

```
\halign { <preamble> \cr <row> \cr ... <row> \cr }
\halign to <dimen> { <preamble> \cr <row> \cr ... <row> \cr }
\halign spread <dimen> { <preamble> \cr <row> \cr ... <row> \cr }
```

This command produces a horizontal alignment consisting of a sequence of rows, where each row in turn contains a sequence of column entries. T_EX adjusts the widths of the column entries to accommodate the widest one in each column.

A horizontal alignment can only appear when T_EX is in a vertical mode. We recommend that you first study alignments in general (p. ‘alignment’) before you attempt to use this command.

An alignment consists of a preamble followed by the text to be aligned. The preamble, which describes the layout of the rows that follow, consists of a sequence of column templates, separated by ‘&’ and ended by \cr. Each row consists of a sequence of column entries, also separated by ‘&’ and ended by \cr. Within a template, ‘#’ indicates where T_EX should insert the corresponding text of a column entry. In contrast, \settabs uses a fixed implicit template of ‘#’, i.e., it just inserts the text as is.

T_EX typesets each column entry in restricted horizontal mode, i.e., as the contents of an hbox, and implicitly encloses it in a group.

The **to** form of this command instructs T_EX to make the width of the alignment be <dimen>, adjusting the space between columns as necessary. The **spread** form of this command instructs T_EX to make the alignment wider by <dimen> than its natural width. These forms are like the corresponding forms of \hbox (p. ‘hbox’).

See \tabskip (p. ‘\tabskip’) for an example using the **to** form.

Example:

```
\tabskip = 1em \halign{%
  \hfil\it#\hfil&\hfil#\hfil&#\hfil\$\#\cr
  United States&Washington&dollar&1.00\cr
  France&Paris&franc&0.174\cr
  Israel&Jerusalem&shekel&0.507\cr
  Japan&Tokyo&yen&0.0829\cr}
```

produces:

<i>United States</i>	Washington	dollar	\$1.00
<i>France</i>	Paris	franc	\$0.174
<i>Israel</i>	Jerusalem	shekel	\$0.507
<i>Japan</i>	Tokyo	yen	\$0.0829