

Marginalia

Write into the margins!

1 Setup

Put something akin to the following at the start of your .typ file:

```
#import "@preview/marginalia:0.2.0" as marginalia: note, wideblock

#show: marginalia.setup.with(
  // inner: ( far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm ),
  // outer: ( far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm ),
  // top: 2.5cm,
  // bottom: 2.5cm,
  // book: false,
  // clearance: 12pt,
)
```

Where you can then customize these options to your preferences. Shown here (as comments) are the default values taken if the corresponding keys are unset.●

If book is false, inner and outer correspond to the left and right margins respectively. If book is true, the margins swap sides on even and odd pages. Notes are placed in the outside margin by default.

See the appendix for a more detailed explanation of the `setup()` function and its options.

Additionally, I recommend using typst's partial function application feature to customize other aspects of the notes:

```
#let note = note.with(/* options here */)
```

2 Margin-Notes

By default, the `#note[...]` command places a note to the right/outer margin, like so:○. By giving the argument side: "inner", we obtain a note on the inner (left) margin.◆ If `config.book = true`, the side will of course be adjusted automatically. It is also possible to pass side: "left" or side: "right" if you want a fixed side even in books.

If ◇ we ■ place □ multiple ▲ notes ▲ in ♥ one ♥ line,● they automatically adjust their positions. Additionally, a dy argument can be passed to shift their initial position by that amount vertically. They may still get shifted around, unless configured otherwise via the `shift` parameter of `#note()`.

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● You can also skip the configuration step if you're happy with these defaults, but 15mm is not a lot to write in.

○ This is a note.

They can contain any content, and will wrap within the note column.

◆ Note 1

■ Note 2

□ Note 3

▲ Note 4

△ Note 5

♥ This note was given 15pt dy, but it was shifted more than that to avoid Notes 1–5.

● This note was given 10cm dy and was shifted less than that to stay on the page.

◆ Reversed.

♥ This note was given 15pt dy.

◆ Note from second column.

○ Lorem ipsum dolor sit.

◆ Like so. The lorem-ipsum note was also placed with keep-order.

■ This note has flush numbering.

□ Unnumbered notes "avoid" being shifted if possible, preferring to shift other notes up.

Like this.

▲ Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

▲ Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit.

♥ This is a note with a dotted stroke above.

So is this.

♥ This is a note with a green background and flush-numbering: true.

So is this.

● This is a note with an outset green background.

So is this.

○ Purple

Notes will shift vertically to avoid other notes, wideblocks, and the top page margin. It will attempt to move one note below a wide-block if there is not enough space above, but if there are multiple notes that would need to be rearranged you must assist by manually setting dy such that their initial position is below the wideblock.

Margin notes also work from within most containers such as blocks or

Blah blah.◆ To force the notes to appear in the margin in the same order as they appear in the text, use

```
#note(keep-order: true) []◆ for all notes whose relative order is important.
#column()s.○
```

2.1 Markers

The margin notes are decorated with little symbols, which by default hang into the gap. If this is not desired, set flush-numbering: true on the note.■ (This is sadly not possible to do for notefigures.)

Setting the argument numbering: none,□ we obtain notes without icon/number:

To change the markers, you can override config.numbering-function which is used to generate the markers.

2.2 Styling

Both `note()` and `notefigure()` accept text-style, par-style, and block-style parameters:

- text-style: (size: 5pt, font: ("Iosevka Extended")) gives ▲
- par-style: (spacing: 20pt, leading: -2pt) gives ▲

The default options here are meant to be as close as possible to the stock footnote style.

I strongly recommend setting a fixed text-size for your notes (size: __pt instead of size: __em) to ensure consistent sizing of the notes independent on the font size of the surrounding text.

block-style

To style the block containing the note body, use the block-style argument.

- block-style: (stroke: (top: (thickness: 0.5pt, dash: "dotted")), outset: (top: 6pt /* clearance is 12pt */), width: 100%) gives:♥
- block-style: (fill: oklch(90%, 0.06, 140deg), outset: (left: 10pt, rest: 4pt), width: 100%, radius: 4pt) gives:♥
- block-style: (fill: oklch(90%, 0.06, 140deg), inset: (x: 4pt), outset: (y: 4pt), width: 100%, radius: 4pt) gives:●

For more advanced use-cases, you can also pass a function as the block-style. It will be called with one argument, either "left" or "right", depending on the side the note will be placed on. Additionally, inside the function context is available if necessary.◆

```
#let block-style = (side) => {
  if side == "left" {
```

◆ Purple 2

```
(stroke: (left: none, rest: 0.5pt + purple), outset: (left:
marginalia.get-left().far, rest: 4pt))
} else {
  (stroke: (right: none, rest: 0.5pt + purple), outset: (right:
marginalia.get-right().far, left: 9pt, rest: 4pt))
}
}
}
#note(block-style: block-style)[Purple]
#note(side: "inner", block-style: block-style)[Purple 2]
```

3 Wide Blocks

The command #wideblock[...] can be used to wrap content in a wide block which spans into the margin-note-column.

Note: when using an asymmetric page layout with book: true, wideblocks which span across pagebreaks are messy, because there is no way for the wideblock to detect the pagebreak and adjust its position after it.

It is possible to use notes in a wide block:◊■. They will automatically shift downwards to avoid colliding with the wideblock.□

#wideblock(side: "inner") [...]: The side option allows extending the block into the inside margin instead. This is analogous to the side option on notes and allows placing notes in their usual column.

In this manual, an inner wideblock is used to set the appendix to make it take up fewer pages. This is also why the appendix is no longer using book: true.▲

#wideblock(side: "both") [...]: Additionally, wideblocks can extend on both sides, for extra wide content...

□ Unless they are given a dy argument moving them above the block.

◊ Voila.

▲ Notes above a wideblock will shift upwards if necessary.

4 Figures

4.1 Notefigures

For small figures, you can place them in the margin with marginalia.notefigure. It accepts all arguments figure takes (except placement and scope), plus all arguments note takes (except align-baseline). However, by default it has no marker, and to get a marker like other notes, you must pass numbering: marginalia.note-numbering, it will get a marker like other notes: ▲

Additionally, the dy argument now takes a relative length, where 100% is the distance between the top of the figure content and the first baseline of the caption. By default, figures have a dy of 0pt - 100%, which results in the caption being aligned horizontally to the text. ♥

A label can be attached to the figure using the label argument, as was done here for Figure 2.

Notefigures can also be given side, text-style, par-style and block-style parameters, as demonstrated in Figure 4.



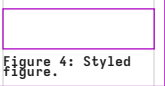
Figure 1: A notefigure.



▲ Figure 2: A marked notefigure.



♥ Figure 3: Aligned to top of figure with dy: 0pt.



4.2 Large Figures

For larger figures, use the following set and show rules:

Top (no shift)

Top (no shift, no baseline align)

Figure 5: A figure.

```
#set figure(gap: 0pt)
#set figure.caption(position: top)
#show figure.caption.where(position: top): note.with(numbering:none, dy:1em)
```



Top

For wide figures, simply place a figure in a wideblock. The caption gets placed beneath the figure automatically, courtesy of regular wide-block-avoidance.

```
#wideblock(figure(image(..), caption: [A figure in a wide block.]))
```

Figure 6: A figure in a wide block.

Figure 7: A figure in a reversed wide block.



Figure 8: A figure in an extra-wide wideblock.



5 Other Tidbits

5.1 Absolute Placement

You can place notes in absolute positions relative to the page using place:

```
#place(top, note(numbering: none, side: "inner")[Top])
#place(bottom, note(numbering: none, side: "inner")[Bottom])
```

To avoid these notes moving about, use shift: false (or shift: "ignore" if you don't mind overlaps.)

```
#place(top, note(numbering: none, shift: false)[Top (no shift)])
#place(bottom, note(numbering: none, shift: false)[Bottom (no shift)])
```

By default, notes are aligned to their first baseline. To align the top of the note instead, set align-baseline to false.

5.2 Headers and Background

This is not (yet) a polished feature and requires to access marginalia._config.get().book to read the respective config option. In your documents, consider removing this check and simplifying the if a bit.

Here's how the headers in this document were made:

Bottom (no shift)

Bottom (no shift, no baseline al.)

Bottom

Also, please don't .update() the marginalia._config directly, this can easily break the notes.

```
#set page(header: context {
  marginalia.notecounter.update(0)
  let book = marginalia._config.get().book
  let leftm = marginalia.get-left()
  let rightm = marginalia.get-right()
  if here().page() > 1 {
    wideblock(side: "both", {
      box(width: leftm.width, {
        if not (book) or calc.odd(here().page()) [
          Page
          #counter(page).display("1 of 1", both: true)
        ] else [
          #datetime.today().display(/**/)
        ]
      })
      h(leftm.sep)
      box(width: 1fr, smallcaps[Marginalia])
      h(rightm.sep)
      box(width: rightm.width, {
        if not (book) or calc.odd(here().page()) [
          #datetime.today().display(/**/)
        ] else [
          Page
          #counter(page).display("1 of 1", both: true)
        ]
      })
    })
  }
})
```

And here's the code for the lines in the background:•

```
#set page(background: context {
  let leftm = marginalia.get-left()
  let rightm = marginalia.get-right()
  place(top, dy: marginalia._config.get().top,
    line(length: 100%, stroke: luma(90%)))
  place(top, dy: marginalia._config.get().top - page.header-ascent,
    line(length: 100%, stroke: luma(90%)))
  place(bottom, dy: -marginalia._config.get().bottom,
    line(length: 100%, stroke: luma(90%)))
  place(dx: leftm.far,
    rect(width: leftm.width, height: 100%, stroke: (x: luma(90%))))
  place(dx: leftm.far + leftm.width + leftm.sep,
    rect(width: 10pt, height: 100%, stroke: (left: luma(90%))))
  place(right, dx: -rightm.far,
    rect(width: rightm.width, height: 100%, stroke: (x: luma(90%))))
  place(right, dx: -rightm.far - rightm.width - rightm.sep,
    rect(width: 10pt, height: 100%, stroke: (right: luma(90%))))
})
```

• Not that you should copy them, they're mostly here to showcase the columns and help me verify that everything gets placed in the right spot.

6 Troubleshooting / Known Bugs

- If the document needs multiple passes to figure out page-breaks, it can break the note positioning.
 - This can usually be resolved by placing a `#pagebreak()` or `#pagebreak(weak: true)` in an appropriate location.

• This can happen for example with outlines which barely fit/don't fit onto the page.

◆ In this manual, for example, it works fine (with warnings) here, but not on the first page.■

◆ Probably because there aren't many other notes around.

□ Which is a block-level element

- Nested notes may or may not work.◆ In nearly all cases, they seem to lead to a “layout did not converge within 5 attempts” warning, so it is probably best to avoid them if possible.
 - Just use multiple paragraphs in one note, or place multiple notes in the main text instead.
 - If really neccessary, use shift: "ignore" on the nested notes and manually set dy.
- notefigures does not take a flush-numbering parameter, because it is not easily possible for this package to insert the marker *into* the caption□ without adding a newline.
- If book is true, wideblocks that break across pages are broken. Sadly there doesn't seem to be a way to detect and react to page-breaks from within a block, so I don't know how to fix this.
- If you encounter anything else which looks like a bug to you, please create an “issue” on [GitHub](#) if no-one else has done so already.

7 Thanks

Many thanks go to Nathan Jessurun for their [drafting](#) package, which has served as a starting point and was very helpful in figuring out how to position margin-notes.

The wideblock functionality was inspired by the one provided in the [tufte-memo](#) template.

Also shout-out to [tidy](#), which was used to produce the appendix.

(This project is not affiliated with <https://marginalia-search.com/>, but that is *also* a cool project.)

■ Notes on the other side are usually fine though.

A Detailed Documentation of all Exported Symbols

Breaking Changes

0.2.0

- The functions `configure()` and `page-setup()` have been combined into one `setup()` function.

A.1 get-left

Returns a dictionary with the keys `far`, `width`, `sep` containing the respective widths of the left margin on the current page. (On both even and odd pages.)

Requires context.

Parameters

`get-left()` → dictionary

A.2 get-right

Returns a dictionary with the keys `far`, `width`, `sep` containing the respective widths of the right margin on the current page. (On both even and odd pages.)

Requires context.

Parameters

`get-right()` → dictionary

A.3 note

Create a marginnote. Will adjust it's position downwards to avoid previously placed notes, and upwards to avoid extending past the bottom margin.

Breaking Changes

0.1.5

- `reverse` has been replaced with `note.side`.
→ use ``side: "inner"`` instead of ``reverse: true``
- `numbered` has been replaced with `note.numbering`.
→ use ``numbering: "none"`` instead of ``numbered: false``

Parameters

```
note(
  numbering: none function string,
  flush-numbering: boolean,
  side: auto "outer" "inner" "left" "right",
  dy: length,
  align-baseline: boolean,
  keep-order: boolean,
  shift: boolean auto "avoid" "ignore",
  text-style: dictionary,
  par-style: dictionary,
  block-style: dictionary function,
  {body}: content
)
```

Functions:

- [get-left\(\)](#)
- [get-right\(\)](#)
- [note\(\)](#)
- [note-numbering\(\)](#)
- [notefigure\(\)](#)
- [setup\(\)](#)
- [wideblock\(\)](#)

Variables:

- [notecounter](#)
- [note-markers](#)
- [note-markers-alternating](#)

Mostly internal.

Mostly internal.

numbering: note-numbering `none` or `function` or `string`

Function or numbering-string to generate the note markers from the notecounter. If none, will not step the notecounter.

Examples:

- `(..i) => super(numbering("1", ..i))` for superscript numbers
- `(..i) => super(numbering("a", ..i))` for superscript letters
- `marginalia.note-numbering.with(repeat: false, markers: ())` for small blue numbers

flush-numbering: `false` `boolean`

Disallow note markers hanging into the whitespace.

side: `auto` `auto` or `"outer"` or `"inner"` or `"left"` or `"right"`

Which side to place the note. `auto` defaults to `"outer"`. In non-book documents, `"outer"/"inner"` are equivalent to `"right"/"left"` respectively.

dy: `0pt` `length`

Initial vertical offset of the note. Note may get shifted still to avoid other notes.

align-baseline: `true` `boolean`

Whether to align the baselines or not.

- If `false`, the top of the note is aligned with the main-text baseline.

keep-order: `false` `boolean`

Notes with keep-order: `true` are not re-ordered relative to one another.

shift: `auto` `boolean` or `auto` or `"avoid"` or `"ignore"`

Whether the note may get shifted around to avoid other notes.

- `true`: The note may shift to avoid other notes, wide-blocks and the top/bottom margins.
- `false`: The note is placed exactly where it appears, and other notes may shift to avoid it.
- `"avoid"`: The note is only shifted if shifting other notes is not sufficient to avoid a collision.
- `"ignore"`: Like `false`, but other notes do not try to avoid it.
- `auto: true` if numbered, `"avoid"` otherwise.

text-style: (size: `0.85em`, style: `"normal"`, weight: `"regular"`)
`dictionary`

Will be used to `set` the text style.

par-style: (spacing: `1.2em`, leading: `0.5em`, hanging-indent: `0pt`)
`dictionary`

Will be used to `set` the par style.

block-style: (width: `100%`) `dictionary` or `function`

Will be passed to the block containing the note body. If this is a function, it will be called with "left" or "right" as its argument, and the result is passed to the block.

A.4 note-numbering

Format note marker

Parameters

```
note-numbering(
  markers: array(string),
  repeat: boolean,
  (...),
  (number): int
) → content
```

markers: note-markers-alternating array(string)

```
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
  #note-numbering(markers: note-
markers, i)
]\
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
  #note-numbering(markers: note-
markers-alternating, i)
]
```

repeat: true boolean

Whether to (**true**) loop over the icons, or (**false**) continue with numbers after icons run out.

```
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
  #note-numbering(repeat: true, i)
]\
#for i in array.range(1,15) [
  #note-numbering(repeat: false, i)
]
```

A.5 notefigure

Creates a figure in the margin.

Parameters numbering, side, keep-order, shift, text-style, par-style, and block-style work the same as for `note()`.

N.B. this does not take a flush-numbering parameter (like `note.flush-numbering`), because it is not easily possible for this package to insert the marker *into* the caption without adding a newline.

Breaking Changes

0.1.5

- reverse has been replaced with `notefigure.side`.
→ use ``side: "inner"`` instead of ``reverse: true``
- numbered has been replaced with `notefigure.numbering`.
→ use ``numbering: marginalia.note-numbering`` instead of ``numbered: true``

Parameters

```
notefigure(  
  numbering: none function string ,  
  side: auto "outer" "inner" "left" "right" ,  
  dy: relative length ,  
  keep-order: boolean ,  
  shift: boolean auto "avoid" "ignore" ,  
  text-style: dictionary ,  
  par-style: dictionary ,  
  block-style: dictionary function ,  
  gap: length ,  
  label: none label ,  
  {content}: content ,  
  {..figureargs}: arguments  
) → content
```

numbering: none none or function or string

Same as `note.numbering`, but with different default value.

side: auto auto or "outer" or "inner" or "left" or "right"

Same as `note.side`: Which side to place the note. `auto` defaults to "outer". In non-book documents, "outer"/"inner" are equivalent to "right"/"left" respectively.

dy: 0pt - 100% relative length

How much to shift the note. 100% corresponds to the height of content + gap + the first baseline.

Thus dy: 0pt - 100% aligns the text and caption baselines.

block-style: (width: 100%) dictionary or function

Will be passed to the block containing the note body (this contains the entire figure). If this is a function, it will be called with "left" or "right" as its argument, and the result is passed to the block.

gap: 0.55em length

Pass-through to `#figure()`, but used to adjust the vertical position.

label: none none or label A label to attach to the figure.

{content} content Positional

The figure content, e.g. an image. Pass-through to `#figure()`, but used to adjust the vertical position.

{..figureargs} arguments Positional Pass-through to `#figure()`.

(E.g. caption)

A.6 setup

This will update the marginalia config and setup the page with the provided config options. (This means this will insert a pagebreak.)

Use as

```
#show: marginalia.setup.with(/* options here */)
```

The default values for the margins have been chosen such that they match the default typst margins for a4. It is strongly recommended to change at least one of either inner or outer to be wide enough to actually contain text.

Breaking Changes

0.1.5

- numbering has been replaced with `note.numbering/notefigure.numbering`.
→ set ``numbering: /**/`` directly on your notes instead of via `setup()`.
Use `#let note = note.with(numbering: /**/)` for consistency.
- flush-numbers has been replaced by `note.flush-numbering`.
→ set ``flush-numbering: true`` directly on your notes instead of via `setup()`.
Use `#let note = note.with(flush-numbering: /**/)` for consistency.

0.2.0

- This function does no longer apply the configuration partially, but will reset all unspecified options to the default. Additionally, it replaces the `page-setup()` function that was needed previously and is no longer called `configure()`

Parameters

```
setup(
  inner: dictionary,
  outer: dictionary,
  top: length,
  bottom: length,
  book: boolean,
  clearance: length,
  (body): content
)
```

inner: (far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm) dictionary

Inside/left margins.

- far: Distance between edge of page and margin (note) column.
- width: Width of the margin column.
- sep: Distance between margin column and main text column.

The page inside/left margin should equal far + width + sep.

If partial dictionary is given, it will be filled up with defaults.

outer: (far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm) dictionary

Outside/right margins. Analogous to inner.

top: 2.5cm length Top margin.

bottom: 2.5cm length Bottom margin.

book: false boolean

- If `true`, will use inside/outside margins, alternating on each page.
- If `false`, will use left/right margins with all pages the same.

clearance: 12pt `length`

Minimal vertical distance between notes and to wide blocks.

A.7 wideblock

Creates a block that extends into the outside/right margin.

Note: This does not handle page-breaks sensibly. If `config.book = false`, this is not a problem, as then the margins on all pages are the same. However, when using alternating page margins, a multi-page wideblock will not work properly. To be able to set this appendix in a many-page wideblock, this code was used:

```
#show: marginalia.setup.with(..config, book: false)
#wideblock(side: "inner") [...]
```

Breaking Changes

0.1.5

- `reverse` and `double` have been replaced with `wideblock.side`.
 - use `side: "inner"` instead of `reverse: true`
 - use `side: "both"` instead of `double: true`

Parameters

```
wideblock(
  side: auto "outer" "inner" "left" "right" "both",
  {body}: content
) → content
```

side: `auto` `auto` or `"outer"` or `"inner"` or `"left"` or `"right"` or `"both"`

Which side to extend into. `auto` defaults to `"outer"`. In non-book documents, `"outer"/"inner"` are equivalent to `"right"/"left"` respectively.

A.8 notecounter `counter`

The counter used for the note icons.

If you use `note-numbering()` without `note-numbering.repeat`, it is recommended you reset this occasionally, e.g. per heading or per page.

```
notecounter.update(1)
```

Mostly internal.

A.9 note-markers

Icons to use for note markers.

```
("♦", "●", "■", "▲", "♥", "◇", "○", "□", "△", "♡")
```

A.10 note-markers-alternating

Icons to use for note markers, alternating filled/outlined.

("●", "○", "◆", "◇", "■", "□", "▲", "△", "♥", "♡")