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baseline. The *baseline* of a box is an imaginary line that runs across the box. When T_EX is assembling the boxes of a horizontal list into a larger box, it lines up the boxes in the list so that their baselines coincide. As an analogy, think of writing on a pad of ruled paper. Each letter that you write has an implicit baseline. In order to line up the letters horizontally, you place them on the pad so that their baselines agree with the light guidelines that are printed on the pad.

A box can and often does extend below its baseline. For instance, the letter ‘g’ extends below the baseline of its box because it has a descender (the bottom loop of the ‘g’).