

T_EXShop Tips & Tricks

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Contents

1	Introduction	2
1.1	What Isn't Here	2
1.2	What Is Here	2
2	Editing, Typesetting and Viewing — the Work Cycle	2
2.1	Editing the Source File	2
2.1.1	L ^A T _E X & Matrix Panels	3
2.1.2	The Tags Popup	3
2.1.3	Find/Replace	3
2.1.4	Spell Checking	5
2.1.5	“Hiding” Index Commands	5
2.1.6	Syntax Coloring	5
2.2	Typesetting	6
2.2.1	Removing “Aux” files	6
2.2.2	Experimenting	7
2.3	Viewing the Output pdf File	7
2.3.1	Synchronizing between pdf and Source	7
2.4	Working with a Large Document	7
2.4.1	Switching between Source Windows	8
2.5	Working with BibDesk and Citations	8
2.6	Getting Help for Packages	8
3	Controlling the Keyboard	8
3.1	Menu Shortcuts & System Preferences	8
3.2	More Editing Help	9
3.3	Key Bindings	9
4	Macros	9
4.1	Text Macros	10
4.2	Applescript Macros	11
5	Command Completion	11
5.1	Completions	11
5.2	Substitutions or Abbreviations	11
5.3	Hey, it doesn't work!	12

6 Extending Processing via Engines	12
6.1 The pdf _l atexmk engine	13
Appendices	13
A — Command Completion Tables	13

1 Introduction

TeXShop is a “Front End” for a TeX distribution on Mac OS X. As such it allows the user to create and edit TeX source files, interact with the TeX distribution (e.g., typeset the source file) and finally preview the final pdf file. It also allows the user to go back and forth between preview and source.

Over the years TeXShop has added many features. Some of them are obvious and are meant to help a novice get started. Others are a bit more subtle in their use and the underlying power of these features needs to be coaxed out.

1.1 What Isn’t Here

This article is, first of all, *not* about TeX or \LaTeX . I don’t intend to teach you how to write TeX source. There are many fine books and articles that will teach you how to become a TeXpert or, at least, a TeXpätzer like me.

Although there is some introductory material it is also *not* meant as a complete manual for the use of TeXShop for the total novice. Over time it might evolve into such a document but I’ve got to start somewhere and this is that start.

1.2 What Is Here

In this article I hope to introduce you to some of the more subtle things you can do to make your life as a TeX source editor easier. These include adding keyboard commands and extending the editing capabilities of TeXShop; helping you make short(er) work of creating documents, etc., with the use of Macros and Command Completion; and, finally, how one can extend the processing capabilities of TeXShop using Engines.

2 Editing, Typesetting and Viewing — the Work Cycle

This is about as close to a beginner’s section you will get in this document.

2.1 Editing the Source File

The first thing you’ve got to do to create that great work is to type it into the source document that will be typeset and viewed later. This involves both putting \LaTeX markup as well as your wonderful words into the document.

To get started you can open a new document using File → New (Cmd-N) and then fill in the start of a new document by choosing a template from the Templates popup menu in the Source Window or use the File → New From Stationery. . . command and picking appropriate Stationery from the list. Note that the templates and stationery provided are certainly not complete; if you have some that you think are of general use feel free to submit them for inclusion in TeXShop. You can add personal Templates and Stationery to ~/Library/TeXShop/Templates and ~/Library/TeXShop/Stationery respectively. **Note: In TeXShop 3.58 and later you can use the TeXShop → Open ~/Library/TeXShop to open that folder in Finder. Note: ~/Library is the Library folder in your HOME folder. Note: Under Mac OS X 10.7 and later the Library folder is “hidden” by default; in Finder hold the Opt key down and click on the Go menu and**

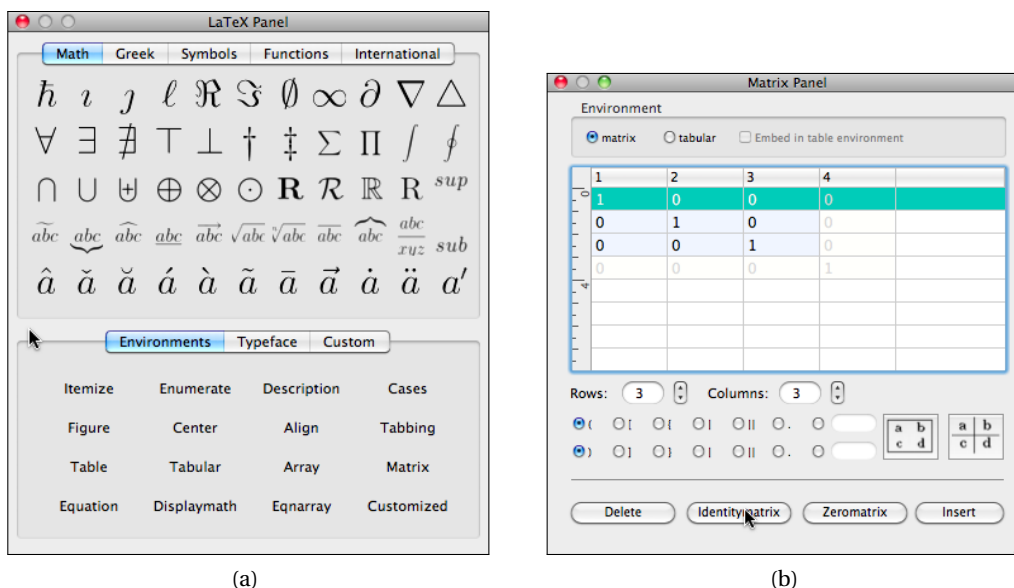


Figure 1: (a) The \LaTeX Panel; and (b) Matrix Panel.

it will be available. Under OS X 10.9 and later you can permanently show the `~/Library` in your HOME folder by opening and selecting your HOME folder, choosing **View** → **Show View Options (Cmd-J)** in Finder and then checking **Show Library Folder**.

2.1.1 \LaTeX & Matrix Panels

While I believe that panels with a clickable interface actually hinder learning I'll mention that \TeX Shop has two panels: one to help with entering \LaTeX code (the \LaTeX Panel) and one for setting up the basic structure of a matrix or tabular (the Matrix Panel). These are toggled on/off under the Window Menu or with the keyboard shortcuts¹ `Opt - Cmd -` and `Opt - Cmd =` respectively. Figure (1) shows what the panels look like.

It is possible to make a few changes and additions to the \LaTeX Panel by editing the `~/Library/TeXShop/LatexPanel/completion.plist` file. **Note: all plist files must be edited using UTF-8 Unicode encoding.**

2.1.2 The Tags Popup

The Tags popup menu on the Source Toolbar will automatically list sectioning commands so you can quickly jump to a relevant part of your document source. You can add your own tag to the list at a particular place in the document by placing the line

```
%:my tag name
```

at that position and it will then appear in the popup list so you can jump to that location quickly. See Figure (2). Sorry, tags are not recursively included for files you `\include` or `\input`.

2.1.3 Find/Replace

There are three Find/Replace “panels” available with \TeX Shop 3.xx (two with \TeX Shop 2.xx). Each is discussed individually below. You choose the Find/Replace Panel you wish to use on the Source tab under \TeX Shop → Preferences. You must restart \TeX Shop to enable any changes made to the Find/Replace Panel choice in Preferences.

¹The given shortcuts are for the English localization and may be different with other localizations.

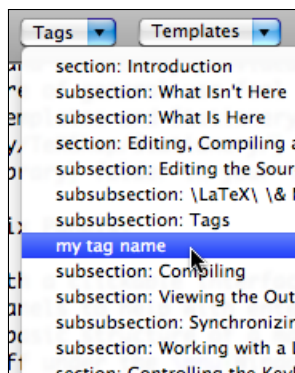


Figure 2: *The Tags Popup Menu.*

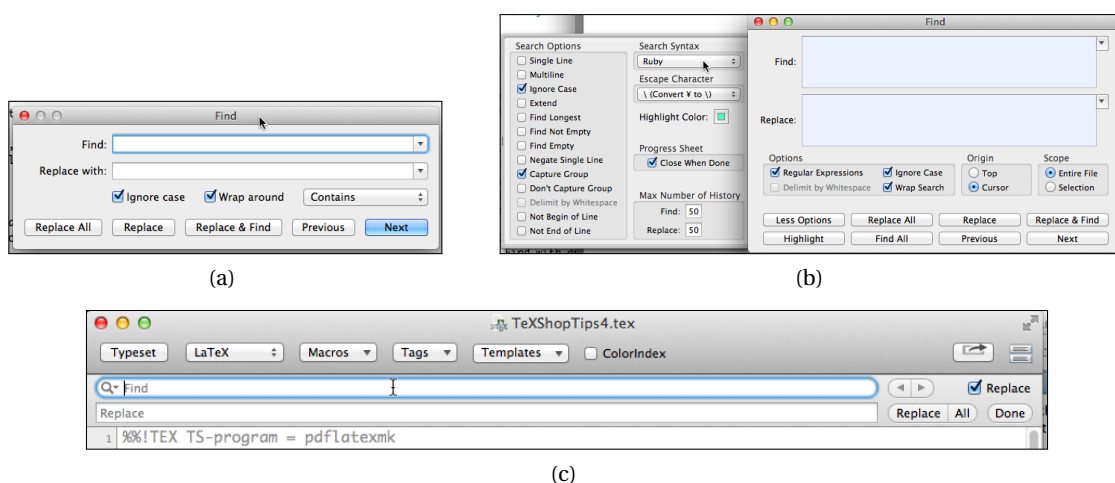


Figure 3: *The Find/Replace “panels” available in \TeX Shop: (a) the standard Apple Find Panel; (b) the OgreKit Find Panel with the More Options panel displayed; and, (c) the Apple Find Bar available with \TeX Shop 3.xx.*

Apple Find Panel The traditional Apple Find/Replace panel. A simple to use panel for finding and replacing text. The Standard Apple Find/Replace Panel is shown in Figure (3a) on page 4.

OgreKit Find Panel An advanced Find/Replace panel that supports Regular Expressions (regex for short) of various styles (press the More Options button to select the dialect). Regex is a very advanced way to find and replace text and is a good investment of your time to learn. The OgreKit Find Panel with the More Options panel displayed is shown in Figure (3b) on Page 4.

Apple Find Bar Only available in OS X 10.7 and later; and therefore only in \TeX Shop 3.xx. It provides a drop down bar for doing Find with an additional line if you select Replace. See Figure (3c) on page 4 for an example of the Apple Find Bar; the additional Replace line is displayed.

2.1.4 Spell Checking

By default T_EXShop allows you to use Apple's Spell Checker as built into most applications. Unfortunately that Spell Checker doesn't know anything about L^AT_EX commands so there is a tendency to flag those commands as misspelled words. There are several Spell Check applications that are L^AT_EX-aware with the two most popular being Excalibur (maintained by Rick Zaccane, currently at version 4.07 and installed in /Applications/TeX/Excalibur by the MacT_EX install package) and cocoAspell (by Anton Leuski and currently at version 2.1) which installs a Spelling Preference Pane in System Preferences. More information about these two Spell Checkers is found below.

If you use different dictionaries for different documents (e.g., English or German depending upon the document) you can have T_EXShop automatically choose the proper dictionary on a document by document basis by placing a line like

```
% !TEX spellcheck = English
```

(for the English (Aspell) dictionary in this case) near the top of each document. Search for 'checking spelling' (without the quotes) in T_EXShop's Help → TeXShop Help Panel. . . for more detailed information on the designation of a particular dictionary.

Excalibur The Excalibur Spell Checker is a stand-alone application that reads in a Source file, allows you to run a spell check which you then Save as a modified Source file; T_EXShop automatically picks up the changes in that Source file. There are several versions of Macros that allow you to run Excalibur from within T_EXShop. One by Michael Sharpe (with minor modifications by H. Schulz) can be downloaded from <<https://herbs.github.io>> as TeXShopExcaliburMacro.zip. With any of those macros T_EXShop automatically picks up the spell checked and saved version of the Source file and *replaces* the old contents of the displayed Source document by the spell checked version; any changes you make to the Source file while Excalibur is still correcting the document *will be lost* so don't do that!

More dictionaries for Excalibur are available at <<http://excalibur.sourceforge.net>>.

cocoAspell The cocoAspell Spell Checker integrates itself into the Apple Spell Check system. After enabling it and choosing the active dictionaries from the installed Spelling Preference Pane in System Preferences you can choose one to use within T_EXShop by using Edit → Show Spelling and Grammar (Cmd-:) and choosing an Aspell dictionary.

Information on obtaining and installing more dictionaries for cocoAspell is available at <<http://people.ict.usc.edu/~leuski/cocoaspell/>>.

2.1.5 “Hiding” Index Commands

Indexing commands tend to duplicate information that is part of the text and therefore interfere with the process of comprehending the text itself. It is possible to have T_EXShop colorize \index commands in a bright yellow. To do that you need to add a 'ColorIndex' checkbox to the Source window's Toolbar. With the Source window active you can either Right-Click (or Ctl-Click) on the Toolbar, choose Customize Toolbar. . . , or Window → Customize Toolbar. . . , and Drag and Drop the ColorIndex checkbox to a place on the Toolbar. Checking that box will make all \index{text} commands turn a bright yellow, by default, and “recede” into the background; see Figure (4a) on page 6.

2.1.6 Syntax Coloring

T_EXShop provides Syntax Coloring for T_EX documents as an aid to pick out text versus markup in source documents. To activate the Syntax Coloring make sure that Syntax Coloring is checked

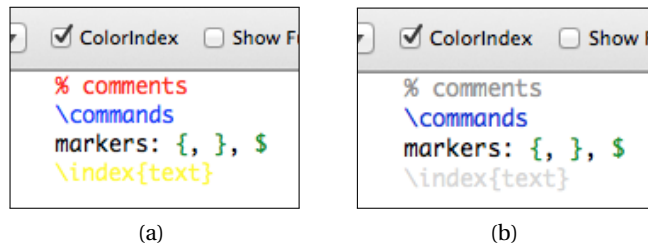


Figure 4: *The Default (4a) and an alternate set (4b) of Syntax Colors in T_EXShop.*

in TeXShop → Preferences → Source → Editor. The default color scheme is a bright red for comments, a dark blue for commands and a dark green for “marker” characters (`{`, `}` and `$`); see Figure (4a) on page 6. In addition, as noted in section (2.1.5) above, T_EXShop offers a special Syntax Coloring for `\index` commands so that they “recede” into the background and you can more easily read the surrounding text.

You may not like the default Syntax Coloring scheme. Searching for ‘syntax colors’ (without the quotes) in T_EXShop’s Help Panel gives information on how to change the colors for comments, commands and “marker” characters. It is also possible to change the color of `\index` commands from the default bright yellow to some other color. The corresponding hidden preference variables are `indexred`, `indexgreen` and `indexblue`. See Figure (4b) on page 6 for an example. (If you like those adjusted syntax colors you can download `TeXShopSyntaxColors.zip` from <https://herbs.github.io>. You can also edit those scripts to create colors you prefer.)

2.2 Typesetting

Once you are ready to take a look at how your document will appear you typeset it with the default engine, pdf_latex out of the box, by simply using the Typeset → Typeset (Cmd-T) command.

You may wish to use a different engine as your default. You can change the default engine in TeXShop → Preferences → Typesetting.

If you use the `pstricks` package extensively or include many eps graphics files in your document you may wish to typeset using latex → dvips → ps2pdf since pdf_l(a)tex does not allow for direct inclusion of eps files². The easiest way to do this is to include the line

```
% !TEX TS-program = latex
```

at the top of your document. Then T_EXShop will use the latex+distiller typesetting method noted above no matter what the default engine setting. Change latex to pdf_latex to force use of pdf_latex to typeset your file.

2.2.1 Removing “Aux” files

The process of typesetting produces several auxiliary files that contain information about cross references, bibliography, indexes, etc. If an error occurs during typesetting these files can be left in some unknown state and need to be removed before attempting to typeset the document again. The File → Trash Aux Files (Ctl-Cmd-A) command removes most of the files that may create problems.

With T_EXShop 3.22 and later there is an additional way to remove those files and then typeset the document with a single command. If you hold the Opt key down while clicking the Typeset menu the Typeset → Typeset command becomes Typeset → Trash Aux & Typeset (Opt-Cmd-T).

²The pdf_latex program in MacT_EX-2010 and later will do on-the-fly conversion of eps files.

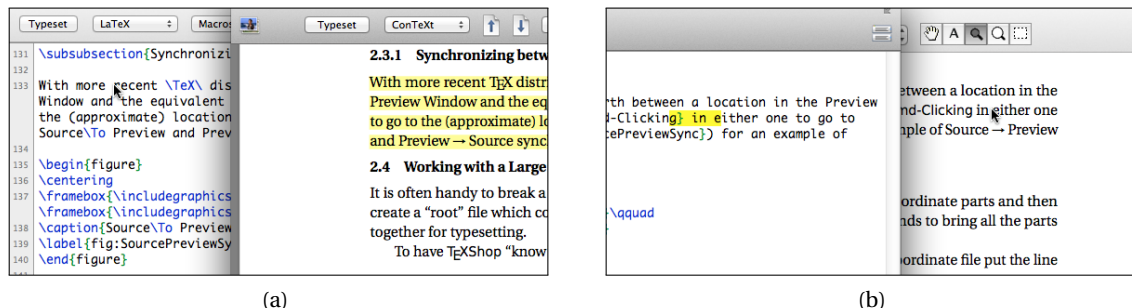


Figure 5: (a) *Source → Preview Synchronization*; and (b) *Preview → Source Synchronization*.

Search for ‘trash aux’ in Help → TeXShop Help Panel... for the list of all file extensions removed by the Trash Aux Files and Trash Aux & Typeset menu commands. The Terminal commands used to add additional extensions to the trash list and return the list to the default list of extensions is also given in that section of TeXShop’s Help Panel.

2.2.2 Experimenting

Version 3.37 and later of TeXShop has an Edit → Experiment... menu item. Clicking on that item, with a Source file open, opens a new, resizable “Experiment” window which allows you to enter text. When you click the Typeset button on that window TeXShop will use the preamble from your open Source file and typeset the text in the Experiment window, opening a special Preview window to show the result. Great for experimenting with a figure to get it just right, etc.

2.3 Viewing the Output pdf File

Assuming the document was successfully typeset the pdf file will automatically open in a separate preview window.

You can control how it’s displayed in the Preview Menu. You can change the default settings in TeXShop → Preferences → Preview.

2.3.1 Synchronizing between pdf and Source

With more recent TeX distributions you can also skip back and forth between a location in the Preview Window and the equivalent location in the Source Window by Cmd-Clicking in either one to go to the (approximate) location in the other. See Figure (5) for an example of Source → Preview and Preview → Source synchronization.

2.4 Working with a Large Document

It is often handy to break a large document into more manageable subordinate parts and then create a “root” file which contains the preamble and \include commands to bring all the parts together for typesetting.

To have TeXShop “know” which file to typeset when working on a subordinate file put the line

```
% !TEX root = path/to/rootfile.tex
```

at the top of your subordinate file; path/to/rootfile.tex is the relative or absolute path to the root file for this document. Once this is done TeXShop will typeset the root file if you press Typeset → Typeset (Cmd-T) even though you are editing a subordinate file and properly synchronize between the Source and pdf. E.g., if the root file is called mygreatbook.tex and the chapter files, chapter1.tex, etc., are in a chapters sub-folder below the root file then place the line



Figure 6: *BibDesk Plugin: (a) citation insertion; and (b) cross-reference insertion.*

```
% !TEX root = ../mygreatbook.tex
```

at the top of each of the chapter files. The `../` means go up one folder level to find the root file.

2.4.1 Switching between Source Windows

If you have multiple source files open you can switch between just those windows by using the Window → Next/Previous Source Window (Cmd-F2/Shft-Cmd-F2) menu commands.

2.5 Working with BibDesk and Citations

TeXShop has a built-in “plugin” that interacts with the BibDesk bibliography application to allow you to complete citation references in the `\cite` command. To enable the use of the “plugin” make sure that TeXShop → Preferences → Source → Editor → BibDesk Completions is checked.

To use it you must first open the required bibliography (bib) file(s) in BibDesk. Enter several characters from the reference label within the `\cite` command and press F5 to get a list of matching references from the bib file(s) with a bit of information about each one. Scroll to the one you want and press Return or Tab. See Figure (6) on page 8 for an example.

The “plugin” also works for entering cross-references within `\ref` or `\pageref` commands but only for those with labels in the file you are editing.

2.6 Getting Help for Packages

There are many times when having help about a given package can be handy. TeXShop has an interface to texdoc which will bring up that documentation. Execute the Help → Show Help for Package... (Opt-Cmd-I) and enter the name of the package.

You can also easily look at a package directly with the Help → Open Style File... command and enter the full package file name *including the proper extension* (e.g., `.sty` for packages or `.cls` for document classes).

3 Controlling the Keyboard

One of the best ways to speed up your entry of text in a source file is to keep your hands on the keyboard as much as possible—only one of the reasons I don’t like the “clicky” interface of the \LaTeX and Matrix Panels. There are many shortcuts associated with the TeXShop menu system but this section is about changing and adding others and other keyboard customizations.

3.1 Menu Shortcuts & System Preferences

Sometimes you’d like to add a shortcut to a menu item that doesn’t have one or add one to a command whose shortcut you dislike. Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger) and later have a method to add shortcuts to specific menu items both globally and in specific programs. This feature has become much more reliable in OS X 10.5 and especially in OS X 10.6 and later.

One example using Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard) or later: T_EXShop 2.36 has added a File → New from Stationery. . . command, without a shortcut, which can be very helpful once you set up stationery the way you want. To add Opt-Command-N as the shortcut to that menu item: open up the System Preferences application to Keyboard → Keyboard Shortcuts (just Shortcuts in Mavericks) and select Application Shortcuts (App Shortcuts in Mavericks); press the + button to add a shortcut; select T_EXShop as the application; enter the exact menu title [New from Stationery. . . — note you *must* enter a real ellipsis, ‘...’, (Opt-; with the English keyboard layout)]; and press Opt-Command-N as the shortcut.

Note: If you don't like a particular shortcut to a menu item you can usually change it to something that suits you better using the same technique used above.

3.2 More Editing Help

T_EXShop is built using Apple's programmers interfaces (called frameworks) and therefore inherits all the properties and functionality of those interfaces. There are many things available through the Text framework that aren't tied to the keyboard by default, e.g., many 'emacs-like' keyboard commands, but Apple has made it possible to add those commands to all applications that use the Text framework; e.g., TextEdit and Mail as well as T_EXShop.

This is done by creating a special file, `DefaultKeyBinding.dict`, and placing it in a particular location, `~/Library/KeyBindings` (you may have to create the `KeyBindings` folder there if it doesn't already exist).

You can get more information about this, as well as a (useful) sample, by downloading the `KeyBindings.zip` file at <https://herbs.github.io>.

3.3 Key Bindings

Besides adding shortcuts to Menu Items you can actually bind keystrokes, within T_EXShop, to expand into groups of characters. Checking the T_EXShop → Preferences → Source → Editor → Key Bindings option will enable this feature. You can also toggle it on/off for any particular document using Source → Key Bindings → Toggle On/Off. This feature was previously called Auto Completion; not to be confused with Command Completion—see section (5) below. Note: this facility only works with code generated by a single keystroke (possibly obtained by pressing multiple keys at once rather than insequence); e.g. it won't work with é on the US keyboard since that is generated by the two keystroke sequence (Opt-e e).

E.g., pressing Opt-, with a US keyboard layout, usually enters ≤ into your document but with Key Binding enabled \leq will be entered. Similarly, with some text selected pressing " will surround the selected text with ' ' and ' '.

You can add, remove or change the key bindings using the Key Bindings Editor (Source → Key Bindings → Edit Key Bindings File. . .). Figures (7) and (8) show the Key Bindings Menu and Editor.

Once in the Editor the left hand column displays the input keystroke while the right hand column shows what will be substituted for that keystroke. To see how you produce some of those keystrokes enable the Keyboard Viewer in System Preferences → Keyboard → Keyboard by checking the 'Show Keyboard & Character Viewers in menu bar' item and then clicking on the new keyboard icon in your Menu Bar.

4 Macros

Macros can be simple text substitutions or Applescript programs that can do all sorts of processing on a file. You can also assign a keyboard shortcut to any macro for direct execution. The ones that are part of T_EXShop are found under the Macros Menu.

You can remove or add additional macros to the menu by using the Macro Editor (use the

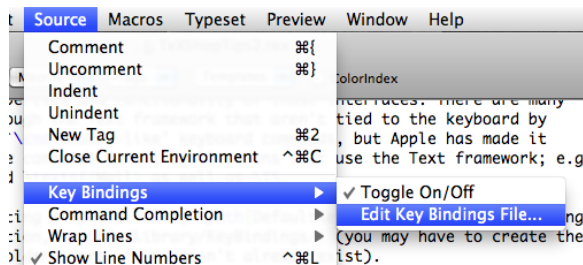


Figure 7: The Key Bindings Menu.

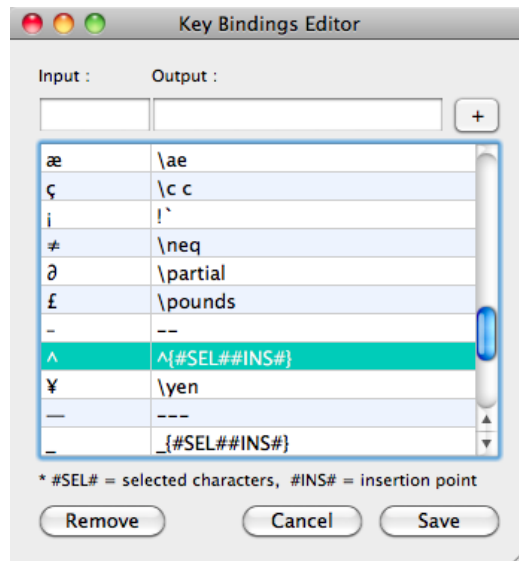


Figure 8: The Key Bindings Editor.

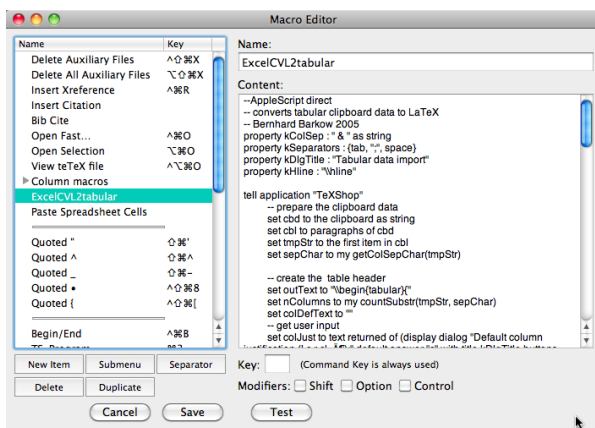


Figure 9: The Macro Editor Window.

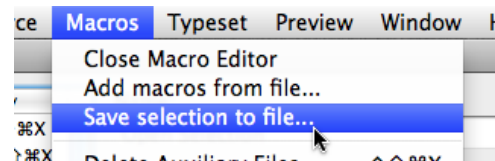


Figure 10: The extra menu items when the Macro Editor is open.

Macros → Open Macro Editor command). The Macro Editor window and extra menu items in the Macros Menu when the Editor is open are shown in Figures (9) and (10) respectively.

Besides writing your own macros you can add macros supplied by others to the Macros menu one of two ways: copy and paste the text version of the macro into a New Item in the Macro Editor; or obtain the macro as a plist file and use the Add macros from file... command found in the Macros Menu when the Macro Editor is open (again, see Figure (10)).

More information on macros can be found by searching for macros in Help → TeXShop Help Panel...

4.1 Text Macros

Text macros are simple text substitutions. You can also tell TeXShop to insert any selected text using `#SEL#`, place the cursor using `#INS#` and even put in multiple lines in the macro itself. Then you can assign the text macro to a keyboard shortcut.

I like to use `Cmd-B` and `Cmd-L` to insert `\textbf{...}` and `\emph{...}` into the document

where . . . is any possible selected text. Macros to do that are already under the Macros → Text Styles Menu so we need only assign keyboard shortcuts to them. To assign Cmd-I to the emphasize macro: open the Macro Editor where the form of the Macros menu appears in the left hand pane; click the emphasize macro found under Text Styles; click the Key insertion box and simply insert a lower case ‘i’ (the Cmd key is assumed and additional modifier keys can be checked off).

4.2 Applescript Macros

You cannot distinguish Applescript macros in the Macros Menu from text macros but they can do complicated processing and add/change the source file in T_EXShop. One example in the default set is the Program macro that creates a

```
% !TEX TS-program = xxxx
```

line at the top of a file with your choice of engine substituted for xxxx. You can look at the Applescript code for this macro by clicking on its name in the Macro Editor.

Some detailed tips on creating Applescript Macros for use in T_EXShop can be found in the Help → Notes on Applescript in TeXShop document by Michael Sharpe.

5 Command Completion

L^AT_EX markup is rather wordy which is nice because it describes what it’s supposed to do but a bit painful to write. Command Completion allows you to insert complete environments and commands with a few keystrokes and the press of a “trigger” key (this is Esc by default but can be changed to Tab in TeXShop → Preferences → Source → Command Completion Triggered By:).

Commands that have arguments usually have a Mark (•) inserted for each argument. You move to the next argument by using the Source → Command Completion → Marks → Next Mark command (Ctl-Cmd-F [or Opt-Trigger]). This also selects the Mark so typing automatically removes the Mark and substitutes the typed information. See the complete documentation, with lists of commands/abbreviations supplied with T_EXShop out of the box, in the ~/Library/TeXShop/CommandCompletion folder for much more information.

5.1 Completions

You can complete many commands by starting to type them and pressing the trigger key. Variations on the commands with differing numbers of optional arguments are generated by additional presses of the trigger. One example: typing \sec and then the trigger on a new line produces

```
\section{•}
```

while a second press of the trigger gives

```
\section*{•}
```

the *-variant of the command and a final press of the trigger gives

```
\section[•]{•}
```

with the optional argument.

5.2 Substitutions or Abbreviations

Besides completions for partial command insertions there are also many abbreviations. These are short mnemonics for complete substitutions.

All abbreviations for environments start with a ‘b’. To generate a complete itemize environment place \b i t e on a line by itself and press the trigger key to get

```
\begin{itemize}
\item
•
\end{itemize}•
```

with an extra Mark at the end so you can easily jump to the end of the environment. Additional items can be generated by typing `\it` and the trigger to get

```
\item
•
```

ready for entry of text.

In addition to the `\section` command lower level sectioning commands have abbreviations. Sub-sections can be generated by typing `\ssec` and the trigger to get

```
\subsection{•}
```

with subsequent presses of the trigger key giving the `*`-variant and finally the variant with the optional argument.

As a final example `\tt` and the trigger gives the `\texttt{•}` command and a second press of the trigger gives the declaration `\ttfamily` with similar results for other font changing commands.

A set of tables for all the completions and abbreviations supplied with T_EXShop can be found in Appendix A on page 13.

5.3 Hey, it doesn't work!

If these examples don't work you probably need to let T_EXShop update the `~/Library/TeXShop/CommandCompletion` folder; simply delete that folder from `~/Library/TeXShop` and restart T_EXShop.

6 Extending Processing via Engines

T_EXShop offers several default “engines” (also referred to as “scripts” which is left over from earlier times) in its Typeset Menu. These include running Plain TeX or LaTeX (either using `pdftex` or `TeX+DVI`), BibTeX, MakeIndex, MetaPost or ConTeXt. But there are many things you may wish to do that fall outside of this limited set so T_EXShop also allows you to create new engines that are stored in `~/Library/TeXShop/Engines`. These additional engines do not show up in the Typeset menu but only in the popup list on the Source and Preview Toolbar (see Figure (11) on page 13).

You can use these engines by choosing from that popup list and then pressing the Typeset button or, a better choice if you use different engines for different documents, by putting a line like

```
% !TEX TS-program = xelatex
```

at the top of your source file; the example given will run the `xelatex` engine on this file independent of other choices. You can override the choice you make in the line with one of the basic engines (e.g., run BibTeX) by using the items in the Typeset Menu directly.

T_EXShop is shipped with a few engines activated (i.e., directly in the `~/Library/TeXShop/Engines` folder) but also includes several additional ones in `~/Library/TeXShop/Engines/Inactive`. As an example let's activate and use the `pdfflatexmk` engine found in `~/Library/TeXShop/Engines/Inactive/Latexmk`.

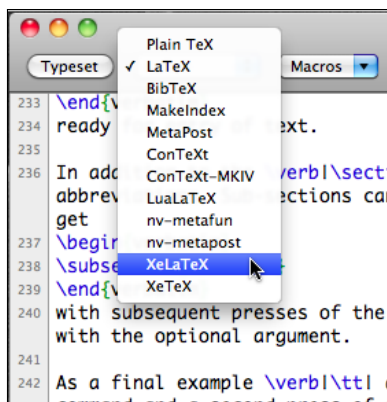


Figure 11: *The Engines Popup Menu on the Source Toolbar.*

6.1 The pdf`latexmk` engine

If your document had cross-references, bibliographies and/or indexes it takes multiple pdf`latex` runs with intermediate runs of `bibtex` and/or `makeindex` to create the bibliographies, indexes and resolve all cross-references. The pdf`latexmk` engine automates this whole process.

TeXShop 3.07 or 2.46 and later activate the pdf`latexmk` engine by default *in a fresh installation*. If you are using an earlier version of TeXShop, or even updated to the latest version from an earlier version, you need to activate the engine. To activate the engine simply move the pdf`latexmk`.engine file from `~/Library/TeXShop/Engines/Inactive/Latexmk` two folders up, to `~/Library/TeXShop/Engines`. When you restart TeXShop you can check that pdf`latexmk` is now in the popup menu.

Then place the line

```
% !TEX TS-program = pdflatexmk
```

at the top of your source file. From then on when you simply typeset the file (Typeset → Typeset or Cmd-T) TeXShop will use this engine and the complete process of typesetting the document to its final form will be carried out.

Appendices

A — Command Completion Tables

The following tables contain the Command Completions and Abbreviations included by default with TeXShop. Table 1 on page 14 is a list of all included environment abbreviations. Table 2 on page 15 lists included abbreviations/completions for commands and declarations. Finally, Table 3 on page 16 are the included abbreviations for greek letters.

It is important to remember that with a given abbreviation successive presses of the trigger key go to the next match in the list. E.g., there are three sectioning commands, `sec` for the standard section command, `secs` for the “starred” version of the command and `seco` for the version with an optional argument; if you enter `sec` as your abbreviation successive presses of the trigger goes from the `sec` to the `secs` to the `seco` versions before returning to your original abbreviation. That means there are many abbreviations that you never need to remember.

Note: do *not* attempt to memorize these tables. Learn a few items that you use all the time and then slowly add to your knowledge as you need them.

Table 1: *Environment abbreviations.*

Abbreviation	Environment	Abbreviation	Environment
barr	array	blett	letter
babs	abstract	blist	list
bali	align	bminp	minipage
balis	align*	bminpo	minipage
baliat	alignat	bmult	multline
baliats	alignat*	bmults	multline*
balied	aligned	bpict	picture
baliedat	alignedat	bpmat	pmatrix
baliedato	alignedat	bquot	quotation
bapp	appendix	bquo	quote
bbmat	bmatrix	bsplit	split
bcase	cases	bsubeq	subequations
bcent	center	btabs	tabular
bcenum	compactenum	btabs	tabular*
bcenumo	compactenum	btabs	tabularx
bcitem	compactitem	btabs	table
bcitemo	compactitem	btabs	table
bdes	description	btabs	table*
benu	enumerate	btabs	table*
benuo	enumerate	btabs	table
bequ	equation	btabs	table
bequs	equation*	btabs	table*
beqn	eqnarray	btabs	table*
beqns	eqnarray*	btabs	tabbing
bfig	figure	bbib	thebibliography
bfigo	figure	bindex	theindex
bframe	frame	btheo	theorem
bframeo	frame	btitpg	titlepage
bflalign	flalign	btrivl	trivlist
bflaligns	flalign*	bvarw	varwidth
bfill	flushleft	bverb	verbatim
bflr	flushright	bvers	verse
bgath	gather	bwrap	wrapfigure
bgaths	gather*	bwrapo	wrapfigure
bgathed	gathered	bwrapo2	wrapfigure
bgathedo	gathered	bwrapoo	wrapfigure
bite	itemize		
biteo	itemize		

Table 2: *Commands and Declarations.*

Abbreviation	Command	Abbreviation	Command	Abbreviation	Command
--	textendash	midr	midrule	renewcomo	renewcommand
---	textemdash	mnorm	mathnormal	renewcomoo	renewcommand
---	textemdash w/sp	msf	mathsf	rncm	renewcommand
adlen	addtolength	mtt	mathhtt	rnewc	renewcommand
adcount	addtocounter	mit	mathit	rncmo	renewcommand
bf	textbf	midr	midrule	rnewcoo	renewcommand
bfd	bfseries	mnorm	mathnormal	rncmoo	renewcommand
biblio	bibliography	mdd	mdseries	rmc	rmfamily
bibstyle	bibliographystyle	mbox	mbox	rbox	raisebox
botr	bottomrule	makebox	makebox	rboxo	raisebox
bibitem	bibitem	mboxo	makebox	rboxoo	raisebox
bibitemo	bibitem	makebox	makebox	sec	section
center	centering	mboxoo	makebox	secs	section*
chap	chapter	mpar	marginpar	seco	section
cmdr	cmdrule	multic	multicolumn	ssec	subsection
cmdro	cmdrule	ncol	space & space	ssecs	subsection*
em	emph	ncm	newcommand	sseco	subsection
emd	em	newc	newcommand	sssec	subsubsection
foot	footnote	ncmo	newcommand	sssecs	subsubsection*
frac	frac	newco	newcommand	ssseco	subsubsection
fbox	fbox	ncmoo	newcommand	spar	subparagraph
fboxo	framebox	newcoo	newcommand	spars	subparagraph*
fboxoo	framebox	nct	newcolumnntype	sparo	subparagraph
geometry	geometry	newct	newcolumnntype	setl	setlength
hw	headwidth	newpg	newpage	stcount	stepcounter
hw2tw	headw=textw	npg	newpage	sf	textsf
href	href	nline	newline	sfd	sffamily
item	item	newlin	newline	sc	textsc
ito	item	nlen	newlength	scd	scshape
incg	includegraphics	newlen	newlength	sl	textsl
incgo	includegraphics	nenv	newenvironment	sld	slshape
it	textit	newenv	newenvironment	sqrt	sqrt
itd	itshape	nenvo	newenvironment	sqrto	sqrt
latex	LaTeX	newenvo	newenvironment	tt	texttt
latexs	LaTeX w/sp	nenvoo	newenvironment	ttd	ttfamily
latexe	LaTeXe	newenvoo	newenvironment	tw	textwidth
latexes	LaTeXe w/sp	pgref	pageref	tex	TeX
label	label	par	paragraph	texs	TeX w/sp
lbl	label	pars	paragraph*	tilde	textasciitilde
lettrine	lettrine	paro	paragraph	topr	toprule
lettrineo	lettrine	pgs	pagestyle	toc	tableofcontents
listf	listoffigures	parbox	parbox	tableofcontents	tableofcontents
listt	listoftables	parboxo	parbox	tpgs	thispagestyle
rule	rule	parboxoo	parbox	thispagestyle	thispagestyle
ruleo	rule	parboxooo	parbox	up	textup
mbf	mathbf	pbox	parbox	upd	upshape
mrn	mathrm	pboxo	parbox	url	url
mcal	mathcal	pboxoo	parbox	usep	usepackage
msf	mathsf	pboxooo	parbox	usepo	usepackage
mtt	mathhtt	ref	ref	verb	verb
mit	mathit	renewcom	renewcommand	verb2	verb

Table 3: *Greek Letters. The ‘d’ versions are not shown.*

Abbreviation	Command	Abbreviation	Command
xa	alpha	xvp	varpi
xb	beta	xph	phi
xch	chi	xcph	Phi
xd	delta	xvph	varphi
xcd	Delta	xps	psi
xe	epsilon	xcps	Psi
xve	varepsilon	xs	sigma
xet	eta	xcs	Sigma
xg	gamma	xvs	varsigma
xcg	Gamma	xz	zeta
xio	iota	xr	rho
xk	kappa	xvr	varrho
xl	lambda	xt	tau
xcl	Lambda	xth	theta
xm	mu	xcth	Theta
xn	nu	xvth	vartheta
xo	omega	xu	upsilon
xco	Omega	xcu	Upsilon
xp	pi	xx	xi
xcp	Pi	xcx	Xi