the same file, just do `C-c C-u C-a` (“update all menus”) when you have updated all the rest of the file.
  - Moving to next or previous node using incremental search: press `C-s` and type `node` (or `C-s @node` if the text contains the word ‘node’) then press `C-s` to move to next node or `C-r` to move to previous node. Similar operation can be used to move to the next/previous section. Note that every cursor move exits incremental search, and hitting `C-s` twice starts incremental search with the text entered in previous incremental search.
  - Moving a whole node (or even a sequence of nodes): jump to beginning of the node (quit incremental search by pressing an arrow), press `C-SPACE`, press `C-s node` and repeat `C-s` until you have selected enough text, cut it with `C-w` or `C-x`, jump to the right place (moving between nodes with the previous hint is often useful) and paste with `C-y` or `C-v`.
4. Update sections finished in the English documentation; check sections status at [http://lilypondwiki.tuxfamily.org/index.php?title=Documentation\\_coordination](http://lilypondwiki.tuxfamily.org/index.php?title=Documentation_coordination).
  5. Update documentation PO. It is recommended not to update strings which come from documentation that is currently deeply revised in English, to avoid doing the work more than once.
  6. Fix broken cross-references by running (from ‘Documentation/’)

```
make ISOLANG=YOUR-LANGUAGE fix-xrefs
```

This step requires a successful documentation build (with `make doc`). Some cross-references are broken because they point to a node that exists in the documentation in English, which has not been added to the translation; in this case, do not fix the cross-reference but keep it “broken”, so that the resulting HTML link will point to an existing page of documentation in English.

## Rationale

You may wonder if it would not be better to leave translations as-is until you can really start updating translations. There are several reasons to do these maintenance tasks right now.

- This will have to be done sooner or later anyway, before updating translation of documentation contents, and this can already be done without needing to be redone later, as sections of documentation in English are mostly revised once. However, note that not all documentation sectioning has been revised in one go, so all this maintenance plan has to be repeated whenever a big reorganization is made.
- This just makes translated documentation take advantage of the new organization, which is better than the old one.
- Moving and renaming sections to match sectioning of documentation in English simplify future updating work: it allows updating the translation by side-by-side comparison, without bothering whether cross-reference names already exist in the translation.
- Each maintenance task except ‘Updating PO files’ can be done by the same person for all languages, which saves overall time spent by translators to achieve this task: the node

names and section titles are in English, so you can do. It is important to take advantage of this now, as it will be more complicated (but still possible) to do step 3 in all languages when documentation is compiled with `texi2html` and node names are directly translated in source files.

## Managing documentation translation with Git

This policy explains how to manage Git branches and commit translations to Git.

- Translation work is made on `translation` branch. This branch is merged on `staging` once a week, approximately. Then, `master` branch is merged on `translation`, where the check-translation script (see [\[Check state of translation\]](#), page 72) shows changes in English docs which should be translated, and the cycle starts again.
- Translations may be pushed directly to `staging` only if they do not break compilation of LilyPond and its documentation. Those changes could be pushed to `translation` too, or alternatively translators could wait until they come from `master` the next time it is merged on `translation`. Similarly, changes matching `stable/X.Y` are preferably made on `X.Ytranslation`.
- `translation` Git branch may be merged into `staging` branch only if LilyPond (`make all`) and documentation (`make doc`) compile successfully.
- `make` and `make doc` are usually successful in `master` Git branch because those tests should have already succeeded in `staging` branch before merging. `master` branch may be merged into `translation` when significant changes had been made in documentation in English in `master` branch.
- General maintenance may be done by anybody who knows what he does in documentation in all languages, without informing translators first. General maintenance include simple text substitutions (e.g. automated by `sed`), compilation fixes, updating Texinfo or lilypond-book commands, updating macros, updating ly code, fixing cross-references, and operations described in [\[Maintaining without updating translations\]](#), page 74.

### 5.8.5 Technical background

A number of Python scripts handle a part of the documentation translation process. All scripts used to maintain the translations are located in `'scripts/auxiliar/'`.

- `'check_translation.py'` – show diff to update a translation,
- `'texi-langutils.py'` – quickly and dirtily parse Texinfo files to make message catalogs and Texinfo skeleton files,
- `'texi-skeleton-update.py'` – update Texinfo skeleton files,
- `'update-snippets.py'` – synchronize ly snippets with those from English docs,
- `'translations-status.py'` – update translations status pages and word counts in the file you are reading,
- `'tely-gettext.py'` – gettext node names, section titles and references in the sources; WARNING only use this script once for each file, when support for `"makeinfo -html"` has been dropped.

Other scripts are used in the build process, in `'scripts/build/'`:

- `'mass-link.py'` – link or symlink files between English documentation and documentation in other languages.

Python modules used by scripts in `'scripts/auxiliar/'` or `'scripts/build/'` (but not by installed Python scripts) are located in `'python/auxiliar/'`:

- `'manuals_definitions.py'` – define manual names and name of cross-reference Texinfo macros,

- `'buildlib.py'` – common functions (read piped output of a shell command, use Git),
- `'postprocess_html.py'` (module imported by `'www_post.py'`) – add footer and tweak links in HTML pages.

And finally

- `'python/langdefs.py'` – language definitions module

## 6 Website work

### 6.1 Introduction to website work

The website is *not* written directly in HTML; instead, the source is Texinfo, which is then generated into HTML, PDF, and Info formats. The sources are

```
Documentation/web.texi
Documentation/web/*.texi
```

Unless otherwise specified, follow the instructions and policies given in [Chapter 5 \[Documentation work\]](#), page 52. That chapter also contains a quick introduction to Texinfo; consulting an external Texinfo manual should be not necessary.

#### Exceptions to the documentation policies

- Sectioning: the website only uses chapters and sections; no subsections or subsubsections.
- `@ref{}`s to other manuals (`@ruser`, `@rlearning`, etc): you can't link to any pieces of automatically generated documentation, like the IR or certain NR appendices.
- The bibliography in Community->Publications is generated automatically from `‘.bib’` files; formatting is done automatically by `‘texi-web.bst’`.
- ...
- For anything not listed here, just follow the same style as the existing website texinfo files.

### 6.2 Uploading and security

#### Overall idea

To reduce the CPU burden on the shared host (as well as some security concerns), we do not compile all of LilyPond. The website build process runs `texi2html`, but all media files (be they graphical lilypond output, photos of people, or pdfs) are copied from the `$LILYPOND_WEB_MEDIA_GIT` repository.

All scripts and makefiles used for the website build are run from a “trusted” copy. Any modification to those files in git needs a human to review the changes (after they have been made in git) before they are used on the server.

#### Building the website (quick local)

Initial setup: make sure that you have the environment variables `$LILYPOND_GIT`, `$LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR` and `$LILYPOND_WEB_MEDIA_GIT` set up correctly. For more information, see [Section 14.2 \[Environment variables\]](#), page 161.

Once that is done,

```
cd $LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR
make website
```

The website is in `‘out-website/website/index.html’`.

#### Building the website (exactly as on the server)

#### Setting up (exactly as on the server)

Initial setup: you still need `$LILYPOND_GIT` and `$LILYPOND_WEB_MEDIA_GIT`.

Once that's done, create:

```
mkdir -p $HOME/lilypond/
mkdir -p $HOME/lilypond/bin/
```

```
mkdir -p $HOME/lilypond/cron/
mkdir -p $HOME/lilypond/trusted-scripts/
```

The add these files to ‘\$HOME/lilypond/bin/’:

Update git repositories:

```
### update-git.sh
#!/bin/sh
cd $LILYPOND_GIT
git fetch origin
git merge origin/master
cd $LILYPOND_WEB_MEDIA_GIT
git fetch origin
git merge origin/master
```

Check for any updates to trusted scripts / files:

```
### check-git.sh
#!/bin/sh
DEST=$HOME/lilypond/trusted-scripts
diff -u $DEST/website.make \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/make/website.make
diff -u $DEST/lilypond-texi2html.init \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/Documentation/lilypond-texi2html.init
diff -u $DEST/extract_texi_filenames.py \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/extract_texi_filenames.py
diff -u $DEST/create-version-itexi.py \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/create-version-itexi.py
diff -u $DEST/create-weblinks-itexi.py \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/create-weblinks-itexi.py
diff -u $DEST/mass-link.py \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/mass-link.py
diff -u $DEST/website_post.py \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/website_post.py
diff -u $DEST/bib2texi.py \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/bib2texi.py
diff -u $DEST/langdefs.py \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/python/langdefs.py
diff -u $DEST/lilypond.org.htaccess \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/Documentation/web/server/lilypond.org.htaccess
diff -u $DEST/website-dir.htaccess \
    $LILYPOND_GIT/Documentation/web/server/website-dir.htaccess
```

If the changes look ok, make them trusted:

```
### copy-from-git.sh
#!/bin/sh
DEST=$HOME/lilypond/trusted-scripts
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/make/website.make \
    $DEST/website.make
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/Documentation/lilypond-texi2html.init \
    $DEST/lilypond-texi2html.init
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/extract_texi_filenames.py \
    $DEST/extract_texi_filenames.py
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/create-version-itexi.py \
    $DEST/create-version-itexi.py
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/create-weblinks-itexi.py \
    $DEST/create-weblinks-itexi.py
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/mass-link.py \
    $DEST/mass-link.py
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/website_post.py \
    $DEST/website_post.py
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/scripts/build/bib2texi.py \
    $DEST/bib2texi.py
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/python/langdefs.py \
    $DEST/langdefs.py
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/Documentation/web/server/lilypond.org.htaccess \
    $DEST/lilypond.org.htaccess
```

```
cp $LILYPOND_GIT/Documentation/web/server/website-dir.htaccess \
  $DEST/website-dir.htaccess
```

Build the website:

```
### make-website.sh
#!/bin/sh
DEST=$HOME/web/
BUILD=$HOME/lilypond/build-website
mkdir -p $BUILD
cd $BUILD
cp $HOME/lilypond/trusted-scripts/website.make .

make -f website.make WEBSITE_ONLY_BUILD=1 website
rsync -ra0 $BUILD/out-website/website/ $DEST/website/
cp $BUILD/out-website/pictures $DEST
cp $BUILD/out-website/.htaccess $DEST
```

Then in the ‘cronjob/’ directory, put the cronjob to automate the trusted portions:

**Note:** cron will not inherit environment variables from your main setup, so you must re-define any variables inside your crontab.

```
# website-rebuild.cron
LILYPOND_GIT=    ... fill this in
LILYPOND_WEB_MEDIA_GIT=    ... fill this in

11 * * * * $HOME/lilypond/trusted-scripts/update-git.sh >/dev/null 2>&1
22 * * * * $HOME/lilypond/trusted-scripts/make-website.sh >/dev/null 2>&1
```

As the final stage of the setup, run your `copy-from-git.sh` script, assuming that you trust the current state of scripts in lilypond git.

## Normal maintenance

When there is a change to the build scripts and/or website makefile, log in to the server (or your own home machine if you’re testing this there), and do

```
update-git.sh
check-git.sh
```

After reviewing the changes carefully, you can update the trusted scripts with `copy-from-git.sh`.

## Building the website (exactly as on the server)

Run `make-website.sh`; the final version ends up in ‘`$HOME/web/`’.

On the actual server, the website is generated hourly by user `graham` the host `lilypond.org`. You can set up the cronjob by doing:

```
crontab $HOME/lilypond/website-rebuild.cron
```

## Initial setup for new users on actual serve

You should symlink your own ‘`~/lilypond/`’ to ‘`~graham/lilypond/`’

If this directory does not exist, make it. Git master should go in ‘`~/lilypond/lilypond-git/`’ but make sure you enable:

```
git config core.filemode false
```

If you have created any files in ‘`~graham/lilypond/`’ then please run:

```
chgrp lilypond ~graham/lilypond/ -R
chmod 775 ~graham/lilypond/ -R
```



## Additional information

Some information about the website is stored in ‘`~graham/lilypond/*.txt`’; this information should not be shared with people without trusted access to the server.

## 6.3 Debugging website and docs locally

- Install `apache2`, or any other http server. These instructions assume that you also enable `mod_userdir`, and use `$HOME/public_html` as the location.
- Build the online docs and website:

```
make WEB_TARGETS="offline online" doc
make website
```

This will make all the language variants of the website. To save a little time, just the English version can be made with the command `make WEB_LANGS='' website` or the English and (for example) the French with `make WEB_LANGS='fr' website`.

- Move the built stuff into those directories. It’s highly recommended to have your build dir and `www` dir on the same partition. (make `$HOME/public_html/` a symlink if necessary)

```
mv out-website/website/ $HOME/public_html
mv $HOME/public_html/website/pictures $HOME/public_html/
mkdir -p $HOME/public_html/doc/v2.13/
mv out-www/online-root/* $HOME/public_html/doc/v2.13/
```

## 6.4 Translating the website

As it has much more audience, the website should be translated before the documentation; see [Section 5.8 \[Translating the documentation\]](#), page 66.

In addition to the normal documentation translation practices, there are a few additional things to note:

- Build the website with:

```
make website
```

however, please note that this command is not designed for being run multiple times. If you see unexpected output (mainly the page footers getting all messed up), then delete your ‘`out-website`’ directory and run `make website` again.

- Some of the translation infrastructure is defined in python files; you must look at the `### translation data` sections in:

```
scripts/build/create-weblinks-itexi.py
scripts/build/website_post.py
```

- Translations are not included by default in `make website`. To test your translation, edit the `WEB_LANGUAGES =` line in ‘`python/langdefs.py`’. You will need to copy this updated script to `$LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR/python/out`.

Do not submit a patch to add your language to this file unless `make website` completes with fewer than 5 warnings.

- Links to manuals are done with macros like `@manualDevelLearningSplit`. To get translated links, you must change that to `@manualDevelLearningSplit-es` (for es/Spanish translations, for example).

## 7 LSR work

### 7.1 Introduction to LSR

The [LilyPond Snippet Repository \(LSR\)](#) is a collection of lilypond examples. A subset of these examples are automatically imported into the documentation, making it easy for users to contribute to the docs without learning Git and Texinfo.

### 7.2 Adding and editing snippets

#### General guidelines

When you create (or find!) a nice snippet, if it is supported by the LilyPond version running on the LSR, please add it to the LSR. Go to [LSR](#) and log in – if you haven’t already, create an account. Follow the instructions on the website. These instructions also explain how to modify existing snippets.

If you think the snippet is particularly informative and you think it should be included in the documentation, tag it with “docs” and one or more other categories, or ask on the development list for somebody who has editing permissions to do it .

Please make sure that the lilypond code follows the guidelines in [Section 5.3.4 \[LilyPond formatting\]](#), page 55.

If a new snippet created for documentation purposes compiles with LilyPond version currently on LSR, it should be added to LSR, and a reference to the snippet should be added to the documentation. Please ask a documentation editor to add a reference to it in an appropriate place in the docs. (Note – it should appear in the snippets document automatically, once it has been imported into git and built. See [Section 7.4 \[LSR to Git\]](#), page 83.

If the new snippet uses new features that are not available in the current LSR version, the snippet should be added to ‘Documentation/snippets/new’ and a reference should be added to the manual.

Snippets created or updated in ‘Documentation/snippets/new’ should be copied to ‘Documentation/snippets’ by invoking at top of the source tree

```
scripts/auxiliar/makelsr.py
```

Be sure that make doc runs successfully before submitting a patch, to prevent breaking compilation.

#### Formatting snippets in ‘Documentation/snippets/new’

When adding a file to this directory, please start the file with

```
\version "2.x.y"
\header {
% Use existing LSR tags other than 'docs'; see makelsr.py for
% the list of tags used to sort snippets. E.g.:
  lsrtags = "rhythms,expressive-marks"
% This texidoc string will be formatted by Texinfo
  texidoc = "
This code demonstrates ...
"
% Please put doctitle last so that the '% begin verbatim'
% mark will be added correctly by makelsr.py.
  doctitle = "Snippet title"
}
```

and name the file ‘`snippet-title.ly`’.

Please ensure that the version number you use at the top of the example is the minimum version that the file will compile with: for example, if the LSR is currently at 2.14.2 and your example requires 2.15.30, but the current development version of `lilypond` is 2.17.5, put `\version "2.15.30"` in the example.

Please also pay particular attention to the lines beginning `lsrtags =` and `doctitle =`. The tags must match tags used in the documentation, and the `doctitle` must match the filename.

### 7.3 Approving snippets

The main task of LSR editors is approving snippets. To find a list of unapproved snippets, log into [LSR](#) and select “No” from the dropdown menu to the right of the word “Approved” at the bottom of the interface, then click “Enable filter”.

Check each snippet:

1. Does the snippet make sense and does what the author claims that it does? If you think the snippet is particularly helpful, add the “docs” tag and at least one other tag.
2. If the snippet is tagged with “docs”, check to see if it matches our guidelines for [Section 5.3.4 \[LilyPond formatting\]](#), page 55.

Also, snippets tagged with “docs” should not be explaining (replicating) existing material in the docs. They should not refer to the docs; the docs should refer to them.

3. If the snippet uses scheme, check that everything looks good and there are no security risks.

**Note:** Somebody could sneak a `#'(system "rm -rf /")` command into our source tree if you do not do this! Take this step **VERY SERIOUSLY**.

4. If all is well, check the box labelled “approved” and save the snippet.

### 7.4 LSR to Git

#### Introduction

Snippets used in the documentation are in ‘`$LILYPOND_GIT/Documentation/snippets`’. This directory contains a complete set of the snippets in the LSR which are tagged with ‘docs’. The exact method for getting them there is described below, but in essence they come from downloading a tarball from the LSR and importing into the directory using the `makelsr` script.

Any snippets which are too bleeding edge to run on the LSR (which uses a stable development version) are put into ‘`$LILYPOND_GIT/Documentation/snippets/new`’. Once the LSR has been upgraded so that these will run, then they are transferred to the LSR and deleted from ‘`/snippets/new`’.

‘Git’ is the shorthand name for the Git repository that contains all the development code. For further information on setting this up see, [Chapter 3 \[Working with source code\]](#), page 12. An alternative to setting up a Git repository for people wanting to do LSR work is to get the source code from <http://lilypond.org/website/development.html>.

#### Importing the LSR to Git

1. Make sure that `convert-ly` script and the `lilypond` binary are a bleeding edge version – the latest release or even better, a fresh snapshot from Git master, with the environment variable `LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR` correctly set up, see [Section 14.2 \[Environment variables\]](#), page 161.

2. Start by creating a list of updated snippets from your local repository. From the top source directory, run:

```
scripts/auxiliar/makelsr.py
```

Commit the changes and make a patch. Check the patch has nothing other than minor changes. If all is good and you're confident in what you've done, this can be pushed directly to staging.

3. Next, download the updated snippets and run `makelsr.py` against them. From the top source directory, run:

```
wget http://lsr.dsi.unimi.it/download/lsr-snippets-docs-`date +%F`.tar.gz
tar -xzf lsr-snippets-docs-`date +%F`.tar.gz
make -C $LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR
scripts/auxiliar/makelsr.py lsr-snippets-docs-`date +%F`
```

where `date +%F` gives the current date in format `YYYY-MM-DD` (the snippets archive is usually generated around 03:50 CET, you may want to use `date -d yesterday +%F` instead, depending on your time zone and the time you run this commands sequence). `make` is included in this sequence so that `makelsr` can run `lilypond` and `convert-ly` versions that match current source tree; you can select different binaries if desired or needed, to see options for this do

```
scripts/auxiliar/makelsr.py --help
```

4. Follow the instructions printed on the console to manually check for unsafe files. These are:

```
Unsafe files printed in lsr-unsafe.txt: CHECK MANUALLY!
git add Documentation/snippets/*.ly
xargs git diff HEAD < lsr-unsafe.txt
```

First, it's important to check for any added files and add them to the files git is tracking. Run `git status` and look carefully to see if files have been added. If so, add them with `git add`.

As the console says, `makelsr` creates a list of possibly unsafe files in '`lsr-unsafe.txt`' by running `lilypond` against each snippet using the `-dsafe` switch. This list can be quite long. However, by using the command `xargs git diff HEAD < lsr-unsafe.txt` git will take that list and check whether any of the snippets are different from the snippet already in master. If any is different it must be checked manually **VERY CAREFULLY**.

**Note:** Somebody could sneak a `#'(system "rm -rf /")` command into our source tree if you do not do this! Take this step **VERY SERIOUSLY**.

If there is any doubt about any of the files, you are strongly advised to run a review on Rietveld.

5. If a Review is not needed, commit the changes and push to **staging**.

Note that whenever there is a snippet in '`Documentation/snippets/new`' and another from the LSR with the same file name, `makelsr.py` will overwrite the LSR version with the one from '`Documentation/snippets/new`'.

## 7.5 Fixing snippets in LilyPond sources

If some snippet from '`Documentation/snippets`' causes the documentation compilation to fail, the following steps should be followed to fix it reliably.

1. Look up the snippet filename '`foo.ly`' in the error output or log, then fix the file '`Documentation/snippets/foo.ly`' to make the documentation build successfully.
2. Determine where it comes from by looking at its first two lines, e.g. run

```
head -2 Documentation/snippets/foo.ly
```

3. **If the snippet comes from the LSR**, also apply the fix to the snippet in the LSR and send a notification email to an LSR editor with CC to the development list – see [Section 7.2 \[Adding and editing snippets\]](#), page 82. The failure may sometimes not be caused by the snippet in LSR but by the syntax conversion made by `convert-ly`; in this case, try to fix `convert-ly` or report the problem on the development list, then run `makelsr.py` again, see [Section 7.4 \[LSR to Git\]](#), page 83. In some cases, when some features has been introduced or vastly changed so it requires (or takes significant advantage of) important changes in the snippet, it is simpler and recommended to write a new version of the snippet in ‘Documentation/snippets/new’, then run `makelsr.py`.
4. **If the snippet comes from ‘Documentation/snippets/new’**, apply the fix in ‘Documentation/snippets/new/foo.ly’, then run `makelsr.py` without argument from top of the source tree:

```
scripts/auxiliar/makelsr.py
```

Then, inspect ‘Documentation/snippets/foo.ly’ to check that the fix has been well propagated.

If the build failure was caused by a translation string, you may have to fix some ‘Documentation/lang/texidocs/foo.texidoc’ instead; in case the build failure comes only from translation strings, it is not needed to run `makelsr.py`.

5. When you’ve done, commit your changes to Git and ensure they’re pushed to the correct branch.

## 7.6 Renaming a snippet

Due to the potential duality of snippets (i.e. they may exist both in the LSR database, and in Documentation/snippets/new/), this process is a bit more involved than we might like.

1. Send an email LSR editor, requesting the renaming.
2. The LSR editor does the renaming (or debates the topic with you), then warns the LSR-to-git person (wanted: better title) about the renaming.
3. LSR-to-git person does his normal job, but then also renames any copies of the snippets in Documentation/snippets/new/, and any instances of the snippet name in the documentation.

`git grep` is highly recommended for this task.

## 7.7 Updating the LSR to a new version

To update the LSR, perform the following steps:

1. Start by emailing the LSR maintainer, Sebastiano, and liaising with him to ensure that updating the snippets is synchronised with updating the binary running the LSR.
2. Download the latest snippet tarball from <http://lsr.dsi.unimi.it/download/> and extract it. The relevant files can be found in the ‘all’ subdirectory. Make sure your shell is using an English language version, for example `LANG=en_US`, then run `convert-ly` on all the files. Use the command-line option `--to=version` to ensure the snippets are updated to the correct stable version.
3. Make sure that you are using `convert-ly` from the latest available release to gain best advantage from the latest `converting-rules-updates`.

For example:

- LSR-version: 2.12.2
- intended LSR-update to 2.14.2

- latest release 2.15.30

Use `convert-ly` from 2.15.30 and the following terminal command for all files:

```
convert-ly -e -t2.14.2 *.ly
```

4. There might be no conversion rule for some old commands. To make an initial check for possible problems you can run the following script on a copy of the ‘all’ subdirectory:

```
#!/bin/bash

for LILYFILE in *.ly
do
    STEM=$(basename "$LILYFILE" .ly)
    echo "running $LILYFILE..."
    convert-ly -e -t<version> "$LILYFILE" >& "$STEM".txt
done

grep refer *.txt
grep smart *.txt
TODO: better script
```

5. Copy relevant snippets (i.e. snippets whose version is equal to or less than the new version of LilyPond running on the LSR) from ‘Documentation/snippets/new/’ into the set of files to be used to make the tarball. Make sure you only choose snippets which are already present in the LSR, since the LSR software isn’t able to create new snippets this way. If you don’t have a Git repository for LilyPond, you’ll find these snippets in the source-tarball on <http://lilypond.org/website/development.html>. Don’t rename any files at this stage.
6. Verify that all files compile with the new version of LilyPond, ideally without any warnings or errors. To ease the process, you may use the shell script that appears after this list. Due to the workload involved, we *do not* require that you verify that all snippets produce the expected output. If you happen to notice any such snippets and can fix them, great; but as long as all snippets compile, don’t delay this step due to some weird output. If a snippet is not compiling, update it manually. If it’s not possible, delete it for now.
7. Remove all headers and version-statements from the files. Phil Holmes has a `python` script that will do this and which needs testing. Please ask him for a copy if you wish to do this.
8. Create a tarball and send it back to Sebastiano. Don’t forget to tell him about any deletions.
9. Use the LSR web interface to change any descriptions you want to. Changing the titles of snippets is a bit fraught, since this also changes the filenames. Only do this as a last resort.
10. Use the LSR web interface to add the other snippets from ‘Documentation/snippets/new/’ which compile with the new LilyPond version of the LSR. Ensure that they are correctly tagged, including the tag `docs` and that they are approved.
11. When LSR has been updated, wait a day for the tarball to update, then download another snippet tarball. Verify that the relevant snippets from ‘Documentation/snippets/new/’ are now included, then delete those snippets from ‘Documentation/snippets/new/’.
12. Commit all the changes. *Don’t forget to add new files to the git repository with `git add`.* Run `make`, `make doc` and `make test` to ensure the changes don’t break the build. Any snippets that have had their file name changed or have been deleted could break the build, and these will need correcting step by step.

Below is a shell script to run all ‘.ly’ files in a directory and redirect terminal output to text files, which are then searched for the word “failed” to see which snippets do not compile.

```
#!/bin/bash

for LILYFILE in *.ly
```

```
do
  STEM=$(basename "$LILYFILE" .ly)
  echo "running $LILYFILE..."
  lilypond --format=png -ddelete-intermediate-files "$LILYFILE" >& "$STEM".txt
done

grep failed *.txt
TODO: better script
```

Sometimes `grep failed *.txt` will not discover all problematic files. In addition you may want to use:

```
grep ERROR *.txt
grep error *.txt
grep warning *.txt
```

## 8 Issues

This chapter deals with defects, feature requests, and miscellaneous development tasks.

### 8.1 Introduction to issues

**Note:** Unless otherwise specified, all the tasks in this chapter are “simple” tasks: they can be done by a normal user with nothing more than a web browser, email, and lilypond.

“Issues” isn’t just a politically-correct term for “bug”. We use the same tracker for feature requests, code TODOs and patches, so the term “bug” wouldn’t be accurate. Despite the difference between “issue” and “bug”, we call our team of contributors who organize issues the *Bug Squad*.

The Bug Squad is mainly composed of non-programmers – their job is to *organize* issues, not solve them. Their duties include removing false bug reports, ensuring that any real bug report contains enough information for developers, and checking that a developer’s fix actually resolves the problem.

New volunteers for the Bug Squad should contact the [Section 14.3 \[Meisters\]](#), page 161.

### 8.2 Bug Squad overview

The Bug Squad are volunteers who progress issue tracking using the Google Issue tracker at

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

Bug Squad members have 2 primary responsibilities:

1. Monitoring the LilyPond Bugs mailing list and adding to the tracker any new issues reported there.
2. Verifying issues that are claimed fixed by a developer, to ensure that the fix works, and is actually in the code base.

It’s also part of the Bug Squad’s responsibility to check that the Regression Tests don’t show up any problems in the latest release. The Bug Meister currently does this.

All of this is explained in more detail in the following sections.

### 8.3 Bug Squad setup

We highly recommend that you configure your email to use effective sorting; this can reduce your workload *immensely*. The email folders names were chosen specifically to make them work if you sort your folders alphabetically.

1. Read every section of this chapter, [Chapter 8 \[Issues\]](#), page 88.
2. If you do not have one already, create a gmail account and send the email address to the [Section 14.3 \[Meisters\]](#), page 161.
3. Subscribe your gmail account to `bug-lilypond`.
4. Configure your google code account:
  1. Wait until your gmail account is listed in:

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

2. Sign in to google code by clicking in the top-right corner of:

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

You cannot log on if you have Google Sharing enabled <http://www.googlesharing.net/>.



3. Go to your “Profile”, and select “Settings”.
4. Scroll down to “Issue change notification”, and make sure that you have *selected* “If I starred the issue”.
5. Configure your email client:
  1. Any email sent with your gmail address in the To: or CC: fields should go to a **bug-answers** folder.  
 When setting up your filtering rules, be aware that Google Code might use different versions of your email address, such as ones ending in `@googlemail.com` or `@gmail.com`.
  2. Any other email either from, or CC’d to,  
`lilypond@googlecode.com`  
 should go into a separate **bug-ignore** folder. Alternately, you may automatically delete these emails.  
 You will **not read** these emails as part of your Bug Squad duties. If you are curious, go ahead and read them later, but it does **not** count as Bug Squad work.
  3. Any other email sent to (or CC’d to):  
`bug-lilypond`  
 should go into a separate **bug-current** folder.

## 8.4 Bug Squad checklists

When you do Bug Squad work, start at the top of this page and work your way down. Stop when you’ve done 20 minutes.

Please use the email sorting described in [Section 8.3 \[Bug Squad setup\], page 88](#). This means that (as Bug Squad members) you will only ever respond to emails sent or CC’d to the `bug-lilypond` mailing list.

### Emails to you personally

You are not expected to work on Bug Squad matters outside of your 20 minutes, but sometimes a confused user will send a bug report (or an update to a report) to you personally. If that happens, please forward such emails to the `bug-lilypond` list so that the currently-active Bug Squad member(s) can handle the message.

### Daily schedule

Monday:	Colin H
Tuesday:	Eluze
Wednesday:	Marek
Thursday:	Ralph
Friday:	Marek
Saturday:	Mark
Sunday:	Colin H

### Emails to bug-answers

Some of these emails will be comments on issues that you added to the tracker.

If they are asking for more information, give the additional information.

- If the email says that the issue was classified in some other manner, read the rationale given and take that into account for the next issue you add.
- Otherwise, move them to your **bug-ignore** folder.

Some of these emails will be discussions about Bug Squad work; read those.

## Emails to bug-current

Dealing with these emails is your main task. Your job is to get rid of these emails in the first method which is applicable:

1. If the email has already been handled by a Bug Squad member (i.e. check to see who else has replied to it), delete it.
2. If the email is a question about how to use LilyPond, reply with this response:

For questions about how to use LilyPond, please read our documentation available from:

<http://lilypond.org/website/manuals.html>

or ask the lilypond-user mailing list.

3. If the email mentions “the latest git”, or any version number that has not yet been officially released, forward it to lilypond-devel.
4. If a bug report is not in the form of a Tiny example, direct the user to resubmit the report with this response:

I'm sorry, but due to our limited resources for handling bugs, we can only accept reports in the form of Tiny examples. Please see step 2 in our bug reporting guidelines:

<http://lilypond.org/website/bug-reports.html>

5. If anything is unclear, ask the user for more information.

How does the graphical output differ from what the user expected? What version of lilypond was used (if not given) and operating system (if this is a suspected cause of the problem)? In short, if you cannot understand what the problem is, ask the user to explain more. It is the user's responsibility to explain the problem, not your responsibility to understand it.

6. If the behavior is expected, the user should be told to read the documentation:

I believe that this is the expected behaviour -- please read our documentation about this topic. If you think that it really is a mistake, please explain in more detail. If you think that the docs are unclear, please suggest an improvement as described by \Simple tasks -- Documentation"

on:

<http://lilypond.org/website/help-us.html>

7. If the issue already exists in the tracker, send an email to that effect:

This issue has already been reported; you can follow the discussion and be notified about fixes here:

(copy+paste the google code issue URL)

8. Accept the report as described in [Section 8.6 \[Adding issues to the tracker\]](#), page 93.

All emails should be CC'd to the bug-lilypond list so that other Bug Squad members know that you have processed the email.

**Note:** There is no option for “ignore the bug report” – if you cannot find a reason to reject the report, you must accept it.

## Regular maintenance

After **every release** (both stable and unstable):

- Issues to verify: go to

<http://code.google.com/p/lilypond/issues/list?can=7>

(You can also generate this list by selecting “Issues to verify” from the drop-down list next to the search box.)

You should see a list of Issues that have been claimed fixed by a developer. If the developer has done their job properly, the Issue should have a tag “Fixed\_mm\_MM\_ss”, where mm is the major version, MM the minor version and ss the current release. This will help you work out which you can verify - do not verify any Issues where the claimed fixed build is not yet released. Work your way through these as follows:

If the Issue refers to a bug, try to reproduce the bug with the latest officially released version (not one you’ve built yourself from source); if the bug is no longer there, mark the issue “Verified” (i.e. “the fix has been verified to work”).

Quite a few of these will be issues tracking patches. **You do not have to prove these patches work - simply that they have been pushed into the code base.** The developer should have put information similar to “Pushed as as d8fce1e1ea2aca1a82e25e47805aef0f70f511b9” in the tracker. The long list of letters and numbers is called the “committish”. Providing you can find this at the git tracker:

<http://git.savannah.gnu.org/gitweb/?p=lilypond.git>

then you should mark the issue as verified. A quick way of finding these is to enter the committish at the following address:

<http://philholmes.net/lilypond/git/>

The Issue tracker also requires that any issues labelled as “Duplicate” are also verified. Check that the linked issue is a duplicate and verify the issue.

A few (approximately 10%) of the fixed issues relate to the build system or fundamental architecture changes; there is no way for you to verify these. Leave those issues alone; somebody else will handle them.

- The official regression test comparison is online at:

<http://lilypond.org/test/>

If anything has changed suspiciously, ask if it was deliberate. If the text output from LilyPond (the logfile) changes, the differences will be displayed with a + before text added to the logfile and - before any text removed from the logfile. This may or may not be suspicious.

There is one test designed to produce output every time the regtests are created. `test-output-distance.ly` creates randomly spaced notes and will always have different output if the regtest checker is working.

More information is available from in [Section 9.2 \[Precompiled regression tests\]](#), page 96.

- Check for any incorrectly-classified items in the tracker. This generally just means looking at the grid to see any items without a Type.

## 8.5 Issue classification

The Bug Squad should classify issues according to the guidelines given by developers. Every issue should have a Status and Type; the other fields are optional.

### Status (mandatory)

Open issues:

- New: the item was added by a non-member, despite numerous warnings not to do this. Should be reviewed by a member of the Bug Squad.
- Accepted: the Bug Squad added it, or reviewed the item.
- Started: a contributor is working on a fix. Owner should change to be this contributor.

Closed issues:

- Invalid: issue should not have been added in the current state.
- Duplicate: issue already exists in the tracker.
- Fixed: a contributor claims to have fixed the bug. The Bug Squad should check the fix with the next official binary release (not by compiling the source from git). Owner should be set to that contributor.
- Verified: Bug Squad has confirmed that the issue is closed. This means that nobody should ever need look at the report again – if there is any information in the issue that should be kept, open a new issue for that info.

## Owner (optional)

Newly-added issues should have *no owner*. When a contributor indicates that he has Started or Fixed an item, he should become the owner.

## Type (mandatory)

The issue's Type should be the first relevant item in this list.

- Type-Critical: normally a regression against the current stable version or the previous stable version. Alternatively, a regression against a fix developed for the current version. This does not apply where the “regression” occurred because a feature was removed deliberately - this is not a bug.

Currently, only Critical items will block a stable release.

- Type-Maintainability: hinders future development.
- Type-Crash: any input which produces a crash.
- Type-Ugly: overlapping or other ugly notation in graphical output.
- Type-Defect: a problem in the core program. (the `lilypond` binary, scm files, fonts, etc).
- Type-Documentation: inaccurate, missing, confusing, or desired additional info. Must be fixable by editing a texinfo, ly, or scm file.
- Type-Build: problem or desired features in the build system. This includes the makefiles, stepmake, python scripts, and GUB.
- Type-Scripts: problem or desired feature in the non-build-system scripts. Mostly used for `convert-ly`, `lilypond-book`, etc.
- Type-Enhancement: a feature request for the core program. The distinction between enhancement and defect isn't extremely clear; when in doubt, mark it as enhancement.
- Type-Patch: tracking a patch on Rietveld. Bug squad should not need to use this label.
- Type-Other: anything else.

## Opsys (optional)

Issues that only affect specific operating systems.

## Patch label (optional)

Normal Bug Squad members should not add or modify Patch issues except to verify them; for all other Patch work, leave them to the Patch Meister.

- Patch-new: the patch has not been checked for “obvious” mistakes. When in doubt, use this tag.
- Patch-review: the patch has no “obvious” mistakes (as checked by the Patch Meister), and is ready for review from main developers.

Developers with git push ability can use this category, skipping over `patch-new`.

- **Patch-needs\_work**: a developer has some concerns about the patch. This does not necessarily mean that the patch must be changed; in some cases, the developer's concerns can be resolved simply by discussing the situation or providing notation examples.

If the patch is updated, the category should be changed to **patch-new** (for normal contributors) or **patch-review** (for developers who are very confident about their patch).

- **Patch-countdown**: final call for any patch problems
- **Patch-push**: patch has passed the countdown and should be pushed.
- **Patch-abandoned**: the author has not responded to review comments for a few months.

## Other items (optional)

Other labels:

- **Regression**: it used to work intentionally in the current stable release or the previous stable release. If the earlier output was accidental (i.e. we didn't try to stop a collision, but it just so happened that two grobs didn't collide), then breaking it does not count as a regression.

To help decide whether the change is a regression, please adopt the following process:

1. Are you certain the change is OK? If so, do nothing.
2. Are you certain that the change is bad? Add it to the tracker as a regression.
3. If you're not certain either way, add it to the tracker as a regression but be aware that it may be recategorised or marked invalid.

In particular, anything that breaks a regression test is a regression.

- **Frog**: the fix is believed to be suitable for a new contributor (does not require a great deal of knowledge about LilyPond). The issue should also have an estimated time in a comment.
- **Bounty**: somebody is willing to pay for the fix. Only add this tag if somebody has offered an exact figure in US dollars or euros.
- **Warning**: graphical output is fine, but lilypond prints a false/misleading warning message. Alternately, a warning should be printed (such as a bar line error), but was not. Also applies to warnings when compiling the source code or generating documentation.
- **Security**: security risk.
- **Performance**: performance issue.

If you particularly want to add a label not in the list, go ahead, but this is not recommended, except when an issue is marked as fixed. In this case it should be labeled `Fixed-mm-MM-ss`, where mm is major version, MM minor version and ss current release.

## 8.6 Adding issues to the tracker

**Note:** This should only be done by the Bug Squad or experienced developers. Normal users should not do this; instead, they should follow the guidelines for [Section “Bug reports” in \*General Information\*](#).

In order to assign labels to issues, Bug Squad members should log in to their google account before adding an item.

1. Check if the issue falls into any previous category given on the relevant checklists in [Section 8.4 \[Bug Squad checklists\], page 89](#). If in doubt, add a new issue for a report. We would prefer to have some incorrectly-added issues rather than lose information that should have been added.

2. Add the issue and classify it according to the guidelines in [Section 8.5 \[Issue classification\]](#), [page 91](#). In particular, the item should have **Status** and **Type-** labels.

Include output with the first applicable method:

- If the issue has a notation example which fits in one system, generate a small ‘bug.preview.png’ file with:

```
lilypond -dpreview bug.ly
```

- If the issue has an example which requires more than one system (i.e. a spacing bug), generate a ‘bug.png’ file with:

```
lilypond --png bug.ly
```

- If the issue requires one or two pages of output, then generate a ‘bug.png’ file with the normal:

```
lilypond --png bug.ly
```

- Images created as ‘bug.png’ may be trimmed to a minimum size by using the `trimtagline.sh` script, which can be found at

<https://raw.githubusercontent.com/gperciva/lilypond-extra/master/bug-squad/trimtagline.sh>

```
trimtagline.sh bug.ly
```

- If the issue cannot be shown with less than three pages, then generate a ‘bug.pdf’ file with:

```
lilypond --pdf bug.ly
```

Note that this is likely to be extremely rare; most bugs should fit into the first two categories above.

3. After adding the issue, please send a response email to the same group(s) that the initial patch was sent to. If the initial email was sent to multiple mailing lists (such as both **user** and **bugs**), then reply to all those mailing lists as well. The email should contain a link to the issue you just added.

## 8.7 Patch handling

**Note:** This is not a Bug Squad responsibility; we have a separate person handling this task.

For contributors/developers: follow the steps in [Section 3.3.4 \[Commits and patches\]](#), [page 22](#), and [Section 3.4.11 \[Pushing to staging\]](#), [page 32](#).

For people doing maintenance tasks: git-cl is adding issues, James is testing them, Colin is selecting them for countdowns, and Patchy is merging from staging to master. In the coming weeks, these tasks will be more and more automated.

## 8.8 Summary of project status

### Project overview

Grid view provides the best overview:

<http://code.google.com/p/lilypond/issues/list?mode=grid&y=Priority&x=Type&cells=ids>

### Hindering development

These issues stop or slow development work:

<http://code.google.com/p/lilypond/issues/list?can=2&q=label:Maintainability>

## Easy tasks

Issues tagged with **Frog** indicates a task suitable for a relatively new contributor. The time given is a quick (inaccurate) estimate of the time required for somebody who is familiar with material in this manual, but does not know anything else about LilyPond development.

<http://code.google.com/p/lilypond/issues/list?can=2&q=label:Frog>

## Patches to review

Patches which have no “obvious” problems:

<http://code.google.com/p/lilypond/issues/list?can=2&q=label:patch-review>

## 9 Regression tests

### 9.1 Introduction to regression tests

LilyPond has a complete suite of regression tests that are used to ensure that changes to the code do not break existing behavior. These regression tests comprise small LilyPond snippets that test the functionality of each part of LilyPond.

Regression tests are added when new functionality is added to LilyPond. We do not yet have a policy on when it is appropriate to add or modify a regtest when bugs are fixed. Individual developers should use their best judgement until this is clarified during the [Section 14.6 \[Grand Organization Project \(GOP\)\]](#), page 164.

The regression tests are compiled using special `make` targets. There are three primary uses for the regression tests. First, successful completion of the regression tests means that LilyPond has been properly built. Second, the output of the regression tests can be manually checked to ensure that the graphical output matches the description of the intended output. Third, the regression test output from two different versions of LilyPond can be automatically compared to identify any differences. These differences should then be manually checked to ensure that the differences are intended.

Regression tests (“regtests”) are available in precompiled form as part of the documentation. Regtests can also be compiled on any machine that has a properly configured LilyPond build system.

### 9.2 Precompiled regression tests

#### Regression test output

As part of the release process, the regression tests are run for every LilyPond release. Full regression test output is available for every stable version and the most recent development version.

Regression test output is available in HTML and PDF format. Links to the regression test output are available at the developer’s resources page for the version of interest.

The latest stable version of the regtests is found at:

<http://lilypond.org/doc/stable/input/regression/collated-files.html>

The latest development version of the regtests is found at:

<http://lilypond.org/doc/latest/input/regression/collated-files.html>

#### Regression test comparison

Each time a new version is released, the regtests are compiled and the output is automatically compared with the output of the previous release. The result of these comparisons is archived online:

<http://lilypond.org/test/>

Checking these pages is a very important task for the LilyPond project. You are invited to report anything that looks broken, or any case where the output quality is not on par with the previous release, as described in [Section “Bug reports” in General Information](#).

**Note:** The special regression test ‘`test-output-distance.ly`’ will always show up as a regression. This test changes each time it is run, and serves to verify that the regression tests have, in fact, run.



## What to look for

The test comparison shows all of the changes that occurred between the current release and the prior release. Each test that has a significant (noticeable) difference in output is displayed, with the old version on the left and the new version on the right.

Some of the small changes can be ignored (slightly different slur shapes, small variations in note spacing), but this is not always the case: sometimes even the smallest change means that something is wrong. To help in distinguishing these cases, we use bigger staff size when small differences matter.

Staff size 30 generally means "pay extra attention to details". Staff size 40 (two times bigger than default size) or more means that the regtest **is** about the details.

Staff size smaller than default doesn't mean anything.

Regression tests whose output is the same for both versions are not shown in the test comparison.

- Images: green blurs in the new version show the approximate location of elements in the old version.

There are often minor adjustments in spacing which do not indicate any problem.

- Log files: show the difference in command-line output.

The main thing to examine are any changes in page counts – if a file used to fit on 1 page but now requires 4 or 5 pages, something is suspicious!

- Profile files: give information about TODO? I don't know what they're for.

**Note:** The automatic comparison of the regtests checks the LilyPond bounding boxes. This means that Ghostscript changes and changes in lyrics or text are not found.

## 9.3 Compiling regression tests

Developers may wish to see the output of the complete regression test suite for the current version of the source repository between releases. Current source code is available; see [Chapter 3 \[Working with source code\]](#), page 12.

For regression testing `../configure` should be run with the `--disable-optimising` option. Then you will need to build the LilyPond binary; see [Section 4.5 \[Compiling LilyPond\]](#), page 44.

Uninstalling the previous LilyPond version is not necessary, nor is running `make install`, since the tests will automatically be compiled with the LilyPond binary you have just built in your source directory.

From this point, the regtests are compiled with:

```
make test
```

If you have a multi-core machine you may want to use the `-j` option and `CPU_COUNT` variable, as described in [\[Saving time with CPU\\_COUNT\]](#), page 47. For a quad-core processor the complete command would be:

```
make -j5 CPU_COUNT=5 test
```

The regtest output will then be available in `'input/regression/out-test'`. `'input/regression/out-test/collated-examples.html'` contains a listing of all the regression tests that were run, but none of the images are included. Individual images are also available in this directory.

The primary use of `'make test'` is to verify that the regression tests all run without error. The regression test page that is part of the documentation is created only when the documentation is

built, as described in [Section 4.6.2 \[Generating documentation\]](#), page 45. Note that building the documentation requires more installed components than building the source code, as described in [Section 4.2.3 \[Requirements for building documentation\]](#), page 41.

## 9.4 Regtest comparison

Before modified code is committed to **master** (via **staging**), a regression test comparison must be completed to ensure that the changes have not caused problems with previously working code. The comparison is made automatically upon compiling the regression test suite twice.

1. Run **make** with current git master without any of your changes.
2. Before making changes to the code, establish a baseline for the comparison by going to the ‘lilypond-git/build/’ directory and running:

```
make test-baseline
```

3. Make your changes, or apply the patch(es) to consider.
4. Compile the source with ‘**make**’ as usual.
5. Check for unintentional changes to the regtests:

```
make check
```

After this has finished, a regression test comparison will be available (relative to the current ‘build/’ directory) at:

```
out/test-results/index.html
```

For each regression test that differs between the baseline and the changed code, a regression test entry will be displayed. Ideally, the only changes would be the changes that you were working on. If regressions are introduced, they must be fixed before committing the code.

**Note:** The special regression test ‘**test-output-distance.ly**’ will always show up as a regression. This test changes each time it is run, and serves to verify that the regression tests have, in fact, run.

6. If you are happy with the results, then stop now.  
If you want to continue programming, then make any additional code changes, and continue.
7. Compile the source with ‘**make**’ as usual.
8. To re-check files that differed between the initial ‘**make test-baseline**’ and your post-changes ‘**make check**’, run:

```
make test-redo
```

This updates the regression list at ‘out/test-results/index.html’. It does *not* redo ‘test-output-distance.ly’.

9. When all regressions have been resolved, the output list will be empty.
10. Once all regressions have been resolved, a final check should be completed by running:

```
make test-clean
make check
```

This cleans the results of the previous ‘**make check**’, then does the automatic regression comparison again.

**Advanced note:** Once a test baseline has been established, there is no need to run it again unless git master changed. In other words, if you work with several branches and want to do regtests comparison for all of them, you can **make test-baseline** with git master, checkout some branch, **make** and **make check** it, then switch to another branch, **make test-clean**, **make** and **make check** it without doing **make test-baseline** again.

## 9.5 Finding the cause of a regression

Git has special functionality to help tracking down the exact commit which causes a problem. See the git manual page for `git bisect`. This is a job that non-programmers can do, although it requires familiarity with git, ability to compile LilyPond, and generally a fair amount of technical knowledge. A brief summary is given below, but you may need to consult other documentation for in-depth explanations.

Even if you are not familiar with git or are not able to compile LilyPond you can still help to narrow down the cause of a regression simply by downloading the binary releases of different LilyPond versions and testing them for the regression. Knowing which version of LilyPond first exhibited the regression is helpful to a developer as it shortens the `git bisect` procedure.

Once a problematic commit is identified, the programmers' job is much easier. In fact, for most regression bugs, the majority of the time is spent simply finding the problematic commit.

More information is in [Chapter 9 \[Regression tests\]](#), page 96.

### git bisect setup

We need to set up the bisect for each problem we want to investigate.

Suppose we have an input file which compiled in version 2.13.32, but fails in version 2.13.38 and above.

1. Begin the process:

```
git bisect start
```

2. Give it the earliest known bad tag:

```
git bisect bad release/2.13.38-1
```

(you can see tags with: `git tag` )

3. Give it the latest known good tag:

```
git bisect good release/2.13.32-1
```

You should now see something like:

```
Bisecting: 195 revisions left to test after this (roughly 8 steps)
[b17e2f3d7a5853a30f7d5a3cdc6b5079e77a3d2a] Web: Announcement
update for the new \LilyPond Report"
.
```

### git bisect actual

1. Compile the source:

```
make
```

2. Test your input file:

```
out/bin/lilypond test.ly
```

3. Test results?

- Does it crash, or is the output bad? If so:

```
git bisect bad
```

- Does your input file produce good output? If so:

```
git bisect good
```

4. Once the exact problem commit has been identified, git will inform you with a message like:

```
6d28aebbaab1be9961a00bf15a1ef93acb91e30 is the first bad commit
%%% ... blah blah blah ...
```

If there is still a range of commits, then git will automatically select a new version for you to test. Go to step #1.

**Recommendation: use two terminal windows**

- One window is open to the `build/` directory, and alternates between these commands:
 

```
make
out/bin/lilypond test.ly
```
- One window is open to the top source directory, and alternates between these commands:
 

```
git bisect good
git bisect bad
```

**9.6 Memory and coverage tests**

In addition to the graphical output of the regression tests, it is possible to test memory usage and to determine how much of the source code has been exercised by the tests.

**Memory usage**

For tracking memory usage as part of this test, you will need GUILE CVS; especially the following patch:

<http://www.lilypond.org/vc/old/gub.darcs/patches/guile-1.9-gcstats.patch>.

**Code coverage**

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

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

**9.7 MusicXML tests**

LilyPond comes with a complete set of regtests for the **MusicXML** language. Originally developed to test ‘musicxml2ly’, these regression tests can be used to test any MusicXML implementation.

The MusicXML regression tests are found at ‘input/regression/musicxml/’.

The output resulting from running these tests through ‘musicxml2ly’ followed by ‘lilypond’ is available in the LilyPond documentation:

<http://lilypond.org/doc/latest/input/regression/musicxml/collated-files>

**9.8 Grand Regression Test Checking****What is this all about?**

Regression tests (usually abbreviated "regtests") is a collection of ‘.ly’ files used to check whether LilyPond is working correctly. Example: before version 2.15.12 breve noteheads had incorrect width, which resulted in collisions with other objects. After the issue was fixed, a small ‘.ly’ file demonstrating the problem was added to the regression tests as a proof that the fix works. If someone will accidentally break breve width again, we will notice this in the output of that regression test.

**How can I help?**

We ask you to help us by checking one or two regtests from time to time. You don’t need programming skills to do this, not even LilyPond skills - just basic music notation knowledge; checking one regtest takes less than a minute. Simply go here:

<http://www.philholmes.net/lilypond/regtests/>

## Some tips on checking regtests

### Description text

The description should be clear even for a music beginner. If there are any special terms used in the description, they all should be explained in our [Section “Music Glossary” in \*Music Glossary\*](#) or [Section “Internals Reference” in \*Internals Reference\*](#). Vague descriptions (like "behaves well", "looks reasonable") shouldn't be used.

## 10 Programming work

### 10.1 Overview of LilyPond architecture

LilyPond processes the input file into graphical and musical output in a number of stages. This process, along with the types of routines that accomplish the various stages of the process, is described in this section. A more complete description of the LilyPond architecture and internal program execution is found in Erik Sandberg's [master's thesis](#).

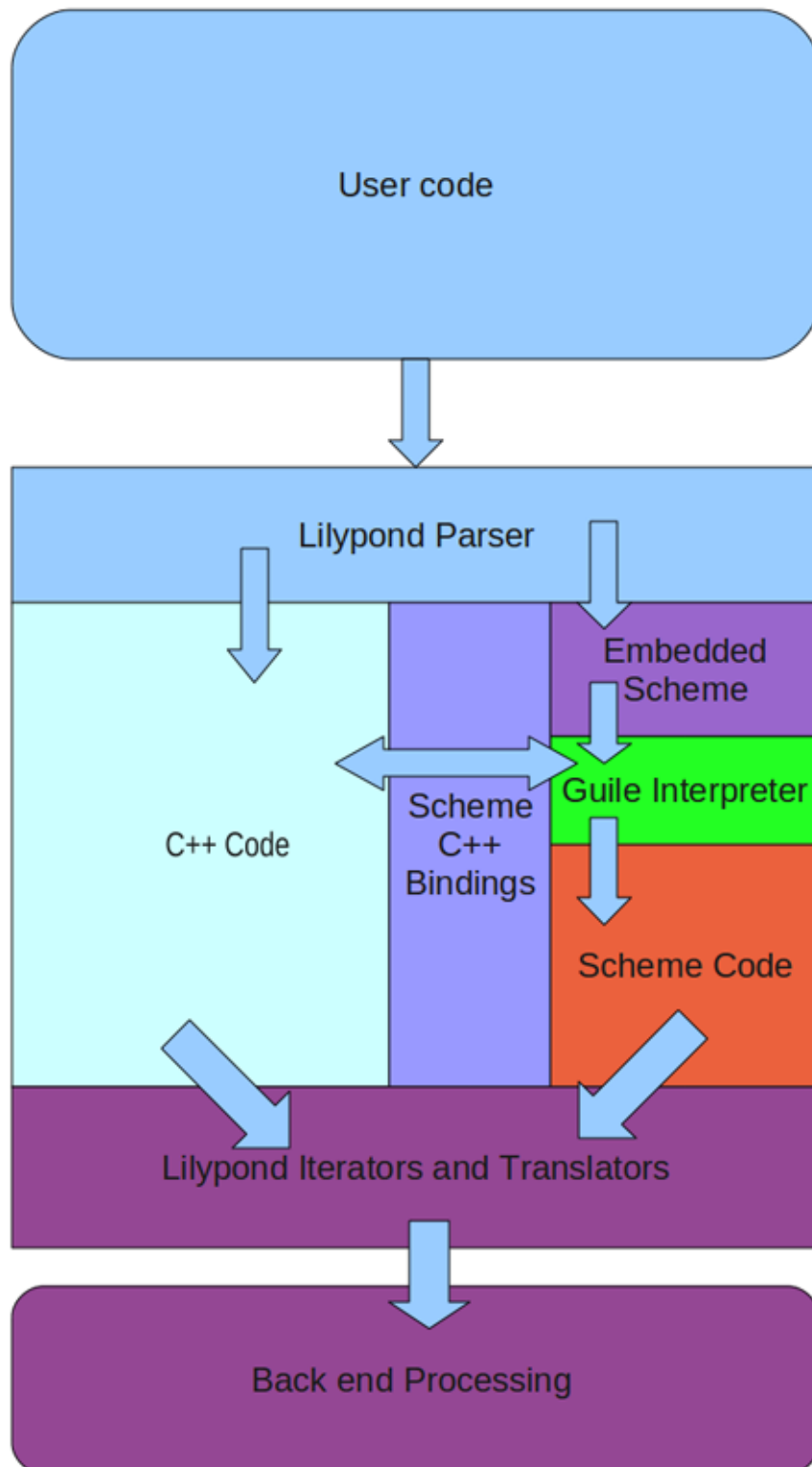
The first stage of LilyPond processing is *parsing*. In the parsing process, music expressions in LilyPond input format are converted to music expressions in Scheme format. In Scheme format, a music expression is a list in tree form, with nodes that indicate the relationships between various music events. The LilyPond parser is written in Bison.

The second stage of LilyPond processing is *iterating*. Iterating assigns each music event to a context, which is the environment in which the music will be finally engraved. The context is responsible for all further processing of the music. It is during the iteration stage that contexts are created as necessary to ensure that every note has a Voice type context (e.g. Voice, TabVoice, DrumVoice, CueVoice, MensuralVoice, VaticanaVoice, GregorianTranscriptionVoice), that the Voice type contexts exist in appropriate Staff type contexts, and that parallel Staff type contexts exist in StaffGroup type contexts. In addition, during the iteration stage each music event is assigned a moment, or a time in the music when the event begins.

Each type of music event has an associated iterator. Iterators are defined in '`*-iterator.cc`'. During iteration, an event's iterator is called to deliver that music event to the appropriate context(s).

The final stage of LilyPond processing is *translation*. During translation, music events are prepared for graphical or midi output. The translation step is accomplished by the polymorphic base class Translator through its two derived classes: Engraver (for graphical output) and Performer (for midi output).

Translators are defined in C++ files named ‘\*-engraver.cc’ and ‘\*-performer.cc’. Much of the work of translating is handled by Scheme functions, which is one of the keys to LilyPond’s exceptional flexibility.



## 10.2 LilyPond programming languages

Programming in LilyPond is done in a variety of programming languages. Each language is used for a specific purpose or purposes. This section describes the languages used and provides links to reference manuals and tutorials for the relevant language.

### 10.2.1 C++

The core functionality of LilyPond is implemented in C++.

C++ is so ubiquitous that it is difficult to identify either a reference manual or a tutorial. Programmers unfamiliar with C++ will need to spend some time to learn the language before attempting to modify the C++ code.

The C++ code calls Scheme/GUILE through the GUILE interface, which is documented in the [GUILE Reference Manual](#).

### 10.2.2 Flex

The LilyPond lexer is implemented in Flex, an implementation of the Unix lex lexical analyser generator. Resources for Flex can be found [here](#).

### 10.2.3 GNU Bison

The LilyPond parser is implemented in Bison, a GNU parser generator. The Bison homepage is found at [gnu.org](#). The manual (which includes both a reference and tutorial) is [available](#) in a variety of formats.

### 10.2.4 GNU Make

GNU Make is used to control the compiling process and to build the documentation and the website. GNU Make documentation is available at [the GNU website](#).

### 10.2.5 GUILE or Scheme

GUILE is the dialect of Scheme that is used as LilyPond's extension language. Many extensions to LilyPond are written entirely in GUILE. The [GUILE Reference Manual](#) is available online.

[Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs](#), a popular textbook used to teach programming in Scheme is available in its entirety online.

An introduction to Guile/Scheme as used in LilyPond can be found in the [Section "Scheme tutorial"](#) in *Extending*.

### 10.2.6 MetaFont

MetaFont is used to create the music fonts used by LilyPond. A MetaFont tutorial is available at [the METAFONT tutorial page](#).

### 10.2.7 PostScript

PostScript is used to generate graphical output. A brief PostScript tutorial is [available online](#). The [PostScript Language Reference](#) is available online in PDF format.

### 10.2.8 Python

Python is used for XML2ly and is used for building the documentation and the website.

Python documentation is available at [python.org](#).

## 10.3 Programming without compiling

Much of the development work in LilyPond takes place by changing `*.ly` or `*.scm` files. These changes can be made without compiling LilyPond. Such changes are described in this section.



### 10.3.1 Modifying distribution files

Much of LilyPond is written in Scheme or LilyPond input files. These files are interpreted when the program is run, rather than being compiled when the program is built, and are present in all LilyPond distributions. You will find ‘.ly’ files in the ‘ly/’ directory and the Scheme files in the ‘scm/’ directory. Both Scheme files and ‘.ly’ files can be modified and saved with any text editor. It’s probably wise to make a backup copy of your files before you modify them, although you can reinstall if the files become corrupted.

Once you’ve modified the files, you can test the changes just by running LilyPond on some input file. It’s a good idea to create a file that demonstrates the feature you’re trying to add. This file will eventually become a regression test and will be part of the LilyPond distribution.

### 10.3.2 Desired file formatting

Files that are part of the LilyPond distribution have Unix-style line endings (LF), rather than DOS (CR+LF) or MacOS 9 and earlier (CR). Make sure you use the necessary tools to ensure that Unix-style line endings are preserved in the patches you create.

Tab characters should not be included in files for distribution. All indentation should be done with spaces. Most editors have settings to allow the setting of tab stops and ensuring that no tab characters are included in the file.

Scheme files and LilyPond files should be written according to standard style guidelines. Scheme file guidelines can be found at <http://community.schemewiki.org/?scheme-style>. Following these guidelines will make your code easier to read. Both you and others that work on your code will be glad you followed these guidelines.

For LilyPond files, you should follow the guidelines for LilyPond snippets in the documentation. You can find these guidelines at [Section 5.3 \[Texinfo introduction and usage policy\]](#), [page 53](#).

## 10.4 Finding functions

When making changes or fixing bugs in LilyPond, one of the initial challenges is finding out where in the code tree the functions to be modified live. With nearly 3000 files in the source tree, trial-and-error searching is generally ineffective. This section describes a process for finding interesting code.

### 10.4.1 Using the ROADMAP

The file ROADMAP is located in the main directory of the lilypond source. ROADMAP lists all of the directories in the LilyPond source tree, along with a brief description of the kind of files found in each directory. This can be a very helpful tool for deciding which directories to search when looking for a function.

### 10.4.2 Using grep to search

Having identified a likely subdirectory to search, the grep utility can be used to search for a function name. The format of the grep command is

```
grep -i functionName subdirectory/*
```

This command will search all the contents of the directory subdirectory/ and display every line in any of the files that contains functionName. The ‘-i’ option makes **grep** ignore case – this can be very useful if you are not yet familiar with our capitalization conventions.

The most likely directories to grep for function names are ‘scm/’ for scheme files, ly/ for lilypond input (\*.ly) files, and ‘lily/’ for C++ files.

### 10.4.3 Using git grep to search

If you have used git to obtain the source, you have access to a powerful tool to search for functions. The command:

```
git grep functionName
```

will search through all of the files that are present in the git repository looking for functionName. It also presents the results of the search using `less`, so the results are displayed one page at a time.

### 10.4.4 Searching on the git repository at Savannah

You can also use the equivalent of git grep on the Savannah server.

- Go to <http://git.sv.gnu.org/gitweb/?p=lilypond.git>
- In the pulldown box that says commit, select grep.
- Type functionName in the search box, and hit enter/return

This will initiate a search of the remote git repository.

## 10.5 Code style

This section describes style guidelines for LilyPond source code.

### 10.5.1 Languages

C++ and Python are preferred. Python code should use PEP 8.

### 10.5.2 Filenames

Definitions of classes that are only accessed via pointers (\*) or references (&) shall not be included as include files.

filenames

```
".hh"    Include files
".cc"    Implementation files
".icc"    Inline definition files
".tcc"    non inline Template defs
```

in emacs:

```
(setq auto-mode-alist
  (append '(("\\.make$" . makefile-mode)
            ("\\.cc$" . c++-mode)
            ("\\.icc$" . c++-mode)
            ("\\.tcc$" . c++-mode)
            ("\\.hh$" . c++-mode)
            ("\\.pod$" . text-mode)
          )
    auto-mode-alist))
```

The class Class\_name is coded in 'class-name.\*'

### 10.5.3 Indentation

Standard GNU coding style is used.

## Indenting files with fixcc.py (recommended)

LilyPond provides a python script that will adjust the indentation and spacing on a .cc or .hh file to very near the GNU standard:

```
scripts/auxiliar/fixcc.py FILENAME
```

This can be run on all files at once, but this is not recommended for normal contributors or developers.

```
scripts/auxiliar/fixcc.py \  
$(find flower lily -name '*.cc' -o -name '*.hh' | grep -v /out)
```

## Indenting with emacs

The following hooks will produce indentation which is similar to our official indentation as produced with fixcc.py.

```
(add-hook 'c++-mode-hook  
  '(lambda ()  
    (c-set-style "gnu")  
    (setq indent-tabs-mode nil)))
```

If you like using font-lock, you can also add this to your ‘.emacs’:

```
(setq font-lock-maximum-decoration t)  
(setq c++-font-lock-keywords-3  
  (append  
    c++-font-lock-keywords-3  
    '("\b\\(a-zA-Z_?+\\)\\b" 1 font-lock-variable-name-face) ("\b\\(A-Z?+a-z_?+\\)\\b" 1 font-lock-variable-name-face)  
  ))
```

## Indenting with vim

Although emacs indentation is the GNU standard, acceptable indentation can usually be accomplished with vim. Some hints for vim are as follows:

A workable .vimrc:

```
set cindent  
set smartindent  
set autoindent  
set expandtab  
set softtabstop=2  
set shiftwidth=2  
filetype plugin indent on  
set incsearch  
set ignorecase smartcase  
set hlsearch  
set confirm  
set statusline=%F%m%r%h%w\ %{&ff}\ %Y\ [ASCII=\\%03.3b]\ [HEX=\\%02.2B]\ %04l,%04v\ %p%  
set laststatus=2  
set number  
" Remove trailing whitespace on write  
autocmd BufWritePre * :%s/\\s\\+$/e
```

With this ‘.vimrc’, files can be reindented automatically by highlighting the lines to be indented in visual mode (use V to enter visual mode) and pressing =.

A ‘scheme.vim’ file will help improve the indentation. This one was suggested by Patrick McCarty. It should be saved in ‘~/vim/after/syntax/scheme.vim’.

```
" Additional Guile-specific 'forms'
```

```

syn keyword schemeSyntax define-public define*-public
syn keyword schemeSyntax define* lambda* let-keywords*
syn keyword schemeSyntax defmacro defmacro* define-macro
syn keyword schemeSyntax defmacro-public defmacro*-public
syn keyword schemeSyntax use-modules define-module
syn keyword schemeSyntax define-method define-class

" Additional LilyPond-specific 'forms'
syn keyword schemeSyntax define-markup-command define-markup-list-command
syn keyword schemeSyntax define-safe-public define-music-function
syn keyword schemeSyntax def-grace-function

" All of the above should influence indenting too
set lw+=define-public,define*-public
set lw+=define*,lambda*,let-keywords*
set lw+=defmacro,defmacro*,define-macro
set lw+=defmacro-public,defmacro*-public
set lw+=use-modules,define-module
set lw+=define-method,define-class
set lw+=define-markup-command,define-markup-list-command
set lw+=define-safe-public,define-music-function
set lw+=def-grace-function

" These forms should not influence indenting
set lw-=if
set lw-=set!

" Try to highlight all ly: procedures
syn match schemeFunc "ly:[^)] ]\+"

```

### 10.5.4 Naming Conventions

Naming conventions have been established for LilyPond source code.

#### Classes and Types

Classes begin with an uppercase letter, and words in class names are separated with `_`:

`This_is_a_class`

#### Members

Member variable names end with an underscore:

`Type Class::member_`

#### Macros

Macro names should be written in uppercase completely, with words separated by `_`:

`THIS_IS_A_MACRO`

#### Variables

Variable names should be complete words, rather than abbreviations. For example, it is preferred to use `thickness` rather than `th` or `t`.

Multi-word variable names in C++ should have the words separated by the underscore character (`'_'`):

`cxx_multiword_variable`

Multi-word variable names in Scheme should have the words separated by a hyphen ('-'):

`scheme-multiword-variable`

### 10.5.5 Broken code

Do not write broken code. This includes hardwired dependencies, hardwired constants, slow algorithms and obvious limitations. If you can not avoid it, mark the place clearly, and add a comment explaining shortcomings of the code.

Ideally, the comment marking the shortcoming would include TODO, so that it is marked for future fixing.

We reject broken-in-advance on principle.

### 10.5.6 Code comments

Comments may not be needed if descriptive variable names are used in the code and the logic is straightforward. However, if the logic is difficult to follow, and particularly if non-obvious code has been included to resolve a bug, a comment describing the logic and/or the need for the non-obvious code should be included.

There are instances where the current code could be commented better. If significant time is required to understand the code as part of preparing a patch, it would be wise to add comments reflecting your understanding to make future work easier.

### 10.5.7 Handling errors

As a general rule, you should always try to continue computations, even if there is some kind of error. When the program stops, it is often very hard for a user to pinpoint what part of the input causes an error. Finding the culprit is much easier if there is some viewable output.

So functions and methods do not return errorcodes, they never crash, but report a `programming_error` and try to carry on.

Error and warning messages need to be localized.

### 10.5.8 Localization

This document provides some guidelines to help programmers write proper user messages. To help translations, user messages must follow uniform conventions. Follow these rules when coding for LilyPond. Hopefully, this can be replaced by general GNU guidelines in the future. Even better would be to have an English (`en_BR`, `en_AM`) guide helping programmers writing consistent messages for all GNU programs.

Non-preferred messages are marked with '+'. By convention, ungrammatical examples are marked with '\*'. However, such ungrammatical examples may still be preferred.

- Every message to the user should be localized (and thus be marked for localization). This includes warning and error messages.
- Do not localize/gettextify:
  - `'programming_error ()'`'s
  - `'programming_warning ()'`'s
  - debug strings
  - output strings (PostScript, TeX, etc.)
- Messages to be localized must be encapsulated in `'_ (STRING)'` or `'_f (FORMAT, ...)'`. E.g.:

```
warning (_ ("need music in a score"));
error (_f ("cannot open file: `%s'", file_name));
```

In some rare cases you may need to call `'gettext ()'` by hand. This happens when you pre-define (a list of) string constants for later use. In that case, you'll probably also need to mark these string constants for translation, using `'_i (STRING)'`. The `'_i'` macro is a no-op, it only serves as a marker for `'xgettext'`.

```
char const* messages[] = {
    _i ("enable debugging output"),
    _i ("ignore lilypond version"),
    0
};

void
foo (int i)
{
    puts (gettext (messages i));
}
```

See also `'flower/getopt-long.cc'` and `'lily/main.cc'`.

- Do not use leading or trailing whitespace in messages. If you need whitespace to be printed, prepend or append it to the translated message

```
message ("Calculating line breaks..." + " ");
```

- Error or warning messages displayed with a file name and line number never start with a capital, eg,

```
foo.ly: 12: not a duration: 3
```

Messages containing a final verb, or a gerund (`'-ing'-form`) always start with a capital. Other (simpler) messages start with a lowercase letter

```
Processing foo.ly...
`foo': not declared.
Not declaring: `foo'.
```

- Avoid abbreviations or short forms, use `'cannot'` and `'do not'` rather than `'can't'` or `'don't'`. To avoid having a number of different messages for the same situation, we will use quoting like this `"message: '%s'"` for all strings. Numbers are not quoted:

```
_f ("cannot open file: `%s'", name_str)
_f ("cannot find character number: %d", i)
```

- Think about translation issues. In a lot of cases, it is better to translate a whole message. English grammar must not be imposed on the translator. So, instead of

```
stem at + moment.str () + does not fit in beam
```

have

```
_f ("stem at %s does not fit in beam", moment.str ())
```

- Split up multi-sentence messages, whenever possible. Instead of

```
warning (_f ("out of tune! Can't find: `%s'", "Key_engraver"));
warning (_f ("cannot find font `%s', loading default", font_name));
```

rather say:

```
warning (_ ("out of tune:"));
warning (_f ("cannot find: `%s', "Key_engraver"));
warning (_f ("cannot find font: `%s', font_name));
warning (_f ("Loading default font"));
```

- If you must have multiple-sentence messages, use full punctuation. Use two spaces after end of sentence punctuation. No punctuation (esp. period) is used at the end of simple messages.

```
_f ("Non-matching braces in text '%s', adding braces", text)
_ ("Debug output disabled. Compiled with NPRINT.")
_f ("Huh? Not a Request: '%s'. Ignoring.", request)
```

- Do not modularize too much; words frequently cannot be translated without context. It is probably safe to treat most occurrences of words like stem, beam, crescendo as separately translatable words.
- When translating, it is preferable to put interesting information at the end of the message, rather than embedded in the middle. This especially applies to frequently used messages, even if this would mean sacrificing a bit of eloquence. This holds for original messages too, of course.

```
en: cannot open: `foo.ly'
+ nl: kan `foo.ly' niet openen (1)
kan niet openen: `foo.ly'* (2)
niet te openen: `foo.ly'* (3)
```

The first nl message, although grammatically and stylistically correct, is not friendly for parsing by humans (even if they speak dutch). I guess we would prefer something like (2) or (3).

- Do not run make po/po-update with GNU gettext < 0.10.35

## 10.6 Warnings, Errors, Progress and Debug Output

### Available log levels

LilyPond has several loglevels, which specify how verbose the output on the console should be:

- NONE: No output at all, even on failure
- ERROR: Only error messages
- WARN: Only error messages and warnings
- BASIC\_PROGRESS: Warnings, errors and basic progress (success, etc.)
- PROGRESS: Warnings, errors and full progress messages
- INFO: Warnings, errors, progress and more detailed information (default)
- DEBUG: All messages, including full debug messages (very verbose!)

The loglevel can either be set with the environment variable LILYPOND\_LOGLEVEL or on the command line with the ‘--loglevel=...’ option.

### Functions for debug and log output

LilyPond has two different types of error and log functions:

- If a warning or error is caused by an identified position in the input file, e.g. by a grob or by a music expression, the functions of the `Input` class provide logging functionality that prints the position of the message in addition to the message.
- If a message can not be associated with a particular position in an input file, e.g. the output file cannot be written, then the functions in the `flower/include/warn.hh` file will provide logging functionality that only prints out the message, but no location.

There are also Scheme functions to access all of these logging functions from scheme. In addition, the Grob class contains some convenience wrappers for even easier access to these functions.

The message and debug functions in `warn.hh` also have an optional argument `newline`, which specifies whether the message should always start on a new line or continue a previous message. By default, `progress_indication` does NOT start on a new line, but rather continue

the previous output. They also do not have a particular input position associated, so there are no progress functions in the `Input` class. All other functions by default start their output on a new line.

The error functions come in three different flavors: fatal error messages, programming error messages and normal error messages. Errors written by the `error ()` function will cause LilyPond to exit immediately, errors by `Input::error ()` will continue the compilation, but return a non-zero return value of the `lilypond` call (i.e. indicate an unsuccessful program execution). All other errors will be printed on the console, but not exit LilyPond or indicate an unsuccessful return code. Their only differences to a warnings are the displayed text and that they will be shown with loglevel `ERROR`.

If the Scheme option `warning-as-error` is set, any warning will be treated as if `Input::error` was called.

## All logging functions at a glance

	C++, no location	C++ from input location
ERROR	<code>error ()</code> , <code>programming_error (msg)</code> , <code>non_fatal_error (msg)</code>	<code>Input::error (msg)</code> , <code>Input::programming_error (msg)</code>
WARN	<code>warning (msg)</code>	<code>Input::warning (msg)</code>
BASIC	<code>basic_progress (msg)</code>	-
PROGRESS	<code>progress_indication (msg)</code>	-
INFO	<code>message (msg)</code>	<code>Input::message (msg)</code>
DEBUG	<code>debug_output (msg)</code>	<code>Input::debug_output (msg)</code>
	C++ from a Grob	Scheme, music expression
ERROR	<code>Grob::programming_error (msg)</code>	-
WARN	<code>Grob::warning (msg)</code>	<code>(ly:music-warning music msg)</code>
BASIC	-	-
PROGRESS	-	-
INFO	-	<code>(ly:music-message music msg)</code>
DEBUG	-	-
	Scheme, no location	Scheme, input location



ERROR	-	(ly:error msg args), (ly:programming-error msg args)
WARN	(ly:warning msg args)	(ly:input-warning input msg args)
BASIC	(ly:basic-progress msg args)	-
PROGRESS	(ly:progress msg args)	-
INFO	(ly:message msg args)	(ly:input-message input msg args)
DEBUG	(ly:debug msg args)	-

## 10.7 Debugging LilyPond

The most commonly used tool for debugging LilyPond is the GNU debugger `gdb`. The `gdb` tool is used for investigating and debugging core Lilypond code written in C++. Another tool is available for debugging Scheme code using the Guile debugger. This section describes how to use both `gdb` and the Guile Debugger.

### 10.7.1 Debugging overview

Using a debugger simplifies troubleshooting in at least two ways.

First, breakpoints can be set to pause execution at any desired point. Then, when execution has paused, debugger commands can be issued to explore the values of various variables or to execute functions.

Second, the debugger can display a stack trace, which shows the sequence in which functions have been called and the arguments passed to the called functions.

### 10.7.2 Debugging C++ code

The GNU debugger, `gdb`, is the principal tool for debugging C++ code.

#### Compiling LilyPond for use with `gdb`

In order to use `gdb` with LilyPond, it is necessary to compile LilyPond with debugging information. This is accomplished by running the following commands in the main LilyPond source directory.

```
./configure --disable-optimising
make
```

This will create a version of LilyPond containing debugging information that will allow the debugger to tie the source code to the compiled code.

You should not do *make install* if you want to use a debugger with LilyPond. The *make install* command will strip debugging information from the LilyPond binary.

#### Typical `gdb` usage

Once you have compiled the Lilypond image with the necessary debugging information it will have been written to a location in a subfolder of your current working directory:

```
out/bin/lilypond
```

This is important as you will need to let gdb know where to find the image containing the symbol tables. You can invoke gdb from the command line using the following:

```
gdb out/bin/lilypond
```

This loads the LilyPond symbol tables into gdb. Then, to run LilyPond on ‘test.ly’ under the debugger, enter the following:

```
run test.ly
```

at the gdb prompt.

As an alternative to running gdb at the command line you may try a graphical interface to gdb such as ddd:

```
ddd out/bin/lilypond
```

You can also use sets of standard gdb commands stored in a .gdbinit file (see next section).

## Typical .gdbinit files

The behavior of gdb can be readily customized through the use of a .gdbinit file. A .gdbinit file is a file named .gdbinit (notice the “.” at the beginning of the file name) that is placed in a user’s home directory.

The .gdbinit file below is from Han-Wen. It sets breakpoints for all errors and defines functions for displaying scheme objects (ps), grobs (pgrob), and parsed music expressions (pmusic).

```
file ~/lilypond-git/build/out/bin/lilypond
b programming_error
b Grob::programming_error

define ps
  print ly_display_scm($arg0)
end
define pgrob
  print ly_display_scm($arg0->self_scm_)
  print ly_display_scm($arg0->mutable_property_alist_)
  print ly_display_scm($arg0->immutable_property_alist_)
  print ly_display_scm($arg0->object_alist_)
end
define pmusic
  print ly_display_scm($arg0->self_scm_)
  print ly_display_scm($arg0->mutable_property_alist_)
  print ly_display_scm($arg0->immutable_property_alist_)
end
```

### 10.7.3 Debugging Scheme code

Scheme code can be developed using the Guile command line interpreter **top-repl**. You can either investigate interactively using just Guile or you can use the debugging tools available within Guile.

## Using Guile interactively with LilyPond

In order to experiment with Scheme programming in the LilyPond environment, it is necessary to have a Guile interpreter that has all the LilyPond modules loaded. This requires the following steps.

First, define a Scheme symbol for the active module in the ‘.ly’ file:

```
;(module-define! (resolve-module '(guile-user))
  'lilypond-module (current-module))
```

Now place a Scheme function in the `‘.ly’` file that gives an interactive Guile prompt:

```
#(top-repl)
```

When the `‘.ly’` file is compiled, this causes the compilation to be interrupted and an interactive guile prompt to appear. Once the guile prompt appears, the LilyPond active module must be set as the current guile module:

```
guile> (set-current-module lilypond-module)
```

You can demonstrate these commands are operating properly by typing the name of a LilyPond public scheme function to check it has been defined:

```
guile> fret-diagram-verbose-markup
#<procedure fret-diagram-verbose-markup (layout props marking-list)>
```

If the LilyPond module has not been correctly loaded, an error message will be generated:

```
guile> fret-diagram-verbose-markup
ERROR: Unbound variable: fret-diagram-verbose-markup
ABORT: (unbound-variable)
```

Once the module is properly loaded, any valid LilyPond Scheme expression can be entered at the interactive prompt.

After the investigation is complete, the interactive guile interpreter can be exited:

```
guile> (quit)
```

The compilation of the `‘.ly’` file will then continue.

## Using the Guile debugger

To set breakpoints and/or enable tracing in Scheme functions, put

```
\include "guile-debugger.ly"
```

in your input file after any scheme procedures you have defined in that file. This will invoke the Guile command-line after having set up the environment for the debug command-line. When your input file is processed, a guile prompt will be displayed. You may now enter commands to set up breakpoints and enable tracing by the Guile debugger.

## Using breakpoints

At the guile prompt, you can set breakpoints with the `set-break!` procedure:

```
guile> (set-break! my-scheme-procedure)
```

Once you have set the desired breakpoints, you exit the guile repl frame by typing:

```
guile> (quit)
```

Then, when one of the scheme routines for which you have set breakpoints is entered, guile will interrupt execution in a debug frame. At this point you will have access to Guile debugging commands. For a listing of these commands, type:

```
debug> help
```

Alternatively you may code the breakpoints in your Lilypond source file using a command such as:

```
#(set-break! my-scheme-procedure)
```

immediately after the `\include` statement. In this case the breakpoint will be set straight after you enter the `(quit)` command at the guile prompt.

Embedding breakpoint commands like this is particularly useful if you want to look at how the Scheme procedures in the `‘.scm’` files supplied with LilyPond work. To do this, edit the file in the relevant directory to add this line near the top:

```
(use-modules (scm guile-debugger))
```

Now you can set a breakpoint after the procedure you are interested in has been declared. For example, if you are working on routines called by *print-book-with* in ‘lily-library.scm’:

```
(define (print-book-with parser book process-procedure)
  (let* ((paper (ly:parser-lookup parser '$defaultpaper))
        (layout (ly:parser-lookup parser '$defaultlayout))
        (outfile-name (get-outfile-name parser)))
    (process-procedure book paper layout outfile-name)))

(define-public (print-book-with-defaults parser book)
  (print-book-with parser book ly:book-process))

(define-public (print-book-with-defaults-as-systems parser book)
  (print-book-with parser book ly:book-process-to-systems))
```

At this point in the code you could add this to set a breakpoint at *print-book-with*:

```
(set-break! print-book-with)
```

## Tracing procedure calls and evaluator steps

Two forms of trace are available:

```
(set-trace-call! my-scheme-procedure)

and

(set-trace-subtree! my-scheme-procedure)
```

*set-trace-call!* causes Scheme to log a line to the standard output to show when the procedure is called and when it exits.

*set-trace-subtree!* traces every step the Scheme evaluator performs in evaluating the procedure.

## 10.8 Tracing object relationships

Understanding the LilyPond source often boils down to figuring out what is happening to the Grobs. Where (and why) are they being created, modified and destroyed? Tracing Lily through a debugger in order to identify these relationships can be time-consuming and tedious.

In order to simplify this process, a facility has been added to display the grobs that are created and the properties that are set and modified. Although it can be complex to get set up, once set up it easily provides detailed information about the life of grobs in the form of a network graph.

Each of the steps necessary to use the graphviz utility is described below.

### 1. Installing graphviz

In order to create the graph of the object relationships, it is first necessary to install Graphviz. Graphviz is available for a number of different platforms:

<http://www.graphviz.org/Download..php>

### 2. Modifying config.make

In order for the Graphviz tool to work, config.make must be modified. It is probably a good idea to first save a copy of config.make under a different name. Then, edit config.make by removing every occurrence of ‘-DNDEBUG’.

### 3. Rebuilding LilyPond

The executable code of LilyPond must be rebuilt from scratch:

```
make -C lily clean && make -C lily
```

4. Create a graphviz-compatible ‘.ly’ file

In order to use the graphviz utility, the ‘.ly’ file must include ‘ly/graphviz-init.ly’, and should then specify the grobs and symbols that should be tracked. An example of this is found in ‘input/regression/graphviz.ly’.

5. Run lilypond with output sent to a log file

The Graphviz data is sent to stderr by lilypond, so it is necessary to redirect stderr to a logfile:

```
lilypond graphviz.ly 2> graphviz.log
```

6. Edit the logfile

The logfile has standard lilypond output, as well as the Graphviz output data. Delete everything from the beginning of the file up to but not including the first occurrence of `digraph`.

Also, delete the final lilypond message about success from the end of the file.

7. Process the logfile with `dot`

The directed graph is created from the log file with the program `dot`:

```
dot -Tpdf graphviz.log > graphviz.pdf
```

The pdf file can then be viewed with any pdf viewer.

When compiled without ‘`-DNDEBUG`’, lilypond may run slower than normal. The original configuration can be restored by either renaming the saved copy of `config.make` or rerunning `configure`. Then rebuild lilypond with

```
make -C lily clean && make -C lily
```

## 10.9 Adding or modifying features

When a new feature is to be added to LilyPond, it is necessary to ensure that the feature is properly integrated to maintain its long-term support. This section describes the steps necessary for feature addition and modification.

### 10.9.1 Write the code

You should probably create a new git branch for writing the code, as that will separate it from the master branch and allow you to continue to work on small projects related to master.

Please be sure to follow the rules for programming style discussed earlier in this chapter.

### 10.9.2 Write regression tests

In order to demonstrate that the code works properly, you will need to write one or more regression tests. These tests are typically ‘.ly’ files that are found in ‘input/regression’.

Regression tests should be as brief as possible to demonstrate the functionality of the code.

Regression tests should generally cover one issue per test. Several short, single-issue regression tests are preferred to a single, long, multiple-issue regression test.

If the change in the output is small or easy to overlook, use bigger staff size – 40 or more (up to 100 in extreme cases). Size 30 means “pay extra attention to details in general”.

Use existing regression tests as templates to demonstrate the type of header information that should be included in a regression test.

### 10.9.3 Write convert-ly rule

If the modification changes the input syntax, a convert-ly rule should be written to automatically update input files from older versions.

convert-ly rules are found in `python/convertrules.py`

If possible, the convert-ly rule should allow automatic updating of the file. In some cases, this will not be possible, so the rule will simply point out to the user that the feature needs manual correction.

### Updating version numbers

If a development release occurs between you writing your patch and having it approved+pushed, you will need to update the version numbers in your tree. This can be done with:

```
scripts/auxiliar/update-patch-version old.version.number new.version.number
```

It will change all files in git, so use with caution and examine the resulting diff.

### 10.9.4 Automatically update documentation

`convert-ly` should be used to update the documentation, the snippets, and the regression tests. This not only makes the necessary syntax changes, it also tests the `convert-ly` rules.

The automatic updating is performed by moving to the top-level source directory, then running:

```
scripts/auxiliar/update-with-convert-ly.sh
```

If you did an out-of-tree build, pass in the relative path:

```
BUILD_DIR=../build-lilypond/ scripts/auxiliar/update-with-convert-ly.sh
```

### 10.9.5 Manually update documentation

Where the convert-ly rule is not able to automatically update the inline lilypond code in the documentation (i.e. if a NOT\_SMART rule is used), the documentation must be manually updated. The inline snippets that require changing must be changed in the English version of the docs and all translated versions. If the inline code is not changed in the translated documentation, the old snippets will show up in the English version of the documentation.

Where the convert-ly rule is not able to automatically update snippets in `Documentation/snippets/`, those snippets must be manually updated. Those snippets should be copied to `Documentation/snippets/new`. The comments at the top of the snippet describing its automatic generation should be removed. All translated texidoc strings should be removed. The comment “% begin verbatim” should be removed. The syntax of the snippet should then be manually edited.

Where snippets in `Documentation/snippets` are made obsolete, the snippet should be copied to `Documentation/snippets/new`. The comments and texidoc strings should be removed as described above. Then the body of the snippet should be changed to:

```
\markup {
  This snippet is deprecated as of version X.Y.Z and
  will be removed from the documentation.
}
```

where X.Y.Z is the version number for which the convert-ly rule was written.

Update the snippet files by running:

```
scripts/auxiliar/makelsr.py
```

Where the convert-ly rule is not able to automatically update regression tests, the regression tests in `input/regression` should be manually edited.

Although it is not required, it is helpful if the developer can write relevant material for inclusion in the Notation Reference. If the developer does not feel qualified to write the documentation, a documentation editor will be able to write it from the regression tests. The text that is added to or removed from the documentation should be changed only in the English version.

### 10.9.6 Edit changes.tely

An entry should be added to Documentation/changes.tely to describe the feature changes to be implemented. This is especially important for changes that change input file syntax.

Hints for changes.tely entries are given at the top of the file.

New entries in changes.tely go at the top of the file.

The changes.tely entry should be written to show how the new change improves LilyPond, if possible.

### 10.9.7 Verify successful build

When the changes have been made, successful completion must be verified by doing

```
make all
make doc
```

When these commands complete without error, the patch is considered to function successfully.

Developers on Windows who are unable to build LilyPond should get help from a GNU/Linux or OSX developer to do the make tests.

### 10.9.8 Verify regression tests

In order to avoid breaking LilyPond, it is important to verify that the regression tests succeed, and that no unwanted changes are introduced into the output. This process is described in [Section 9.4 \[Regtest comparison\]](#), page 98.

## Typical developer's edit/compile/test cycle

- Initial test:

```
make [-jX]
make [-jX CPU_COUNT=X] test-baseline
make [-jX CPU_COUNT=X] check
```

- Edit/compile/test cycle:

```
## edit source files, then...
```

```
make clean                                ## only if needed (see below)
make [-jX]                               ## only if needed (see below)
make [-jX CPU_COUNT=X] test-redo ## redo files differing from baseline
make [-jX CPU_COUNT=X] check
```

- Reset:

```
make test-clean
```

If you modify any source files that have to be compiled (such as `.cc` or `.hh` files in `flower/` or `lily/`), then you must run `make` before `make test-redo`, so `make` can compile the modified files and relink all the object files. If you only modify files which are interpreted, like those in the `scm/` and `ly/` directories, then `make` is not needed before `make test-redo`.

Also, if you modify any font definitions in the `mf/` directory then you must run `make clean` and `make` before running `make test-redo`. This will recompile everything, whether modified or not, and takes a lot longer.

Running `make check` 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.

You only need to use `make test-clean` to start from scratch, prior to running `make test-baseline`. To check new modifications, all that is needed is to repeat `make test-redo` and `make test-check` (not forgetting `make` if needed).

### 10.9.9 Post patch for comments

See [\[Uploading a patch for review\]](#), page 24.

### 10.9.10 Push patch

Once all the comments have been addressed, the patch can be pushed.

If the author has push privileges, the author will push the patch. Otherwise, a developer with push privileges will push the patch.

### 10.9.11 Closing the issues

Once the patch has been pushed, all the relevant issues should be closed.

On Rietveld, the author should log in and close the issue either by using the ‘Edit Issue’ link, or by clicking the circled x icon to the left of the issue name.

If the changes were in response to a feature request on the Google issue tracker for LilyPond, the author should change the status to Fixed and a tag `fixed_x.y.z` should be added, where the patch was fixed in version x.y.z. If the author does not have privileges to change the status, an email should be sent to `bug-lilypond` requesting the BugMeister to change the status.

## 10.10 Iterator tutorial

TODO – this is a placeholder for a tutorial on iterators

Iterators are routines written in C++ that process music expressions and sent the music events to the appropriate engravers and/or performers.

See a short example discussing iterators and their duties in [Section 10.16.4 \[Articulations on EventChord\]](#), page 133.

## 10.11 Engraver tutorial

Engravers are C++ classes that catch music events and create the appropriate grobs for display on the page. Though the majority of engravers are responsible for the creation of a single grob, in some cases (e.g. `New_fingering_engraver`), several different grobs may be created.

Engravers listen for events and acknowledge grobs. Events are passed to the engraver in time-step order during the iteration phase. Grobs are made available to the engraver when they are created by other engravers during the iteration phase.

### 10.11.1 Useful methods for information processing

An engraver inherits the following public methods from the `Translator` base class, which can be used to process listened events and acknowledged grobs:

- `virtual void initialize ()`
- `void start_translation_timestep ()`
- `void process_music ()`
- `void process_acknowledged ()`
- `void stop_translation_timestep ()`



- `virtual void finalize ()`

These methods are listed in order of translation time, with `initialize ()` and `finalize ()` bookending the whole process. `initialize ()` can be used for one-time initialization of context properties before translation starts, whereas `finalize ()` is often used to tie up loose ends at the end of translation: for example, an unterminated spanner might be completed automatically or reported with a warning message.

### 10.11.2 Translation process

At each timestep in the music, translation proceeds by calling the following methods in turn:

`start_translation_timestep ()` is called before any user information enters the translators, i.e., no property operations (`\set`, `\override`, etc.) or events have been processed yet.

`process_music ()` and `process_acknowledged ()` are called after all events in the current time step have been heard, or all grobs in the current time step have been acknowledged. The latter tends to be used exclusively with engravers which only acknowledge grobs, whereas the former is the default method for main processing within engravers.

`stop_translation_timestep ()` is called after all user information has been processed prior to beginning the translation for the next timestep.

### 10.11.3 Preventing garbage collection for SCM member variables

In certain cases, an engraver might need to ensure private Scheme variables (with type SCM) do not get swept away by Guile's garbage collector: for example, a cache of the previous key signature which must persist between timesteps. The method `virtual derived_mark () const` can be used in such cases:

```
Engraver_name::derived_mark ()
{
    scm_gc_mark (private_scm_member_)
}
```

### 10.11.4 Listening to music events

External interfaces to the engraver are implemented by protected macros including one or more of the following:

- `DECLARE_TRANSLATOR_LISTENER (event_name)`
- `IMPLEMENT_TRANSLATOR_LISTENER (Engraver_name, event_name)`

where *event\_name* is the type of event required to provide the input the engraver needs and *Engraver\_name* is the name of the engraver.

Following declaration of a listener, the method is implemented as follows:

```
IMPLEMENT_TRANSLATOR_LISTENER (Engraver_name, event_name)
void
Engraver_name::listen_event_name (Stream event *event)
{
    ...body of listener method...
}
```

### 10.11.5 Acknowledging grobs

Some engravers also need information from grobs as they are created and as they terminate. The mechanism and methods to obtain this information are set up by the macros:

- `DECLARE_ACKNOWLEDGER (grob_interface)`
- `DECLARE_END_ACKNOWLEDGER (grob_interface)`

where *grob\_interface* is an interface supported by the grob(s) which should be acknowledged. For example, the following code would declare acknowledgers for a `NoteHead` grob (via the `note-head-interface`) and any grobs which support the `side-position-interface`:

```
DECLARE_ACKNOWLEDGER (note_head)
DECLARE_ACKNOWLEDGER (side_position)
```

The `DECLARE_END_ACKNOWLEDGER ()` macro sets up a spanner-specific acknowledger which will be called whenever a spanner ends.

Following declaration of an acknowledger, the method is coded as follows:

```
void
Engraver_name::acknowledge_interface_name (Grob_info info)
{
    ...body of acknowledger method...
}
```

Acknowledge functions are called in the order engravers are `\consist`-ed (the only exception is if you set `must-be-last` to `#t`).

If useful things are to be done to the acknowledged grobs, this should be deferred until all the acknowledging has finished, i.e., store the acknowledged grobs and process the information in a `process-acknowledged ()` or `stop-translation-timestep ()` function.

### 10.11.6 Engraver declaration/documentation

An engraver must have a public macro

- `TRANSLATOR_DECLARATIONS (Engraver_name)`

where `Engraver_name` is the name of the engraver. This defines the common variables and methods used by every engraver.

At the end of the engraver file, one or both of the following macros are generally called to document the engraver in the Internals Reference:

- `ADD_ACKNOWLEDGER (Engraver_name, grob_interface)`
- `ADD_TRANSLATOR (Engraver_name, Engraver_doc, Engraver_creates, Engraver_reads, Engraver_writes)`

where `Engraver_name` is the name of the engraver, `grob_interface` is the name of the interface that will be acknowledged, `Engraver_doc` is a docstring for the engraver, `Engraver_creates` is the set of grobs created by the engraver, `Engraver_reads` is the set of properties read by the engraver, and `Engraver_writes` is the set of properties written by the engraver.

The `ADD_ACKNOWLEDGER` and `ADD_TRANSLATOR` macros use a non-standard indentation system. Each interface, grob, read property, and write property is on its own line, and the closing parenthesis and semicolon for the macro all occupy a separate line beneath the final interface or write property. See existing engraver files for more information.

## 10.12 Callback tutorial

TODO – This is a placeholder for a tutorial on callback functions.

## 10.13 Understanding pure properties

Pure properties are some of the most difficult properties to understand in LilyPond but, once understood, it is much easier to work with horizontal spacing. This document provides an overview of what it means for something to be ‘pure’ in LilyPond, what this purity guarantees, and where pure properties are stored and used. It finishes by discussing a few case studies for the pure programmer to save you some time and to prevent you some major headaches.

### 10.13.1 Purity in LilyPond

Pure properties in LilyPond that do not have any ‘side effects’. That is, looking up a pure property should never result in calls to the following functions:

- `set_property`
- `set_object`
- `suicide`

This means that, if the property is calculated via a callback, this callback must not only avoid the functions above but make sure that any functions it calls also avoid the functions above. Also, to date in LilyPond, a pure function will always return the same value before line breaking (or, more precisely, before any version of `break_into_pieces` is called). This convention makes it possible to cache pure functions and be more flexible about the order in which functions are called. For example; Stem `#length` has a pure property that will *never* trigger one of the functions listed above and will *always* return the same value before line breaking, independent of where it is called. Sometimes, this will be the actual length of the Stem. But sometimes it will not. For example; stem that links up with a beam will need its end set to the Y position of the beam at the stem’s X position. However, the beam’s Y positions can only be known after the score is broken up in to several systems (a beam that has a shallow slope on a compressed line of music, for example, may have a steeper one on an uncompressed line). Thus, we only call the impure version of the properties once we are *absolutely certain* that all of the parameters needed to calculate their final value have been calculated. The pure version provides a useful estimate of what this Stem length (or any property) will be, and the art of creating good pure properties is trying to get the estimation as close to the actual value as possible.

Of course, like Gregory Peck and Tintin, some Grobs will have properties that will always be pure. For example, the height of a note-head in not-crazy music will never depend on line breaking or other parameters decided late in the typesetting process. Inversely, in rare cases, certain properties are difficult to estimate with pure values. For example, the height of a Hairpin at a certain cross-section of its horizontal span is difficult to know without knowing the horizontal distance that the hairpin spans, and LilyPond provides an over-estimation by reporting the pure height as the entire height of the Hairpin.

Purity, like for those living in a convent, is more like a contract than an *a priori*. If you write a pure-function, you are promising the user (and the developer who may have to clean up after you) that your function will not be dependent on factors that change at different stages of the compilation process (compilation of a score, not of LilyPond).

One last oddity is that purity, in LilyPond, is currently limited exclusively to things that have to do with Y-extent and positioning. There is no concept of ‘pure X’ as, by design, X is always the independent variable (i.e. from column X1 to column X2, what will be the Y height of a given grob). Furthermore, there is no purity for properties like color, text, and other things for which a meaningful notion of estimation is either not necessary or has not yet been found. For example, even if a color were susceptible to change at different points of the compilation process, it is not clear what a pure estimate of this color would be or how this pure color could be used. Thus, in this document and in the source, you will see purity discussed almost interchangeably with Y-axis positioning issues.

### 10.13.2 Writing a pure function

Pure functions take, at a minimum, three arguments: the *grob*, the starting column at which the function is being evaluated (hereafter referred to as *start*), and the end column at which the grob is being evaluated (hereafter referred to as *end*). For items, *start* and *end* must be provided (meaning they are not optional) but will not have a meaningful impact on the result, as items only occupy one column and will thus yield a value or not (if they are not in the range from *start* to *end*). For spanners however, *start* and *end* are important, as we may can get a

better pure estimation of a slice of the spanner than considering it on the whole. This is useful during line breaking, for example, when we want to estimate the Y-extent of a spanner broken at given starting and ending columns.

### 10.13.3 How purity is defined and stored

Purity can currently be defined two different ways in LilyPond that correspond to two types of scenarios. In one scenario, we know that a callback is pure, but we are not necessarily certain what properties will use this callback. In another, we want a property to be pure, but we don't want to guarantee that its callback function will be pure in all circumstances.

In the first scenario, we register the callback in `define-grobs.scm` in one of four places depending on what the function does.

- **pure-print-functions:** If finding a print function's vertical extent does not have any 'side effects' we register it here. We then don't have to set the pure Y-extent property, which will be taken from the stencil.
- **pure-print-to-height-conversions:** If a stencil can eventually be used to glean a grob's Y-extent but is not pure (meaning it will have a different height at different stages of the compilation process), we add it to this list along with a function for the pure Y-extent.
- **pure-conversions-alist:** This list contains pairs of functions and their pure equivalents. It is onto but not one-to-one.
- **pure-functions:** Like pure-print-functions in that they work for both pure and impure values, but they do not return a stencil.

At all stages of the compilation process, when LilyPond wants the pure version of a property, it will consult these lists and see if it can get this property for a given Grob. Note that you do *not* need to register the pure property in the grob itself. For example, there is no property 'pure-Y-extent'. Rather, by registering these functions as defined above, every time LilyPond needs a pure property, it will check to see if a Grob contains one of these functions and, if so, will use its value. If LilyPond cannot get a pure function, it will return a value of `##f` for the property.

LilyPond is smart enough to know if a series of chained functions are pure. For example, if a Y-offset property has four chained functions and all of them have pure equivalents, LilyPond will read the four pure equivalents when calculating the pure property. However, if even one is impure, LilyPond will not return a pure property for the offset (instead returning something like `#f` or `'()`) and will likely wreak havoc on your score.

In the second scenario, we create an unpure-pure-container (unpure is not a word, but hey, neither was Lilypond until the 90s). For example:

```
#(define (foo grob)
  '(-1 . 1))

#(define (bar grob start end)
  '(-2 . 2))

\override Stem #'length = #(ly:make-unpure-pure-container foo bar)
```

This is useful if we want to:

- create overrides that have pure alternatives (should not be used in development, but useful for users)
- use return values that are not functions (i.e. pairs or booleans) for either pure or unpure values.

- allow a function to be considered pure in a limited amount of circumstances. This is useful if we are sure that, when associated with one grob a function will be pure but not necessarily with another grob that has different callbacks.

Items can only ever have two pure heights: their actual pure height if they are between ‘start’ and ‘end’, or an empty interval if they are not. Thus, their pure property is cached to speed LilyPond up. Pure heights for spanners are generally not cached as they change depending on the start and end values. They are only cached in certain particular cases. Before writing a lot of caching code, make sure that it is a value that will be reused a lot.

### 10.13.4 Where purity is used

Pure Y values must be used in any functions that are called before line breaking. Examples of this can be seen in `Separation_items::boxes` to construct horizontal skylines and in `Note_spacing::stem_dir_correction` to correct for optical illusions in spacing. Pure properties are also used in the calculation of other pure properties. For example, the `Axis_group_interface` has pure functions that look up other pure functions.

Purity is also implicitly used in any functions that should only ever return pure values. For example, extra-spacing-height is only ever used before line-breaking and thus should never use values that would only be available after line breaking. In this case, there is no need to create callbacks with pure equivalents because these functions, by design, need to be pure.

To know if a property will be called before and/or after line-breaking is sometimes tricky and can, like all things in coding, be found by using a debugger and/or adding *printf* statements to see where they are called in various circumstances.

### 10.13.5 Case studies

In each of these case studies, we expose a problem in pure properties, a solution, and the pros and cons of this solution.

#### Time signatures

A time signature needs to prevent accidentals from passing over or under it, but its extent does not necessarily extend to the Y-position of accidentals. LilyPond’s horizontal spacing sometimes makes a line of music compact and, when doing so, allows certain columns to pass over each other if they will not collide. This type of passing over is not desirable with time signatures in traditional engraving. But how do we know if this passing over will happen before line breaking, as we are not sure what the X positions will be? We need a pure estimation of how much extra spacing height the time signatures would need to prevent this form of passing over without making this height so large as to overly-distort the Y-extent of an system, which could result in a very ‘loose’ looking score with lots of horizontal space between columns. So, to approximate this extra spacing height, we use the Y-extent of a time signature’s next-door-neighbor grobs via the pure-from-neighbor interface.

- pros: By extending the extra spacing height of a time signature to that of its next-door-neighbors, we make sure that grobs to the right of it that could pass above or below it do not.
- cons: This over-estimation of the vertical height could prevent snug vertical spacing of systems, as the system will be registered as being taller at the point of the time signature than it actually is. This approach can be used for clefs and bar lines as well.

#### Stems

As described above, Stems need pure height approximations when they are beamed, as we do not know the beam positions before line breaking. To estimate this pure height, we take all the stems in a beam and find their pure heights as if they were not beamed. Then, we find the union

of all these pure heights and take the intersection between this interval (which is large) and an interval going from the note-head of a stem to infinity in the direction of the stem so that the interval stops at the note head.

- pros: This is guaranteed to be at least as long as the beamed stem, as a beamed stem will never go over the ideal length of the extremal beam of a stem.
- cons: Certain stems will be estimated as being too long, which leads to the same problem of too-much-vertical-height as described above.

### 10.13.6 Debugging tips

A few questions to ask yourself when working with pure properties:

- Is the property really pure? Are you sure that its value could not be changed later in the compiling process due to other changes?
- Can the property be made to correspond even more exactly with the eventual impure property?
- For a spanner, is the pure property changing correctly depending on the starting and ending points of the spanner?
- For an Item, will the item's pure height need to act in horizontal spacing but not in vertical spacing? If so, use extra-spacing-height instead of pure height.

## 10.14 LilyPond scoping

The Lilypond language has a concept of scoping, i.e. you can do:

```
foo = 1

#(begin
  (display (+ foo 2)))
```

with `\paper`, `\midi` and `\header` being nested scope inside the `‘.ly’` file-level scope. `foo = 1` is translated in to a scheme variable definition.

This implemented using modules, with each scope being an anonymous module that imports its enclosing scope's module.

Lilypond's core, loaded from `‘.scm’` files, is usually placed in the `lily` module, outside the `‘.ly’` level. In the case of

```
lilypond a.ly b.ly
```

we want to reuse the built-in definitions, without changes effected in user-level `‘a.ly’` leaking into the processing of `‘b.ly’`.

The user-accessible definition commands have to take care to avoid memory leaks that could occur when running multiple files. All information belonging to user-defined commands and markups is stored in a manner that allows it to be garbage-collected when the module is dispersed, either by being stored module-locally, or in weak hash tables.

## 10.15 Scheme->C interface

Most of the C functions interfacing with Guile/Scheme used in LilyPond are described in the API Reference of the [GUILE Reference Manual](#).

The remaining functions are defined in `‘lily/lily-guile.cc’`, `‘lily/include/lily-guile.hh’` and `‘lily/include/lily-guile-macros.hh’`. Although their names are meaningful there's a few things you should know about them.

### 10.15.1 Comparison

This is the trickiest part of the interface.

Mixing Scheme values with C comparison operators won't produce any crash or warning when compiling but must be avoided:

```
scm_string_p (scm_value) == SCM_BOOL_T
```

As we can read in the reference, `scm_string_p` returns a Scheme value: either `#t` or `#f` which are written `SCM_BOOL_T` and `SCM_BOOL_F` in C. This will work, but it is not following to the API guidelines. For further information, read this discussion:

<http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00646.html>

There are functions in the Guile reference that returns C values instead of Scheme values. In our example, a function called `scm_is_string` (described after `string?` and `scm_string_p`) returns the C value 0 or 1.

So the best solution was simply:

```
scm_is_string (scm_value)
```

There a simple solution for almost every common comparison. Another example: we want to know if a Scheme value is a non-empty list. Instead of:

```
(scm_is_true (scm_list_p (scm_value)) && scm_value != SCM_EOL)
```

one can usually use:

```
scm_is_pair (scm_value)
```

since a list of at least one member is a pair. This test is cheap; `scm_list_p` is actually quite more complex since it makes sure that its argument is neither a 'dotted list' where the last pair has a non-null `cdr`, nor a circular list. There are few situations where the complexity of those tests make sense.

Unfortunately, there is not a `scm_is_[something]` function for everything. That's one of the reasons why LilyPond has its own Scheme interface. As a rule of thumb, tests that are cheap enough to be worth inlining tend to have such a C interface. So there is `scm_is_pair` but not `scm_is_list`, and `scm_is_eq` but not `scm_is_equal`.

## General definitions

### **bool to\_boolean (SCM b)**

Return `true` if `b` is `SCM_BOOL_T`, else return `false`.

This should be used instead of `scm_is_true` and `scm_is_false` for properties since in Lilypond, unset properties are read as an empty list, and by convention unset Boolean properties default to false. Since both `scm_is_true` and `scm_is_false` only compare with `##f` in line with what Scheme's conditionals do, they are not really useful for checking the state of a Boolean property.

### **bool ly\_is\_[something] (args)**

Behave the same as `scm_is_[something]` would do if it existed.

### **bool is\_[type] (SCM s)**

Test whether the type of `s` is `[type]`. `[type]` is a LilyPond-only set of values (direction, axis...). More often than not, the code checks Lilypond specific C++-implemented types using

### **[type \*] unsmob\_[type] (SCM s)**

This tries converting a Scheme object to a pointer of the desired kind. If the Scheme object is of the wrong type, a pointer value of 0 is returned, making this suitable for a Boolean test.

## 10.15.2 Conversion

### General definitions

#### **bool to\_boolean (SCM b)**

Return `true` if `b` is `SCM_BOOL_T`, else return `false`.

This should be used instead of `scm_is_true` and `scm_is_false` for properties since empty lists are sometimes used to unset them.

#### **[C type] ly\_scm2[C type] (SCM s)**

Behave the same as `scm_to_[C type]` would do if it existed.

#### **[C type] robust\_scm2[C type] (SCM s, [C type] d)**

Behave the same as `scm_to_[C type]` would do if it existed. Return `d` if type verification fails.

## 10.16 LilyPond miscellany

This is a place to dump information that may be of use to developers but doesn't yet have a proper home. Ideally, the length of this section would become zero as items are moved to other homes.

### 10.16.1 Spacing algorithms

Here is information from an email exchange about spacing algorithms.

On Thu, 2010-02-04 at 15:33 -0500, Boris Shingarov wrote: I am experimenting with some modifications to the line breaking code, and I am stuck trying to understand how some of it works. So far my understanding is that `Simple_spacer` operates on a vector of Grobs, and it is a well-known Constrained-QP problem (rods = constraints, springs = quadratic function to minimize). What I don't understand is, if the spacer operates at the level of Grobs, which are built at an earlier stage in the pipeline, how are the changes necessitated by differences in line breaking, taken into account? in other words, if I take the last measure of a line and place it on the next line, it is not just a matter of literally moving that graphic to where the start of the next line is, but I also need to draw a clef, key signature, and possibly other fundamental things – but at that stage in the rendering pipeline, is it not too late??

Joe Neeman answered:

We create lots of extra grobs (eg. a `BarNumber` at every bar line) but most of them are not drawn. See the `break-visibility` property in `item-interface`.

Here is another e-mail exchange. Janek Warchol asked for a starting point to fixing 1301 (change clef colliding with notes). Neil Puttock replied:

The clef is on a loose column (it floats before the head), so the first place I'd look would be `lily/spacing-loose-columns.cc` (and possibly `lily/spacing-determine-loose-columns.cc`). I'd guess the problem is the way loose columns are spaced between other columns: in this snippet, the columns for the quaver and tuplet minim are so close together that the clef's column gets dumped on top of the quaver (since it's loose, it doesn't influence the spacing).

### 10.16.2 Info from Han-Wen email

In 2004, Douglas Linhardt decided to try starting a document that would explain LilyPond architecture and design principles. The material below is extracted from that email, which can be found at <http://thread.gmane.org/gmane.comp.gnu.lilypond.devel/2992>. The headings reflect questions from Doug or comments from Han-Wen; the body text are Han-Wen's answers.



## Figuring out how things work.

I must admit that when I want to know how a program works, I use `grep` and `emacs` and dive into the source code. The comments and the code itself are usually more revealing than technical documents.

## What's a grob, and how is one used?

Graphical object - they are created from within engravers, either as `Spanners` (derived class) -slurs, beams- or `Items` (also a derived class) -notes, clefs, etc.

There are two other derived classes `System` (derived from `Spanner`, containing a "line of music") and `Paper_column` (derived from `Item`, it contains all items that happen at the same moment). They are separate classes because they play a special role in the linebreaking process.

## What's a smob, and how is one used?

A C++ object that is encapsulated so it can be used as a Scheme object. See `GUILE` info, "19.3 Defining New Types (Smobs)"

## When is each C++ class constructed and used?

- Music classes  
In the `parser.yy` see the macro calls `MAKE_MUSIC_BY_NAME()`.
- Contexts  
Constructed during "interpreting" phase.
- Engravers  
Executive branch of Contexts, plugins that create grobs, usually one engraver per grob type. Created together with context.
- Layout Objects  
= grobs
- Grob Interfaces  
These are not C++ classes per se. The idea of a Grob interface hasn't crystallized well. ATM, an interface is a symbol, with a bunch of grob properties. They are not objects that are created or destroyed.
- Iterators  
Objects that walk through different music classes, and deliver events in a synchronized way, so that notes that play together are processed at the same moment and (as a result) end up on the same horizontal position.  
Created during interpreting phase.  
BTW, the entry point for interpreting is `ly:run-translator` (`ly_run_translator` on the C++ side)

## Can you get to Context properties from a Music object?

You can create music object with a Scheme function that reads context properties (the `\apply-context` syntax). However, that function is executed during Interpreting, so you can not really get Context properties from Music objects, since music objects are not directly connected to Contexts. That connection is made by the `Music_iterators`

## Can you get to Music properties from a Context object?

Yes, if you are given the music object within a Context object. Normally, the music objects enter Contexts in synchronized fashion, and the synchronization is done by `Music_iterators`.

## What is the relationship between C++ classes and Scheme objects?

Smobs are C++ objects in Scheme. Scheme objects (lists, functions) are manipulated from C++ as well using the GUILE C function interface (prefix: scm\_)

## How do Scheme procedures get called from C++ functions?

scm\_call\_\*, where \* is an integer from 0 to 4. Also scm\_c\_eval\_string (), scm\_eval ()

## How do C++ functions get called from Scheme procedures?

Export a C++ function to Scheme with LY\_DEFINE.

## What is the flow of control in the program?

Good question. Things used to be clear-cut, but we have Scheme and SMOBs now, which means that interactions do not follow a very rigid format anymore. See below for an overview, though.

## Does the parser make Scheme procedure calls or C++ function calls?

Both. And the Scheme calls can call C++ and vice versa. It's nested, with the SCM datatype as lubrication between the interactions

(I think the word "lubrication" describes the process better than the traditional word "glue")

## How do the front-end and back-end get started?

Front-end: a file is parsed, the rest follows from that. Specifically,

Parsing leads to a Music + Music\_output\_def object (see parser.yy, definition of toplevel\_expression )

A Music + Music\_output\_def object leads to a Global\_context object (see ly\_run\_translator ())

During interpreting, Global\_context + Music leads to a bunch of Contexts (see Global\_translator::run\_iterator\_on\_me ()).

After interpreting, Global\_context contains a Score\_context (which contains staves, lyrics etc.) as a child. Score\_context::get\_output () spews a Music\_output object (either a Paper\_score object for notation or Performance object for MIDI).

The Music\_output object is the entry point for the backend (see ly\_render\_output ()).

The main steps of the backend itself are in

- 'paper-score.cc' , Paper\_score::process\_
- 'system.cc' , System::get\_lines()
- The step, where things go from grobs to output, is in System::get\_line(): each grob delivers a Stencil (a Device independent output description), which is interpreted by our outputting backends ('scm/output-tex.scm' and 'scm/output-ps.scm') to produce TeX and PS.

Interactions between grobs and putting things into .tex and .ps files have gotten a little more complex lately. Jan has implemented page-breaking, so now the backend also involves Paper\_book, Paper\_lines and other things. This area is still heavily in flux, and perhaps not something you should want to look at.

## How do the front-end and back-end communicate?

There is no communication from backend to front-end. From front-end to backend is simply the program flow: music + definitions gives contexts, contexts yield output, after processing, output is written to disk.

## Where is the functionality associated with KEYWORDS?

See `'my-lily-lexer.cc'` (keywords, there aren't that many) and `'ly/*.ly'` (most of the other backslashed `/\words` are identifiers)

## What Contexts/Properties/Music/etc. are available when they are processed?

What do you mean exactly with this question?

See `'ly/engraver-init.ly'` for contexts, see `'scm/define-*.scm'` for other objects.

## How do you decide if something is a Music, Context, or Grob property?

Why is `part-combine-status` a Music property when it seems (IMO) to be related to the Staff context?

The `Music_itors` and `Context` communicate through two channels

`Music_itors` can set and read context properties, idem for `Engravers` and `Contexts`

`Music_itors` can send "synthetic" music events (which aren't in the input) to a context. These are caught by `Engravers`. This is mostly a one way communication channel.

`part-combine-status` is part of such a synthetic event, used by `Part-combine_iterator` to communicate with `Part-combine-engraver`.

## Deciding between context and music properties

I'm adding a property to affect how `\autochange` works. It seems to me that it should be a context property, but the Scheme `autochange` procedure has a Music argument. Does this mean I should use a Music property?

`\autochange` is one of these extra strange beasts: it requires look-ahead to decide when to change staves. This is achieved by running the interpreting step twice (see `'scm/part-combiner.scm'`, at the bottom), and storing the result of the first step (where to switch staves) in a Music property. Since you want to influence that where-to-switch list, your must affect the code in `make-autochange-music` (`'scm/part-combiner.scm'`). That code is called directly from the parser and there are no official "parsing properties" yet, so there is no generic way to tune `\autochange`. We would have to invent something new for this, or add a separate argument,

```
\autochange #around-central-C ..music..
```

where `around-central-C` is some function that is called from `make-autochange-music`.

## More on context and music properties

From Neil Puttock, in response to a question about transposition:

Context properties (using `\set` & `\unset`) are tied to engravers: they provide information relevant to the generation of graphical objects.

Since transposition occurs at the music interpretation stage, it has no direct connection with engravers: the pitch of a note is fixed before a notehead is created. Consider the following minimal snippet:

```
{ c' }
```

This generates (simplified) a `NoteEvent`, with its pitch and duration as event properties,

```
(make-music
 'NoteEvent
 'duration
 (ly:make-duration 2 0 1 1))
```

```
'pitch
(ly:make-pitch 0 0 0)
```

which the `Note_heads_engraver` hears. It passes this information on to the `NoteHead` grob it creates from the event, so the head's correct position and duration-log can be determined once it's ready for printing.

If we transpose the snippet,

```
\transpose c d { c' }
```

the pitch is changed before it reaches the engraver (in fact, it happens just after the parsing stage with the creation of a `TransposedMusic` music object):

```
(make-music
 'NoteEvent
 'duration
 (ly:make-duration 2 0 1 1)
 'pitch
 (ly:make-pitch 0 1 0))
```

You can see an example of a music property relevant to transposition: `untransposable`.

```
\transpose c d { c'2 \withMusicProperty #'untransposable ##t c' }
```

-> the second `c'` remains untransposed.

Take a look at `'lily/music.cc'` to see where the transposition takes place.

## How do I tell about the execution environment?

I get lost figuring out what environment the code I'm looking at is in when it executes. I found both the C++ and Scheme autochange code. Then I was trying to figure out where the code got called from. I finally figured out that the Scheme procedure was called before the C++ iterator code, but it took me a while to figure that out, and I still didn't know who did the calling in the first place. I only know a little bit about Flex and Bison, so reading those files helped only a little bit.

*Han-Wen:* GDB can be of help here. Set a breakpoint in C++, and run. When you hit the breakpoint, do a backtrace. You can inspect Scheme objects along the way by doing

```
p ly_display_scm(obj)
```

this will display OBJ through GUILE.

### 10.16.3 Music functions and GUILE debugging

Ian Hulin was trying to do some debugging in music functions, and came up with the following question

Hi all, I'm working on the Guile Debugger Stuff, and would like to try debugging a music function definition such as:

```
conditionalMark = #(define-music-function (parser location) ()
  #{ \tag #'instrumental-part {\mark \default} #} )
```

It appears `conditionalMark` does not get set up as an equivalent of a Scheme

```
(define conditionalMark = define-music-function(parser location) ...
```

although something gets defined because Scheme apparently recognizes

```
#{(set-break! conditionalMark)
```

later on in the file without signalling any Guile errors.

However the breakpoint trap is never encountered as `define-music-function` passed things on to `ly:make-music-function`, which is really C++ code `ly_make_music_function`, so Guile never finds out about the breakpoint.

Han-Wen answered as follows:

You can see the definition by doing

```
    #(display conditionalMark)
```

noindent inside the '.ly' file.

The breakpoint failing may have to do with the call sequence. See 'parser.yy', `run_music_function()`. The function is called directly from C++, without going through the GUILE evaluator, so I think that is why there is no debugger trap.

#### 10.16.4 Articulations on EventChord

From David Kastrup's email <http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2012-02/msg00189.html>:

LilyPond's typesetting does not act on music expressions and music events. It acts exclusively on stream events. It is the act of iterators to convert a music expression into a sequence of stream events played in time order.

The EventChord iterator is pretty simple: it just takes its "elements" field when its time comes up, turns every member into a StreamEvent and plays that through the typesetting process. The parser currently appends all postevents belonging to a chord at the end of "elements", and thus they get played at the same point of time as the elements of the chord. Due to this design, you can add per-chord articulations or postevents or even assemble chords with a common stem by using parallel music providing additional notes/events: the typesetter does not see a chord structure or postevents belonging to a chord, it just sees a number of events occurring at the same point of time in a Voice context.

So all one needs to do is let the EventChord iterator play articulations after elements, and then adding to articulations in EventChord is equivalent to adding them to elements (except in cases where the order of events matters).

## 11 Release work

### 11.1 Development phases

There are 2 states of development on **master**:

1. **Normal development**: Any commits are fine.
2. **Build-frozen**: Do not require any additional or updated libraries or make non-trivial changes to the build process. Any such patch (or branch) may not be merged with master during this period.

This should occur approximately 1 month before any alpha version of the next stable release, and ends when the next unstable branch begins.

After announcing a beta release, branch **stable/2.x**. There are 2 states of development for this branch:

1. **Normal maintenance**: The following patches **MAY NOT** be merged with this branch:
  - Any change to the input syntax. If a file compiled with a previous 2.x (beta) version, then it must compile in the new version.  
Exception: any bugfix to a Critical issue.
  - New features with new syntax *may be committed*, although once committed that syntax cannot change during the remainder of the stable phase.
  - Any change to the build dependencies (including programming libraries, documentation process programs, or python modules used in the buildscripts). If a contributor could compile a previous lilypond 2.x, then he must be able to compile the new version.
2. **Release prep**: Only translation updates and important bugfixes are allowed.

### 11.2 Minor release checklist

A “minor release” means an update of y in 2.x.y.

#### Pre-release

1. Switch to the release branch, get changes, prep release announcement. This requires a clean index and work tree. If the checkout displays modified files, you might want to run `git reset --hard` before continuing.
 

```
git fetch
git checkout origin/release/unstable
git merge origin
make -C $LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR po-replace
mv $LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR/po/lilypond.pot po/
vi Documentation/web/news-front.itexi Documentation/web/news.itexi
```
2. Commit, push, switch back to master (or wherever else):
 

```
git commit -m "PO: update template." po/lilypond.pot
git commit -m "Release: update news." Documentation/web/
git push origin HEAD:release/unstable
git checkout master
```
3. If you do not have the previous release test-output tarball, download it and put it in `regtests/`
4. Prepare GUB environment by running:
 

```
### my-gub.sh
# special terminal, and default PATH environment.
```

```
# import these special environment vars:
#   HOME, HTTP_PROXY, TERM
env -i \
    HOME=$HOME \
    HTTP_PROXY=$HTTP_PROXY \
    bash --rcfile my-bashrc

### my-bashrc
export PS1="\[\e[1;33mGUB-ENV \w\]$ \[\e[0m\]"
export PATH=$PATH
export TERM=xterm
```

5. Build release on GUB by running:

```
make LILYPOND_BRANCH=release/unstable lilypond
```

or something like:

```
make LILYPOND_BRANCH=stable/2.12 lilypond
```

6. Check the regtest comparison in ‘uploads/webtest/’ for any unintentional breakage. More info in [Section 9.2 \[Precompiled regression tests\]](#), page 96.
7. If any work was done on GUB since the last release, upload binaries to a temporary location, ask for feedback, and wait a day or two in case there’s any major problems.

**Note:** Always do this for a stable release.

## Actual release

1. If you’re not the right user on the webserver, remove the `t` from the `rsync` command in:

```
test-lily/rsync-lily-doc.py
test-lily/rsync-test.py
```

graham owns v2.13; han-wen owns v2.12.

2. Upload GUB by running:

```
make lilypond-upload \
    LILYPOND_REPO_URL=git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git \
    LILYPOND_BRANCH=release/unstable
```

or something like:

```
make lilypond-upload \
    LILYPOND_REPO_URL=git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond.git \
    LILYPOND_BRANCH=stable/2.12
```

## Post release

1. Update the current staging branch with the current news:

```
git fetch
git checkout origin/staging
git merge origin/release/unstable
```

2. Update ‘VERSION’ in lilypond git and upload changes:

```
vi VERSION
```

- VERSION = what you just did +0.0.1
- DEVEL\_VERSION = what you just did (i.e. is now online)
- STABLE\_VERSION = what’s online (probably no change here)

```
git commit -m "Release: bump version." VERSION
```

```
git push origin HEAD:staging
```

If the push fails with a message like

```
! [rejected]          HEAD -> staging (non-fast-forward)
```

it means that somebody else updated the staging branch while you were preparing your change. In that case, you need to restart the Post Release process. Otherwise, proceed:

3. (for now) do a `make doc` and manually upload:

```
### upload-lily-web-media.sh
#!/bin/sh
BUILD_DIR=$HOME/src/build-lilypond

PICS=$BUILD_DIR/Documentation/pictures/out-www/
EXAMPLES=$BUILD_DIR/Documentation/ly-examples/out-www/

cd $BUILD_DIR
rsync -a $PICS graham@lilypond.org:media/pictures
rsync -a $EXAMPLES graham@lilypond.org:media/ly-examples
```

4. Wait a few hours for the website to update.
5. Email release notice to `info-lilypond`

## 11.3 Major release checklist

A “major release” means an update of `x` in `2.x.0`.

### Main requirements

This is the current official guidelines.

- 0 Critical issues for two weeks (14 days) after the latest release candidate.

### Potential requirements

These might become official guidelines in the future.

- Check reg test
- Check all 2ly scripts
- Check for emergencies the docs:

```
grep FIXME --exclude "misc/*" --exclude "*GNUmakefile" \
--exclude "snippets/*" ???*/*
```

- Check for altered regtests, and document as necessary. (update numbers in the following command as appropriate)

```
git diff -u -r release/2.12.0-1 -r release/2.13.13-1 input/regression/
```

### Housekeeping requirements

Before the release:

- write release notes. note: stringent size requirements for various websites, so be brief.
- Run `convert-ly` on all files, bump parser minimum version.
- Update `lilypond.pot`:

```
make -C $LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR po-replace
mv $LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR/po/lilypond.pot po/
```

- Make directories on `lilypond.org`:

```
~/web/download/sources/v2.14
~/web/download/sources/v2.15
```



- Shortly after the release, move all current contributors to previous contributors in:  
`Documentation/included/authors.itexi`  
 Also, delete old material in:  
`Documentation/changes.tely`  
 but don't forget to check it still compiles! also update the version numbers.
- Website:
  - make a link from the old unstable to the next stable in lilypond.org's /doc/ dir. Keep all previous unstable->stable doc symlinks.  
 Also, make the old docs self-contained – if there's a redirect in /doc/v2.12/Documentation/index.html, replace it with the index.html.old-2.12 files.  
 The post-2.13 docs will need another way of handling the self-containment. It won't be hard to whip up a python script that changes the link to ../../../../manuals.html to ../website/manuals.html, but it's still a 30-minute task that needs to be done before 2.16.
  - doc auto redirects to v2.LATEST-STABLE
  - add these two lines to `http://www.lilypond.org/robots.txt`:  
`Disallow: /doc/v2.PREVIOUS-STABLE/`  
`Disallow: /doc/v2.CURRENT-DEVELOPMENT/`

## Unsorted

- submit po template for translation: send url of tarball to coordinator@translationproject.org, mentioning lilypond-VERSION.pot
- update links to distros providing lilypond packages? link in: `'Documentation/web/download.itexi'`

This has nothing to do with the release, but it's a "periodic maintenance" task that might make sense to include with releases.

- Send announcements to...

News:

`comp.music.research`  
`comp.os.linux.announce`

`comp.text.tex`  
`rec.music.compose`

Mail:

`info-lilypond@gnu.org`

`linux-audio-announce@lists.linuxaudio.org`  
`linux-audio-user@lists.linuxaudio.org`  
`linux-audio-dev@lists.linuxaudio.org`

`tex-music@icking-music-archive.org`

--- non-existent?  
`abcusers@blackmill.net`

`rosegarden-user@lists.sourceforge.net`  
`info-gnu@gnu.org`

noteedit-user@berlios.de

gmane.comp.audio.fomus.devel  
 gmane.linux.audio.users  
 gmane.linux.audio.announce  
 gmane.comp.audio.rosegarden.devel

Web:

lilypond.org  
 freshmeat.net  
 linuxfr.com  
<http://www.apple.com/downloads>  
[harmony-central.com \(news@harmony-central.com\)](mailto:news@harmony-central.com)  
[versiontracker.com \[auto\]](http://versiontracker.com)  
[hitsquad.com \[auto\]](http://hitsquad.com)  
<http://www.svgx.org>  
[https://savannah.gnu.org/news/submit.php?group\\_id=1673](https://savannah.gnu.org/news/submit.php?group_id=1673)

## 11.4 Release extra notes

### Regenerating regression tests

Regenerating regtests (if the lilypond-book naming has changed):

- git checkout release/lilypond-X.Y.Z-A
- take lilypond-book and any related makefile updates from the latest git.
- configure; make; make test
- tar -cjf lilypond-X.Y.Z-A.test-output.tar.bz2 input/regression/out-test/
- mv lilypond-X.Y.Z-A.test-output.tar.bz2 ../gub/regtests/
- cd ../gub/regtests/
- make lilypond

### stable/2.12

If releasing stable/2.12, then:

- apply doc patch: patches/rsync-lily.patch (or something like that)
- change infodir in gub/specs/lilypond-doc.py from "lilypond.info" to "lilypond-web.info"

### Updating a release (changing a in x.y.z-a)

Really tentative instructions, almost certainly can be done better.

1. change the VERSION back to release you want. push change. (hopefully you'll have forgotten to update it when you made your last release)
2. make sure that there aren't any lilypond files floating around in target/ (like usr/bin/lilypond).
3. build the specific package(s) you want, i.e.

```
bin/gub mingw::lilypond-installer
make LILYPOND_BRANCH=stable/2.12 -f lilypond.make doc
bin/gub --platform=darwin-x86 \
  'git://git.sv.gnu.org/lilypond-doc.git?branch=stable/2.12'
```

or

build everything with the normal "make lilypond", then (maybe) manually delete stuff you don't want to upload.

4. manually upload them. good luck figuring out the rsync command(s). Hints are in test-lily/  
or  
run the normal lilypond-upload command, and (maybe) manually delete stuff you didn't  
want to upload from the server.

## 12 Build system notes

**Note:** This chapter is in high flux, and is being run in a “wiki-like” fashion. Do not trust anything you read in this chapter.

### 12.1 Build system overview

Build system is currently GNU make, with an extra "stepmake" layer on top. Look at files in ‘make/’ and ‘stepmake/’ and all ‘GNUmakefile’s.

There is wide-spread dissatisfaction with this system, and we are considering changing. This would be a huge undertaking (estimated 200+ hours). This change will probably involve not using GNU make any more – but a discussion about the precise build system will have to wait. Before we reach that point, we need to figure out (at least approximately) what the current build system does.

Fundamentally, a build system does two things:

1. Constructs command-line commands, for example:

```
lilypond-book \
  --tons --of --options \
  pitches.itely
texi2pdf \
  --more --imperial --and --metric --tons --of --options \
  pitches.texi
```

2. If there was a previous build, it decides which parts of the system need to be rebuilt.

When I try to do anything in the build system, it helps to remind myself of this. The "end result" is just a series of command-line commands. All the black magick is just an attempt to construct those commands.

### 12.2 Tips for working on the build system

- Add:

```
echo "aaa"
```

```
echo "bbb"
```

to the build system files in various places. This will let you track where the program is, in various points of the build.

PH note. There are lots of places where Make doesn’t let you put echo commands. My top tip for tracing how make runs is to put

```
$(error Some Text to display)
```

This will stop make running and print the text `Some Text to display`.

End PH note.

- First task: understand how `make website` works, *without* the translations. Looking at the english-only website is the best introduction to the build system... it only covers about 5% of the whole thing, but even that will likely take 10 hours or more.

### 12.3 General build system notes

### 12.3.1 How stepmake works

Typing `make website` runs the file ‘GNUmakefile’ from the build directory. This only contains 3 lines:

```
depth = .
include config$(if $(conf),-$(conf),).make
include $(configure-srcdir)/GNUmakefile.in
```

The variable `depth` is used throughout the make system to track how far down the directory structure the make is. The first include sets lots of variables but doesn't "do" anything. Default values for these variables are automatically detected at the `./configure` step, which creates the file ‘config.make’. The second include runs the file ‘GNUmakefile.in’ from the top level source directory.

This sets another load of variables, and then includes (i.e. immediately runs) ‘stepmake.make’ from the ‘make’ subdirectory. This sets a load of other variables, does some testing to see if SCONS (another build tool?) is being used, and then runs ‘make/config.make’ - which doesn't seem to exist...

GP: `scons` is indeed a different build tool; I think that Jan experimented with it 5 years ago or something. It seems like we still have bits and pieces of it floating around.

Next, it runs ‘make/toplevel-version.make’, which sets the version variables for major, minor, patch, stable, development and mypatchlevel (which seems to be used for patch numbers for non-stable versions only?).

Next - ‘make/local.make’, which doesn't exist.

Then a few more variable and the interesting comment:

```
# Don't try to outsmart us, you puny computer!
# Well, UGH. This only removes builtin rules from
```

and then tests to see whether `BUILTINS_REMOVED` is defined. It appears to be when I run `make`, and so ‘stepmake/stepmake/no-builtin-rules.make’ is run. The comment at the head of this file says:

```
# UGH. GNU make comes with implicit rules.
# We don't want any of them, and can't force users to run
# --no-builtin-rules
```

I've not studied that file at length, but assume it removes all make's build-in rules (e.g. ‘\*.c’ files are run through the GNU C compiler) - there's a lot of them in here, and a lot of comments, and I'd guess most of it isn't needed.

We return to ‘stepmake.make’, where we hit the make rule all: The first line of this is:

```
-include $(addprefix $(depth)/make/, $(addsuffix -inclusions.make, $(LOCALSTEPMAKE_TEMPLATES)))■
```

which, when the variables are substituted, gives:

```
./make/generic-inclusions.make
./make/lilypond-inclusions.make.
```

(Note - according to the make documentation, `-include` is only different from `include` in that it doesn't produce any kind of error message when the included file doesn't exist).

And the first file doesn't exist. Nor the second. Next:

```
-include $(addprefix $(stepdir)/, $(addsuffix -inclusions.make, $(STEPMAKE_TEMPLATES)))
```

which expands to the following files:

```
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/generic-inclusions.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/toplevel-inclusions.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/po-inclusions.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/install-inclusions.make.
```

One little feature to notice here - these are all absolute file locations - the line prior to this used relative locations. And none of these files exist, either.

(Further note - I'm assuming all these lines of make I'm following are autogenerated, but that'll be something else to discover.)

JM: *"No, these lines are not useful in LilyPond (this is why you think they are autogenerated), but they are part of StepMake, which was meant to be a package to be installed as a build system over autoconf/make in software project source trees."*

Next in 'stepmake.make':

```
include $(addprefix $(stepdir)/,$(addsuffix -vars.make, $(STEPMAKE_TEMPLATES)))
```

which expands to:

```
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/generic-vars.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/toplevel-vars.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/po-vars.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/install-vars.make.
```

Woo. They all exist (they should as there's no - in front of the include). 'generic-vars.make' sets loads of variables (funnily enough). 'toplevel-vars.make' is very short - one line commented as # override Generic\_vars.make: and 2 as follows:

```
# urg?
include $(stepdir)/documentation-vars.make
```

I assume the urg comment refers to the fact that this should really just create more variables, but it actually sends us off to '/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/documentation-vars.make'.

That file is a 3 line variable setting one.

'po-vars.make' has the one-line comment # empty, as does 'install-vars.make'.

So now we're back to 'stepmake.make'.

The next lines are :

```
# ugh. need to do this because of PATH :=$(top-src-dir)/..$(PATH)
include $(addprefix $(depth)/make/,$(addsuffix -vars.make, $(LOCALSTEPMAKE_TEMPLATES)))
```

and the include expands to:

```
include ./make/generic-vars.make ./make/lilypond-vars.make.
```

These again set variables, and in some cases export them to allow child make processes to use them.

The final 4 lines of 'stepmake.make' are:

```
include $(addprefix $(depth)/make/,$(addsuffix -rules.make, $(LOCALSTEPMAKE_TEMPLATES)))
include $(addprefix $(stepdir)/,$(addsuffix -rules.make, $(STEPMAKE_TEMPLATES)))
include $(addprefix $(depth)/make/,$(addsuffix -targets.make, $(LOCALSTEPMAKE_TEMPLATES)))
include $(addprefix $(stepdir)/,$(addsuffix -targets.make, $(STEPMAKE_TEMPLATES)))
```

which expand as follows:

```
include ./make/generic-rules.make ./make/lilypond-rules.make
include
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/generic-rules.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/toplevel-rules.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/po-rules.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/install-rules.make
include ./make/generic-targets.make ./make/lilypond-targets.make
include
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/generic-targets.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/toplevel-targets.make
/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/po-targets.make
```

```

/home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/stepmake/install-targets.make
'lilypond-rules.make' is #empty
'generic-rules.make' does seem to have 2 rules in it. They are:
$(outdir)/%.ly: %.lym4
    $(M4) $< | sed "s/\`/,/g" > $@

$(outdir)/%: %.in
    rm -f $@
    cat $< | sed $(sed-atfiles) | sed $(sed-atvariables) > $@

```

I believe the first rule is for \*.ly files, and has a prerequisite that \*.lym4 files must be built first. The recipe is `m4 | sed "s/\`/,/g" >`. Perhaps someone with more Unix/make knowledge can comment on exactly what the rules mean/do.

```

'toplevel-rules.make' is #empty
'po-rules.make' is #empty
'install-rules.make' is #empty
'generic-targets.make' contains 2 lines of comments.
'lilypond-targets.make' contains only:
## TODO: fail dist or web if no \version present.
check-version:
    grep -L version $(LY_FILES)

```

'stepmake/generic-targets.make' contains lots of rules - too many to list here - it seems to be the main file for rules. (FWIW I haven't actually found a rule for website: anywhere, although it clearly exists. I have also found that you can display a rule in the terminal by typing, say `make -n website`. This is probably common knowledge.

'stepmake/toplevel-targets.make' adds a load of other (and occasionally the same) rules to the generic-targets.

'stepmake/po-targets.make' is rules for po\* makes.

'stepmake/install-targets.make' has rules for local-install\*.

And that's the end of stepmake.make. Back to 'GNUmakefile.in'.

A bit more info from 27 March. I've put some error traces into GNUmakefile in the build directory, and it looks like the following lines actually cause the make to run (putting an error call above them - no make; below them - make):

```

ifeq ($(out),www)
# All web targets, except info image symlinks and info docs are
# installed in non-recursing target from TOP-SRC-DIR
install-WWW:
    -$(INSTALL) -m 755 -d $(DESTDIR)$(webdir)
    rsync -rl --exclude='*.signature' $(outdir)/offline-root $(DESTDIR)$(webdir)
    $(MAKE) -C Documentation omf-local-install

```

I don't currently understand the `ifeq`, since `$(out)` is empty at this point, but the line starting `$(INSTALL)` translates to:

```

-/usr/bin/python /home/phil/lilypond-git/stepmake/bin/install.py \
-c -m 755 -d /usr/local/share/doc/lilypond/html

```

End of work for Sunday 27th.

Another alternative approach to understanding the website build would be to redirect `make -n website` and `make website` to a text file and work through a) what it does and b) where the errors are occurring.

GP: wow, all the above is much more complicated than I've ever looked at stuff - I tend to do a "back first" approach (where I begin from the command-line that I want to modify, figure out

where it's generated, and then figure out how to change the generated command-line), rather than a "front first" (where you begin from the "make" command).

## 12.4 Doc build

### 12.4.1 The function of make doc

The following is a set of notes on how make doc functions.

Preliminary question to be answered some time: where do all the GNUmakefiles come from. They're in the build directory, but this is not part of source. Must be the configure script. And it looks like this comes from autogen.sh. Must at some point kill the whole git directory, repull and see what is created when.

Anyway, here's how make doc progresses:

This is the build dependency tree from 'stepmake/stepmake/generic-targets.make':

```
doc: doc-stage-1
  doc-stage-1:
    $(MAKE) -C $(depth)/scripts/build out=
    $(MAKE) out=www WWW-1
    WWW-1: local-WWW-1
    $(LOOP)
    $(MAKE) out=www WWW-2
    WWW-2: local-WWW-2
    $(LOOP)
    $(MAKE) out=www WWW-post
```

MAKE = make --no-builtin-rules

-C = Change to directory before make

doc-stage-1 does lots of opening and looking in files, but no processing.

Variable LOOP =

```
+ make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C python
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C scripts
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C flower
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C lily
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C mf
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C ly
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C tex
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C ps
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C scm
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C po
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C make
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C elisp
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C vim
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C input
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C stepmake
&& make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C Documentation
&& true
```

From git grep:

stepmake/stepmake/generic-vars.make has this:

```
LOOP+=$(foreach i, $(SUBDIRS), $(MAKE) PACKAGE=$(PACKAGE) package=$(package) -C $(i) $@ &&) true
```

\$@ is the name of the target - WWW-1 in this case.



In GNUmakefile.in we find:

```
SUBDIRS = python scripts \
        flower lily \
        mf ly \
        tex ps scm \
        po make \
        elisp vim \
        input \
        stepmake $(documentation-dir)
```

So that's how we get the main make loop...

That loop expands like this:

```
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C python WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C scripts WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C flower WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C lily WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C mf WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C ly WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C tex WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C ps WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C scm WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C po WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C make WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C elisp WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C vim WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C input WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C stepmake WWW-1 &&
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C Documentation WWW-1 &&
true
```

The directories up to and including vim produce no effect with make in non-debug mode, although debug does show lots of action.

'git/build/input/GNUmakefile' is:

```
depth=../
include $(depth)/config$(if $(conf),-$(conf)).make
include $(figure-srcdir)/./input/GNUmakefile
MODULE_INCLUDES += $(src-dir)/$(outbase)
```

The first include is:

```
../config.make
```

(note the // which is strictly wrong)

which has lots of variables to set, but no action occurs.

The second is:

```
lilypond-git/./input/GNUmakefile
```

which similarly doesn't create any actual action.

An error message at the end of build/input/GNUmakefile stops make processing before it moves on to regression - so where does that come from?

And the answer is - make processes all directories in the directory it's entered (with some exceptions like out and out-www) and so it changes to /regression.

It then seems to consider whether it needs to make/remake loads of makefiles. Don't understand this yet. Possibly these are all the makefiles it's processing, and it always checks they're up to date before processing other files?

Could be correct - some of this output is:

```
Must remake target `../../make/ly-inclusions.make'.
Failed to remake target file `../../make/ly-inclusions.make'.
```

Having decided that, it then leaves the directory and re-executes:

```
make PACKAGE=LILYPOND package=lilypond -C regression WWW-1
```

The top of this make is:

```
This program built for i486-pc-linux-gnu
Reading makefiles...
Reading makefile `GNUmakefile'...
Reading makefile `../../config.make' (search path) (no ~ expansion)...
```

which looks like it's re-reading all its known makefiles to check they're up to date.

(From the make manual:

To this end, after reading in all makefiles, make will consider each as a goal target and attempt to update it. If a makefile has a rule which says how to update it (found either in that very makefile or in another one) or if an implicit rule applies to it (see Chapter 10 [Using Implicit Rules], page 103), it will be updated if necessary. After all makefiles have been checked, if any have actually been changed, make starts with a clean slate and reads all the makefiles over again. (It will also attempt to update each of them over again, but normally this will not change them again, since they are already up to date.)

So my assumption seems correct)

There appear to be about 74 of them. After all the makefile checking, we get this:

```
Updating goal targets....
Considering target file `WWW-1'.
File `WWW-1' does not exist.
Considering target file `local-WWW-1'.
File `local-WWW-1' does not exist.
Considering target file `out-www/collated-files.texi'.
File `out-www/collated-files.texi' does not exist.
Looking for an implicit rule for `out-www/collated-files.texi'.
Trying pattern rule with stem `collated-files.texi'.
Trying implicit prerequisite `collated-files.texi.in'.
Trying pattern rule with stem `collated-files.texi'.
Trying implicit prerequisite `collated-files.texi.in'.
Trying pattern rule with stem `collated-files'.
Trying implicit prerequisite `collated-files.tely'.
Trying pattern rule with stem `collated-files'.
Trying implicit prerequisite `out-www/collated-files.tely'.
Trying rule prerequisite `out-www/version.itexi'.
Found prerequisite `out-www/version.itexi' as VPATH `/home/phil/lilypond-git/input/regression/out-
www/version.itexi'
```

grep finds this if searching for local-WWW-1:

```
make/lysdoc-targets.make:
    local-WWW-1: $(outdir)/collated-files.texi $(outdir)/collated-files.pdf
```

which means that local-WWW-1 depends on coll\*.texi and coll\*.pdf and so these will need to be checked to see if they're up to date. So make needs to find rules for both of those and (as it says) it certainly needs to make coll\*.texi, since it doesn't exist.

In ly-rules.make we have:

```
.SUFFIXES: .doc .tely .texi .ly
```

which I'll work out at some point, and also this rule:

```
$(outdir)/%.texi: $(outdir)/%.tely $(outdir)/version.itexi $(DOCUMENTATION_LOCALE_TARGET) $(INIT_LY_SOURCE)
    LILYPOND_VERSION=$(TOPLEVEL_VERSION) $(PYTHON) $(LILYPOND_BOOK) $(LILYPOND_BOOK_INCLUDES) -
-process='$(LILYPOND_BOOK_PROCESS) $(LILYPOND_BOOK_INCLUDES) $(LILYPOND_BOOK_LILYPOND_FLAGS)' -
-output=$(outdir) --format=$(LILYPOND_BOOK_FORMAT) $(LILYPOND_BOOK_FLAGS) $<
```

Note that the recipe is a very long line - it could probably benefit from splitting. The same makefile also has:

```
$(outdir)/%.texi: $(outdir)/%.tely $(outdir)/version.itexi $(DOCUMENTATION_LOCALE_TARGET) $(INIT_LY_SOURCES)
    LILYPOND_VERSION=$(TOPLEVEL_VERSION) $(PYTHON) $(LILYPOND_BOOK) $(LILYPOND_BOOK_INCLUDES) --
    -process='$(LILYPOND_BOOK_PROCESS) $(LILYPOND_BOOK_INCLUDES) $(LILYPOND_BOOK_LILYPOND_FLAGS)' --
    -output=$(outdir) --format=$(LILYPOND_BOOK_FORMAT) $(LILYPOND_BOOK_FLAGS) $<
```

which seems to be an almost exact duplicate. Whatever, the first one is executed first. Have not checked if the second executes.

The first recipe translates as this:

```
LILYPOND_VERSION=2.15.0 /usr/bin/python --process=' ' \
    --output=./out-www --format= --lily-output-dir \
    /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/out/lybook-db
```

if we stop the build with an \$(error), but I think this is because we need to allow it to process the dependencies first. It looks like foo.texi is shown as being dependent on foo.tely, plus a load of other files.

```
DOCUMENTATION_LOCALE_TARGET is blank
INIT_LY_SOURCES = /home/phil/lilypond-git/scm/auto-beam.scm \
    /home/phil/lilypond-git/scm/autochange.scm
```

plus 10s (100s?) of other .scm files.

```
SCHEME_SOURCES = /home/phil/lilypond-git/ly/Welcome-to-LilyPond-MacOS.ly \
    /home/phil/lilypond-git/ly/Welcome_to_LilyPond.ly
```

ditto .ly files. This does seem a teeny bit wrong - it looks like the .ly and .scm files have been interchanged. ly-vars.make has these 2 lines:

```
INIT_LY_SOURCES = $(wildcard $(top-src-dir)/scm/*.scm)
SCHEME_SOURCES = $(wildcard $(top-src-dir)/ly/*.ly)
```

Looks like a bug.....

So it now works its way through all these files, checking if they need to be remade. This is 100s of lines of the debug listing, although none in the normal list. Clearly none has to be made since they're source files. It concludes:

```
Must remake target `out-www/collated-files.tely'
```

'lysdoc-rules.make' has this:

```
$(outdir)/collated-files.tely: $(COLLATED_FILES)
    $(LYS_TO_TELY) --name=$(outdir)/collated-files.tely --title="$(TITLE)" --author="$(AUTHOR)" $^
```

'lysdoc-vars.make' has:

```
COLLATED_FILES = $(sort $(TEXINFO_SOURCES) $(LY_FILES) $(OUT_LY_FILES) )
```

We find that:

```
TEXINFO_SOURCES = AAA-intro-regression.tely
OUT_LY_FILES is empty
```

so LY\_FILES has the big long list of all the .ly files in the regression directory.

This kicks off

```
/home/phil/lilypond-git/build/scripts/build/out/lys-to-tely
```

with a list of all the files in the regression test directory. This should (I believe) create the file collated-files.tely.

So the next rule in make is for 'version.itexi', and make duly checks this. There's a rule in 'doc-i18n-root-rules.make' that this depends on 'git/VERSION':

```
$(outdir)/version.%: $(top-src-dir)/VERSION
    $(PYTHON) $(top-src-dir)/scripts/build/create-version-itexi.py > $
```

This causes create-version-itexi.py to run and create version.itexi.

Once that's done, all the other \*.scm and \*.ly files are checked and since they have no rules associated, they aren't remade (just as well for source files, really). Since version.itexi was remade make concludes that collated-files.texi must be remade. To do this, it runs lilypond-book.py on collated-files.tely, as below:

```
LILYPOND_VERSION=2.15.0
/usr/bin/python
/home/phil/lilypond-git/scripts/lilypond-book.py
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/input/regression/
-I ./out-www -I /home/phil/lilypond-git/input
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/snippets
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/input/regression/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/included/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/mf/out/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/mf/out/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/pictures
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/Documentation/pictures/./out-www
--process='/home/phil/lilypond-git/build/out/bin/lilypond
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/input/regression/
-I ./out-www
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/input
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/snippets
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/input/regression/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/included/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/mf/out/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/mf/out/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/pictures
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/Documentation/pictures/./out-www
-dbackend=eps
--formats=ps,png,pdf
-dinclude-eps-fonts
-dgs-load-fonts
--header=doctitle
--header=doctitlecs
--header=doctitlede
--header=doctitlees
--header=doctitlefr
--header=doctitlehu
--header=doctitleit
--header=doctitleja
--header=doctitlenl
--header=doctitlezh
--header=texidoc
--header=texidoccs
--header=texidocde
--header=texidoces
--header=texidocfr
```

```

--header=texidochu
--header=texidocit
--header=texidocja
--header=texidocnl
--header=texidoczh
-dcheck-internal-types
-ddump-signatures
-danti-alias-factor=2'
--output=./out-www
--format=texi-html
--verbose
--lily-output-dir /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/out/lybook-db
out-www/collated-files.tely

```

So - lilypond-book runs on:

```
input/regression/out-www/collated-files.tely
```

Note the `--verbose` flag - this is from the make variable `LILYPOND_BOOK_VERBOSE` which is added to the make variable `LILYPOND_BOOK_FLAGS`.

Now found the invocation to write some of the image files. It's like this:

```

/home/phil/lilypond-git/build/out/bin/lilypond
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/input/regression/
-I ./out-www -I /home/phil/lilypond-git/input
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/snippets
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/input/regression/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/included/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/mf/out/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/mf/out/
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/pictures
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/build/Documentation/pictures/./out-www
-dbackend=eps
--formats=ps,png,pdf
-dinclude-eps-fonts
-dgs-load-fonts
--header=doctitle
--header=doctitlecs
--header=doctitlede
--header=doctitlees
--header=doctitlefr
--header=doctitlehu
--header=doctitleit
--header=doctitleja
--header=doctitlenl
--header=doctitlezh
--header=texidoc
--header=texidoccs
--header=texidocde
--header=texidoces
--header=texidocfr
--header=texidochu
--header=texidocit
--header=texidocja

```

```

--header=texidocnl
--header=texidoczh
-dcheck-internal-types
-ddump-signatures
-danti-alias-factor=2
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/build/out/lybook-db"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/build/input/regression"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/input/regression"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/build/input/regression/out-www"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/input"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/snippets"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/input/regression"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/included"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/build/mf/out"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/build/mf/out"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/pictures"
-I "/home/phil/lilypond-git/build/Documentation/pictures/out-www"
--formats=eps
--verbose
-deps-box-padding=3.000000
-dread-file-list
-dno-strip-output-dir
"/home/phil/lilypond-git/build/out/lybook-db/snippet-names--415419468.ly"

```

Note the `-verbose`. This causes 100s of lines of Lily debug output. But at present I can't work out where the flag comes from. Later.

### 12.4.2 Building a bibliography

Bibliography files contain a list of citations, like this:

```

@Book{vinci,
  author = {Vinci, Albert C.},
  title = {Fundamentals of Traditional Music Notation},
  publisher = {Kent State University Press},
  year = {1989}
}

```

There are a variety of types of citation (e.g. Book (as above), article, publication). Each cited publication has a list of entries that can be used to identify the publication. Bibliographies are normally stored as files with a `.bib` extension. One part of the doc-build process is transforming the bibliography information into `texinfo` files. The commands to do this are in the `'GNUmakefile'` in the `'Documentation'` directory.

A typical line of the makefile to translate a single bibliography is:

```

$(outdir)/colorado.itexi:
    BSTINPUTS=$(src-dir)/essay $(buildscript-dir)/bib2texi \
        -s $(top-src-dir)/Documentation/lily-bib \
        -o $(outdir)/colorado.itexi \
        $(src-dir)/essay/colorado.bib

```

Line by line:

```
$(outdir)/colorado.itexi:
```

We're making the file `'colorado.itexi'` and so this is the make instruction.

```
BSTINPUTS=$(src-dir)/essay $(buildscript-dir)/bib2texi \
```

It's in the 'essay' directory and we want to run the bib2texi.py script against it.

```
-s $(top-src-dir)/Documentation/lily-bib \
```

The style template is 'lily-bib.bst' and is found in the 'Documentation' directory.

```
-o $(outdir)/colorado.itexi \
```

The output file in 'colorado.itexi'.

```
$(src-dir)/essay/colorado.bib
```

The input file is 'colorado.bib' in the 'essay' directory.

The bib2texi Python script used to be used with a variety of options, but now is always called using the same options, as above. Its job is to create the file containing the options for bibtex (the program that actually does the translation), run bibtex, and then clean up some temporary files. Its main "value add" is the creation of the options file, using this code:

```
open (tmpfile + '.aux', 'w').write (r'''
\relax
\citation{*}
\bibstyle{%(style)s}
\bibdata{%(files)s}''' % vars ())
```

The key items are the style file (now always lily-bib for us) and the input file.

The style file is written in its own specialised language, described to some extent at

<http://amath.colorado.edu/documentation/LaTeX/reference/faq/bibtex.pdf>

The file 'lily-bib.bst' also has fairly extensive commenting.

## 12.5 Website build

**Note:** This information applies only to the standard `make website` from the normal build directory. The process is different for `dev/website-build`.

The rule for make website is found in GNUmakefile.in:

```
website:
$(MAKE) config_make=$(config_make) \
top-src-dir=$(top-src-dir) \
-f $(top-src-dir)/make/website.make \
website
```

This translates as:

```
make --no-builtin-rules config_make=./config.make \
top-src-dir=/home/phil/lilypond-git \
-f /home/phil/lilypond-git/make/website.make \
website
```

which has the effect of setting the variables `config_make` and `top-src-dir` and then processing the file `git/make/website.make` with the target of `website`.

`website.make` starts with the following:

```
ifeq ($(WEBSITE_ONLY_BUILD),1)
```

which checks to see whether the variable `WEBSITE_ONLY_BUILD` was set to one on the command line. This is only done for standalone website builds, not in the normal case. The result of the test determines the value of some variables that are set. A number of other variables are set, in order to establish locations of various files. An example is:

```
CREATE_VERSION=python $(script-dir)/create-version-itexi.py
```

The rule for website is:

```
website: website-texinfo website-css website-pictures website-examples web-post
cp $(SERVER_FILES)/favicon.ico $(OUT)/website
cp $(SERVER_FILES)/robots.txt $(OUT)/website
cp $(top-htaccess) $(OUT)/.htaccess
cp $(dir-htaccess) $(OUT)/website/.htaccess
```

so we see that this starts by running the rules for 5 other targets, then finishes by copying some files. We'll cover that later - first `website-texinfo`. That rule is:

```
website-texinfo: website-version website-xrefs website-bibs
  for l in ` $(WEB_LANGS); do \
    if test -n "$$l"; then \
      langopt=--lang="$$l"; \
      langsuf=.$$l; \
    fi; \
    $(TEXI2HTML) --prefix=index \
      --split=section \
      --I=$(top-src-dir)/Documentation/"$$l" \
      --I=$(top-src-dir)/Documentation \
      --I=$(OUT) \
      $$langopt \
      --init-file=$(texi2html-init-file) \
      -D web_version \
      --output=$(OUT)/"$$l" \
      $(top-src-dir)/Documentation/"$$l"/web.texi ; \
    ls $(OUT)/$$l/*.html | xargs grep -L \
      'UNTRANSLATED NODE: IGNORE ME' | \
    sed 's!$(OUT)/"$$l"/!!g' | xargs \
      $(MASS_LINK) --prepend-suffix="$$langsuf" \
      hard $(OUT)/$$l/ $(OUT)/website/ ; \
  done
```

which therefore depends on `website-version`, `website-xrefs` and `website-bibs`.

```
website-version:
  mkdir -p $(OUT)
  $(CREATE_VERSION) $(top-src-dir) > $(OUT)/version.itexi
  $(CREATE_WEBLINKS) $(top-src-dir) > $(OUT)/weblinks.itexi
```

which translates as:

```
mkdir -p out-website
python /home/phil/lilypond-git/scripts/build/create-version-itexi.py
  /home/phil/lilypond-git > out-website/version.itexi
python /home/phil/lilypond-git/scripts/build/create-weblinks-itexi.py
  /home/phil/lilypond-git > out-website/weblinks.itexi
```

So, we make `out-website` then send the output of `create-version-itexi.py` to `out-website/version.itexi` and `create-weblinks-itexi.py` to `out-website/weblinks.itexi`.

`create-version-itexi.py` parses the file `VERSION` in the top source dir. It contains:

```
PACKAGE_NAME=LilyPond
MAJOR_VERSION=2
MINOR_VERSION=15
PATCH_LEVEL=13
```



```
MY_PATCH_LEVEL=
VERSION_STABLE=2.14.2
VERSION_DEVEL=2.15.12
```

currently. `c-v-i.py` parses this to:

```
@c ***** Version numbers *****
@macro version
2.15.13
@end macro

@macro versionStable
2.14.2
@end macro

@macro versionDevel
2.15.12
@end macro
```

`create-weblinks-itexi.py` creates a load of texi macros (of the order of 1000) similar to:

```
@macro manualStableGlossaryPdf
@uref{../doc/v2.14/Documentation/music-glossary.pdf,Music glossary.pdf}
@end macro.
```

It loads its languages from `langdefs.py`, and therefore outputs the following unhelpful warning:  
`langdefs.py: warning: lilypond-doc gettext domain not found.`

Next:

```
website-xrefs: website-version
    for l in ' $(WEB_LANGS); do \
```

is the start of the rule, truncated for brevity. This loops through the languages to be used on the website, processing some variables which I don't fully understand, to run this command:

```
python /home/phil/lilypond-git/scripts/build/extract_texi_filenames.py \
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation \
-I /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/"$l" \
-I out-website -o out-website --split=node \
--known-missing-files= \
    /home/phil/lilypond-git/scripts/build/website-known-missing-files.txt \
-q \
/home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/"$l"/web.texi ;\
```

There's a good description of what `extract_texi_filenames.py` does at the top of the script, but a shortened version is:

If this script is run on a file `texifile.texi`, it produces a file `texifile[.LANG].xref-map` with tab-separated entries of the form  
`NODE\tFILENAME\tANCHOR`.

An example from `web.nl.xref-map` is:

```
Inleiding          Introduction          Introduction
```

`e-t-f.py` follows the includes from document to document. We know some have not been created yet, and `known-missing-files` option tells `e-t-f.py` which these are.

It then does this:

```
for m in $(MANUALS); do \
```

to run `e-t-f.py` against all of the manuals, in each language. Next:

```
website-bibs: website-version
    BSTINPUTS=$(top-src-dir)/Documentation/web \
```

```
$(WEB_BIBS) -s web \
-s $(top-src-dir)/Documentation/lily-bib \
-o $(OUT)/others-did.itexi \
$(quiet-flag) \
$(top-src-dir)/Documentation/web/others-did.bib
```

This is half the command. It runs `bib2texi.py` on 2 `.bib` files - `others-did.bib` and `we-wrote.bib`. This converts bibliography files into texi files with `bibtex`.

Next the commands in the `website-texinfo` rule are run:

```
for l in ' ' $(WEB_LANGS); do \
run texi2html. This is the program that outputs the progress message (found in
Documentation/lilypond-texi2html.init):
```

```
Processing web site: []
```

It also outputs warning messages like:

```
WARNING: Unable to find node 'Řešení potíží' in book usage.
```

```
website-css:
```

```
cp $(top-src-dir)/Documentation/css/*.css $(OUT)/website
```

Copies 3 css files to `out-website/website`. Then:

```
website-pictures:
```

```
mkdir -p $(OUT)/website/pictures
```

```
if [ -d $(PICTURES) ]; \
```

```
then \
```

```
cp $(PICTURES)/* $(OUT)/website/pictures ; \
```

```
ln -sf website/pictures $(OUT)/pictures ;\
```

```
fi
```

which translates as:

```
if [ -d Documentation/pictures/out-www ]; \
```

```
then \
```

```
cp Documentation/pictures/out-www/* out-website/website/pictures ; \
```

```
ln -sf website/pictures out-website/pictures ;\
```

```
fi
```

i.e. it copies the contents of `build/Documentation/pictures/out-www/*` to `out-website/website/pictures`. Unfortunately, the pictures are only created once `make doc` has been run, so an initial run of `make website` copies nothing, and the pictures on the website (e.g. the logo) do not exist. Next:

```
website-examples:
```

```
mkdir -p $(OUT)/website/ly-examples
```

```
if [ -d $(EXAMPLES) ]; \
```

```
then \
```

```
cp $(EXAMPLES)/* $(OUT)/website/ly-examples ; \
```

```
fi
```

translates to:

```
mkdir -p out-website/website/ly-examples
```

```
if [ -d Documentation/web/ly-examples/out-www ]; \
```

```
then \
```

```
cp Documentation/web/ly-examples/out-www/* out-website/website/ly-examples ; \
```

```
fi
```

This does the same with the LilyPond examples (found at <http://lilypond.org/examples.html>). Again, these are actually only created by `make doc` (and since they are generated from LilyPond source files, require a working LilyPond `exe` made with `make`). So this does nothing initially. Then:

```
web-post:
    $(WEB_POST) $(OUT)/website
```

which is:

```
python /home/phil/lilypond-git/scripts/build/website_post.py out-website/website
```

which describes itself as:

This is `web_post.py`. This script deals with translations in the "make website" target.

It also does a number of other things, including adding the Google tracker code and the language selection footer. We're now at the end of our story. The final 4 lines of the recipe for website are:

```
cp $(SERVER_FILES)/favicon.ico $(OUT)/website
cp $(SERVER_FILES)/robots.txt $(OUT)/website
cp $(top-htaccess) $(OUT)/.htaccess
cp $(dir-htaccess) $(OUT)/website/.htaccess
```

The first translates as:

```
cp /home/phil/lilypond-git/Documentation/web/server/favicon.ico out-website/website
```

so we see these are just copying the support files for the web server.

## website.make summary

Recipes in 'website.make':

- **website:** this is the "master" rule. It calls the other rules in order, then copies some extra files around - see below for further of the process it produces.
- **website-version:** this calls the python scripts below:

- 

```
scripts/build/create-version-itexi.py
```

This writes a `@version`, `@versionStable`, and `@versionDevel` based on the top-level `VERSIONS` file, to `out-website/version.itexi`

- 

```
scripts/build/create-weblinks-itexi.py
```

This creates a ton of macros in `out-website/weblinks.itexi`. Stuff like `@downloadStableLinuxNormal`, `@downloadStableWidows`, `@stableDocsNotationPdf{}`, `@downloadDevelSourch-zh`.

It's quite monstrous because it deals with combinations of stable/devel, source/docs, lang/lang/lang\*10, etc.

- **website-xrefs:** creates files used for complicated "out-of-build" references to `out-website/*.xref-map`

If you just write `@ref{}`, then all's groovy and we wouldn't need this. But if you write `@rlearning{}`, then our custom `texi2html` init file needs to know about our custom xref file format, which tells our custom `texi2html` init file how to create the link.

GP: we should have a separate `@node` to discuss xrefs. Also, take a quick look at a generated xref file – it's basically just a list of `@node`'s [sic teenager pluralization rule] from the file.

- **website-bib:** generates the bibliography texinfo files from the `.bib` files - in the case of the website build these are 'others-did.bib' and 'we-wrote.bib'.
- **website-texinfo:** this is the main part; it calls `texi2html` to generate the actual html. It also has a ton of options to `texi2html` to pass info to our custom init file.

The file actually built is called 'web.texi', and is either in the 'Documentation' directory, or a sub-directory specific to the language.

The options file is `‘/Documentation/lilypond-texi2html.init’`. This contains *lots* of option and configuration stuff, and also includes the line:

```
print STDERR "Initializing settings for web site: [$Texi2HTML::THISDOC{current_lang}]\n";
```

This is where one of the console messages is generated.

We have somewhere between 2-4 different ways "to pass info to our custom init file". This is highly Not Good (tm), but that's how things work at the moment.

After `texi2html`, it does some black magick to deal with untranslated nodes in the translations. Despite writing that part, I can't remember how it works. But in theory, you could figure it out by copy&pasting each part of the command (by "part", I mean "stuff before each | pipe"), substituting the variables, then looking at the text that's output. For example,

```
ls $(OUT)/$$1/*.html
```

is going to print a list of all html files, in all languages, in the build directory. Then more stuff happens to each of those files (that's what `xargs` does).

- **website-css**: just copies files to the build dir.
- **website-pictures**, **website-examples**: more file copies, with an if statement to handle if you don't have any generated pictures/examples.
- **web-post**: runs:

```
scripts/build/website_post.py
```

which, it adds the "this page is translated in klingon" to the bottom of html pages, and adds the google analytics javascript. It also has hard-coded lilypond version numbers, which is Bad (tm).

Here's a summary of what gets called, in what order, when we run `make website`

```
website:
  website-texinfo:
    website-version:
      creates version.itexi and weblinks.itexi
    website-xrefs:
      runs extract_texi_filenames.py
    website-bibs:
      creates bibliography files, described above
  website-css:
    copies css files
  website-pictures:
    copies pictures
  website-examples:
    copies examples
  web-post:
    runs website_post.py
  Then some file copying
```

## 12.6 Building an Ubuntu distro

Here's the short instruction on how to create lilybuntu iso image (Jonathan Kulp did this on a spare drive, but he supposes it can be done in a VM too):

1. Install ubuntu, reboot.
2. Run all updates, reboot if asked.
3. Enable src repos, refresh package lists.
4. Install LilyPond build deps:

- ```
sudo apt-get build-dep lilypond
```
5. Install git and autoconf:
 

```
sudo apt-get install git-core gitk autoconf
```
  6. Test to see whether everything works fine now:
    1. use `lily-git.tcl` to grab source files
    2. go to source dir and do
 

```
"./autogen.sh" ; make ; make doc
```
    3. if all compiles, move on to iso creation...
  7. Download & install "remastersys": <http://sourceforge.net/projects/remastersys/>
  8. Copy `lily-git.tcl` script file into `/etc/skel/`.
  9. Modify `/etc/remastersys.conf` as desired (change `.iso` name, default live session username, etc).
  10. Remove non-essential desktop software as desired.
  11. Create iso:
 

```
sudo remastersys dist
```

New iso is in `/home/remastersys/remastersys/`.
  12. Test iso by installing in VM and repeating steps above for getting source files and building lp and docs.

## 12.7 Building GUB

GUB - the Grand Unified Builder - is used to build the release versions of LilyPond. For background information, see [Grand Unified Builder (GUB)], page 18. The simplest way to set up a GUB build environment is to use a virtual machine with LilyDev (Section 2.1 [LilyDev], page 5). Follow the instructions on that page to set this up. Make sure that your virtual machine has enough disk space - a GUB installation takes over 30 GBytes of disk space, and if you allocate too little, it will fail during the setting up stage and you will have to start again. 64 GBytes should be sufficient.

While GUB is being built, any interruptions are likely to make it almost impossible to restart. If at all possible, leave the build to continue uninterrupted.

Download GUB and start the set up:

```
git clone git://github.com/gperciva/gub/gub.git
cd gub
make bootstrap
```

This downloads and installs a number of packages. You may find some fail during download and you will need to download them manually. For example, the perl archive. If this happens, download it from <http://www.cpan.org/src/5.0/perl-5.10.0.tar.gz>, saving the archive to `gub/downloads/perl/`. Continue the set up with:

```
make bootstrap
```

Once this has completed successfully, you can build the LilyPond release package. However, this uses an archived version of the regression tests, so it is better to download this first. Download the test output from [lilypond.org](http://lilypond.org/download/binaries/test-output/lilypond-2.15.33-1.test-output.tar.bz2):

```
http://lilypond.org/download/binaries/test-output/lilypond-2.15.33-1.test-output.tar.bz2
```

Copy the tarball into `gub/regtests/`, and tell the build system that you have done this:

```
touch regtests/ignore
```

Now start the GUB build:

```
make lilypond
```

That's it. This will build LilyPond from current master. To build the current unstable release, run:

```
make LILYPOND_BRANCH=release/unstable lilypond
```

## 13 Modifying the feta font

### 13.1 Overview of the feta font

The feta font is a font that was created specifically for use in LilyPond. The sources for the font are found in `mf/*.mf`.

The feta font is merged from a number of subfonts. Each subfont can contain at most 224 glyphs. This is because each subfont is limited to a one-byte address space (256 glyphs maximum) and we avoid the first 32 points in that address space, since they are non-printing control characters in ASCII.

In LilyPond, glyphs are accessed by glyph name, rather than by code point. Therefore, the naming of glyphs is significant.

Information about correctly creating glyphs is found in `'mf/README'`. Please make sure you read and understand this file.

TODO – we should get `mf/README` automatically generated from texinfo source and include it here.

### 13.2 Font creation tools

The sources for the feta font are written in metafont. The definitive reference for metafont is "The METAFONT book". Source for the book is available at CTAN.

`mf2pt1` is used to create type 1 fonts from the metafont sources.

FontForge is used to postprocess the output of `mf2pt1` and clean up details of the font. It can also be used by a developer to display the resulting glyph shapes.

### 13.3 Adding a new font section

The font is divided into sections, each of which contains less than 224 glyphs. If more than 224 glyphs are included in a section, an error will be generated.

Each of the sections is contained in a separate `.mf` file. The files are named according to the type of glyphs in that section.

When adding a new section, it will be necessary to add the following:

- The code for the glyphs, in a file `<section-name>.mf`
- Driver files used to create the font in different sizes
- An entry in the generic file used to create the font, or a new generic file
- If necessary, new entries in the `GNUmakefile`
- An entry in `'scripts/build/gen-emmentaler-scripts.py'`

See the examples in `mf/` for more information.

### 13.4 Adding a new glyph

Adding a new glyph is done by modifying the `.mf` file to which the glyph will be added.

Necessary functions to draw the glyph can be added anywhere in the file, but it is standard to put them immediately before the glyph definition.

The glyph definition begins with:

```
fet_beginchar ("glyph description", "glyphname");
```

with `glyph description` replaced with a short description of the glyph, and `glyphname` replaced with the `glyphname`, which is chosen to comply with the naming rules in `'mf/README'`.

The metafont code used to draw the glyph follows the `fet_beginchar` entry. The glyph is finished with:

```
fet_endchar;
```

## 13.5 Building the changed font

In order to rebuild the font after making the changes, the existing font files must be deleted. The simplest and quickest way to do this is to do:

```
rm mf/out/*
make
```

## 13.6 METAFONT formatting rules

There are special formatting rules for METAFONT files.

Tabs are used for indentation.

When a path contains more than two points, put each point on a separate line, with the operator at the beginning of the line:

```
fill z1
    -- z2
    -- z3
    .. cycle;
```



## 14 Administrative policies

This chapter discusses miscellaneous administrative issues which don't fit anywhere else.

### 14.1 Meta-policy for this document

The Contributor's Guide as a whole is still a work in progress, but some chapters are much more complete than others. Chapters which are “almost finished” should not have major changes without a discussion on `-devel`; in other chapters, a disorganized “wiki-style dump” of information is encouraged.

Do not change (other than spelling mistakes) without discussion:

- [Chapter 1 \[Introduction to contributing\]](#), page 1
- [Chapter 3 \[Working with source code\]](#), page 12

Please dump info in an appropriate @section within these manuals, but discuss any large-scale reorganization:

- [Chapter 4 \[Compiling\]](#), page 40
- [Chapter 5 \[Documentation work\]](#), page 52
- [Chapter 8 \[Issues\]](#), page 88
- [Chapter 9 \[Regression tests\]](#), page 96
- [Chapter 10 \[Programming work\]](#), page 102

Totally disorganized; do whatever the mao you want:

- [Chapter 6 \[Website work\]](#), page 78
- [Chapter 7 \[LSR work\]](#), page 82
- [Chapter 11 \[Release work\]](#), page 134
- [Chapter 14 \[Administrative policies\]](#), page 161

### 14.2 Environment variables

Some maintenance scripts and instructions in this guide rely on the following environment variables. They should be predefined in LilyDev distribution (see [Section 2.1 \[LilyDev\]](#), page 5); if you set up your own development environment, you can set them by appending these settings to your `~/bashrc` (or whatever defines your default environment variables for the user account for LilyPond development), then logging out and in (adapt directories to your setup):

```
LILYPOND_GIT=~/.lilypond-git
export LILYPOND_GIT
LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR=~/.lilypond-git/build
export LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR
```

The standard build and install procedure (with `autogen.sh`, `configure`, `make`, `make install`, `make doc` ...) does not rely on them.

In addition, for working on the website, `LILYPOND_WEB_MEDIA_GIT` should be set to the repository `lilypond-extra`, see [\[lilypond-extra\]](#), page 17.

### 14.3 Meisters

We have four jobs for organizing a team of contributors:

- Bug Meister: trains new Bug Squad volunteers, organizes who works on which part of their job, checks to make sure that everything is running smoothly, and has final say on our policy for Issues.

Currently: Colin H

- Doc Meister: trains new doc editors/writers, organizes who works on which part of the job, checks to make sure that everything is running smoothly, and has final say on our policy for Documentation. Also includes LSR work.

Currently: Graham

- Translation Meister: trains new translators, updates the translation priority list, and handles merging branches (in both directions).

Currently: Francisco

- Frog Meister: is responsible for code patches from (relatively) inexperienced contributors. Keeps track of patches, does initial reviewing of those patches, sends them to `-devel` when they've had some initial review on the Frog list, pesters the `-devel` community into actually reviewing said patches, and finally pushes the patches once they're accepted. This person is *not* responsible for training new programmers, because that would be far too much work – his/her job is “only” to guide completed patches through our process.

Currently: Mike Solomon

## 14.4 Patchy

### Introduction

Patchy is a set of Python scripts to automate two administrative tasks:

- `lilypond-patchy-staging.py`: checks that new commits in `staging` can compile the regtests and documentation before merging `staging` into `master`.  
(completely automatic)
- `test-patches.py`: checks that patches apply to Git `master`, compile, and lets a human check that there are no big unintended changes to the regtests.  
(requires some human input)

### Installing Patchy

To install Patchy, you should do the following:

1. Create a new user on your box to run Patchy; this is a security step for your own protection. It is recommended that this should not be an administrator. New users are created from System; Administration; Users and Groups.
2. Get the Patchy scripts from

<https://github.com/gperciva/lilypond-extra/>

Patchy is in the `'patches/'` directory.

3. Put the scripts and Python libraries contained in `'patches'` in a sensible place on your system; this can be done by appending `'patches/'` full path to the `PATH` of the user that runs Patchy.
4. Create a new git repository with

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

This will create a directory called `lilypond` with the repo in it. Make sure it's where you want it and name it `lilypond-git` (assuming you want to follow the standard naming conventions).

5. Create environment variables `LILYPOND_GIT` and `LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR`, see [Section 14.2 \[Environment variables\]](#), page 161.
6. Run Patchy once to set up config files, answer 'n' when it asks for going on, unless the default config file happens to suit your setup:

```
lilypond-patchy-staging.py
```

7. Edit `‘$HOME/.lilypond-patchy-config’` to provide the location of your local lilypond Git repository, working directories for your build directory, your results directory, compiler options and notification method. If you don’t want to use email notification, then delete everything after `smtp_command:.`
8. Ensure that your new user has git push access. Follow the instructions in the CG at [Section 3.4.10 \[Commit access\]](#), page 29. Do not set password protection for the key — if you do you will not be able to run patchy unattended.

## **lilypond-patchy-staging.py**

`lilypond-patchy-staging.py` is run with

```
python lilypond-patchy-staging.py
```

Not much appears to happen except you can see a lot of CPU gets used if you open System Monitor. There’s not much point running `lilypond-patchy-staging.py` unless there is something in `staging` to be merged to `master`, however, if there’s nothing new in `staging` then the script won’t waste resources by compiling anything.

The script fetches the current patches in staging and runs `make`, `make test` and `make doc` to ensure that all of these complete error-free. If you have set Patchy up to use email, it emails its results to you. If you haven’t, then you can view them in a logfile. It also merges `staging` into `master`.

**Note:** in case the build fails, do not try to push fixes on top of staging branch, for details see [Section 3.4.11 \[Pushing to staging\]](#), page 32.

When you have run Patchy a few successful times with email sending, you are ready for running it as a cron job. First, make sure you have the following in `‘$HOME/.lilypond-patchy-config’` to avoid email flood:

```
[notification]
notify_non_action = no
```

Then, assuming Patchy run with user account `patchy`, write the following to `‘$HOME/lilypond-patchy.cron’`, adapting it as necessary (the `/2` means “run this every 2 hours”):

```
02 0-23/2 * * * /home/patchy/git/lilypond-extra/patches/lilypond-patchy-staging.py
```

**Note:** cron will not inherit environment variables from your main setup, so you must re-define any variables inside `‘$HOME/lilypond-patchy.cron’`. For instance, `LILYPOND_GIT` may need to be defined if `git_repository_dir` is not correctly set in `‘$HOME/.lilypond-patchy-config’`.

Finally, install the cron job (you may need superuser privileges for this):

```
crontab -u patchy /home/patchy/lilypond-patchy.cron
```

## **test-patches.py**

`test-patches.py` prepares a regtest comparison for a human to quickly glance at, to determine if the patch is ready for a review. After looking at the comparison (or the lack of a comparison in the case of problems), run `accept-patch.py` or `reject-patch.py`.

Once a patch has gotten a "LGTM" from Patchy, it should be reviewed by relevant developers, and if it passes this, it can be considered for countdown (see [Section 3.3.4 \[Commits and patches\]](#), page 22) and pushing to staging (see [Section 3.4.11 \[Pushing to staging\]](#), page 32).

## 14.5 Administrative mailing list

A mailing list for administrative issues is maintained at `lilypond-hackers@gnu.org`.

This list is intended to be used for discussions that should be kept private. Therefore, the archives are closed to the public.

Subscription to this list is limited to certain senior developers.

At the present time, the list is dormant.

Details about the criteria for membership, the types of discussion to take place on the list, and other policies for the hackers list will be finalized during the [Section 14.6 \[Grand Organization Project \(GOP\)\]](#), page 164.

## 14.6 Grand Organization Project (GOP)

GOP has two goals:

- Clarify the various development tasks by writing down the policies and techniques and/or simplifying the tasks directly.
- Get more people involved in development: specifically, find people to do easy tasks to allow advanced developers to concentrate on difficult tasks.

### 14.6.1 Motivation

Most readers are probably familiar with the LilyPond Grand Documentation Project, which ran from Aug 2007 to Aug 2008. This project involved over 20 people and resulted in an almost complete rewrite of the documentation. Most of those contributors were normal users who decided to volunteer their time and effort to improve lilypond for everybody. By any measure, it was a great success.

The Grand Organization Project aims to do the same thing with a larger scope – instead of focusing purely on documentation, the project aims to improve all parts of LilyPond and its community. Just as with GDP, the main goal is to encourage and train users to become more involved.

If you have never contributed to an open-source project before – especially if you use Windows or OSX and do not know how to program or compile programs – you may be wondering if there's anything you can do. Rest assured that you *can* help.

### "Trickle-up" development

One of the reasons I'm organizing GOP is "trickle-up" development. The idea is this: doing easy tasks frees up advanced developers to do harder tasks. Don't ask "am I the *best* person for this job"; instead, ask "am I *capable* of doing this job, so that the current person can do stuff I *can't* do?".

For example, consider lilypond's poor handling of grace notes in conjunction with clef and tempo changes. Fixing this will require a fair amount of code rewriting, and would take an advanced developer a few weeks to do. It's clearly beyond the scope of a normal user, so we might as well sit back and do nothing, right?

No; we *can* help, indirectly. Suppose that our normal user starts answering more emails on lilypond-user. This in turn means that documentation writers don't need to answer those emails, so they can spend more time improving the docs. I've noticed that all doc writers tackle harder and harder subjects, and when they start writing docs on scheme programming and advanced tweaks, they start contributing bug fixes to lilypond. Having people performing these easy-to-moderate bug fixes frees up the advanced developers to work on the really hard stuff... like rewriting the grace note code.

Having 1 more normal user answering emails on lilypond-user won't have a dramatic 'trickle-up' effect all by itself, of course. But if we had 8 users volunteering to answer emails, 6 users

starting to write documentation, and 2 users editing LSR... well, that would free up a lot of current bug-fixing-capable contributors to focus on that, and we could start to make a real dent in the number of bugs in lilypond. Quite apart from the eased workload, having that many new helpers will provide a great moral boost!

### 14.6.2 Ongoing jobs

Although GOP is a short-term project, the main goal is to train more people to handle ongoing jobs. The more people doing these jobs, the lighter the work will be, and the more we can get done with lilypond!

Also, it would be nice if we had at least one "replacement" / "understudy" for each role – too many tasks are only being done by one person, so if that person goes on vacation or gets very busy with other matters, work in that area grinds to a halt.

#### Jobs for normal users

- Consultant: LilyPond is sometimes criticized for not listening to users, but whenever we ask for opinions about specific issues, we never get enough feedback. This is somewhat aggravating. We need a group of users to make a dedicated effort to test and give feedback. If there's new documentation, read it. If there's an experimental binary, download it and try compiling a score with it. If we're trying to name a new command, think about it and give serious suggestions.
- lilypond-user support: I think it would be nice if we had an official team of users helping other users.
- LilyPond Report: Keeping a monthly newsletter running is a non-trivial task. A lot of work is needed to organize it; it would be great if we could split up the work. One person could write the Snippet of the Month, another person could do Quotes of the Month, another person could do interviews, etc.
- Documentation: Although GDP (the Grand Documentation Project) did great work, there's still many tasks remaining.
- Translations: Keeping the documentation translations is a monumental task; we need all the help we can get!

#### Jobs for advanced users for developers

- Git help for writers: We often receive reports of typos and minor text updates to the documentation. It would be great if somebody could create properly-formatted patches for these corrections.

Technical requirements: ability to run [Section 2.1 \[LilyDev\]](#), page 5.

- LSR editor: LSR contains many useful examples of lilypond, but some snippets are out of date and need updating. Other snippets need to be advertized, and new snippets need to be sorted. We could use another person to handle LSR.

Technical requirements: use of a web browser. LilyPond requirements: you should be familiar with most of Notation chapters 1 and 2 (or be willing to read the docs to find out).

- Join the Frogs: "Frogs" are a team of bug-fixers (because frogs eat bugs, and you often find them in Ponds of Lilies) and new feature implementors.

Technical requirements: development environment (such as [Section 2.1 \[LilyDev\]](#), page 5), ability to read+write scheme and/or C++ code.

### 14.6.3 Policy decisions

There are a number of policy decisions – some of them fairly important – which we have been postponing for a few years. We are now discussing them slowly and thoroughly; agenda and exact proposals are online:

<http://lilypond.org/~graham/gop/index.html>

Below is a list of policies which are not “on the agenda” yet.

Note that the presence of an item on this list does *not* mean that everybody thinks that something needs to be done. Inclusion in this simply means that one developer thinks that we should discuss it. We are not going to filter this list; if any developer thinks we should discuss something, just add it to the bottom of the list. (the list is unsorted)

As GOP progresses, items from this list will be put on the agenda and removed from this list. I generally try to have one month’s discussion planned in advance, but I may shuffle things around to respond to any immediate problems in the developer community.

There are some item(s) not displayed here; these are questions that were posed to me privately, and I do not feel justified in discussing them publicly without the consent of the person(s) that brought them up. They will initially be discussed privately on the lilypond-hackers mailing list – but the first question will be “do we absolutely need to do this privately”, and if not, the discussion will take place on lilypond-devel like the other items.

In most policy discussions in lilypond over the past few years, the first half (or more) is wasted arguing on the basis of incorrect or incomplete data; once all the relevant facts are brought to light, the argument is generally resolved fairly quickly. In order to keep the GOP discussions focused, each topic will be introduced with a collection of relevant facts and/or proposals. It is, of course, impossible to predict exactly which facts will be relevant to the discussion – but spending an hour or two collecting information could still save hours of discussion.

**Note:** The estimated time required for “prep work”, and the following discussion, has been added to each item. At the moment, there is an estimated 30 hours of prep work and 140 hours of discussion.

- **Patch reviewing:** At the time of this writing, we have 23 (known) patches waiting for review. Some from main developers; some from new developers. We desperately need more people helping with lilypond, but ignoring patches is the best way to drive potential contributors away. This is not good.  
(prep: 2 hours. discuss: 10 hours)
- **Official links to other organizations?:** There’s something called the “software freedom conservancy”, and in general, there’s a bunch of “umbrella organizations”. Joining some of these might give us more visibility, possibly leading to more users, more developers, maybe even financial grants or use in schools, etc.  
(prep: 2 hours. discuss: 5 hours)
- **Issue tracking with google code:** We use the google issue tracker, but this means that we are relying on a commercial entity for a large part of our development. Would it be better (safer in the long run) to use the savannah bug tracker?  
(prep: 1 hour. discuss: 5 hours)
- **Patch review tool:** Reitveld is inconvenient in some respects: it requires a google account, and there’s no way to see all patches relating to lilypond. Should we switch to something like gerrit? <http://code.google.com/p/lilypond/issues/detail?id=1184>  
(prep: 5 hours. discuss: 15 hours)
- **Clarity for sponsorships:** We currently do not advertize bounties and sponsorships on the webpage. How much advertising do we want, and what type? Should we change the “structure” / “framework” for bounties?  
(prep: 2 hours. discuss: 10 hours)



- **code readability:** "Our aim when producing source code for Lilypond in whatever language is that it should be totally comprehensible to a relatively inexperienced developer at the second reading."

Rationale: - aids maintainability of code base - "second reading" so newer developers can look up unfamiliar stuff - will help to keep things simple, even if the code is doing complex stuff discourages "secret squirrel" coding, e.g. "how much functionality can I squeeze into as few characters as possible" "comments are for wimps" - will aid not \*discouraging\* new developers to join the project

(prep: 2 hours. discuss: 10 hours)

- **C++ vs. scheme:** what should be in scheme, what should be in C++, what can/should be ported from one to the other, etc. Questions of maintainability, speed (especially considering guile 2.0), and the amount of current material in either form, are important.

(prep: 5 hours. discuss: 15 hours)

- **always make an issue number for patches:** there is a proposal that we should always have a google code issue number for every patch. This proposal is closely tied to our choice of patch review tool; if we switch to a different tool (as suggested in a different proposal), this proposal may become moot.

(prep: 1 hour. discuss: 5 hours)

- **initializer lists:** should we use initializer lists for C++? AFAIK they make no difference for built-in types, but there's some weird case where it's more efficient for objects, or something. Probably not worth making this a weekly thing on its own, but we can probably wrap it up with some other code-related questions.

(prep: 15 minutes. discuss: 3 hours)

#### 14.6.4 Policy decisions (finished)

Here is a record the final decisions, along with links to the discussions.

##### 14.6.4.1 GOP-PROP 1 - python formatting

We will follow the indentation described in PEP-8. <http://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0008/>

- use 4 spaces per indentation level
- never mix tabs and spaces (for indentation)
- Code indented with a mixture of tabs and spaces should be converted to using spaces exclusively

Once this is done, we should add `python -tt` to the build system to avoid such errors in the future.

There should be absolutely no tab characters for indentation in any .py file in lilypond git. All such files should be converted to use spaces only.

#### Discussions

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-06/msg00060.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-06/msg00084.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-06/msg00310.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-06/msg00574.html>

##### 14.6.4.2 GOP-PROP 2 - mentors and frogs

Nothing much was decided. The list of responsibilities was slightly altered; see the new one in [Section 1.4 \[Mentors\]](#), [page 3](#). We should encourage more use of the Frogs mailing list. There's a list of contributor-mentor pairs in:

<https://github.com/gperciva/lilypond-extra/blob/master/people/mentors.txt>

That's pretty much it.

## Discussions

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-06/msg00311.html>

### 14.6.4.3 GOP-PROP 3 - C++ formatting

Speaking academically, C++ code style is a "solved problem". Let's pick one of the existing solutions, and let a computer deal with this. Humans should not waste their time, energy, and creativity manually adding tabs or spaces to source code.

We have modified `fixcc.py` to use `astyle`, along with extra regex tweaks.

- the final script will be run **blindly** on the lilypond source code. We will accept whatever formatting the final version of this script produces, with no manual tweaking.
- patches which have been run through this tool will not be rejected for style reasons. Any code formatting "desires" which are not enforced by `fixcc.py` will not be considered grounds for rejecting a patch.
- for now, this style will not be enforced. It is not cause for concern if patches which do not follow the formatting done by `fixcc.py` are pushed. From time to time, Graham will run the formatter on the entire code base, and commit the resulting changes.

In a few months, we will tighten up this policy item (with some sort of automatic processing), but that is outside the scope of this policy item and is a matter for later discussion.

- after the proposal is accepted, we will leave some time for existing patches to be accepted and pushed. The script was run on the source code on **2011 August 01**.

## GNU code

LilyPond is a GNU project, so it makes sense to follow the GNU coding standards. These standards state:

We don't think of these recommendations as requirements, because it causes no problems for users if two different programs have different formatting styles.

But whatever style you use, please use it consistently, since a mixture of styles within one program tends to look ugly. If you are contributing changes to an existing program, please follow the style of that program.

([http://www.gnu.org/prep/standards/html\\_node/Formatting.html](http://www.gnu.org/prep/standards/html_node/Formatting.html))

With that in mind, we do not think that we must blindly follow the formatting given by the current version of Emacs.

## Implementation notes

We can avoid some of the style change pollution in git history by ignoring whitespaces changes:

```
git diff -w
```

## Discussions

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-06/msg00526.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-06/msg00796.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg00200.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg00525.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg00751.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg00751.html>

### 14.6.4.4 GOP-PROP 4 - lessons from 2.14



## History

A brief history of releases:

| date (YYYY-MM-DD) | version | comment                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2008-10-28        | 2.11.63 | nobody checking regtests                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2008-11-17        | 2.11.64 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2008-11-29        | 2.11.65 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2008-12-23        | 2.12.0  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2009-01-01        |         | somewhere around here, Graham becomes officially release manager, but Han-Wen still builds the actual releases                                                                                                  |
| 2009-01-01        | 2.12.1  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2009-01-25        | 2.12.2  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2009-02-28        | 2.13.0  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2009-06-01        | 2.13.1  | note jump in time!<br>first Graham release?                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2009-06-27        | 2.13.2  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2009-07-03        | 2.13.3  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2009-09-09        |         | Graham arrives in Glasgow, gets a powerful desktop computer, and begins serious work on GUB (sending bug reports to Jan). It takes approximately 100 hours until GUB is stable enough to make regular releases. |
| 2009-09-24        | 2.13.4  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2009-10-02        | 2.13.5  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2009-10-22        | 2.13.6  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2009-11-05        | 2.13.7  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| ...               |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2010-01-13        | 2.12.3  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| ...               |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2010-03-19        | 2.13.16 | Bug squad starts doing a few regtest comparisons, but IIRC the effort dies out after a few weeks (BLUE)                                                                                                         |
| ...               |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2010-08-04        | 2.13.29 | Phil starts checking regtests (BLUE)                                                                                                                                                                            |
| ...               |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2011-01-12        | 2.13.46 | release candidate 1 (GREEN)                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| ...               |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2011-05-30        | 2.13.63 | release candidate 7 (GREEN)                                                                                                                                                                                     |

2011-06-06                      2.14.0

## Carl's analysis of the bugs

A 'csv' spreadsheet is available.

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-06/msg00852.html>

[lilypond-issues-analysis.csv](#)

[lilypond-issues-analysis-trim-duplicates.csv](#)

There 148 issues marked with Priority=Critical in the tracker.

I've done an analysis, and it looks to me like there was initially a backlog of critical issues that weren't fixed, and little work was being done to eliminate critical issues.

Somewhere about 2010-08-01, critical issues started to disappear, but occasional new ones appeared.

There were a couple of major changes that introduced unanticipated regressions (new spacing code, beam collision avoidance). These produced more than the expected number of regressions.

It appears to me that we didn't really get serious about eliminating critical bugs until about 2010-06-15 or so. After that point, the number of critical bugs more-or-less steadily decreased until we got to a release candidate.

Of particular interest, the first release candidate of 2.14 was released on 2011-01-12. Over the next 10 days, about a dozen bugs were reported and fixed. Release candidate 2 came out on 2011-02-09. No surge of bugs occurred with this release. Candidate 3 came out on 2011-03-13; we got 2 bugs per week. Candidate 4 came out on 2011-03-29; 2 new bugs. Candidate 6 came out on 2011-04-07. We got a couple of bugs per week.

## Notes, commentary, and opinions

Han-Wen: Overall, I think this cycle took too long

Mike: I agree

Graham: +1

## Discussions

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-06/msg00797.html>

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg00364.html>

### 14.6.4.5 GOP-PROP 5 - build system output (not accepted)

This proposal was too broad; after a month of discussion, Graham withdrew the proposal. Portions of it will be introduced in later proposals.

## Discussions

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg00320.html>

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg00527.html>

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg00753.html>

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg01042.html>

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00116.html>

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00310.html>

### 14.6.4.6 GOP-PROP 6 - private mailing list

Potentially sensitive or private matters will be referred to Graham. He will then decide who should discuss the matter on an ad-hoc basis, and forward or CC them on future emails.

For emphasis, the project administrators are Han-Wen, Jan, and Graham; those three will always be CC'd on any important discussions.

The lilypond-hackers mailing list will be removed.

## History

There is some unhappy history about this idea in our development community:

<http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2010-09/msg00178.html>  
<http://news.lilynet.net/spip.php?article121>  
<http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2010-11/msg00076.html>

## Other projects

The idea of private mailing lists is hardly uncommon in open-source software. For example,

<http://lwn.net/Articles/394660/>    about debian-private  
<http://subversion.apache.org/mailling-lists.html>    private@  
<http://www.freebsd.org/administration.html#t-core>  
<http://foundation.gnome.org/legal/>    board members pledge  
to keep certain matters confidential

every security team of every GNU/Linux distribution and OS

In fact, Karl Fogel's "Producing Open Source Software" explicitly suggests a private mailing list for some circumstances:

[on granting commit/push access to a contributor]

But here is one of the rare instances where secrecy is appropriate. You can't have votes about potential committers posted to a public mailing list, because the candidate's feelings (and reputation) could be hurt.

<http://producingoss.com/en/consensus-democracy.html#electorate>

## Board of governors, voting, etc?

Many projects have an official board of directors, or a list of "core developers", with set term limits and elections and stuff.

I don't think that we're that big. I think we're still small enough, and there's enough trust and consensus decisions, that we can avoid that. I would rather that we kept on going with trust+consensus for at least the next 2-3 years, and spent more time+energy on bug fixes and new features instead of administrative stuff.

Project administrators are Han-Wen, Jan, and Graham.

## Discussions

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg00783.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg01004.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00117.html>

### 14.6.4.7 GOP-PROP 7 - developers as resources

We shall treat developers (and contributors) as **Independent volunteers**: each person does whatever they want, whenever they want. We have busy careers and lives; we make no expectations of action from anybody (with the exception of the 6 people in "Meister" positions).

## Discussions

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-07/msg01092.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00087.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00497.html>

#### 14.6.4.8 GOP-PROP 8 - issue priorities

We will delete the “priority” field of the issue tracker altogether. The “type” system will be tweaked.

Type-critical:

- a reproducible failure to build either `make` or `make doc`, from an empty build tree, in a first run, if `configure` does not report any errors.
- any program behaviour which is **unintentionally** worse than the previous stable version or the current development version. Developers may always use the “this is intentional”, or even the “this is an unavoidable effect of an improvement in another area”, reason to move this to a different type.
- anything which stops contributors from helping out (e.g. `lily-git.tcl` not working, source tree(s) not being available, LilyDev being unable to compile git master, inaccurate instructions in the Contributor’s Guide 2 Quick start).

To limit this scope of this point, we will assume that the contributor is using the latest LilyDev and has read the relevant part(s) of the Contributor’s Guide. Problems in other chapters of the CG are not sufficient to qualify as Type-Critical.

#### More new/changed types and labels

Unless otherwise specified, the current types and labels will continue to be used. The new types introduced by this proposal are:

- Type-crash: any segfault, regardless of what the input file looks like or which options are given. Disclaimer: this might not be possible in some cases, for example certain guile programs (we certainly can’t predict if a piece of scheme will ever stop running, i.e. the halting problem), or if we rely on other programs (i.e. ghostscript). If there are any such cases that make segfault-prevention impossible, we will document those exceptions (and the issue will remain as a “crash” instead of “documentation” until the warning has been pushed).
- Type-maintainability: anything which makes it difficult for serious contributors to help out (e.g. difficult to find the relevant source tree(s), confusing policies, problems with automatic indentation tools, etc).
- Type-ugly: replaces Type-collision, and it will include things like bad slurs in addition to actual collision.

A new label will be added:

- (label) Needs\_evidence: it is not clear what the correct output should look like. We need scans, references, examples, etc.

#### Reminding users about stars

We can remind users that they can “star” an issue to indicate that they care about it. Since we resolved to treat developers as independent volunteers, there is no expectation that anybody will look at those stars, but if any developer want to organize their work schedule according to the stars, they are welcome to do so.

#### Discussions

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00019.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00277.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00413.html>  
<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00624.html>

#### 14.6.4.9 GOP-PROP 9 - behavior of make doc

If there are build problems, then it should be easier to find out why it's failing. This will be achieved with log files, as well as possibly including scripts which automatically display portions of those log files for a failing build.

We will also add targets for building a specific manual (for quick+easy checking of doc work), as well as for building all documentation in a specific language (either English or a translated language).

When you run `make doc`,

- All output will be saved to various log files, with the exception of output directly from `make(1)`.

Note that `make(1)` refers to a specific executable file on unix computers, and is not a general term for the build system.

- By default, no other output will be displayed on the console, with one exception: if a build fails, we might display some portion(s) of log file(s) which give useful clues about the reason for the failure.

The user may optionally request additional output to be printed; this is controlled with the `VERBOSE=x` flag. In such cases, all output will still be written to log files; the console output is strictly additional to the log files.

- Logfiles from calling lilypond (as part of lilypond-book) will go in the relevant '`$LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR/out/lybook-db/12/lily-123456.log`' file. All other logfiles will go in the '`$LILYPOND_BUILD_DIR/logfiles/`' directory.

A single `make doc` will therefore result in hundreds of log files. Log files produced from individual lilypond runs are not under our control; apart from that, I anticipate having one or two dozen log files. As long as it is clear which log file is associated with which operation(s), I think this is entirely appropriate. The precise implementation will be discussed for specific patches as they appear.

- Both `stderr` and `stdout` will be saved in `*.log`. The order of lines from these streams should be preserved.
- There will be no additional "progress messages" during the build process. If you run `make --silent`, a non-failing build should print absolutely nothing to the screen.
- Assuming that the loglevels patch is accepted, lilypond (inside lilypond-book) will be run with `-loglevel=WARN`. <http://codereview.appspot.com/4822055/>
- Ideally, a failing build should provide hints about the reason why it failed, or at least hints about which log file(s) to examine.

If this proposal is accepted, none of these policies will be assumed to apply to any other aspect of the build system. Policies for any other aspect of the build system will be discussed in separate proposals.

### Don't cause more build problems

However, there is a danger in this approach, that vital error messages can also be lost, thus preventing the cause of the failure of a make being found. We therefore need to be exceptionally careful to move cautiously, include plenty of tests, and give time for people to experiment/find problems in each stage before proceeding to the next stage.

This will be done by starting from individual lilypond calls within lilypond-book, and slowly moving to "larger" targets of the build system – after the individual lilypond calls are producing the appropriate amount of output and this is saved in the right place and we can automatically isolate parts of a failing build, we will work on lilypond-book in general, and only then will we look at the build system itself.

## Implementation notes

There is an existing make variable `QUIET_BUILD`, which alter the amount of output being displayed ( <http://lilypond.org/doc/v2.15/Documentation/contributor/useful-make-variables> ). We are not planning on keeping this make variable.

The standard way for GNU packages to give more output is with a `V=x` option. Presumably this is done by increasing `x`? If we support this option, we should still write log files; we would simply print more of the info in those log files to screen.

The command `tee` may be useful to write to a file and display to stdout (in the case of `VERBOSE`).

## Discussions

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00378.html>

<https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2011-08/msg00703.html>

## 14.7 Grand LilyPond Input Syntax Standardization (GLISS)

### Summary

- Start: sortly after 2.14 comes out, which is currently estimated to happen in January 2011.
- Length: 6-12 months. We're not going to rush this.
- Goal: define an input which we commit to being machine-updateable for the foreseeable future. Any future patches which change the syntax in a non-convert-ly-able format will be rejected. (subject to the limitations, below) Once this is finished, we will release lilypond 3.0.

### The Problem

One of the biggest complaints people have with lilypond – other than silly thing like "there's no gui" – is the changing syntax. Now, inventing a language or standards is difficult. If you set it in stone too soon, you risk being stuck with decisions which may limit matters. If you keep on updating the syntax, interaction with older data (and other programs!) becomes complex.

### Scope and Limitations

- tweaks will not be included. Anything with `\override`, `\set`, `\overrideProperty`, `\tweak`, `\revert`, `\unset`... including even those command names themselves... is still fair game for `NOT_SMART` convert-ly updates.
- other than that, everything is on the table. Is it a problem to have the tagline inside `\header`? What should the default behavior of `\include` be? When we abolish `\times`, do we move to `\tuplet 3:2` or `\tuplet 2/3` or what (for typical triplets in 4/4 time)?
- we need to get standards for command names. This will help users remember them, and reduce the options for future names (and potential renamings later on). `\commandOn` and `\commandOff` seem to work well (should we *\*always\** have an `Off` command?), but what about the "command" part? Should it be `\nounVerbOn`, or `\verbNounOn` ? Or `\verbNotesWithExtraInformationOn` ?
- we need standards for the location of commands. Ligature brackets, I'm looking at you. (non-postfix notation must die!)
- this Grand Project doesn't affect whether we have a 2.16 or not. The main problem will be deciding what to do (with a bit of messiness anticipated for `\tuplet`); we should definitely release a 2.16 before merging `_any_` of these changes.
- we obviously can't /guarantee/ that we'll /never/ make any non-convert-ly changes in the basic format. But we *\*can\** guarantee that such changes would force lilypond 4.0, and that we would only do so for overwhelmingly good reasons.

## Workflow

- We're going to have lots and lots of emails flying around. The vast majority won't really fit into either -devel or -user, so we'll use a list devoted to syntax issues.
- Once we have a serious proposal that gained general acceptance from the separate syntax mailing list, I'll bring it to -devel. We're not going to make any changes without discussing it on -devel, but if we're going to have huge threads about English grammar and silly ideas, and I don't want to clutter up -devel. Once whatever chaotic silliness on the syntax list is settled down, I'll bring the ideas to -devel.
- as with GDP, I'll moderate the discussion. Not as with mailist moderation, but rather by introducing issues at specific times. We don't want a free-for-all discussion of all parts of the syntax at once; nothing will get resolved.
- Whenever possible, we'll decide on policies at the highest level of abstraction. For example, consider `\numericTimeSignature`, `\slurUp`, `\xNotesOn`, `\startTextSpan`, and `\verylongfermata`. One of them starts with the name of the notation first (slur). One has an abbreviation (x instead of cross). One has the verb at the end (On), another has it at the beginning (start). The adjective can come at the beginning (numeric, x) or end (Up). Most are in camelCase, but one isn't (verylongfermata).
- Instead of arguing about each individual command, we'll decide on abstract questions. Should each command begin the notation-noun, or the verb? Should all commands be in camelCase, or should we make everything other than articulations in camelCase but make articulations all lower-case? Are abbreviations allowed?
- Once we've answered such fundamental questions, most of the syntax should fall into place pretty easily. There might be a few odd questions left ("is it a span, or a spanner?"), but those can be settled fairly quickly.

## Implementation

Nothing until the project is finished, then we declare the next stable release (2.16.0 or 2.18.0 ?) to be the final 2.x version, release it, then apply all the GLISS syntax changes and start testing a beta for 3.0 a week or two later.

## Discussion

Don't respond to any of the specifics yet. Yes, we all have our pet irritations (like "what's up with `\paper` and `\layout`?!"). There will be plenty of time to discuss them once GLISS starts.

That said, we have a list of specific items that people really wanted to have written down. See [Section 14.7.1 \[Specific GLISS issues\]](#), page 175.

### 14.7.1 Specific GLISS issues

- add regtests for every piece of syntax (not one-command-per-file, but making a few files which, between them, use every single piece of syntax.) This is a great test for convert-ly.
- should GLISS cover suggested conventions? (indentation, one-bar-per-line, etc – the kind of stuff we list for the lilypond formatting in the docs ?)
- how much (if any) syntactic sugar should we add? i.e.

```
\instrumentName #'foo
% instead of
\set Staff.instrumentName
```

? Carl: maybe yes, Neil: no. (for example, it fails for pianostaff)

- the values that are used as arguments to common used overrides. Sometimes they are a symbol (e.g. `#'around`), sometimes a predefined variable referring to a Scheme value or

object (e.g. `#LEFT`, `#all-visible`). The main trouble is that for novice users it is not clear when there should be an apostrophe and when not.

- When do we need `-\command` and when is it just `\command` ?
- Command-line options to the lilypond binary. `-dfoo` counts as a tweak; we won't be trying to pin those down.

- 

```
\layout {
  \context { \Score
```

% vs.

```
\layout {
  \context {
    \Score
```

- If would be pedagogically simpler to realize this difference if the syntax was separate if you define a context from scratch (as is the case with `\RemoveEmptyStaffContext`) or if it's defined by adding onto an existing context. For example, a syntax like

```
\context{
  % Copy the current settings of the Staff context:
  \use Staff
  % do whatever additional settings
}
```

%%% could be used to distinguish from

```
\context{
  % Take settings from a variable:
  \Variable
  % do whatever additional settings
}
```

%%% and

```
\context{
  % Start from scratch:
  \type ...
  \name ...
  \consists ...
  ...
}
```

- Capitalization of identifiers: `\VoiceOne` ?

- 

```
%%% Allow
{ music expression } * 4
%%% instead of
\repeat unfold 4 { music expression }
? patch here:
```

<http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-devel/2010-04/msg00467.html>

- Personally, I find it easier to understand when there's a repeated 8 in the half-bar position; it's much easier to see that you have two groups of 4:

```
c8 c c c c8 c c c
%%% instead of one group of eight:
c8 c c c c c c c
```



- trivially simple bar-lines:

```
c1 | c1 |
```

encourage, allow, or discourage, or disallow?

- indentation of `\` inside a `{ }` construct.
- barline checks at the end of line should be preceded by at least 2 spaces? barline checks should line up if possible (i.e. if you can use less than 4, 8, X empty spaces before a barline check to make them line up?)
- Why doesn't `\transpose` respect `\relative` mode?
- on `\score` vs. `\new Score`

But in the light of a consistent syntax and semantic, I see no reason (from the users POV) to disallow it. After all, the real top-level context is a `\book { }`, isn't it, and I don't see a point in disallowing a `\new Score` construct just like `\new Staff`.

From a syntactical POV, I see the following pros for `\new Score`: - You can write `\with { ... }` for every other context but `\Score`, which (for consistency) should also work with `\new Score`. - When there's a `\new Foo Bar`, there's also a `\context Foo Bar`, which makes the same as a parallel instantiation of all Bar's. - [Quoting Rune from <http://www.mail-archive.com/lilypond-devel@gnu.org/msg14713.html> "I know that the `\score`-statement is a syntactical construct, but I think it would be nice to hide this fact from the users. I think we could make the use of score-block much more intuitive if changing the syntax to `\new \Score` and adding an implicit sequential-statement to the score."

- Discussion on <http://code.google.com/p/lilypond/issues/detail?id=1322> about `\new` vs. `\context`.
- Let users add their own items to the parser? comment 11 on: <http://code.google.com/p/lilypond/issues/detail?id=1322>
- should engravers be pluralized (`note_heads-engraver`) or not (`note_head-engraver`) ?
- should we allow numbers in identifier names? Issue: <http://code.google.com/p/lilypond/issues/detail?id=1670>
- should we officially allow accented characters? in general, how do we feel about utf-8 stuff?
- for the sake of completeness/simplicity, what about \*disallowing\* the "one-note" form of a music expression? i.e. only allowing stuff like

```
\transpose c d { e1 }
\transpose c d << e1 >>
```

and never allowing

```
\transpose c d e1
```

- What should be the officially encouraged way of writing music for transposing instruments? Maybe it should be simplified? See <http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/lilypond-user/2011-07/msg00130.html>

## 14.8 Unsorted policies

### Language-specific mailing lists

A translator can ask for an official lilypond-xy mailing list once they've finished all "priority 1" translation items.

### Performing yearly copyright update ("grand-replace")

At the start of each year, copyright notices for all source files should be refreshed by running the following command from the top of the source tree:

```
make grand-replace
```

Internally, this invokes the script ‘`scripts/build/grand-replace.py`’, which performs a regular expression substitution for old-year -> new-year wherever it finds a valid copyright notice.

Note that snapshots of third party files such as ‘`texinfo.tex`’ should not be included in the automatic update; ‘`grand-replace.py`’ ignores these files if they are listed in the variable `copied_files`.

## Push git access

Git access is given out when a contributor has a significant record of patches being accepted without problems. If existing developers are tired of pushing patches for a contributor, we’ll discuss giving them push access. Unsolicited requests from contributors for access will almost always be turned down.

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