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magnification. When T_EX typesets your document, it multiplies all dimensions by a magnification factor f/1000, where f is the value of the \mag parameter (p. '\mag'). Since the default value of \mag is 1000, the normal case is that your document is typeset just as specified. Increasing the magnification is often useful when you're typesetting a document that will later be photoreduced.

You can also apply magnification to a single font so as to get a smaller or larger version of that font than its "design size". You need to provide the device driver with a shape file (see "font", p. 'font') for each magnification of a font that you're using—unless the fonts are built into your printer and your device driver knows about them. When you're defining a font with the \font command (p. '\font'), you can specify a magnification with the word 'scaled'. For example:

\font\largerbold = cmbx10 scaled 2000

defines '\largerbold' as a font that is twice as big as cmbx10 (Computer Modern Bold Extended 10-point) and has the character shapes uniformly enlarged by a factor of 2.

Many computer centers find it convenient to provide fonts scaled by a ratio of 1.2, corresponding to magnification values of 1200, 1440, etc. TeX has special names for these values: '\magstep1' for 1200, '\magstep2' for 1440, and so forth up to '\magstep5'. The special value '\magstephalf' corresponds to magnification by $\sqrt{1.2}$, which is visually halfway between '\magstep0' (no magnification) and '\magstep1'. For example:

\font\bigbold = cmbx10 scaled \magstephalf

You can specify a dimension as it will be measured in the final document independent of magnification by putting 'true' in front of the unit. For instance, '\kern 8 true pt' produces a kern of 8 points whatever the magnification.