

# 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, and can be used to return to that position if no line breaks have occurred in between.

`\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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\*Documentation file assembled by Robin Fairbairns