1

\boxmaxdepth  $[\langle dimen \rangle \text{ parameter }]$ 

This parameter contains a dimension D. TeX will not construct a box whose depth exceeds D. If you produce a box whose depth d would exceed D, TeX will transfer the excess depth to the height of the box, effectively moving the reference point of the box down by d-D. If you set \boxmaxdepth to zero, TeX will line up a row of vboxes so that their bottom boundaries all lie on the same horizontal line. Plain TeX sets \boxmaxdepth to \maxdimen (p. '\maxdimen'), so \boxmaxdepth won't affect your boxes unless you change it.