

# The `tabto` package

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## Tabbing to fixed positions in a paragraph

Two new text positioning commands are defined: `\tabto` and `\tab`.

`\tabto{<length>}`

Tab to a position relative to the left margin in a paragraph (any indentation due to a list is part of the ‘margin’ in this context). If the text on the line already goes past the desired position, the tab starts a new line and moves to the requested horizontal position.

`\tabto*{<length>}`

Similar to `\tabto`, except it will perform backspacing, and over-print previous text on the line whenever that text is already longer than the specified length (i.e., no linebreak is produced). Line-breaks are suppressed immediately after `\tabto` or `\tabto*`.

The length register `\CurrentLineWidth` will report the width of the existing text on the line, and it may be used in the `<length>` argument (using `calc.sty`, for example). Also, there is `\TabPrevPos` which stores the `\CurrentLineWidth` from the previous tab command (the position where the tab command occurred, not where it went to), and can be used to return to that position if no line breaks have occurred in between, or directly below it, if there were line breaks.

`\tab`

Tab to the next tab-stop chosen from a list of tab positions, in the traditional style of typewriters. A `\tab` will always move to the next tab stop (or the next line), even if it is already exactly at a tab stop. Thus, “`\tab\tab`” skips a position. A linebreak is permitted immediately following a `\tab`, in case the ensuing text does not fit well in the remaining space.

The tab-stop positions are declared using either `\TabPositions` or `\NumTabs`:

`\TabPositions{<length>, <length>, ...<length>}`

Declares the tab stops as a comma-separated list of positions relative to the left margin. A tab-stop at `0pt` is implicit, and need not be listed.

`\NumTabs{<number>}`

Declares a list of `<number>` equally-spaced tabs, starting at the left margin and spanning `\linewidth`. For example `\NumTabs{2}` declares tab-stops at `0pt` and `0.5\linewidth`, the same as `\TabPositions{0pt, 0.5\linewidth}` or `\TabPositions{0.5\linewidth}`.

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