

Marginalia

Write into the margins!

1 Setup

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

```
#import "@preview/marginalia:0.1.5" as marginalia: note, wideblock
#let config = (
  // inner: ( far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm ),
  // outer: ( far: 5mm, width: 15mm, sep: 5mm ),
  // top: 2.5cm,
  // bottom: 2.5cm,
  // book: false,
  // clearance: 12pt,
)
#marginalia.configure(..config)
#set page(
  // setup margins:
  ..marginalia.page-setup(..config),
  /* other page setup */
)
```

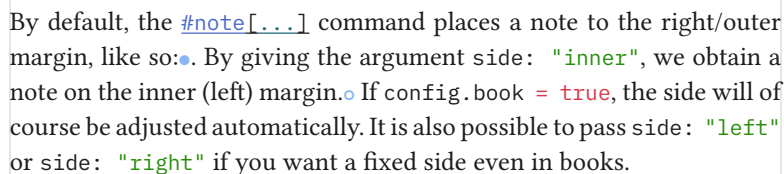
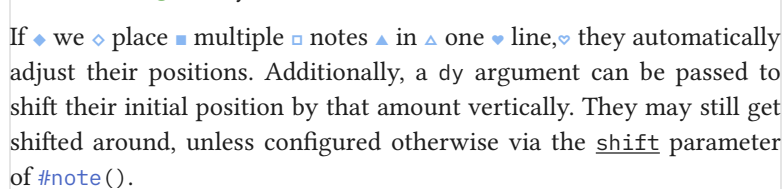
Where you can then customize config to your preferences. Shown here (as comments) are the default values taken if the corresponding keys are unset.

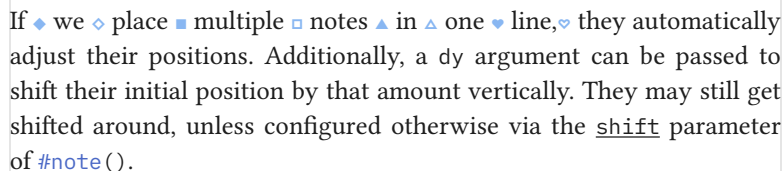


See the appendix for a more detailed explanation of the [configure\(\)](#) and [page-setup\(\)](#) functions.

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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◦ Reversed.

♥ This note was given 15pt dy.

● 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.

◦ 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.

△ This is a note with a dotted stroke above.

So is this.

♥ This is a note with a green background and flush-numbers: 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 same order as they appear in the text, use

Blah blah.◦ To force

```
#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" {
```

◻ Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet.

▲ Lorem ipsum dolor sit.

♥ Lorem ipsum dolor sit.

◦ 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.■

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

`#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.

◈ Voila.

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`.□

□ Notes above a wideblock will shift upwards if necessary.

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

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: ▲



Figure 1: A notefigure.



▲ Figure 2: A marked notefigure.

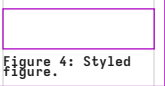
Additionally, the `dy` argument now takes a relative length, where `100%` is the distance between the top of the figure content and the first baseline of the caption. By default, figures have a `dy` of `0pt - 100%`, which results in the caption being aligned horizontally to the text. ▲



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

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.



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.

◊ Notes on the other side are usually fine though.

A Detailed Documentation of all Exported Symbols

A.1 configure

This will update the marginalia config with the provided config options.

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.

The shown default values are for the first usage of this function. On later calls, unspecified options are kept from the previous configuration state:

```
configure(clearance: 5pt)
configure(book: true)
```

is equivalent to `configure(clearance: 5pt, book: true)`.

Breaking Changes

0.1.5

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

Parameters

```
configure(
  inner: dictionary,
  outer: dictionary,
  top: length,
  bottom: length,
  book: boolean,
  clearance: length
)
```

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.

Functions:

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

Variables:

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

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.2 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.)

Mostly internal.

Requires context.

Parameters

`get-left()` → `dictionary`

A.3 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.)

Mostly internal.

Requires context.

Parameters

`get-right()` → `dictionary`

A.4 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
)
```

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.5 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.6 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` or `function` or `string`

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

side: `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` 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.7 page-setup

Page setup helper

This will generate a dictionary (`margin: ..`) compatible with the passed config. This can then be spread into the page setup like so:

```
#set page( ..page-setup(..config) )
```

Takes the same options as `configure()`.

Parameters

`page-setup(..config): dictionary` → `dictionary`

<..config> `dictionary` Positional

Missing entries are filled with package defaults. Note: missing entries are *not* taken from the current marginalia config, as this would require context.

A.8 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:

```
#configure(..config, book: false)
#set page(..page-setup(..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.9 notecounter `counter`

The counter used for the note icons.

Mostly internal.

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)
```

A.10 note-markers

Icons to use for note markers.

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

A.11 note-markers-alternating

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

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