

# luaharfbuzz Documentation

## Module harfbuzzsubset

Lua bindings to the Harfbuzz subset API.

- [Wiki](#)
- [Source on Github](#)
- [API Coverage Status](#)

This module provides bindings to the HarfBuzz hb-subset API. It is designed to be used together with the main [harfbuzz](#) module.

Typical usage:

```
local hb = require('harfbuzz')
local hb_subset = require("harfbuzzsubset")

local input = hb_subset.SubsetInput.new()

local wght = hb.Tag.new("wght")
local wdh = hb.Tag.new("wdth")
local face = hb.Face.new("myfont.ttf")

input:pin_axis_location(face, wght, 100)
input:pin_axis_location(face, wdh, 100)

input:keep_everything()

local new_face = hb_subset.subset(face, input)

local blob = new_face:blob()
local fh, err = io.open("out.ttf", "wb")
if not fh then error(err) end
fh:write(blob:get_data())
fh:close()
```

### Info:

- **Copyright:** 2025
- **License:** MIT
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## Functions

[subset \(face, input\)](#) Wraps hb\_subset\_or\_fail.

[version \(\)](#) Wraps hb\_version.

## Class SubsetInput

<a href="#">SubsetInput.new ()</a>	Wraps hb_subset_input_create_or_fail.
<a href="#">SubsetInput:unicode_set ()</a>	Wraps hb_subset_input_unicode_set.
<a href="#">SubsetInput:pin_axis_location (face, tag, value)</a>	Wraps hb_subset_input_pin_axis_location.

[SubsetInput:keep\\_everything\(\)](#) Wraps `hb_subset_input_keep_everything`.

[SubsetInput:\\_\\_gc\(\)](#) Wraps `hb_subset_input_destroy`.

## subset (face, input)

Wraps `hb_subset_or_fail`.

Performs the actual subset operation, producing a new Face that only contains the glyphs and data configured on this input.

### Parameters:

- face source Face object to subset.
- input SubsetInput object to subset based on.

### Returns:

new Face object representing the subset, or `nil` on failure.

## version ()

Wraps `hb_version`.

Lua wrapper for `hb_subset_input_t` type.

Objects of this type control which parts of a Face are kept when creating a subset.

Instances are usually created via [SubsetInput.new](#).

## SubsetInput.new ()

Wraps `hb_subset_input_create_or_fail`.

Initializes a new `hb_subset_input_t`. The returned object can be used to configure which glyphs and features are kept when subsetting a face.

### Returns:

SubsetInput object, or `nil` on failure.

## SubsetInput:unicode\_set ()

Wraps `hb_subset_input_unicode_set`.

Returns the Unicode set associated with this subset input. The returned [harfbuzz.Set](#) can be modified (e.g. via [add](#)) to control which Unicode codepoints are included in the subset.

### Returns:

Set object representing the Unicode set, or `nil` on failure.

## SubsetInput:pin\_axis\_location (face, tag, value)

Wraps `hb_subset_input_pin_axis_location`.

Pins a variation axis at a specific value for subsetting.

### Parameters:

- face Face object whose design space is being subset.
- tag Tag object representing the axis tag (e.g. "wght", "wdth").
- value numeric axis value to pin.

## Returns:

true on success, false on failure.

### **SubsetInput:keep\_everything ()**

Wraps hb\_subset\_input\_keep\_everything.

Configures the input so that everything in the original face is kept. This is useful as a starting point before applying more specific filters.

### **SubsetInput:\_\_gc ()**

Wraps hb\_subset\_input\_destroy.

Destructor for subset inputs. Normally this is invoked automatically by the garbage collector; applications rarely need to call it directly.