The T_FX ruler

This is the TEX ruler, a measuring device for typographical designers working with TEX. It includes ordinary rulers in inches, centimeters, and picas. It can be used to measure font sizes, baseline distances, and rule weights. The design is based on a ruler by Inge Eijkhout, implementation in TEX is by Victor Eijkhout.

The TeX ruler is shareware, distributed under the GNU Public License. If you want to show your appreciation, send a contribution to the address below.

How to format and print this file

This file will give you three pages. Most likely the second one cannot be handled by your printer, but I've included it for completeness. At the top of the source file, 3 fonts are declared. Please change the CM fonts to something more pretty, eg Helvetica.

How to use the TFX ruler

Rulers. Use them like ordinary rulers. It is suggested that you print the TEX ruler on transparent plastic and cut the edges along the rulers.

Baseline distances. Put the top line along the baseline of some line of text. Then see in what column the other lines of text line up.

Font sizes: cap height. Take an uppercase letter such as 'K' or 'H'. Find the line with its font name, or use the first line. See what box on that line it fits in best, with the character completely between the lines. Read out the magnification and size of the font. Alternately check on all lines which box fits best, then read out the size.

General remark: all lines have a width of .05 millimeter. This is less than the dot width of a 300dpi laser printer, so beware of some inaccuracies. Also your printer driver may introduce inaccuracies.

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