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M A C R O
C O L U M N

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Many existing macros will be replaced when T_EX82 is distributed. The current versions tend to exist in large packages; future macros will be most useful if each feature is self-contained so that T_EX users can pick and choose pieces from several packages. In order to promote modularity, Art Keller and Dan Brotsky have volunteered to work on standard mechanisms such as allocation of font codes and of box and counter numbers. In addition, they have suggested that this column include a "phone book" of T_EX82 macro names. Macro writers should submit macro names, along with a very brief description, to the editor. When providing an alternate implementation of a similar function, other writers can use a name that appears on the published list; for new capabilities, existing names should be avoided. Of course, writers should contribute their macros as well as the macro names to TUG. Names can be reserved before macros are written. However, names listed in one issue will be deleted, unless the corresponding macro is received before the following issue.

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TUGBOAT MACRO INDEX

The following list catalogues macros that have appeared in TUGboat. Entries are listed by volume, number, and page as well as author's name. Items that could not be categorized by an obvious headword have been listed under "miscellaneous". Many items refer to parts of large macro packages; users of other packages may find them valuable models for macros of their own.

Readers' comments on the format as well as the contents of this index are welcome.

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MULTI-COLUMN OUTPUT FORMAT

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American Mathematical Society

At the AMS, we are still using the old SAIL version of T ϵ X, which is severely limited in memory capacity. Several of our publications are formatted with very small type in multiple columns; one such publication, the *Combined Membership List* of the Society and two other mathematical organizations, can require over 15,000 6-point characters on a single printed page.

To avoid overloading memory (both memsize and varsize are susceptible), we take advantage of the fact that, to T ϵ X, each column is a "\page". Instead of saving all columns on a page until the final column is complete, each column is shipped out to the .DVI file as soon as it is ready. The several columns which comprise a true page are then "pasted up" by the output driver software, using instructions stored in an "option" file or interactively by responding to a "format spec" request.