

Thumby

A L^AT_EX package for creating thumb indexes.

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Abstract

Using this package you can generate thumb indexes for your document. Thumby features printing thumb indexes on one- or two-sided pages, along with background- and foreground-color selection and full L^AT_EX styling of the chapter numbers in the thumb indexes. The height of each thumb index is automatically chosen based on the number of chapters in your document, while the width is chosen by the user.

Quick Start

Put something like the following in to your document (we'll call it "foo.tex"):

```
\documentclass[twoside]{memoir}

\usepackage{thumby}

\thumbySides{two}
\thumbyTotalChapters{10}
\thumbyPageHeight{795}
\thumbyThumbWidth{42.5}
\thumbyForeground{white}
\thumbyBackground{black}
\thumbyNumberFormat{\Huge\textbf{$chapter\_number}}

\thumbySetup
```

Then, run twice:

```
perltex --latex=pdflatex foo.tex
```

See [example.pdf](#) for an sample of a document generated with Thumby.

Requirements

Memoir document class:

<http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/help/Catalogue/entries/memoir.html>

Required Packages:

PerlTeX <http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/help/Catalogue/entries/perltext.html>
 TikZ <http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/help/Catalogue/entries/pgf.html>
 bophook <http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/help/Catalogue/entries/bophook.html>

Usage Notes

All of the commands shown in the *Quick Start* section are required for this package to function properly.

The values passed as arguments to these commands in the *Quick Start* section are just examples. Feel free to change them to your liking. In particular, you'll probably want to change the `\thumbyTotalChapters` from 10 to the number of chapters in your document, the `\thumbyPageHeight` from 795 to the height of your document (in points), and `\thumbySides` to reflect whether your document uses one- or two-sided pages.

Instead of running `perltext` directly, I recommend you use a program such as `latexmk` (<http://www.phys.psu.edu/~collins/software/latexmk/>) to do the necessary work for you. If you do use `latexmk` you'll want to put the following in to its `latexmkrc`:

```
$pdflatex = 'perltext --latex=pdflatex'
```

NOTE:

- Units for page height, width, etc, are in points.
- Only normal, numbered chapters will have a thumb index. For example, the of contents and `\frontmatter` chapters will not have a thumb index.
- When `\thumbyNumberFormat` contains the literal `$chapter_number` Thumbly will substitute the actual chapter number for this literal.

Commands

```
\thumbySides{<sides>}
```

Either “one” or “two”, indicating whether the *memoir* class has been configured to print on one or both sides of each page. If you select “one”, then thumb indexes will always be placed on the right-hand side of every page. If you select “two”, then thumb indexes will be placed on the right-hand side of odd-numbered pages and on the left-hand side of even-numbered pages.

```
\thumbyTotalChapters{<integer>}
```

The total number of chapters in your document. Thumbly will divide the page height by the total number of chapters to get the height of each thumb index.

```
\thumbyPageHeight{<points>}
```

The height of each page, in points.

```
\thumbyThumbWidth{<points>}
```

The width of each thumb index, in points.

```
\thumbyForeground{<color>}
```

The foreground color of each thumb index. See the *Tikz* documentation for more information on how to specify colors.

```
\thumbyBackground{<color>}
```

The background color of each thumb index. See the *Tikz* documentation for more information on how to specify colors.

```
\thumbyNumberFormat{<format>}
```

Any valid \LaTeX commands can go here. If you use the literal `\$chapter_number` Thumby will substitute the actual chapter number for this literal.

```
\thumbySetup
```

This command **must** follow the rest of the `\thumby` commands. It will use the values provided by the other commands to make all calculations necessary for Thumby to do its magic.

Known Bugs

Sometimes when running *perltex* the compilation of the document will hang at a line reading, “Transcript written on foo.tex.” This appears to be either a *perltex* or a *pdflatex* bug, as in the process listing *pdflatex* is listed as being “defunct”. If this happens, you’ll need to break out of the compilation using `CONTROL-C` and re-run the compilation.

If anyone knows of a better workaround or has been able to figure out exactly what’s going wrong here, please let me know (and file a bug against *perltex* or *pdflatex*).

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